

# The Ties That Bind

Exploring the Relationship Between Sheridan & Trail End

A Whole-House Exhibit at the Trail End State Historic Site, March 2014 - December 2015

When he decided to move from his Montana ranch and build a house in town, it was natural that the town chosen by John B. Kendrick would be Sheridan. From its founding in 1882, Sheridan dedicated itself to commerce and enterprise – two things in which Kendrick was deeply interested. But Sheridan was more than just a center of trade; it was a collection of people interested in living as a community. When asked in 1926 why she lived in Sheridan, Mrs. D. W. Gwinn noted:

*It is not because more money can be made here, for Sheridan is not a purely commercial city; it is not because of its wildness, or because it is a theatrical city or a manufacturing city, but because it offers in its location and environs the greatest satisfaction. ... That we do love "our Sheridan" is such a foregone conclusion that we do not need to prove it!*



*"I am interested in seeing every possible step taken that will increase the beauty of Sheridan and bring comfort and happiness to its citizens."*

John B. Kendrick to H. A. Loucks, 1919

The people who lived and loved in Sheridan came from all walks of life: teachers and clergymen, farmers and ranchers, bankers and lawyers, maids and waiters, tradesfolk and artisans, soldiers and physicians. Most relied on social, economic and educational interaction with their neighbors – the ties that bind a community together – to make their lives more complete.

Trail End's whole-house exhibit, *The Ties That Bind: Exploring the Relationship between Sheridan and Trail End*, celebrates the community connections of friendship, service, consumption and production, and how they sometimes intertwined at Trail End – Wyoming's premier historic house museum.

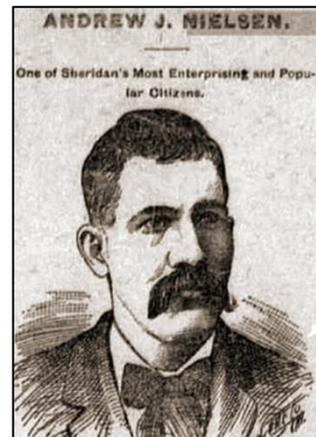
## Nielsen Heights

Trail End was built in a residential subdivision known as Nielsen Heights, 120 acres on the northwest side of town. Annexed to the city in 1893, Nielsen Heights was the economic brainchild of Andrew J. Nielsen (sometimes spelled Neilsen or Nielson), an early Sheridan area pioneer.

### Andrew J. Nielsen

Born in Columbus, Indiana, in 1857, Andrew Nielsen was left an orphan at the age of thirteen. Like his future business associate John Kendrick, Nielsen had to leave school to strike out on his own at an early age. He drifted west, working as a commissary clerk at Cheyenne's Camp Carlin in 1879. A year or so later (according to *The Sheridan Enterprise*),

*He was offered and accepted a position in the government pack train and after becoming an expert packer was sent with the outfit on Gen. Sheridan's first and memorable trip to [Yellowstone] National Park, over what has since been known as "bottle trail." The year 1882 found him in the employ of the Union Pacific railway, but not liking the business, he returned to Camp Carlin, and the summer following took another trip with the packers to the National Park.*



Nielsen came to Sheridan in 1883, taking a job with the Grinnell Land & Livestock Company (in 1889, John Kendrick would buy the Grinnell land in Montana, renaming it the OW Ranch). In 1887, Nielsen purchased a ranch adjacent to Sheridan which included the bluffs northwest of downtown. Five years later he subdivided the land into smaller parcels and called the new neighborhood Nielsen Heights.

In 1895, Nielsen married Nebraska native Anna Lee Sears, who died unexpectedly in 1900 following routine surgery. That same year, Nielsen was elected Sheridan County Sheriff. He served in that position until 1904 and in 1906 was appointed chief of police, a title he held until 1910.

Nielsen left Sheridan in 1917 and eventually found himself in Los Angeles, California, where he died in 1931. He never remarried. His ashes are interred beside the remains of his wife in the Sheridan cemetery.

### Why Nielsen Heights?

In 1893, *The Sheridan Enterprise* described Nielsen's new addition to the city thusly:

*The land lies on an eminence overlooking Sheridan, and rises to a height of from 80 to 100 feet above the water level. It commands a superb view of the Big Horn range, Cloud's Peak, Wolf mountains, the Prairie Dog and Dutch creek bluff, the city of Sheridan, Big and Little Goose creek valleys, the line of the Burlington railroad, depot, shop and yard. ... The land on the Heights is naturally terraced, and, platted as it has been to the best advantage and to preserve all its natural advantages, affords beautiful residence sites. The coming summer will make it one of the most desirable and beautiful residence portions of the city.*

The Heights included more than just residential properties. Two entire blocks were set aside for schools, while several acres along the banks of Big Goose were reserved as parklands (later Pioneer Park; see below). When John Kendrick bought Nielsen Heights in 1895, it was called "one of the most important real estate deals in the history of the city" because, "The property consists of about 100 acres and is very desirable. Mr. Nielsen realized a handsome sum, and Mr. Kendrick secured an investment which is bound to yield him a big profit."

**NIELSEN HEIGHTS**

**The Most Desirable Residence Location in Sheridan**

Commands an entire view of Sheridan and all its additions, Big Horn Mountains, Wolf Mountains.

**Big Goose and Little Goose Valleys,**

The entire grounds of the Railroad company, the incoming and outgoing trains, many other views too numerous to mention, Ground reserved for schools, two small Parks, twenty acres of timber land for public parks, and many other great advantages.

**For Terms Call on or Write to**

**A. J. NIELSEN.**

**Seven Doors South of Court House.      Sheridan, Wyo.**

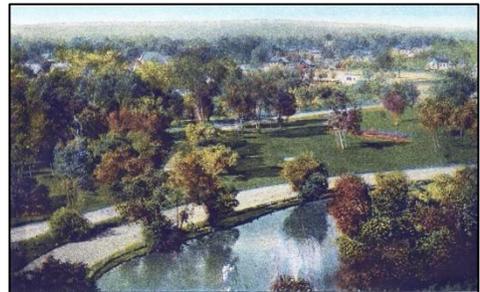
But what was so special about Nielsen Heights? Why was it considered an important neighborhood; much more important, for example, than Residence Hill (the neighborhood south and west of the Courthouse). The answer was simple: location, location, location! Before the construction of U. S. Highway 87 put emphasis on the areas north and south of Sheridan, the rich agricultural lands of Soldier Creek and Wolf Creek west of town were considered to be of greater economic importance. Nielsen Heights formed the city's western gate to these communities. When the streets leading in and out of the area were improved in 1906, *The Sheridan Enterprise* noted:

*The importance of this city street [now Lewis Street] and Nielsen Heights grading can scarcely be overestimated, as, via Nielsen Heights, there comes to Sheridan the wagon road travel and traffic - commerce and custom - of Soldier and Wolf creeks, Tongue river, Dayton and, in fact, all the northern portion of Sheridan county. In late addition to the above advantages of the now excellent Nielsen Heights road, is the fact that it leads directly to and from the new and great Sheridan county fairgrounds.*

Kendrick purchased his interest in Nielsen Heights long before he moved his family to Sheridan. But when he decided to build, the view looking south across the Big Goose Valley and into the foothills of the Big Horn Mountains was one reason to build there. It really was the most desirable residence location in Sheridan.

