

Homesteading in Colorado in Late 1890s and Early 1900s

Written by Mary E. Sundwell

I shall start this about a family of six. Father, Mother and four sons. The oldest son was Otto age 11, the next was Leo age 9, the next Lloyd age 7 and youngest son Vernon age 2 years. They lived in Denver where the father had a good business of painting and paperhanging.

In those early days of 1890s, work days were at least six days of the week. It was not governed by unions and the days' work was longer than eight hours.

The father and mother were anxious to get some land someplace where they could build on and go to on holidays and Sundays. A place where the boys could get out and play and also help the parents improving the place.

One summer the father fixed up his wagon for a camping trip. He had a cover for it so the family could be out of the rain if it was raining, yet they could keep travelling. He had a good team of horses and so they started on a trip to look over land and decide on where they would like to get it. They went in the Northern part of Colorado in Routt Count, Grand Lake and on into the western part of Colorado seeing Grand Junction, Glenwood Springs, Montrose, and into Leadville. From Leadville they followed the old freighting roads, used by the early day miners into Denver. Coming down through some of the prettiest mountain parts of Colorado they found land could be homesteaded 35 miles from Denver.

There were a few families living in the area and when they reached their home in Denver, they decided that if they could find what they wanted the father would file on the land under the Homestead Act. He went to the land office in Denver and after talking with the man in charge and getting a map of the land that was open for filing on he went to see a friend who was a surveyor and later they went to the mountains and finally after checking lines and corners decided to fine on 160 A in Barney Gulch 2 ½ miles North West from the main road.

Through the years every holiday and weekends and periods of time when work would be slack in his business, the father would take his wife and boys up to the place and it wasn't very long until they had a cabin built near a spring and the work was to cut logs for a big house. They did quite a lot of building fences too. The homestead laws require a certain amount of improvements before it can be proved upon. The law in those days

required five years before one could make final proof.

As the boys grew, they liked to go to the mountains every chance they had. Sorrow came when the oldest boy Otto, was fatally hurt on one of the trips coming down from the mountains after they had been up there over the 4th of July.

They continued to build, and a more permanent house was started. It had four rooms on the main floor and two bedrooms upstairs. It was all plastered inside and outside was slabs from the logs with the bark left on. It was a very pretty place.

Leo, the second son followed in his father's line of work and in 1906 he came to Florence, Colorado, 152 miles South West of Denver. Leo and I were married Dec. 23, 1907 in Florence.

When we would go to Denver to see his parents, they always talked to us about getting land. They had persuaded the third son to file on a 160 A that adjoined his parents place.

Finally, in Aug. 1909 while I was in New York visiting relatives, Leo moved to Denver. His work had slacked off in Florence and there was no prospect of getting any better and he knew he could get work in Denver. When I returned from my trip in NY we moved into a small apartment and Leo went to work for a farmer boss he had before he went to Florence. During a lull in his work we took his father's horse and spring wagon and went up to the mountains and stayed at his parent's place. We were there 10 days and while we were there it snowed a heavy wet snow. The pine trees were beautiful, and the quaking aspen leaves were yellow and it was a wonderful site.

Leos parents continued to talk land to us, and we were considering it too. However, we were expecting our first baby and we gave more thought to that than anything else. Our baby came Nov. 7, 1910 and we gave him the name of Otto. Leos brother Otto was his favorite brother.

Finally, in making inquiries about land, Leo found that 160 A place just $\frac{1}{4}$ mile from the main road, and adjoining Beaver Ranch a ranch of 880 A was open for contest. It had been filed on by a man named Manor Lewis who used to carry the mail. This place had an old 3 room house, a blacksmith shop, barn and hay barn and 2 cabins 10 x 12 each made of quaking aspen logs. Lewis had turned his mail route over to Maggie Crow

who moved onto the place when Lewis left. The date of the hearing/the contest Leo had filed was set for Apr. 10, 1911. In the meantime, Leo made an effort to find Minor Lewis, and through some friends of Lewis that Leo had found they gave Leo Lewis' address and Leo wrote to him and offered to buy his relinquishment on the land. Lewis wrote back agreeing to sell it to him and stated his price. Leo sent him a check and Lewis sent relinquishment papers and Leo took them to the land office Apr. 1st 1911 and gave them to the man in charge and filed on the land while he was there at the land office. It automatically did away with all the contest so we began to think about moving to the mountains. We had six months from the date of filing to establish our home.

In Sept we moved to the place. We decided to use the two cabins as they were quite new and were clean. The old 3 room house Leo tore down and sawed the logs up for firewood. We just had a little 4-hole cook stove in the kitchen for heat, baking and cooking. We did not have any heat in the other cabin. We had a double bed and Otto's bed a chest of 3 drawers, piano and a chair. Leo put up a corner shelf and I fixed a curtain across and that was our clothes closet. In the kitchen I had the stove, a drop leaf table, Otto's high chair and 2 straight chairs, a tight cupboard with 3 shelves and stood on legs about a foot high. Leo put up some shelves about 3-foot-long and I think there were five of them to put the dishes and utensils on. I made a curtain to cover the front of it. There were two windows in each of the cabins and one door each. One of the sides of the kitchen I had a narrow bench large enough to hold 2 pails of water and a wash basin. There was no sub floor on either cabin. the floor was made of 2 in boards by 10" wide. They had knots in them and were not smooth. Leo banked up on the outside of the cabins with dirt so the floors would be warm. He dabbed the chinking between the logs too so it would be warm.

