

◆ MICHAEL FAMILY
DRIVING TOUR 2011

◆ *Miles into the Past*

◆ *Committee for the Driving Tour et al.*

Michael Family Driving Tour 2011—*Miles into the Past*

Introduction

Several places near Kettle Falls, Washington, and the Sherman Creek District of Ferry County, Washington, have been important to the Michael family over the last hundred years. In the spirit of celebrating the arrival of the Michael family to this area in 1911, some information and stories have been compiled. It is our hope that some of the younger generations will get a glimpse of a very different time, the challenges faced, and an idea of how our family handled those challenges.

This project began at the annual 2009 Michael Family reunion when a committee was appointed to publish a history of places of importance to our family. These places were significant to our grandparents and familiar to older family members but have become just names in a story to some. Younger family members may not know the location of the Sherman Creek Grange Hall, the Garden Valley Church, or the Wheeler place and how they relate to the family and to the important events that happened over the last hundred years. We hope to fill in some of the missing pieces with this written material and a driving tour of the area.

This account follows the family from 1911 until 1942, when the kids from the original family were mostly on their own. It is our hope that you will pick up the story of your branch of the family and add your own stories and memories.

We have included printed directions for the entire route. A CD and complete driving instructions, with photos, was sent to the grandchildren and great-grandchildren of Henry and Cora Michael in June of 2011. This booklet contains the material as recorded plus some additional information and references.

Fred N. Michael is gathering more photos, stories, copies of documents, and whatever else he can pull together. This will be available for review at the 2012 reunion.

HAVE FUN!!!!

History Prior to 1911

Henry Carl Lewis Michael (Grandpa Henry) and Cora Ethel Reed (Grandma Cora) were married September 28, 1899, in Westville, LaPorte County, Indiana. After their marriage, they lived and worked on a farm in southern Porter County, Indiana. They lived there about three years during which time Ross, Ruth and Ruby were born.

They then moved to Westville, Indiana, where Henry worked in the Tim Weed general store for about three years. Russell and Reeda were born while Henry and Cora lived in Westville.

Grandpa Henry's father, John Fredrick Christian Michael, was born in Germany in 1842 and came to the United States in 1861 at the age of nineteen. Grandpa Henry's mother, Maria Elizabeth Malchow, was born in Germany in 1851 and came to the United States with her parents in 1853. Grandpa Henry's parents were married May 30, 1869. In 1907, Grandpa Chris and Grandma Maria had a farm near the county line of LaPorte and Porter counties and needed help.

So the next move was to Henry's parents place so Henry could help his father with the farming. He also worked for some of the neighbors. The house was a sort of duplex with Henry's family living in one end and his parents in the other end. Jon was born here in 1907.

After about two years, Henry and Cora rented a place in Porter County. This was close enough to his parents so Henry could continue to help on their farm. The place they rented was nearly 200 acres with about 160 acres of farmland. They raised corn, wheat, and about 20 acres of potatoes plus hogs and cattle. In addition, they made butter to sell. Potatoes were the main cash crop, and they were sold to the state penitentiary at Michigan City, Indiana. The potatoes were hauled about 12 miles with team and wagon, and it took a full day to make one trip. Henry also broke two or three colts to work for the neighbors each year. He was an excellent horseman, although he never cared to ride. While Henry and Cora lived here, Mary and Ina were born.

In the fall of 1909, Cora, her brother Jay Reed, his wife Edith, plus the Michael children Russell, Reeda, Jon, and Mary went to Kettle Falls. They were visiting Grandma and Grandpa Reed (James Vanarsdoll Reed and Ruth Ann Burgess Reed), Cora's parents who had moved to the Sherman Creek area of Ferry County across the Columbia River from Kettle Falls in 1902. Russell was only

History Prior to 1911

five years old, and he did not remember much about the trip other than crossing the Columbia River on the ferry and the BIG apples.

In September 1911, Henry Michael and Jay Reed returned to Washington to visit and look around. After they returned to Indiana, Henry and Cora decided to sell their stock and machinery and move to Washington. Cora felt much better in Washington because of the weather, and that influenced their decision. So in the fall 1911, Henry and Cora Michael and their seven children, James Ross Michael, Ruth Ann Michael, Amos Russell Michael, Reeda Fay Michael, Jon Nelson Michael, Mary Ellen Michael, and Ina Evelyn Michael left Westville, Indiana, for Chicago, Illinois, where they would catch a train west. They planned to settle in the Sherman Creek District of Ferry County Washington, across the Columbia River from Kettle Falls.