### **Public Parklands**

Located just south of Trail End is Kendrick Park, once known as Pioneer Park. Donated to the city by John Kendrick and Andrew Nielsen, the fifty-seven acre park has been a popular picnicking and recreational area for over a century. Kendrick felt that parklands were important to the well-being of a community. As he told a friend in 1919,



*I know of nothing that offers a more direct opportunity for sane and healthy recreation and comfort than such playgrounds located right in the town where people can get to them without any delay or any long journey.*

Towards that end, he worked with city officials and professional landscapers to make the park a “Pleasure Ground for the People of Sheridan.” More than just a collection of trees and shrubs, the park was professionally landscaped to include a number of water features, grottos and recreational areas. It had a lake stocked with bass (now a parking lot) and a zoo containing bears, buffalo, elk, wolves, coyotes, deer, antelope, lions, monkeys and alligators (permanently closed in the 1960s).

### **Light & Heat**

Like most Sheridan homes built in the early 1910s, indoor plumbing and electricity were part of Trail End’s original design. Power lines were strung throughout the town, and water and sewer lines were available in the Nielsen Heights subdivision well before the mansion’s construction began.

## Electricity

From its beginnings in 1882, the town of Sheridan had been illuminated only by candlelight and lamplight. In the spring of 1893, however, electricity finally came to town. It “flashed its presence” on a spring Saturday night at the Sheridan Inn:

*Hundreds of people were attracted by the grand illumination which followed. Every room in the big building was lit up, and the scene was a pleasing and inspiring one. In a short time now, the city will be lit entirely by electricity and the lights will be kept burning from dusk until dawn.*

A concerted effort was begun to get electricity to the rest of Sheridan. Stocks were sold in a new power company, city leaders authorized the installation of carbon arc streetlights, and poles were erected. Wires were strung from pole to pole and to businesses and homes. The “much-talked-of, greatly-needed and to-be-hoped-for” light plant began operation in late August 1893: “The electric lights were put in operation Tuesday evening and appeared to give good satisfaction. The only complaint we heard was to the effect that the arc [street] lights were hung too low.”



Trail End has dozens of light fixtures, by the way, requiring 250 or more light bulbs. To get the best price, the Kendricks ordered their 15 and 25 watt frosted Mazda bulbs in bulk directly from General Electric. The push-button light switches, inlaid with mother-of-pearl, were the most modern available.

## Lumps of Coal

Electricity was used to light Trail End, but not to heat it. Instead, a pair of steam boilers manufactured by Kroeschell Brothers of Chicago, Illinois, burned tons of coal a year, all of which had to be moved from the coal bin (under the back driveway) to the boilers. This was hard, time-consuming labor. Manville Kendrick recalled that an automatic stoker – a device that supplied fuel to the boilers by mechanical means – was installed in the 1920s.

The coal burned at Trail End (and most Sheridan homes) came from underground mines located north of Sheridan in the Tongue River valley. A dozen or so mines operated there in the early 1900s, including Dietz, Acme, Carney, Monarch, Kooi, Riverside, Higby and Model. Workers would load the coal onto railroad cars, which dropped it off at local coal yards. Individual deliveries were then made to households by horse-drawn wagon (later by truck).

When the Model Mine supplied coal to Trail End in 1914, the cost was about \$2.50 per ton. That might seem inexpensive compared to today's prices, but when you factor in inflation, that \$2.50 equals \$58 in today's money – which is about what a ton of coal costs right now in Sheridan.

## Commercial Enterprises

Trail End was not John Kendrick's only building project in Sheridan. In an effort to increase his adopted home's importance as a regional center for business and commerce, he financed the construction of several large brick retail buildings:

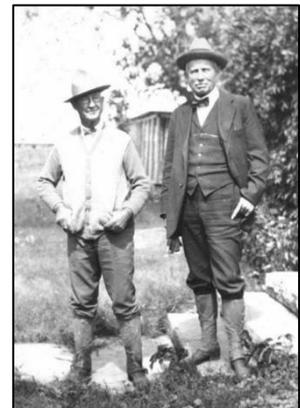
- **214 N. Main** - built in 1900; housed Bloom's Clothing Store; now The Sports Stop
- **234 N. Main** - built in 1910; housed The Golden Rule Store; now Cottonwood Kitchen
- **109 N. Main** - built in 1914; housed The Sheridan National Bank; now Best Out West Antiques
- **237 N. Main** - built in 1917; housed The City Furniture Company; now C B Music & Repair
- **303 Broadway** - built in 1917; housed The Sheridan Commercial Company; still in business

Before he moved into the second floor of the Sheridan National Bank Building, Kendrick kept offices for the Kendrick Cattle Company above the Golden Rule Store. After the Sheridan Commercial burned to the ground in 1916, John Kendrick funded its reconstruction. He was also a major stockholder in the Sheridan Iron Works Company and Sheridan Flouring Mills.

### Banking

In 1889, speculating on the coming of the railroad to Sheridan, Kendrick formed a partnership with Nebraska banker A. S. Burrows to start the town's second bank. According to The Sheridan Post, Burrows provided the management skills while Kendrick contributed a good deal of the start-up money as well as considerable acres of investment land:

*It will be seen at once that Mr. Burrows is a business man of no ordinary capacity, and that he will be a valuable acquisition to our business circles. Associated with him as president of the bank, is Mr. John Kendrick, the efficient general manager of the Converse Cattle*



*Company ... [Kendrick] has resided in Wyoming for the past eleven years, and is a large holder of Sheridan real estate. ... Together they will make a strong firm, and we bespeak for them a liberal share of the patronage of our people.*

The partnership dealt primarily with mortgage loans on farmland and Sheridan real estate. Kendrick's line of reasoning was that when the railroad came to town (no "ifs" allowed), prices would skyrocket and huge profits would be made. His gamble paid off after the Burlington Railroad's first train arrived in Sheridan in 1892. When new settlers started coming to town, Kendrick and Burrows sold their lots for many times the original purchase price.

After a few years spent surviving depressions, recessions and inflations - and after serving a brief term as president of the First National Bank of Sheridan (between 1900 and 1902) - Kendrick liquidated his banking interests and went back to expanding his cattle operations.