After we had been up there a month, we decided we needed more bedding. With no heat in the bed room cabin it got pretty chilly. So, we got word to the man who carried the mail and he picked us up and we rode with him to Morrison, Colo. where we had to get the train to go into Denver. At the time we moved up there the post office was 1½ miles from where we were. It was at the Junction where the

Turkey Creek road divides. The mail comes up the South Turkey Creek and is served to those living on that route and in the morning the carrier takes mail down North Turkey Creek way and serves those living on that route. The North Turkey Creek road comes out on South Turkey Creek road just above what used to be Spruce Lodge and Tiny Town. The train from Morrison to Denver was a mixed train having cars with rock, logs and one passenger car. It took quite a while to get to Denver as there was so much switching of cars on the way. Morrison was 18 miles from Denver.

We got to Denver and had to go on the street car to the Loop and change at Curtis Street car to go to Leo's parents who lived at 1061 – 9th St. There was a store on the corner of 11th and Stout St called the 3 Rules Store and we went there to get our blankets and I remember we got double grey wool blankets, 2 pair of them. There was a store on the corner of 9th and Curtis next door to where Leo's parents lived. We got a good bill of groceries and meat to take back with us. I dreaded the time when Leo would have to return to work in Denver and Otto and I would be left alone up there in the mountains. We couldn't afford for Leo to quit his job in Denver. He was with the Art Wallpaper and Paint Co. And their shop was on 11th and Broadway. I had a 2 wheeled cart with seat and place to put the feet and a long handle to pull it by and I took Otto and walked that 1½ miles to the post office and back every day except Sunday.

My nearest neighbor was a quarter of a mile up over a hill. She was a widow with a daughter 10 or 11 yrs. old and her brother, Joe a bachelor and they lived on and run Beaver Ranch. The house was a big one with 5 bedrooms upstairs, bedroom, living room, dining room, kitchen and store room on the main floor. Her name was Nellie McQueary. The daughter was Gladys and the brother was Joe Kemp. About 30 feet from the house on the road was a store which she had and on the other side of the store there was a hall where they had dances for the guests who came up to Beaver Ranch in the summer. Joe looked after the horses and cows and milking. He also did a lot of haying. They had a large meadow with creek which ran down Kennedy Gulch. There was a big red barn that was a land mark as it was just

where the road turned to go down the Kennedy Gulch from the main road. Seven miles down was Dawson Switch which was one of the stops made on the Platte Canyon road. There was not much passenger service on that train but there was quite a lot of shipping on it. There was lots of tie hauling to Dawson and supplies of grain, flour etc. were shipped up there and hauled by the tie haulers on their empty wagons.

Our water supply was from a big spring about the distance of a half a block from our cabins. It was uphill a little but down the hill to carry the pails full of water.

Leo decided to build an addition on our bedroom cabin. So, he put up the frame work for it and worked at it whenever he could get up there from his work in Denver. It was 12' by 16' and had a high large window on the end and an ordinary sized one on the east side. My aunt Sade gave me 26 yards of new woven rag carpet. It needed to be sewed and cut to fit the size of the room and Leo's mother sewed it and cut it to the right size. Leo finished the walls nice and papered them. He painted the woodwork and I had two rocking chairs, a wood heater, my piano, a stand table with marble top and a china cabinet in the big room. Leo also built a nice big porch and covered it along the east side so it was a nice place for Otto to play and I could keep a watchful eye on him. I did not like to let him play out in the yard alone. I was always afraid he might wander out of my sight and a wild animal would harm him. Leo had seen bear tracks and mountain lion tracks on the hill North of the cabins and not very far away. He set several traps with horse meat bait to try to catch them, but never caught anything in them.

About half way between our place and the junction, there was a 160 A place which had been homesteaded by James Kemp. He and his wife had come from England a number of years before. He was a Morman minister and when he and his wife first came to the U.S., they came to a place called Nauvoo, Ill and from there they came across the plains in covered wagon and oxen pulling and then went to Salt Lake City to join the Brigham Young Group. Mrs. Kemp was not very well and they were not satisfied

with conditions in Salt Lake so they came to Colorado and found the land that he later homesteaded. There with a large family consisting of 2 girls and 4 boys. Mr. Kemp was a member of the reorganized branch of the Mormon church and he was a circuit rider going from place to place preaching all over Colo. He set aside A of ground at the top of the hill where the road turns to go to Pleasant Park for a cemetery and at the top of the hill on the main road he set aside and deeded to Jefferson Co an A for a school. There was quite a need for a school as there were children within five miles of that area with no school facilities. The County built a nice school and it was furnished with desks, big potbellied stove, teacher desk and a reed organ. There was a shed built near the school so pupils who came on horseback had shelter for their horses while they were in school. The teacher was elected by the County Supt. Of Schools and she usually stayed at Beaver Ranch. Church services were held in the school house on Sundays. Mrs. McQueary who managed Beaver Ranch was a daughter of James and Mrs. Kemp. Mr. Kemp sold his ranch to W.T. Anderson, a widower and his two daughters. They came from Kansas. The daughters were very helpful to their father. The older daughter managed their home so well. The father brought a piano for the girls and the younger daughter, Carrie was so anxious to learn to play. I had gone to the church services at the school house, and had Otto with me and I was asked to play for the services which I accepted. Carrie asked me if I would teach her to play the piano and I told her I would be glad to do what I could. Instead of getting money for her lessons I agreed to take butter, eggs and milk for pay. I always took Otto in his cart when I went to give the lessons.

The Junction changed hands or ownership several times and it became hard to get our mail. Mrs. McQueary made application to be post Mistress and have the post office moved to Beaver Range. The change was made so we did not have so far to go for our mail. I would take Otto and go over the hill and not have to go around by the road which was a longer way.