The birthdates of Henry and Cora's children are noted below.

Born in Indiana:

James **Ross**—January 11, 1901

Ruth Ann—March 10, 1902

Ruby—June 5, 1903

Amos **Russell**—May 31, 1904

Reeda Fay—November 20, 1905

Jon Nelson—February 2, 1907

Mary Ellen—December 26, 1908

Ina Evelyn—June 6, 1911

Born while on the Lesh Place:

Fred Guy—March 12, 1913

Born while on the Wheeler Place:

Ethel Caroline—June 14, 1915

Henry **Jay**—April 14, 1917

Minnie Lorraine—September 25, 1919

Born while on Bald Hill:

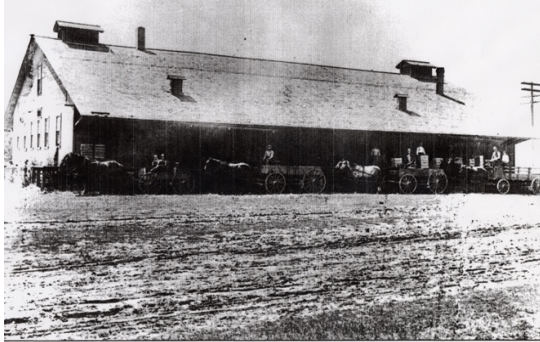
William **Orin**—February 6, 1922

Driving Instructions

Directions to Stop #1

Coming from Colville on Hwy 395, you will enter Kettle Falls. Just prior to the stop light, you will see a large building on the south side of the road (your left). You can either pull off to the right at Kettle Falls Inn, where you can see the building better, or park in the Meyers Falls Market parking lot, where you can go inside the Apple Warehouse.

Stop #1—Apple Warehouse—Listen to appropriate track.



Things to think about: Has your family ever moved? Why? Did you move closer to other relatives? Were you happy or sad about moving?

Directions to Stop #2

Turn left at the light onto Meyers Street, about 0.1 miles. Prior to crossing the railroad tracks, turn right into the Flour Mill parking lot. Look east toward Colville to see the location of The Train Station.

Stop #2—Train Station Location—Listen to appropriate track.



Things to think about: What is the longest trip you have ever taken? If you had to travel 2000 miles, how would you choose to do it: on foot, by car, by train, by plane?

Directions to Stop #3

Continue down Meyers Street toward Old Kettle Falls. This road almost follows the route the Michael Family would have taken. It is about 0.7 miles to the four-way stop. Continue straight ahead for another 1.4 miles, and you will cross Hwy 25. Continue

Driving Instructions

straight ahead on Old Kettle Road to a yield sign at Kettle Park Road, about another 3.8 miles. Turn left. Continue 0.8 miles to Locust Grove Road, and turn right. Travel 0.2 miles, and turn left.

Stop #3—Main Street of Old Kettle Falls—Listen to appropriate track.



Things to think about: Kettle Falls was moved because Grand Coulee dam was built, and this area was flooded. Have you ever visited Grand Coulee dam? If you haven't, would you like to? When you get a chance, look at a map to see how big Lake Roosevelt really is.

Directions to Stop #4

Turn around at the end of the street, return to intersection where sign is located, and continue straight ahead. At the logs you will see the road that led north out of Old Kettle Falls. Turn left, and follow this dirt road to the riverbank.

Stop #4—Site of Ben Camp Ferry and View of Ferry County—Listen to appropriate track.



Things to think about: What do you think the children were looking forward to after traveling for several days? The Michael children were going to stay with their Grandma

Driving Instructions

and Grandpa Reed. What do you like to do when you visit your relatives? Are these things the Michael kids would have done one hundred years ago?

Directions to Stop #5

Return to the Locust Grove entrance and turn left on Kettle Park Road. Continue 2.3 miles on this road toward Hwy 395. Just prior to the intersection with the highway, pull into a turn-out on the left side of the road. Be careful about traffic turning off Hwy 395. To view the bridge and river, you will need to walk a little way.

Stop #5—Bridges across the River and Falls Area—Listen to appropriate track.



Things to think about: Can you imagine the falls and the salmon jumping up them? How big do you think the salmon were? What do you think it would sound like to be near where the river dropped 50 feet? Do you ever go someplace special for a picnic or hike?