### **Newspapers**

No matter where he lived or where he traveled, John Kendrick was always reading a newspaper. Without them, he felt cut off from the world. Once, when he had to spend months on end riding the range and living in dugout cabins, his biggest complaint was that he'd had no news from the outside world and didn't even know who had won the most recent presidential election.

In the early years of the 20th Century, Kendrick had several local newspaper options to choose from. In addition to short-lived papers such as *The Big Horn Sentinel*, *The Sheridan Journal* and *The Northern Wyoming Stinger* (published for two weeks in the railroad town of Huson), there were *The Sheridan Enterprise* and *The Sheridan Post*. Both began in 1887.

In those early days, when a small-town paper's staff consisted of an owner, publisher, editor and pressman all wrapped up in one person, newspapers tended to reflect that person's political and social beliefs. Since the owner of *The Post* was a Republican and the owner of *The Enterprise* a Democrat, the two were constantly at odds. As the town grew, so did the size of the staff and the readership. The papers had to somewhat soften their sharp rivalry, but it never truly disappeared.

Early in his political career, in an effort to protect his interests (and those of the Democratic Party), Kendrick began to purchase controlling interest in *The Sheridan Enterprise* and *The Cheyenne State Leader*. As he told future Governor Leslie Miller in 1912, in regards to *The Enterprise*, "My own investment in the paper was made ... for the sole purpose of promoting the growth and advancement of the Democratic party in the State of Wyoming." Even so, Kendrick wanted the paper to be a good one, not just a party mouthpiece:

*Unless I am very much mistaken, we shall not only overcome present [political] obstacles, but we shall be successful in giving Sheridan far and away the best daily paper that it has ever enjoyed.*

*The Post* and *The Enterprise* continued uninterrupted until 1923, when they merged to become *The Post-Enterprise*. In 1930, *The Post-Enterprise* became *The Sheridan Press*, which is still in publication today.

## Entertaining

With all his business and political connections, it was important that John Kendrick do a certain amount of entertaining. Therefore, it is no surprise to learn that Trail End was the scene of many a social gathering during its early years.

### Bachelor Dinners

One favorite way for a man to entertain his friends and associates was the “Bachelor Dinner.” A byproduct of a time when there were more men in a community than women, the first bachelor dinners were usually held for unmarried men by a married couple. After dinner, if any unmarried women were in the vicinity, they would join the men for conversation and dancing. One such dinner was described by *The Sheridan Enterprise* in 1890:

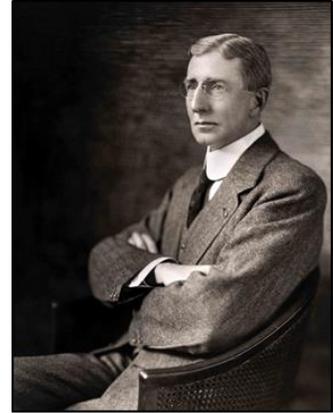
*[Six] bachelor friends were invited by Mr. and Mrs. L. H. Brooks to partake of a bachelor’s dinner at their residence south of town on Sunday last. The meal, a sumptuous and bountiful spread, was served by the hostess in her usual charming and pleasing manner. ... [Several young ladies] assisted the hostess in entertaining the “unfortunates” after dinner by social chat, vocal and instrumental music. The bachelors, so generously treated, are lavish in their expressions of praise of the hostess’ ability to satisfy the appetite of a hungry bachelor.*

By the early 20th Century, the bachelor dinner was not just for bachelors. In the parlance of the times, a bachelor dinner was for men of every marital status – married, unmarried, divorced or widowed. The “bachelor” part meant that no women were in attendance. Wives, fiancées, girlfriends, mothers, daughters, sisters, aunts, nieces and cousins were strictly forbidden.

In September 1920, U. S. Surgeon General Hugh Smith Cumming came to Sheridan on an inspection tour of nearby Fort Mackenzie – a trip that included dinner at Trail End with Mayor Meredith B. Camplin, Sheridan Inn manager Sherman Canfield and businessman H. E. Fryberger.

In a letter to his wife, written in his room at the Sheridan Inn, Dr. Cumming described the evening:

*I have just now come into this famous old hotel of Buffalo Bill's from a delightful bachelor dinner at Senator Kendrick's magnificent house. ... The house is in perfect taste, the dining room in mahogany paneling, the sitting room raftered, a big Davenport English fashion in front of a great wood fire.*



The Sheridan Inn itself was the site of many a bachelor dinner. Some were hosted by married men with homes too small in which to formally entertain their friends, but the earliest were organized and paid for by the many unmarried men living in the young community. These bachelor dinners almost always included dancing. In 1901, following the annual Bachelors' Ball, *The Sheridan Enterprise* described the evening's festivities from "a cowpuncher's point of view":

*The whole round-up was mighty well fixed for fine clothes and fancy riggin' and there was just as many women and girls as there was men and boys. They called it a bachelor's ball but there was just as many old maids in the herd as there was stags and they wore dresses that were all mixed up with flowers and buttons, and double-rigged throughout. The men wore single-rigged coats with just enough tail a'hangin' to 'em to cover the pistol pocket.*

## Cocktails

Dinner parties at home were a great excuse to have a cocktail; not everyone wanted to go to a saloon to have a drink. In fact, many people enjoyed having a cocktail in the comfort of their own home. To do so, they had to purchase their liquor at a liquor store.

One of Sheridan's first retail liquor stores was operated by Hardee & Smith, in conjunction with their pool hall. Along with Forest & Lord (who built an impressive brick building on Main Street), Hardee & Smith opened their doors in the late 1880s. Neither business survived past 1900, but they were soon replaced by others eager to provide "good treatment" to tipplers.



Between 1920 and 1933, when it was illegal for Americans to make, sell or possess alcoholic beverages, liquor stores had to close their doors. Those who wished to continue drinking had to

make other arrangements. Manville Kendrick, for example, found a local source for moonshine, an illegal homemade alcoholic beverage closely resembling gin in taste and color.

### **On The Rocks**

Of course, if you're going to have a drink, you might want to serve it in a tall glass full of ice. We get our ice in cubes from the freezer, but how did people get ice in the days before refrigeration? Like everyone else, the Kendricks got their ice from the iceman. And where did the iceman get his ice? From local creeks, of course – and there was plenty to go around!

On January 1912, Crystal Ice and the Sheridan Ice Company harvested a combined 7,500 tons of ice from the Goose creeks, while Burlington Railroad crews harvested an additional 7,000 tons from Tongue River: "The pure water of Tongue River and the extreme cold combined for unusually good quality of ice. All the ice cut measured twelve inches and up in thickness and clear as a crystal."