When Leo would get to come up to the place, he was always busy trying to get fences made to keep

cattle out as we wanted to put in a big garden to have fresh vegetables. The part of the land that had been tilled had trees growing on it and stumps of trees were also on it. Leo cut all of the trees that were on it and the stumps had to be taken out. Leo got a good-sized pole and it was about 12 feet long. He would dig a hole under a root and slip the pole under. I climbed out on the pole and the stump would raise up out of the ground. That is the way we cleared that flat and got ready to be plowed and harrowed and made ready to plant. Leo decided to plant potatoes on the flat we had cleared. We did not know what kind to plant except it had to be an early variety. When Leo went back to Denver, he went to a seed store and the man sold him a sack of early Ohio potatoes for seed. The next time Leo came up he brought the potatoes up and cut them leaving 2 eyes to a chunk. We had Joe come with his plough harrow and it was ready to be planted. The soil was loose black loam type and Leo got the potatoes planted. This was in May of 1912. He had to get a root cellar built to put the vegetables and potatoes stored for winter. Leo dug out a big squared space on the hill North of our house and made a log frame attached and daubed it so it was tight on the outside then he left a space and made an inside frame of boards fitted close together. That summer Leo's parents moved up to the mountains to live. His dad turned the business over to the son Lloyd and they sold the furniture they didn't want to move and he bought a team of horsed and a big heavy wagon.

There was a saw mill not far from the Junction and after Leo's folks were settled Leo's dad and Leo hauled saw dust from that saw mill and filled in the space left between the logs and board frame of the root cellar. After that was finished Leo put on a roof and shelves around two sides and made bins to store potatoes and turnips, carrots, onions and rutabagas. We were sure getting ready for winter. We had a nice garden of radishes, lettuce, peas and beans. Mr. Kemp had told us we could not raise string beans as he said it was too high altitude and season too short for them to mature. But we

really had nice string beans. We got cabbage plants that spring. We had the early variety and had cabbage in the fall enough for us to make 10 gals of sauerkraut and Leo's parents to make 20 gals. for themselves. Leo went over on Black Mountain and picked raspberries in Aug. They came up wild where ever there has been a fire. There were huckleberries to pick also in Aug. We had a little patch on the North slope of a hill near our line on the way to Leo's parents place. I used to take a 10 lb. lard pail and give Otto a 3 lb. pail and fixed a sandwich for us to eat and walk to the berry patch and pick what I could and get back to the house to feed Otto and put him down for a nap by 2 pm. He was really ready for a nap after a walk like that. I canned as much fruit as I would and made jelly too. The wild red raspberries have more pectin or acid in them and make into jelly better than the tame or cultivated berries.

When Leo came up from Denver, he had to hoe the potatoes. The soil never caked or hardened, and it was more to aerate than anything else. We always had rain enough to keep things growing. In the fall before it turned cold, grandpa S. would go to Denver and Leo was already there and they would shop for our winter supplies. Grandpa would take his big wagon and bring back grain for the horses, flour, sugar, coffee, lard, salt, peaches to can, pears to can, tomatoes to can, and apples. We also got cases of peas, beans, corn, mixed so as to have a variety. I used to get several cans of salmon and 5 lb. box of cod fish and a bit of maceral. We always got a slab of bacon and a couple hams and a supply of yeast. Had to bake every bit of our bread, cakes, cookies, and pies. My oven on my stove was so small I could bake only two loaves at a time. I usually made 4 loaves and filled the oven twice. One day I had just finished taking the last of the bread out of the oven and had my four loaves on the table to cool and I took Otto in his cart and went the short cut to Beaver Ranch to get the mail, and while I was gone someone came in and took all my fresh bread. I had no way to lock my kitchen door. When we would be away for any length of time Leo used to nail the kitchen door so no one could get in. But I wasn't gone more than 45 minutes to get the mail. I remember Leo was working on

our line fence and he left his axe and a wedge and hammer by the gate as that was where he was working and a man named Jones came through our place walking. Leo and Otto and I were eating our dinner and I was sitting where I could see Jones as he walked near the gate and he bent down and picked up the tools and went on. I told Leo and out Leo went after him and got his tools and I guess he gave Jones a piece of his mind also we found out we could not leave any temptation lying around.

We always had a Christmas tree but did not put any candles on it. it was too dangerous we thought. I remember I sent to Sears Roebuck for the tree trimmings and each year tried to add something new to them. I always made our candy for Christmas also fancy cookies and fruit cake.

In Dec. Of 1912 I needed to have some dental work done so I took Otto and we went to Denver. Leo had a room with Jessie and Will Rundelle who lived near where Grandma and Grandpa S before they moved to the mountains. There was a double bed in the room and Jessie put a small bed in for Otto. I went to Dr Chas W Nutting in the Mack Blk on 16th and California street. I had to have quite a lot done so was in Denver about 10 days. Jessie and Will had three children. Stewart, Dorothy and Jessie all older than Otto. Jessie and I left Will and Leo alone a couple of nights while I was there and they looked after the children and she and I went to see a couple shows. She seldom went any place and I hadn't been anyplace for so long it was a real treat for both of us. Will worked for the Climax Creamery.

Grandpa S came down from the mountains with his team I big wagon. He had to get the supplies for the rest of the winter and he also wanted to take his spring wagon back with him. Leo's shop had no work ahead for him so we shopped for things we would need to and after getting everything loaded up and ready to go, we left to return home early on the morning of De. 23rd. We got to Morrison in time to have dinner. We always stopped at the Joe Hawkins place. Mrs. Hawkins always served two meals and Joe Hawkins had the contract to carry the mail, tho he hired a man we called "Happy" to carry the mail and he stayed on the old McCoy place about a quarter of a mile up the road