Directions to Stop #6

At the intersection turn left on Hwy 395, and continue 0.5 miles; turn left on Hwy 20 westbound towards Republic. Note the falls area on the right as you go over the bridge, or stop at the Ferry County side, and walk back on the bridge to get a good view of where the falls were.

Continue 2.1 miles to the parking lot at the East Gateway of the Sherman Pass Byway on your left (east side) and stop here. Looking east toward the river, you will see the approximate location of the Bert Reed Place.

Stop #6—Bert Reed Place—Listen to appropriate track.



Driving Instructions

Things to think about: Have you ever been in a big storm? Was it as exciting as what Victor describes?

Directions to Stop #7

Leaving this stop, turn left, and continue on Hwy 20 another 2.5 miles to the Inchelium (Lake Ellen) sign, and turn left. Continue 2 miles, and pull off safely. This is where the road to Haag Cove goes left. Looking toward the east, you will see a tree and part of an old fence. This is about where the house on the Wheeler place would have been.

Stop #7—Wheeler Place—Listen to appropriate track.



Things to think about: Have you ever done work for someone and gotten paid? How much did you make? What would your kitchen look like if the only food you had was what your family had grown?

Directions to Stop #8

Turn left towards Haag Cove. Go another 0.4 miles. Look for an old sign on the left side of the road. Pull off safely. There isn't much to see here, but this is the approximate location of the Lesh Place.

Stop #8—Lesh Place—Listen to appropriate track.



Driving Instructions

Things to think about: The Michael family had help from Grandpa Reed when they lost their money. Whom would you depend on if you needed help?

Directions to Stop #9

Return to Stop #7, and turn left, continuing toward Inchelium. Continue about another 0.9 miles to German Road, and turn right where you can see the pink house. This building was the #10 Schoolhouse.

Stop #9—#10 Schoolhouse—Listen to appropriate track.



Things to think about: This was a one-room school with all grades taught by the same teacher. How is this different from where you go to school? Would you like to have all your brothers or sisters in the same classroom with you? How do you get to school? How would you like to ride a horse to school?

Directions to Stop #10

Continue 0.4 miles on German Road. A little south of where Lupine Hill Road goes uphill, you will find the location of the Sherman Creek Grange Hall on the east side of the road.

Stop #10—Sherman Creek Grange Hall Site—Listen to appropriate track.



Driving Instructions

Things to think about: Does your whole family ever go to a dance? Have you ever been to a drive-in movie? What are some of the fun things your family does together

Directions to Stop #11

Continue on German Road to the stop sign, and turn right back onto the Inchelium Highway. Continue 0.8 miles, and turn right on the Lake Ellen Campground road. Continue 0.8 miles, and turn left into the Garden Valley Church/Cemetery.

Stop #11—Garden Valley Church/Cemetery—Listen to appropriate track.



Things to think about: Among the descendants of Grandpa Henry, we have many different faith traditions. Are any ideas in this song similar to your family's religious or spiritual beliefs?

Directions to Stop #12

Leaving the church turn left towards Lake Ellen. Continue about 2 miles, and pull off safely to view Mud Lake.

Stop #12—Mud Lake—Listen to appropriate track.



Things to think about: Do you ever trade things with your friends? Have you ever cooperated with others to the benefit of all, such as on a team?

Driving Instructions

Directions to Stop #13

Continue another 0.7 miles, and turn right on Lake Ellen Road. Park here to see what remains of the Stony Acres School.

Stop #13—Stony Acres School #19—Listen to appropriate track.

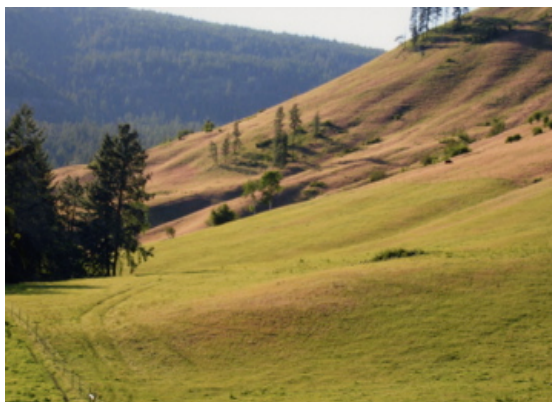


Things to think about: Many names in our family have been used over and over. What is your name, and do you share that name with any relatives?

Directions to Stop #14

Continue on the Lake Ellen Road about 0.2 miles. Look to the north where you should see a hill without many trees, the Bald Hill.