In the early days, man-powered saws and horse-drawn wagons were used to harvest the ice crop. In 1919, the Sheridan Ice Company introduced the electric ice saw – much faster than the old method. In the interest of a better quality product, the company also switched from river ice to specially frozen pond ice, and stopped using sawdust and straw to insulate the frozen blocks (relying on thick walls and artificial refrigerants instead). Lest anyone worry about product contamination, Crystal Ice (located near Leopard Street) advertised "pure, clean ice harvested above sewer outlets and beyond city limits."

The ice – enough to last until the next winter – was stored in large double-walled "barns." It was delivered to households via horse-drawn insulated wagons. The cost? About twenty cents per hundredweight (just under five dollars in today's money).

## **Shopping & Cooking**

In addition to ordering the ice for bachelor dinners, Trail End's cook was responsible for shopping for food. She had to know which foods were in season, which could be obtained out of season, and who offered the best deals.

## Grocery Stores

Supermarkets – stores where a wide variety of vegetables, dairy goods, meats and dry goods were offered – weren't available in the 1910s. Shoppers had to go to individual markets – most of them on Main Street – to get what they needed: a butcher for meat, a dairy for milk, a green grocer for vegetables, a dry goods store for flour and sugar, and so forth. Some shops, like H. Henschke's Fancy and Staple Groceries, offered delivery service. Others had to be visited in person, but might have better prices.

Along with Herman Henschke, Bob Terry was among a handful of grocers who went out of their way to get out-of-season foods – lettuce and apples, for example – shipped to Sheridan on railroad cars from farms and orchards in California, Oregon, Texas and Florida. These foods had a limited shelf life, so it was important for grocers to advertise in the local newspapers, in hopes that the special buys would be snapped up quickly. A smart cook, such as the one at Trail End, would keep an eye out for these ads and plan her menus accordingly.

We handle Geo. Tschirgi's, on Pass Creek,  
**Home Grown Asparagus**  
Comes in twice a week, finest in the country  
**Large Bunches, 10 cents**  
We are now receiving Hood River Strawberries  
The Goose Creeks are Up but Our Prices are Down



**BOB TERRY** Phone 551

## Trail End Cooks

Although we know that the Kendricks kept a cook and maid on staff, we really don't know very much about them. By studying census records, however, we have discovered a few facts about three of the cooks that worked for the family:

- **ELLA LOWE** - In early 1910, Mrs. Ella Lowe (1875-1924) lived with the Kendricks when they rented a house on South Main Street. She may also have been the cook who lived with the family in the Carriage House before the main house was completed in 1913. By 1920, the Ohio native was widowed and working as a cook at the Idlewild Cafe.
- **ANNA B. SIMMERMAN** - Swedish-born Anna Burgholm (1872-1934) and her husband George Simmerman (1868-1929) started working for the Kendricks in 1916. Sometimes they occupied the Chauffeur's Bedroom, but they also had a small house a block north of the mansion. At eighteen years, Anna was the longest-serving domestic in the history of Trail End.
- **ELIZABETH HOTCHKISS** - By 1940, the widow Hotchkiss had already worked at Trail End for at least a year. According to census records, she was making \$480 a year, working forty-eight hours a week (that comes to an appalling nineteen cents an hour

– but she did get room and board). Unlike previous cooks, Mrs. Hotchkiss had achieved some higher education: two years of college.

Making use of federal census records is one of the best ways to track down people – especially domestic servants like cooks and maids – who don't own land, homes or businesses.

### **Ranch Cooks**

The Kendicks employed full-time cooks at their ranches, too (Eula Kendrick hated to cook). While women (usually cowboys' wives) cooked in the ranch kitchens, men were hired to cook on roundups. When they were out on their own, riding the fence lines, cowboys had to be able to cook for themselves.



It took a lot of food to keep the cowboys fed. Because the OW Ranch was so far from town – a two-day wagon ride – the Kendricks had to buy in bulk. The store they shopped at most often for groceries and general supplies was The Sheridan Commercial. The Commercial had its own dry goods and hardware store, a harness and wagon shop, plus a butcher shop. The items that showed up most often on the store's OW Ranch invoices? Dried apples, prunes, flour, sugar, Arbuckles' Coffee and Post Toasties Cereal.

## **A Maid's Life**

Most Trail End maids – and there were many over the years – were young girls from poor families. They tended to be ill-educated and extremely temporary (the work was hard and paid very little). Emily Thomas, who worked at Trail End for a brief time in the 1920s, may have been young and poor, but she had dreams of a brighter future; one that did not include cleaning other people's homes. We are very fortunate to have discovered quite a lot about Emily's background, as well as her life after Trail End.



### **Emily's Early Years**

Born out-of-wedlock in Spearfish, South Dakota, Emily Thomas (1908-1987) was the daughter of flour mill worker Adelbert Rudd Thomas (1887-1949) and dressmaker Florence Belle Lincoln (1890-1972). "Del" and "Flossie" had met as children on the

prairies of eastern Wyoming, growing up three doors away from each other in the tiny Crook County hamlet of Williams. Flossie's father was a farmer; Del's was the local postmaster.

Although they had produced their first child six months earlier, Del and Flossie were married in Deadwood, South Dakota, in November 1908. Ten months later, their second child, Marie Delayne Thomas, was born in Sundance, Wyoming. Employed as a sacker in a Spearfish flour mill, Del lost four fingers in an industrial accident, thus making him ineligible for service in World War One.

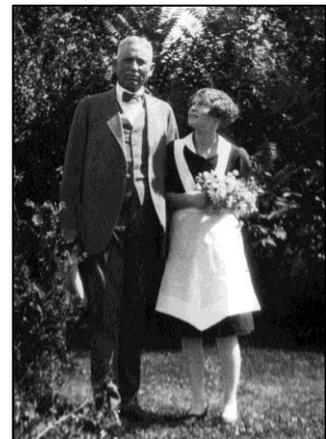
By January 1918, Flossie was divorced and living with her children in Lead, South Dakota. There she married James E. Toms, a 33-year-old bachelor from Terry, South Dakota. Later that year, the family moved to Shelton, Washington, where James registered for the draft (he was unemployed). Flossie's parents and siblings previously relocated to Washington state, so it is assumed that the Toms family went there to be near them.

The 1920 Federal Census shows Emily and her family back in South Dakota, where her stepfather was employed as a shovel operator at the Trojan Mining Company's Portland gold mine. In July 1920, James Toms was killed in a mining accident. Witnesses stated that a large slab of rock fell onto his power shovel as he loaded railroad cars, killing him instantly.