from the Junction. As soon as we finished eating our dinner, we were ready to start again. From Morrison our place was 17 miles. We went up the turkey Creek Canyon road. There was snow on the ground at Morrison but more snow as we got further up the mountains. We, Otto and I were riding in the spring wagon which was attached to the back of the big wagon. The spring board had a good load of supplies and the big wagon had mostly big sacks of oats for the horses. We got within a mile of the Spruce Lodge and "Chub" one of the black horses balked. Grandpa S did everything he knew to do to get him to go except build a fire under him. Finally, they decided that Otto and I should walk on to Spruce Lodge. The snow was just squeaked as we walked along. Otto was just a little over 2 years old but we got to Ralph's who owned Spruce Lodge just as it was dusk. Mrs. Ralph had a big pan full of plum pudding she was fixing ready to steam. Mr. Ralph took his team and went down to where Leo and Grandpa S were and he helped get Grandpa S horses to going and they finally came into the house. They had put the horses in the barn for the night and we stayed there that night. They had plenty room as they had five bedrooms upstairs and they kept them shut off from the rest of the house when not in use. Well we slept 3 in bed that night and did not undress. The mattress was so thin and it was so cold. We put Otto in the middle and tried to keep him warm. We put our coats over us for extra bedding. We got up early the next morning and had a good breakfast and started on our way. We got home about 4 pm. I remember and Leo went out as soon as he made fires in our stoves to find a small tree to put in our big room as the next day was Christmas. We had gotten toys and candy and fruit for Christmas when we shopped in Denver. Vernon had cut a tree and he and Grandma S had it up and ready when Grandpa S got home. Christmas morning while Otto played with his toys Leo and I got the packages ready to take to the folks. Grandpa came for us before noon and we all had dinner with them and he brought us home before dark. We had a nice Christmas. Vernon had been to the post office daily and taken care of the mail so we had gifts from my

parents too. They were living in Casper Wyoming. My father had gone there Dec. 1911 to make the first run for the Midwest Refining Co and on Jan 15, 1912 he started it up and as soon as he could find suitable living quarters mother and Aunt Sadie went to live there. the Co. built a house for them and shipped their furniture for them.

There wasn't much one could do in the winter up there only keep wood cut for the stoves. Leo and Vernon hunted cotton tail rabbits and Grandpa was starting to build some cabins to rent in the summer. He didn't have much ground where he could raise anything but a little garden, so we kept them in root vegetables.

We had many birds in the warmer weather, tho the blue-jays with a crest on their head and the camp robbers were there all the time. Leo put a little wood box with a hole cut in it and nailed it up above our kitchen door and the blue birds built their nest in it every summer. We had chickadees and wrens too. We had five big water sprue trees between our cabins and the birds had nests in them.

In the fall of 1912, the Junction was sold again to a man named Walker P. Smith. He had a wife and a son and daughter. His son was very large for his age and he had attended school in Denver called the Corona Special for retarded and hard to manage children. Mr. Smith had building built across the road and had a man by the name of Faulkner manage a store for him. He also wanted to have the school put on ground he would donate. The school we had was centrally located and easy to get to. We had a school board Chris Berrian was president, Nellie Mc_____ was treasurer and I was secretary. It was tie to hold an election to elect members on the board. We three were candidates for re-election and were at the school to open the polls for the election. The bylaws said from 1 to 4 no business could be held but the election. Mr. Smith had enrolled his son in the school and Miss Harbison of Denver was the teacher. The boy was in the 5th grade and very hard to handle. He struck the teacher and of course he wasn't allowed to attend school. Miss Harbison resigned, and we decided to get a man teacher. Mr. Mather had been a teacher in North High in Denver and he had bought the McCoy place and moved there with his family of wife, one daughter and two sons. We went on

with our election and tho the Smiths and the Moody's who lived toward Pleasant Park tried to run in illegal voters our same board was re-elected. Nellie McQueary hitched up her team to the spring wagon and she and I took the ballots to the Co. Supt. Of Schools for Jefferson Co. who was Bernice Bunger. I left Otto to stay overnight with his grandparents. We had to take the ballots to Golden Colo. Court house. We went to Nellies sisters place, Lucy Cruse and we stayed overnight with her and got home the next day.

Leo had gone back to his work in Denver. It was now Mar. and the painting and papering season was on. Leo earned \$27 ½ dollars a week which was considered good wages. Of course, there were not decoctions then for anything. groceries were much less. Coffee 25 cents a lb. Bacon 19 cents lb. Ham 17 cents lb. And other things accordingly.

Sadie came to visit me Mar. 27, 1913. She was married May 1st, 1912 and Leola and Zoe were visiting momma and papa in Casper and so we planned to go to see them too. It was the first time we had been together in seven years as Leola and Zoe lived in N.Y. Sadie stayed with me up in the mountains and I got Otto's and my clothes ready for our trip. We went to Morrison on the mail stage and got the train for Denver and got there before 4 pm. We saw Leo for a little while and he went with us to the depot where we got a train for Cheyenne. We stayed overnight at the Colonial across the street from the depot where we would get the train for Orin Junction. We would have to change trains there and get on the Chicago & North Western which was at that time the only railroad into Casper.

Before Sadie, Otto and I left the mountains Elmer Legault from Pleasant Park came over and wanted a sack of our early Ohio potatoes for seed. Our potatoes were the only ones in that area that had no scab. He said he would trade me 2 -3 months old pigs for a sack of potatoes. So, I told Leo when he was up on the weekend & he made a pig pen and joined it on to the hay barn. He had logs all around the top about 3 ft up and chicken wire nailed to the logs top and bottom. He also made a shed where they could get shelter and a trough for their food. Before we were to leave Elmer came with the two pigs in a wood box. We put the pigs in the pen Elmer took his sack of potatoes and we fixed some feed for the pigs

and then we fixed our supper and did our dishes and went over in the other house. Before we settled down for the night, I told Sadie I better go out and see how the pigs were doing and so I lit the lantern and went out. Well there were no pigs in the pig pen and I could hear them up the hill back of the kitchen cabin. I went back to the house & she put on a jacket & so did I and we each hand on our aprons. We had a hanging lamp in the big room and we usually lowered it when we wanted to read. I pushed the lamp up and told Otto to stand at the front window and I locked the door from the outside so he couldn't get out and Sadie & I went out to capture the pigs. We found them under a juniper bush half way up the hill and snow to our knees. She got on in her apron and then she held the lantern while I got the other one. We put them back in the box Elmer brought them in and I tied a rope around it and they were in the kitchen overnight. Grandpa S came by next morning and he nailed slabs around & just left little space so they could see out and that was where we kept them until it was time to butcher them. Grandpa S took care of them while Otto and I were away.