Stop #14—Gwen Place – Bald Hill—Listen to appropriate track.



If you would like to continue, the Lake Ellen Campground is about another 1.4 miles, and there is a good overlook of the lake at about 1.5 miles from Stop #14—Gwen Place – Bald Hill.

Narration – Apple Warehouse

Directions to Stop #1

Coming from Colville on Hwy 395 you will enter Kettle Falls. Just prior to the stop light you will see a large building on the south side of the road (your left). You can either pull off to the right at Kettle Falls Inn, where you can see the building better, or park in the Meyers Falls Market parking lot, where you can go inside the Apple Warehouse.

Stop #1—Apple Warehouse

The fruit industry along the Columbia River was a booming business in the late 1800s and early 1900s. Without the growth of this industry, our family might not have come west.

Bert Reed, Grandma Cora's oldest brother, worked for a nursery in Indiana. He traveled to Meyers Falls and Kettle Falls in the 1890s to sell fruit trees to the orchards being developed here. He stayed to homestead and plant his own orchard. He was the first relative to be associated with this part of the United States. Bert and Cora's parents, James Vanarsdol Reed and Ruth Ann (Burgess) Reed, moved to this area in 1902. It was nine years later that Henry and Cora Michael moved their family west.

The warehouse you see was built in 1906. Looking at the building today, you can tell where an addition was made in 1910 because the roofs are different colors. They would unload the fruit on the north side of this building, and as they finished packing the fruit, they would load it onto the trains to the south.

Tons of fruit were shipped out of this area by train. Really, tons. Records show that from July 1, 1907, until May 1, 1908, there were 4,257,615 pounds of fruit shipped from Meyers Falls over the Great Northern Railroad. (*Nullet-42*) That is over 2,000 tons of apples, pears, and prunes!

Over the years, many of the Michael children worked in the various orchards and packing houses. As late as the 1940s or early 1950s, Fred N. Michael remembers coming to this warehouse after school to meet his dad, Amos Russell Michael, who was packing apples.

Currently, this building houses the Meyers Falls Market and several other businesses. If you have time, you might enjoy looking at the some of the shops and maybe getting some snacks for the road.

Things to think about: Has your family ever moved? Why? Did you move closer to other relatives? Were you happy or sad about moving?

Narration – Train Station

Directions to Stop #2

Turn left at the light onto Meyers Street, about 0.1 miles. Prior to crossing the railroad tracks, turn right into the Flour Mill parking lot. Look east toward Colville to see the location of The Train Station.

Stop #2—Train Station Location

The Spokane Falls and Northern railroad was built through Meyers Falls (now Kettle Falls) in 1890 and provided a vital connection for moving timber, ore, and fruit out of the area, and supplies and settlers in. (*Fahey*)

In 1911, just behind the warehouse, where you now see small white buildings, you would have seen a railroad station with wagons loading and unloading goods. And in December 1911, you would have seen Henry and Cora Michael along with their first seven children finishing a long journey from Chicago. This was a trip of nearly 2000 miles.

This is what Russell, who was seven at the time, later wrote about this trip:

“I wasn’t too happy about coming west as I couldn’t bring my colt along, but Uncle Bert wrote and said he had a mare which would have a colt in the spring and I could have it. This was the first of the many horses I owned. She was born pure white with one blue eye.” (*Amos Russell Michael’s life story*)

“We left Indiana the first part of December. We came by train which took three days and four nights. The train wasn’t crowded that time of year. There was another family with four or five kids going to the coast and our family of seven kids. We had one car pretty much to ourselves. We had a big box of food along so we wouldn’t have to buy on the train. It lasted until we got here.

“Uncle Harrison Reed and a neighbor, Stanley Potter, met us in Meyers Falls with two teams and wagons to take us and our baggage to Grandpa’s.” (*Amos Russell Michael’s letter to Karen, p. 1*)

Things to think about: What is the longest trip you have ever taken? If you had to travel 2000 miles, how would you choose to do it: on foot, by car, by train, or by plane?

Narration – Train Station

These are the children who were born in Indiana.

*James **Ross** –born January 11, 1901*

***Ruth** Ann-born March 10, 1902*

***Ruby**-born June 5, 1903-died five days later*

*Amos **Russell**-born May 31, 1904*

***Reeda** Fay-born November 20, 1905*

***Jon** Nelson-born February 2, 1907*

***Mary** Ellen-born December 26, 1908*

***Ina** Evelyn-born June 6, 1911*

This was the first child born in Washington. The family was living at the Lesh Place.