We haven't been able to find where Emily was for the next three years, but by 1924, she was in Sheridan with her mother and sister. She attended high school, where she appeared in the sophomore class play. In 1926, she graduated from Sheridan High School, having completed Normal Training – the educational track that allowed her to be an elementary school teacher right out of high school. During her final year at SHS, she performed in the senior class play and was a soloist in the Second Annual Minstrel Show (her sister Marie was a member of the chorus).

### **Emily at Trail End**

While we have been unable to find exact dates, it is most likely sometime during her high school years that Emily worked at Trail End. She is pictured holding a bouquet and standing alongside Senator John B. Kendrick, gazing up at him. She is wearing a maid's uniform, and the photo was taken on the Trail End grounds.



### **Emily's Later Years**

Emily's first teaching assignment, beginning in 1927, was in the mining camp of Monarch, just north of Sheridan. She was teaching first and second grades there when the school building was

destroyed by fire in January 1930. According to the 1930 Federal Census, Emily lived on West Loucks Street in Sheridan with her mother, Florence Austin (she had apparently married for a third time, but no record of the union has been found) and sister Marie (also a school teacher). Throughout the early 1930s, Emily, Marie and Florence lived in a series of small homes on West Loucks and South Brooks streets.

In 1930, Emily's estranged father, Del, was living in Carter County, Montana. Curiously, he was enumerated twice; the first time on April 12 in Carter County, Township 6, and again on April 14 in Carter County School District Number 9. Both times he was listed as forty-two years old, married, and working as a stock farmer. He was married to a woman named Mamie, and living with her daughter, nine-year-old Janie A. Chausse.

In 1933, Florence Lincoln Thomas Toms Austin married for the fourth time, to bachelor railroad switchman William A. Winters, a 43-year-old veteran of the World War. They set up house at 940 West Loucks. One year later, Emily's sister Marie married English-born watch repairman Stanley Greenhalgh and moved to Thermopolis, Wyoming.

In 1935, Emily taught in Superior, a coal town in Wyoming's Sweetwater County. Five years later, she was teaching at the Willard School in Casper. Sometime between her Superior and Casper assignments, she attended classes at - and graduated from - the University of Wyoming. The 1940 census showed her boarding at the home of postal clerk Paul H. Burdell in Casper. (The same census showed her mother still married to William Winters; Marie was still married, the mother of a three-year-old son, and working as a jewelry store saleslady; Del Thomas was divorced (again) and living in Madison County, Montana, where he was enumerated as an unemployed quartz miner.

In July 1944, Emily married watch repairman James Karl Gouge at a small ceremony in Moose, Wyoming. A native of North Carolina, James was seven years younger than his bride. After James was discharged from the U. S. Army in September 1945, the couple moved to Sioux Falls, South Dakota, where she got a job at the Whittier School, and he worked as a watch repairman at the Diamond Watch & Jewelry Company.

Emily continued to teach for many more years, while James eventually became a partner at the jewelry store. They had no children.

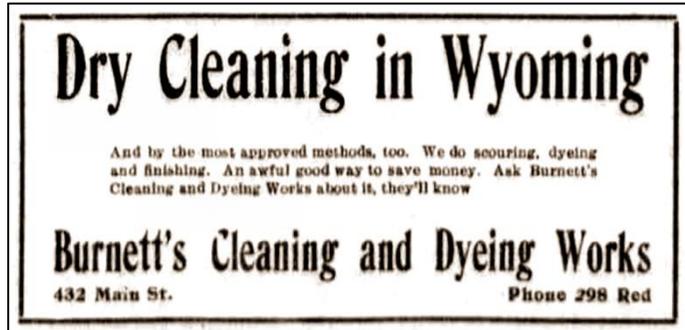
Emily's father, Adelbert Rudd Thomas, died alone in 1949 and was buried in Twin Bridges, Montana. Her mother, Florence Winters, died in Sheridan in 1972 and was buried with her fourth husband, William Winters, who died in 1958. James Gouge died in 1981, while Emily Thomas Gouge, former Trail End maid, passed away in Sioux Falls, South Dakota, in 1987, at the age of seventy-nine. She was survived by her sister and one nephew.

## Laundry Services

In addition to the cook and maid, the Kendricks hired a woman to come in and do laundry once a week. While Trail End's laundry room was great for everyday washing and drying, dyeing and dry cleaning projects were normally sent to professionals. Dry cleaning was especially hazardous to amateurs.

### Dry Cleaning

Dry cleaning – the process of removing dirt and stains without water – relies on highly flammable fluids. Prior to World War One, gasoline and kerosene were preferred. They worked really well, but stain-free clothing was not without its hazards: it was not unheard of for a woman's dress to catch fire near the



open flame of a cook stove after the application of too much stain remover. After the war, less flammable (but still very dangerous) chlorinated solvents came into use.

Sheridan's first dry cleaner – Everett Cope – advertised his new services in 1901 by appealing to women: "Ladies, Call and get your skirts cleaned and pressed by the only dry cleaning process, look like new, opposite City Hall." Within a few years, most of the town's laundry services offered dry cleaning, as did a number of specialty shops:

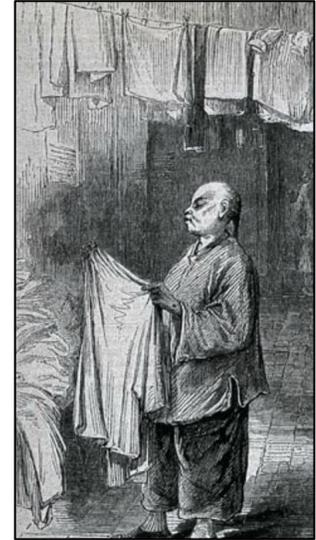
*The Sheridan Pantatorium, Leslie H Halsel, prop., [offers] the only up-to-date cleaning establishment in Wyoming. Ladies', gentleman's and children's garments of all descriptions cleaned and dyed. Goods called for and delivered to all parts of city free. Express and mail orders a specialty.*

Because their fine silks and linens didn't stand up to the rigors of scrubbing in the Trail End laundry tubs, Eula, Rosa-Maye and Diana Kendrick patronized local dry cleaners and laundries. Like the Sheridan Pantatorium and Superior Laundry, most offered free home delivery service.

### Chinese Laundries

In November 1884, *The Big Horn Sentinel* noted that a "washee house" - Chinese laundry - had recently opened in Sheridan. From that time until the late 1920s, Sheridan was home to a number of Chinese-born entrepreneurs who operated laundries, plus restaurants and even a brothel or two.

The first Chinese resident identified by name was Sam Sing, who in 1885 advertised “washing and mending done on short notice; satisfaction guaranteed.” He was later joined by Hong Sing and Ah Din. The latter, along with doing laundry, sold Oriental trinkets at his laundry on South Main Street. One of these men may have been the gentleman referred to by *The Sheridan Enterprise* in this local news snippet from 1888: “An almond-eyed, cock-eyed, son-of-a-heathen came in on the coach from Buffalo this week and contemplates starting a laundry.”