We stayed in Casper 3 weeks and then returned to Denver. We had such a good time while we were with my parents. They lived in the house that the Midwest Co had built for them. There were 12 houses in the row and not far from the No. Platte river. My cousin Sim McCool was there also and we, my cousin, Sadie, Leola, Zoe and I would go down to the river and we had what they called a throw line with 12 fish lines and hooks on them and baited and a heavy weight on the one end of the part to be thrown out into the water. The other end was tied to a stake and driven into the ground. We sometimes took a skillet, come Crisco and bread and butter and had a fish fry. We caught pike, red horse bass, cat fish and sturgeon. We always brought the sturgeon back to the house and put them in the bath tub. They had to be scalded and skinned to get them ready for cooking. Otto had long curls and I had not had them cut as I wanted my parents to see them with the curls. On May 13, 1913 my cousin put Otto up on his shoulders and Leola and I went with him and we walked the three miles to town

to the Natrona Hotel barbershop where I had Otto's curls cut off. The barber made a butter brown cut and he looked so cute. We walked back to my parents' home. We left the next day to come back to Colo. Sadie went on to Florence Colo where she lived and Otto and I went to Jessie and Well Rundles where Leo was staying. We stayed there until Saturday and Leo & Otto & I went up to the mountains on the train and stage. The wild flowers in the mountains were so beautiful on our place we had tiger lilies, a few columbines, mariposa lilies, shooting stars and other I do not know the names. There was such a wonderful abundance of wild berries the summer of 1913. I put up 36 quarts of huckleberries, 45 quarts of red raspberries, 27 pints of strawberries, wild plum jelly and butter, choke cherries and our root cellar was getting to look like our shelves would have a lot on them before winter. The wild plum & choke cherries Grandpa S picked above Morrison before entering the canyon. I had lots of honey too. Grandpa S took a sack of our carrot to a man on a ranch on what was called he cut off road into Morrison and exchanged them for several buckets of honey. We had a 10 lb. pail full of the strained honey. All the fruit and honey would taste good on homemade bread. We had Thanksgiving dinner with Grandpa and Grandma and Veron. Leo was up there to stay a while so he cut lots of wood and potatoes, we dug and put in the root cellar also the carrots, beets & turnips. We had made 10 gallons of our sourkraut and it was aging in the kitchen. We knew we would have our pork to eat with it soon. Geo Edith Lee and son Allen lived down the Kennedy Gulch about 3 miles and Geo said he would help us butcher the pigs. They were nice and big. Otto had named them Peaches and Fanny. However, they were male gender. The day after Thanksgiving was the day to butcher so Geo came over and Grandpa S came and they with Leo took the pigs up the road on our place and took care of them. We had no ice house like some of the folks had but it froze every night and the meat had to season. I had a number of big flour sacks as we always brought 100 lbs. of flour at a time. I had them all washed and ready for the occasion. We put the meat in the sacks & tied them shut very tight and Leo hung them on the outside of the blacksmith shop. It was open so there was good circulation

and the meat soon froze. I made two big jars of sausage and poured liquid lard over the top to keep it nice and fresh. I rendered out a lot of the lard. Leo gave Mr. Lee and Grandpa some of the meat. Grandma wanted to make head-cheese and scrapple. she came from Strausberg Pa. And that is where the Penn Dutch live and she was Penn Dutch. We fixed pickled pigs feet too. Grandpa and Grandma bought a hind quarter of beef and they gave us some of it. Grandpa had been to Denver before Thanksgiving and he and Leo had shopped for our winters supply of food and Leo had come up with Grandpa. On Dec 3, 1913 we woke up but still thought it was night. Our windows were covered and when Leo looked at his watch it was 8 o'clock. It began to snow the afternoon of the 2nd but we never thought it would be like it was. All Leo had to shovel us out with was the fire shovel he used to take the ashes out of the stove. He made a fire in our living room stove and when the house warmed up the snow slid off the roof of our living room. It was a tin roof. Leo finally got the way opened to our kitchen and I got Otto dressed and we went to the kitchen. We had a late breakfast that morning. Leo broke a trail to the blacksmith shop and he got an old bedstead that had been left by the folks who lived there before us. The wood in the bedstead was poplar. Leo said it was tough. He made a snow shovel the first thing and then he made a pair of snow shoes from the same kind of wood. He spent the rest of the day shoveling paths and a place cleared in front of our big room. When the snow slid off of the roof it was piled so high and he wanted to clear it so we could see out of our windows. We melted snow for our water as it was a week before he had a path cleared to our spring. When the snow settled and it was measured it was 5 ft. deep. That was the only snow we had that winter and it was still on the North slopes and shady places up into June 1914. We raised our potatoes on another piece of ground Leo had cleared across the Gulch from the flat where we raised the first crop of potatoes. On the flat Leo had it plowed and he planted bald barley the spring of 1913. In Sept. Leo had it cut and it was put in our hay barn after it was dried. We also had a nice sized stack between our root cellar and the blacksmith shop. It made good