These laundries were mobile institutions housed in shacks along Main Street. In 1893, several were located on South Main in the vicinity of Sheridan two largest hotels, the Windsor and the Grand Central:

*The building next door to the Leaverton block, occupied as a Chinese laundry, was placed on wheels and moved to the lot adjoining the Windsor hotel Monday. The moving process occupied about six hours and did not in any manner interfere with the laundry work going on inside the building. Regular patrons of this particular Celestial wash shop will therefore suffer no inconvenience in the shape of being compelled to wait for clean clothing.*

That same year, several of Sheridan’s Chinese laundrymen were involved in a violent turf war. According to local papers, a laundryman known as “Pork Chops” sold his South Main business to Gee Lung on the condition that he (Pork Chops) not start another laundry in town. Shortly thereafter, Tom Nix opened a wash house, one that Gee Lung accused of being a “front” for Pork Chops. During the disagreement, someone set fire to the building operated by Gee Lung (referred to in *The Sheridan Enterprise* as “Gee Whiz”). Little damage was done, and eventually, Pork Chops left the laundry business.

As, in the end, did all his fellow countrymen.

For years, anti-Chinese sentiment had been building in America. Sheridan got on board in 1893 when *The Sheridan Enterprise*, under the headline “The Chinese Must Go,” opined: “It has been clearly demonstrated that the Chinese are an undesirable class to foster in this republic.” As early as 1897, the Sheridan Steam Laundry advertised against Chinese laundries (“Why do you send your clothes to a Chinese laundry when you can send them to a first-class steam laundry?”). In 1907, the Pioneer Steam Laundry placed decidedly anti-Chinese ads in the local papers (“Patronize an American laundry and thus cut off the Chinese”).

## Vacations at Dome Lake

When the stress of life got to be too much, the Kendricks went on vacation. While Eula liked to travel to Denver, Chicago, and other cities for shopping and culture, her husband's tastes were simpler. He took the family to the Grand Canyon, Yosemite and Yellowstone National Parks, where they could admire the wonders of nature. His interest in vacationing in the outdoors also prompted him to sign on as one of the original investors in the Dome Lake Company, a private recreational enclave in the middle of the Bighorn National Forest.

### The Dome Lake Company

The Dome Lake Company was founded in 1894 by four self-made men from Nebraska: : George W. Holdrege, Charles N. Dietz and Henry E. Palmer. The latter two were Omaha businessmen while Gillette and Holdrege were employed by the Burlington Railroad (Gillette as surveyor and Holdrege as general manager).

- **Edward Gillette** Burlington Railroad surveyor; “discovered” the lake; moved to Sheridan and married the daughter of a prominent local family (Hallie Coffeen)
- **George W. Holdrege** General Manager of the Burlington Railroad; partner in the Wrench Ranch north of Sheridan as well as the Sheridan Land Company
- **Charles N. Dietz** Omaha businessman; formed the Sheridan Coal Company; founded the Sheridan County mining town of Dietz
- **Henry Palmer** Omaha businessman; partner in the Sheridan Land Company

Most of the twenty-five original investors had close social or business ties with Holdrege and the Burlington Railroad, while several enjoyed similarly close relationships with the Sheridan Community.

The partners viewed Dome Lake as a rustic getaway from the hustle and bustle of the business world. John Kendrick, too, saw the lake as the perfect alternative to the long-distance vacation: “It is my opinion one might consistently have a [place] which should give one a real opportunity to get a vacation near home in the summer time rather than going long distances away.”

Fishing at Dome Lake was also a big attraction. First stocked in 1894, the high mountain lake provided a welcome escape from the heat and activity of summer,



as John reminded Manville in 1926: “You are hereby cordially invited to attend a fishing party with me at Dome Lake during the early days of July. We ought to try to make the trip while the fish are biting and we will do this!”

### **The Great Cloud Peak Expedition of 1911**

In addition to rest and relaxation, John liked to use the Dome Lake cabin as a base camp for extended camping trips. In 1911, he joined rancher Willis Spear and artist Bill Gollings in leading a group of thirty men and women (including Eula, Rosa-Maye and Manville) from Dome Lake to Cloud Peak, the highest peak in the Big Horns. Rosa-Maye’s close friend, 15-year-old Elsa Spear, published an account of the journey in the September 1911 edition of *The Ocksheperida*, the Sheridan High School newspaper. In it, she described the group’s July 8 climb of the 13,166 foot peak:

*Arising at 4 a.m., we had breakfast, then started to climb at 6 o’clock. Everybody had one sandwich for lunch. It was bright and sunny when we started, with just a few clouds chasing each other around in the sky. There were twenty-eight of us, two of the men who went up two days before, went with us so we would be sure and go the right way. It was nothing but large boulders all the way up, with here and there a snow bank.*

*Before we got to the top of the peak the clouds came down over us and then it snowed. The wind came up each side of the peak, and whistled among the rocks until it sounded like a torrent rushing down a canyon. It was bitterly cold and some did not have gloves or sweaters along. It took some of us six hours to go up and six hours to come down. Others went up in two hours fifteen minutes, three hours, and four hours ten minutes. Two of the boys went up in an hour and fifty-five minutes, and so beat all former records. They ran all the way, though, and had on tennis shoes and hob-nail boots.*

*We looked at the records, on top, in a bottle, and according to them only about sixty people had made the climb in the last twenty years. Some people said that others had started with them but had given up and gone back to their camp. The first record was 1891. We could find only two records from Sheridan, but supposed that if there were more, someone must have let them blow away. The first lady went up in 1901 with her husband. They were from Chicago. A record which amused us said a young lady had started up with the party and that “she had done her darndest and that was as much as an angel could do.” According to the records most people did not think much of the weather, or the climb either. Two men had been up twice and one other man three times. One man stated he had climbed from the east side, but we couldn’t see how anyone could climb there, because that side slopes in and is a sheer drop to the canyon below.*

*The way the peak can be distinguished is a pass on the east side, we believe it is called "Tensleep Pass," as the Tensleep Lakes are just below the peak. We carried canes up and made a fire with these which helped to keep us warm. By 7 o'clock we were all in camp, having hot soup and lemonade. That night eight decided to go back up the peak the next day as the view had been spoiled by the storm and the clouds.*

According to *The Sheridan Daily Enterprise*, those who went up the next day reported a fabulous visage lay before them: "The day was clear and a view for 200 miles was obtained. Devil's Tower in Crook county and the Black Hills in South Dakota were plainly visible."