hay for Grandpas horses. It was cut before the heads of barley had ripened. There was a pheasant burrowed into the stack and made its home there the rest of the winter. It unusual to see a pheasant in that high altitude. there were lots of them in the valley around Morrison. This one must have lost his directions. With all that snow underneath on moonlight nights it was almost like daylight outside. We could see the rabbits hopping around on top of the crusted snow. There wasn't anything for people to do outside but take care of their stock. Fortunately, we didn't have any at that time. Leo and Vernon made skis for themselves and went back and forth from our place to Grandpa's. They said the road would have to be shoveled out so he could use the sleigh he was making. They ran out of coal oil so Grandpa made a little toboggan out of some metal he had and came over to our place on his way to Nellies store. He said Grandma and Grandpa wanted to bring Otto on the sled when Vernon came with the oil I put some changes of clothes in a flour sack and bundled Otto up with his red knit leggings and red coat and bonnet. Leo fixed the sack of clothing for Otto sit on. Leo helped me put on the snow shoes and away we started. I had a terrible time trying to walk on snow shoes. You have to go pigeon toed and about half way over to the folks I forgot to pigeon toe and down I went down in that deep snow. Well Leo and Vernon tugged and pulled till they got me on my feet and we started on again. We had taken the short cut over which cutoff about a quarter of a mile. I was awfully tired and my thighs ached, so I was used to walking as I did a lot of it but going on snowshoes was different. I said I wouldn't go home till they had the road shoveled and we were there with the folks 3 weeks. Christmas was drawing near and we had to have some kind of Christmas. Leo & Vernon were out and over to our place every day. I had Leo bring my rag bag. I knew I had pieces of material that could be made into aprons. So, I made several aprons for Grandma, and Lo brought sugar, syrup, nuts and cherries and I made lots of candy, and cookies. Leo cut some quaking aspen wood and made it into blocks of all sizes and shapes. I colored them with my

water color paints. We had lots of food to fix into meals so we really were well taken care of. The first mail we had was around the middle of Feb. 1914 and that was only first-class mail brought on horseback. We did not get any package mail until the last of Feb. We were much better off than folks who lived in town or Denver. There really were lots of hardships brought on by the storm but we knew we had to prepare for the winter living so far from town. After the men finished digging the road Grandpa had a good-sized sleigh made and he put a lot of hay on the bottom and we climbed in and he had a big buffalo robe to put over our laps and he brought us to our place. They dug the road to the main road and by the last of Feb. we could to most any of the places. We went quite a lot. Grandpa and Grandma had been used to sleighing as he had lived in Sweden and she had lived in Penn. and there was lots of snow in both places in winter. We went to see the Legaults and the Gradys in Pleasant park to the Webbs near Twin Peaks, Beaver Ranch and down to Turkey Creek to see the Berrians, and Kennedy Gulch to see the Lees.

In Mar. 1914 we bought our sow with a few months' old calf. Also bought a couple dozen chickens. We got them from a family named Adams who lived on the Elliott Ranch on the road to Shaffer's Crossing. Elliott's were in Denver living with their son and family but were planning to return to their ranch to live. Adam's were going to someplace East of Denver and would not want to take their livestock. The cow was part Jersey and had the color of a Jersey. The calf was part Holstein. We had just had the cow six weeks when Mr. Carleson sent word to Leo to come to work in Denver. Leo taught me how to milk the cow and how to take care of the cow before she was milked so I did the best I could. I got along quite good and Grandma taught me how to make butter. I made cottage cheese and we had ice cream every Sunday. Grandpa had a little pond on his place that he kept stocked with trout. In the winter time he cut out the ice and stored it his ice house he had built back of his house. Grandma had a 3 qt. freezer and we made ice cream every Sunday after we came home from Sunday school and church at the school house. There was an old man who lived alone on his homestead over near the Webb place and he gave Otto a black and white pup. Otto named him Buster. He sure liked to be

with the cow and calf. When the snow melted in the meadow, we turned the cow and calf out to pasture and Buster would go along and stay until time to bring them in to milk and keep them in the barn until they were milked in the morning.

Nellie McCreary was moving away from Beaver Ranch. She had bought a 40 acre place on North Turkey Creek. Gladys, her daughter was going to marry Bryan Blakeslee whose parents lived near Evergreen. The Lees sold their place on Kennedy Gulch to people by the name of Dove and Mr. Bennet who owned Beaver Ranch got the Lees to take over the managing the ranch & post office. They had some stock & he turned them out to pasture and brought them in for milking. Our cow would see them and she was determined to be with them and when they went home to be milked our cow went with them. Buster couldn't get her to come home. So, I would have to go after her. Otto & I would go the short cut and I had a rope I tied around her horns and the calf would follow. I had quite a struggle with the cow sometimes and because she couldn't get her own way wouldn't let her milk down but I tugged away and got as much as I could. When she was on pasture I made as many as eight pounds of butter a week. The Lee's had folks up for the summer and had dances in the hall adjoining the store the same as Nellie did Leo and I played for those dances. We would play from 9 to 12 and then they would serve a big dinner and afterword's if they wanted to dance, they would take up a collection & we played till 4 am. We got \$15 to \$20 for playing and it sure helped us out a lot. Grandma and Grandpa would come and stay a while then take Otto home with them.

Leo built a new barn and chicken house and tore down the old barn, blacksmith shop and the hay barn. We had planned to build a house where those buildings stood. It was the best protected space away from the wind with East, South and West exposure. When our hens wanted to set, I got the barred rock eggs from the Lee's and set under them. They were good layers and such food chickens to eat. The chickens we bought from the Adams were a mixed lot and I wanted the one kind and kill the others as we needed them. Our cow was going to have a calf. Leo fixed stations in the new barn and it made it much better to keep

the cows. At Easter time I colored eggs and hid them in the places the hens would lay their eggs. Several of them had made nests away from the places Leo had fixed in the chicken house. I gave Otto a bucket and told him to hunt the eggs and told him the bunny had laid them. He gathered the eggs and was so excited about them and he said “mama why does the bunny lay such pretty eggs and he pilled all over our kitchen floor?” When we had our big snow, Leo found a baby cottontail rabbit and brought it home to Otto. I tried to keep it in a box but it got out and pilled on the floor. So, I had Leo burrow a hole between the logs in the hay barn which was full of barley hay and he put carrots there to have plenty to eat and snow for water.