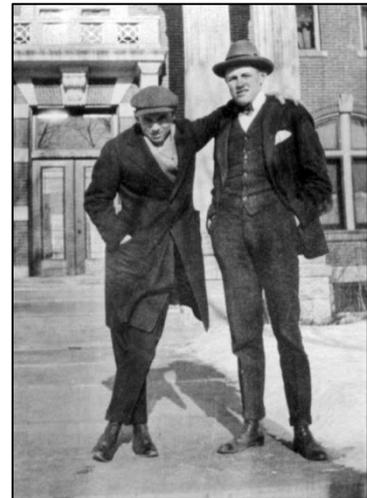
## Best Friends Forever

After Manville Kendrick (1900-1992) moved to Sheridan in 1908, he struck up a friendship with Harry Rayburn Kay, son of a local real estate developer. His sister, meanwhile, had known her best friend - cousin Eula Severn Williams - since they were toddlers playing on the OW Ranch.

### Harry Kay

As boys, the two took the town by storm. They went to movies and carnivals, explored streetcar trestles (especially the one over Deadman's Draw north of Fifth Street), played tennis and even took dance lessons (as Rosa-Maye Kendrick noted in her diary), "Harry, Brother and I are taking new dances at Central Hall Wednesday nights and are learning fast. Expect to go to a big dance Saturday night."

After Harry's father died in early 1914 (of a combination of pneumonia, typhoid fever and severe pyorrhea), Harry spent even more time with the Kendricks. He visited them frequently after their move to the Governors' Mansion in Cheyenne, and again when they relocated to Washington, D.C. While Manville attended college at Harvard, Harry went to Cornell. The schools were close enough that the two friends were able to meet quite often. In 1929, Harry was the best man at Manville's wedding.



Following his father's death in 1933, Manville took over management of the Kendrick Cattle Company, while Harry went into the oil business in the Chicago area. Although they grew apart somewhat following their respective marriages, they remained friends until Harry's untimely death in 1941, from injuries sustained in a Texas automobile accident.

## Eula Severn Williams

While Manville went outside the family circle for his best friend, Rosa-Maye looked no further than her cousin, Eula Severn Williams. Despite a three year difference in age, Eula joined Rosa-Maye on many an adventure and the pair remained close confidantes until Rosa-Maye's death in 1979.

Eula was born in Sheridan in 1900, the oldest child of civil engineer Francis Williams and his wife, Eula Kendrick's older sister Martha Belle "Mattie" Wulfjen. A pretty, delicate child, Eula was practically raised as a third Kendrick baby, spending a great deal of her time at the ranch. When they moved to town, the Kendricks shared a house on South Main Street with the Williams family. Around that same time, Eula and Manville attended school together.

As they got older, Rosa-Maye and Eula went from sharing dolls and toys to sharing clothes and crushes. In the summer of 1913, the two girls went to the OW Ranch on vacation, and met a young cowboy over whom they both swooned:

**July 2** - Out to the OW for summer vacation, Eula and I. We have a bet up over a boy at the Roundup. \_\_\_\_ we call him. If he doesn't like Eula best I must buy her a box of candy cigars, and if he does like her the best I get treated to the cigars.

**July 14** - I'm very doubtful still about \_\_\_\_\_. Seems as if he likes me, and yet Eula got some ardent looks last night. It makes me jealous.



As the summer progressed, Rosa-Maye turned out to be the "chosen one," but as she noted a few days later, "It's only a summer romance and will pass with [the] season." Which, indeed, it did.

When Eula Williams married Calvin Samuel Cumming in 1923, Rosa-Maye was her honor attendant; Eula repaid the favor in 1927 when Rosa-Maye married Hubert Reilly Harmon. Both men were army officers and throughout their careers were stationed in far-flung corners of the world. Their wives stayed in touch by letter and through occasional meetings at army bases.

## At School & Beyond

Along with her brother, Rosa-Maye (1897-1979) was home-schooled until 1908 when the family moved into town and the kids began attending classes at local grammar schools

### Rosa-Maye

Rosa-Maye attended her first classes at Taylor and later Hill School, from which she graduated in 1911. She began classes at Sheridan High School in 1912, where she maintained a solid B average and served as president of the Girls Glee Club. In those days, Sheridan High School was located on Lewis Street – just down the hill from Trail End – where Sheridan Junior High School stands today.

After her father's successful entry into the world of politics in 1914, the family moved to Cheyenne. Instead of attending public school there, Rosa-Maye was sent to Ely Court, a girls' boarding school in Greenwich, Connecticut. In the spring of 1915, after much negotiation between Ely Court and Sheridan High, Rosa-Maye was allowed to return to Sheridan to graduate with her class:

*On the day of June second the class of '15 made great preparations for graduating. We wore grey caps and gowns and carried white roses tied with the class colors, rose and green. We were seated at the Orpheum [theater] in a circle and thirty-five came forward to receive diplomas.*

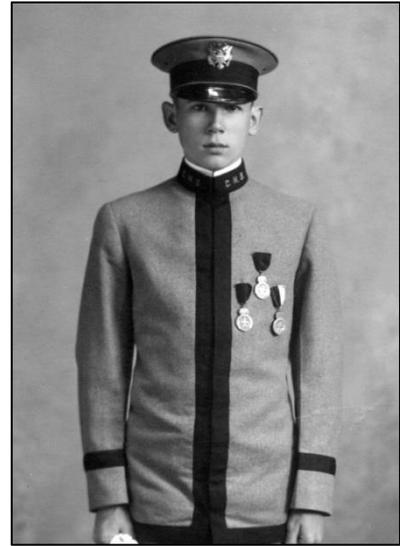


After graduating from Sheridan High School and completing a much-needed college preparatory course at Ely Court (her homeschooling left her lacking in the areas of math and science), Rosa-Maye attended Goucher College in Baltimore, Maryland, from which she graduated in 1920.

In 1927, Rosa-Maye married Hubert Harmon (1892-1957) at All Souls Church in Washington D.C. A West Point graduate and Army pilot, Hubert had a successful military career. When he met Rosa-Maye, he was a White House aide. He was later the military attaché at the Court of St. James in London and an instructor at West Point.

## Manville

Like Rosa-Maye, Manville attended Taylor and Hill schools. By the time he was old enough for high school, however, he did not go to Sheridan High. Instead, he had to transfer Cheyenne High School because his father was the governor of Wyoming and had to live in the capital city. While at CHS, Manville was an active member of the high school cadet corps (a sort of forerunner of ROTC) and participated in several statewide competitions of military preparedness.



After just a few months, John Kendrick sent his son off to Phillips-Exeter Academy in Exeter, New Hampshire. While there, Manville did not excel in his academic pursuits. Like his sister, some of Manville's preparatory work had been less than adequate; throughout his academic career, for example, he failed miserably in mathematics. Nevertheless, by the summer of 1918, Manville had graduated from PEA and was bound for Harvard.