We decided to cut our timber that was right for railroad ties. So, when Leo piled them ready to be loaded on the wagons to be hauled to Dawson Suite, he had quite a lot of them and Grandpa had marketed his timber with a man named Cohen. He seemed to be the best one to deal with and as Leo was away so much, he had his dad look after the hauling and selling them. The haulers had to go by our house on our road with heavy loads of ties. The road would thaw through the day and water filled the ruts mad by the wagon wheels. Leo had a lot of logs for our heater neatly piled across the road from our living room. I went out to get some logs to put in the heater in the big room and the water in the ruts had frozen and I had my arms full of logs and I slipped and fell and hit the lower part of my back on frozen rut. It just about finished me. This was early in 1915. I was so miserable and hardly able to do anything. I had to carry water from the spring to wash and look after things when Leo couldn't be there. He came as often as he could and we managed somehow tho. I wonder how we did when I think back. Leo was there with us and when the cow came in Leo noticed that the cow had had her calf. He had not let her out of the place. She had been on the hill north of the house all day. He got the lantern and he and Otto & I set out to look for the calf. It is a way they have when they have their young out on pasture to hide them. Had Leo known the calf was due that day he never would have let her out. Well we hunted and looked under every bush and

finally, under a juniper bush all curled up in a little circle was the little red calf. Her daddy was Lee's Durham bull. I took the lantern. Leo gathered up the calf and I took Otto's hand and we came down to the barn where Leo fixed the calf for the night. Buster thought he had a lot to do about it and he stayed on top of the barn and barked most of the night. The calf was such a pretty little one we made a pet of it. The same as we had with the other calf. Buster and the little calf were really pals. Otto named the little calf Toodles. She followed buster around and Buster would lick her face and clean her up and she would lick Buster. When she would draw her tongue on the side of Busters body, Buster would be lifted off his feet, her tongue was so rough and held to Busters fur.

I continued to feel so badly and wasn't able to do hardly anything. My mother wrote to me and asked me to come to Casper and maybe the change in altitude would help. So, in Aug. Otto and I went to Denver and stayed overnight with Leo and next evening left for Casper. The trip was not as long as the first time we went in 1913. The Burlington had built the railroad from Wendover Wyo. up to Billings Mont. and there was a passenger train each way every day. The Colo & S Southern went from Denver to Wendover and the car was switched on to the Burlington train which had come in from Alliance, Neb. There was lots of travel to Casper as the oil industry was booming. After I was in Casper a while, I went to see a Dr for an examination and he told me I could expect a baby in Dec about the 12th. Well I didn't stay very long then but came back to Denver with Otto and went back to the ranch. Grandpa took care of the milking the cow morning and evening. Leo came weekends as often as he could and when Nov. rolled around, I gathered up my baby clothes I had made and Otto and I took off again for Casper to be with my parents. We were not financially able for me to go to a hospital and mother insisted that I come there. Well Dec. came and the weather was terribly cold and no baby and I went to see Dr. again and he decided it was a tumor and that I would have to have an operation. I wrote to Leo and told him what the Dr said and he wrote back

and told me to come to Denver and see a Dr. who wasn't guessing. So Otto and I left Casper Dec. 31, 1915 for Denver. It was 40 below zero the night we left and very cold in Denver when we arrived the next morning. Leo met us and I made an appointment to see Dr. Geo B Crewss. The Dr. Who attended me when Otto was born. He gave me a thorough examination and told Leo I was suffering from inflammation of the nerves and nerve exhaustion and if we would move out of that high altitude there would be a big change for the better.

Leo had proved up on our place the 29th of Apr. 1915. When he filed on the place it was 5 years for the homestead law but during the time, we were on the place the law had been changed to 3 years. We had all the improvements necessary on the place so he had no problem there. His witnesses were Wm. A. Bennet owner of Beaver Ranch, Frank Mulligan who had a place in Kennedy Gulch, Philip Angell who worked on a ranch in Pleasant Park and his father Augustus T. Sundwell.

That same summer of 1915 Mr. Bennet sold Beaver Ranch to a man and his wife name of Schneider. The Lee's had left the Beaver Ranch when Schniders took over and returned to Wis. where they originally came from.

The winter months when Leo could be up there, he and Vernon kept traps set for weasels. they are pure white with a black tip on their tail and their body length varies from six inches to 12 or 14 in. They turn brown in the summer. Leo got instructions on how to care for them when they got them from Funston Fur people in St. Lewis. When the fur is tanned and made up it is called ermine. They trapped a lot of them got from \$2 to \$4 a skin. They are bad to get chickens and our cat had one of them.

Schniders bought our cow and two calves, our rake and mower and also a pit full of rutabagas. Leo didn't have room for them in the root cellar. We fixed our place to rent and people by the name of McDonalds moved on it.

We moved to Denver Feb. 21, 1916 and as soon as we found a place to rent Leo went back to our place he and Grandpa

loaded up our furniture and brought it to Denver. We had to buy rugs and a stove and a double bed and mattress as we rented our place partly furnished.

Vernon was called into service as U.S. became involved in World War 1. He was sent to Waco, Texas and was stationed there until the Armistice was signed Nov. 11, 1918. He received the office of corporal and was kept busy training new recruits as they were sent to Waco.

When he was mustered out and returned home, he married the girl he was going with at the time he went into the service. Her name was Blanche Webb. The McDonalds moved off our place after being there 2 years. She passed away soon after they moved. Vernon and Blanche moved on our place when they set up housekeeping. They had a little boy and they named him Elmer. They stayed on our place until 1920. Vernon filed on a 160 acre place over near Blanche's people, the John Webbs. After they left our place Grandpa S farmed it and raised peas and potatoes and other vegetables and sold them on the market in Denver. In the winter months he and Grandma lived on our place as it was close to the main road and it never got as much snow as on their place in Barney Gulch. He made a good living on our place and it was good to have them on the place as campers would come on it if it was unoccupied.