Despite mediocre grades, a serious bout with the Spanish Influenza, and the distractions of Boston's night life, Manville graduated from Harvard in 1922 with a bachelor's degree in government. He then went on to attend Ames Agricultural College in Iowa, where he mastered many of the skills that would later help him when he began management of the Kendrick Cattle Company.

Following Ames, Manville returned to Sheridan to live and work. He ended his bachelor days in 1929 when he married Clara Diana Cumming (1901-1987), the daughter of U. S. Surgeon General Hugh Smith Cumming, at the National Cathedral in Washington D.C. Diana was a popular Washington debutante who surprised all her friends by forsaking city life for the wilds of Wyoming. Manville and Diana moved into Trail End, where they raised their two children.

Typical boys, John and Hugh (named for their grandfathers) often drove their mother to distraction with their rowdiness and collective untidiness. Diana good-naturedly looked forward to their trips to the ranches or to visit family in Texas and Virginia:

*The house seems deserted without our noisy brats. I hope they calm down away from home, but much as we will miss them, this will be a nice trip for them, and give me a chance to go over their room and do some much needed eliminating.*

Before they went away to their father's old boarding school (Phillips Exeter Academy in New Hampshire), John and Hugh attended Sheridan's Hill School, located near the present junior high school. It was at Phillips Exeter that Hugh passed away in 1952, the victim of a pulmonary embolism (blood clot) caused by hitting his leg on the side of the pool during swim team practice. He was eighteen years old.

Because of Hubert's demanding career, the Harmons didn't visit often. When they did, they spent much of their time at the family's OW Ranch in southeastern Montana. There the four cousins played and rode together under their grandmother's watchful eye.



## WORLD WAR TWO

When the world became embroiled in a second World War, the Kendricks and their relations became almost as involved as they had been during the First World War (see Keeping the Home Fires Burning for more on World War One). Just like other Sheridanites - and the rest of America, for that matter - they contributed to the war effort through charitable contributions and military involvement.

### **Manville & Diana**

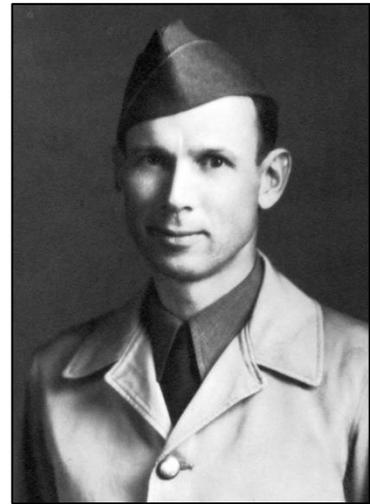
In 1940, before America joined the war, Diana Kendrick did her part for the worldwide war effort by serving as chairman of the local branch of "Bundles for Britain." Begun in New York City, "Bundles" provided knitted goods for British soldiers and sailors. As its income grew, the group also shipped ambulances, surgical instruments, medicines, blankets, cots, field-kitchen units and operating tables, along with used clothing of all sorts.

As Diana claimed to be "hopeless" when it came to knitting, she concentrated on the fundraising aspects of the organization, including used clothing drives, knitting bag sales, and the organized card party: "We have been asked to join the Bundles Bridge Club - the one which has been meeting for dinner at some member's house each week. I have asked to have it here."

In addition to the evening games, Diana hosted a series of afternoon bridge tournaments in the Trail End Ballroom. The ladies in attendance paid a small fee to participate, with the proceeds going toward "Bundles." At a 1941 auction of registered cattle, Manville purchased a "Bundles for Britain" Hereford for \$175 (equal to \$2,690 in today's dollars). In 1942, the efforts of the

Sheridan branch of “Bundles” were applauded by Britain’s Princess Royal (the current Queen Elizabeth II).

At the outbreak of World War Two, Manville volunteered as a Civil Air Patrol instructor at the Sheridan County Airport. During the First World War, Manville had wanted to enlist as a pilot in the Army Air Corps. Though his father effectively blocked that path, he wasn’t able to quash Manville’s interest in flying. After his father’s death, Manville became a pilot and purchased a small airplane for use on the ranches. He had a landing strip cleared, and his little yellow Piper Cub soon became a familiar site over the hills and valleys of southeastern Montana.



Like many young boys around the country, Manville’s two sons were very interested in the technology of warfare and collected books on the planes, ships, tanks and submarines used to fight the war. They had several books on “plane spotting” and were ready to identify any enemy aircraft that might fly overhead.

### **Rosa-Maye & Hubert**

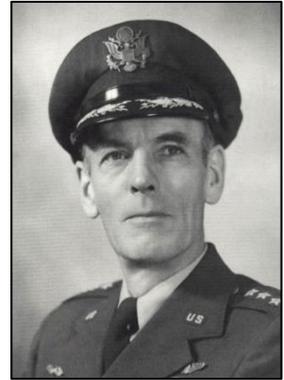
Since their marriage in 1929, Hubert and Rosa-Maye Harmon had enjoyed the gypsy lifestyle of the career military man. Between 1929 and 1940, they bounced from one assignment to another, few lasting more than a year:

- **England** (military air attache to London’s Court of St. James’)
- **New York** (tactical officer and assistant commandant at the United States Military Academy in West Point)
- **Alabama** (student at the Air Corps Tactical School at Maxwell Field)
- **Kansas** (student at the Command and General Staff School at Fort Leavenworth)
- **California** (executive and operations officers of the 1st wing, General Headquarters Air Force at March Field)
- **Washington, D.C.** (student at the Army War College at Washington Barracks)
- **Texas** (commander of the Advanced Flying School at Kelly Field)

In 1941, Hubert was promoted to the rank of Brigadier General and assigned to command the Gulf Coast Training Center at Kelly Field (a position previously held by his brother, Brigadier General Millard Harmon). In 1942, he received a second star, that of the Major General, and a new command: the Sixth Air Force based in the Panama Canal Zone. It was during his years in Panama that the family was separated; Rosa-Maye and her two children, Eula and Kendrick,

stayed in San Antonio, Texas, for the remainder of the war years, during which Hubert was stationed in both the South Pacific and Washington, D.C.

Whether together or apart, the Harmons were a formidable couple. According to Hubert's biographer Phillip S. Meilinger, Rosa-Maye and Hubert "remained each other's best friend throughout life":



*Rosa-Maye was the only woman in his life. Throughout their marriage he remained devoted to her, and those feelings were returned. His lifetime partner, she remained a combination of dreamer and realist. She set high standards for herself, her children, and even her husband. ... She was always more serious than her husband, but they seemed to fill each other's gaps. ... Their personalities were wonderfully complementary.*



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