We bought a home on 6th and Adams St. in Denver. It needed work done inside and so Leo redecorated it and got it ready for us to move into. It was just a block from his boss's home so it made it very nice for Leo. The fall of 1916 Otto started kindergarten at Bromwell school eight blocks from our home. Miss Jenkins was his teacher. I tried to get Leo to sell our ranch and pay off our home but he said we better keep the ranch for our nest egg. I continued to get better and we really enjoyed living in our home and being together all the time. We had 4-25 ft lots and 140 ft deep so we had lots of ground. There were plum and apple trees on the place too. It had been owned by a nursery man and he had planted maple and elm trees on the lot line between our place and Helstrom's. Otto's playmates were the Carlson boy and girl. Harold and Dorothy and the children of

Mr. And Mrs. Roof who lived on 4th and Madison. Otto and Harold were near the same age and they were together most of the time.

In the spring of 1917, my father came from Casper to be with us a while. He had been ill a couple of months before coming and mother was very tired from trying to take care of him and wrote for him to come and mother could get some rest and we could help look after my father. He was suffering from mastoid. He was with us just a week when it broke. He hind the ear and he got relief and began to get better right away. He put in a garden for us and worked in the yard a lot of the time. He went to see Sadie when he felt well enough to go. then he came back to us and after a few days he went back to Casper.

Casper was booming and many hew homes were being built but they did not have good painters and paper hangers. One night when my father was at Masonic Lodge in Casper, he sat next to John Jourgenson who owned a paint store and contracted work. He said to my father I wish I knew where I could get a good paper hanger and painter and my father told him he could get him the best one he ever knew and John asked my father to sent for him. The wages were much better than Leo was getting and we could live with my parents and share expenses. So, Leo left Denver Dec. 3, 1917 to go to Casper. We put our place up for sale and Otto and I spent Christmas with Sadie, Clyde and Charles in Florence. We returned to our place in Denver and I sold part of our furniture we would not need in Casper. We kept our rugs and beds, living room furniture and my piano. I had them put in storage and to be packed and made ready for shipment and Otto and I went on to Casper. Our place was sold soon after we got to Casper and I remember we had about \$800 for our part after paying the real estate man commission.

Leo wanted to add to our place in the mountains and when we felt we could spare the money he would buy another 40 acres that was joining our original land. They cost \$100 and were bought through the land office in Denver. On Apr.1st the painters went on a strike that was 1918. At first, we thought we would go back to Denver and my father didn't want us to do that. He told Leo he could get him a job with

the Midwest refinery. Leo said he didn't know anything about oil but my dad said "you can learn". So Leo went to work for the Midwest refinery and he was put in the treating department and was taught by my father how to make gasoline and he stayed on in that department until May 1st 1930 when he went back to work for John Jourgenson, and he worked for him until June 1942 when we came to Calif. During World War II. Leo added 160 acres to our original 160 acres so we had 320 acres.

Grandma S passed away Mar 9, 1927 and Grandpa S remarried a sister of an old friend of his and Grandma S. May Pierce was her name. She passed away in early spring of 1930. We went to see Grandpa S in the summer of 1930 and he seemed to be getting along alright but later in the fall he became ill. Vernon had re married. He lost his wife and little son in Casper Oct. 13, 1923 from carbon monoxide. Vernon married a niece of Grandpas second wife and Grandpa gave them his original home in Barney Gulch. They didn't want to be bothered with the care of Grandpa and neither did the son Lyde and his wife Wanda who lived in Denver. So, we sent Otto to Grandpa when we found out about his illness through his neighbor Bruce Holmes. Grandpa had bought 10 acres with home on it that was part of the original place of James Kemp, the Mormon preacher. Grandpa came back with Otto as soon as he felt well enough to ride. He stayed with us until in Mar when he got homesick for the mountains and Otto took him back and stayed with him a while. He deeded his 10 acre place to Otto and Otto returned home. Soon a letter came telling us he was ill again and Otto and Leo went back to the mountains and brought him back and he stayed on with us until he passed away June 21, 1935. We took him to Denver each summer and stayed with him until the summer of 1934 when he wasn't able to make the trip. When we took him there in 1933, he had us take him to Golden, Colo where he had a deed made out to Leo giving him the 190 acres of land that he had left and joined our 320 acres so we had 510 acres in all. Leo and I took care of all funeral expenses and the transportation of Grandpa's body to Denver to be laid beside Grandma S in Fairmount Cemetery. Otto and Bee took care of all the medical

expenses while he was with us.

Leo became ill in Mar 1946 and in the summer of 1948, he sold our land for a good sum and substantial down payment and the balance at \$500 a year to be paid twice a year @ 6% interest. Leo passed on June 17, 1951 and I got the final payment from the land Dec 195_. We had returned to Casper, Wyo. to live after the war in Dec 1945 we bought a home at 725 W. 9th St from Geo Davis. It was furnished and we sold over \$500 worth of their furniture to make room for our furniture we had in storage. We fixed up the house very nice inside. Leo papered all the rooms and re painted. We bought new carpet for the bedrooms, bathroom and we had the bath room remodeled. We came out to Calif. to be near Otto and Bee Sept 3,1950. Otto had built a small house in his yard where we could live and that is where Leo passed away. It was 14208 Orchid Drive. We sold our place in Casper and made a nice profit on it.

Our land was really our nest egg as Leo had wanted. There were many hardships for both Leo and me in getting the things necessary to prove up on the place but there are also many happy memories too of lasting friendships and good times we had and really the good outlives what seemed to be hard and bad.

Grandpa S Augustus Theodore Sundwell

Grandma S Rebecca O. Kintner

Otto Guy Sundwell

Leondes Earl Sundwell

William Lloyd Sundwell

Vernon Harrison Sundwell

Mary E. Moore

Otto Moore Sundwell