***Fred** Guy—born March 12, 1913*

These children were born while the family lived on the Wheeler Place.

***Ethel** Caroline—born June 14, 1915*

*Henry **Jay**—born April 15, 1917*

***Minnie** Lorraine—born September 15, 1919*

The last child was born when they lived on Bald Hill.

*William **Orin**—born February 6, 1922*

Narration – Old Kettle Falls

Directions to Stop #3

Continue down Meyers Street toward Old Kettle Falls. This road almost follows the route the Michael Family would have taken. It is about 0.7 miles to the four-way stop.

Continue straight ahead for another 1.4 miles, and you will cross Hwy 25. Continue straight ahead on Old Kettle Road to a yield sign at Kettle Park Road, about another 3.8 miles. Turn left. Continue 0.8 miles to Locust Grove Road, and turn right. Travel 0.2 miles, and turn left.

Stop #3—Main Street of Old Kettle Falls

At one time, everyone thought the railroad would be coming to Kettle Falls because here it would connect with boats that could come up the Columbia River from Portland, Oregon. Lots of money was invested in the town by a group from New York, and the population grew to almost 2,000 people. When the Michael Family came through here in 1911, Kettle Falls was still a trading center for the surrounding area, but the railroad had bypassed Kettle Falls, the New York money had been pulled, and the population had dropped.

Kettle Falls continued to be a trading center until 1938, when Grand Coulee Dam was nearing completion. The town was in the area cleared to make way for Lake Roosevelt. Many of the buildings were moved up the hill to the site of Meyers Falls, and Meyers Falls was renamed Kettle Falls. The road you are on was Broadway, the main street where business happened in Kettle Falls. There are still foundations visible along it from the buildings that were moved or torn down.

Uncle Harrison Reed remembered something about Kettle Falls: "... they had what was called the town herd. Almost everyone had a milk cow. Some schoolboy would get the contract to get these cows together in the morning and drive them out of town to graze during the day, then deliver them to their homes in the evening." (Reed 2)

Things to think about: Kettle Falls was moved because Grand Coulee dam was built, and this area was flooded. Have you ever visited Grand Coulee dam? If you haven't, would you like to? When you get a chance, look at a map to see how big Lake Roosevelt really is.

Narration – Ferry Crossing

Directions to Stop #4

Turn around at the end of the street, return to the intersection where the sign is located, and continue straight ahead. At the logs, you will see the road that led north out of Old Kettle Falls. Turn left, and follow this dirt road to the riverbank.

Stop #4—Site of Ben Camp Ferry and View of Ferry County

Here you see the Columbia River or what is now called Lake Roosevelt. On that December day when the Michael family reached the river the only way to cross was on a ferryboat.

Harrison Reed described this ferry as “a cable ferry with a large cable strung high across the river with trolleys and other cables attached to the boat. The flow of the river furnished the power to run it, the stronger the current the more speed, in low water and icy conditions sometimes taking an hour to cross.” *(Reed 7)*

In 1910, Ben Camp, Sr., had placed an advertisement that described the service he could provide. It read, “Having purchased the farmers ferry, I am better prepared than ever to ‘set you over.’ Prompt service, easy grade. B.C. Camp, Prop.” *(Nullet 68)*

Looking west to the other side, the river is about where the Ben Camp ferry would have docked in Ferry County. Near where the ferry docked were the Beulah Post Office and the Beulah School #9. The post office was discontinued in 1911, but the school operated until the water from Lake Roosevelt flooded the area.

So on that December day, they drove the wagons onto a small flat boat, more like a raft, and I imagine the family was very happy to be “set over” in Ferry County. The fields you see across the lake are about the location of Grandpa and Grandma Reed’s place and the Bert Reed place. The Michael Family all stayed with Grandpa and Grandma Reed until March 1912.

While they lived here, some of the children attended the Beulah School #9.

Russell remembers his experience here.

“Our first teacher after coming to Washington was Mr. Camp, who also had the ferry boat. The school was only a short way from the river, so when anyone came to go across the river, he would turn the school over to an older pupil or have recess while he took the people across. There were about twelve pupils including two Indian boys, Joe St. Paul and Willie Marchand. They were both in my grade, the second, although they were both 10 or 12 years old. They taught us many things, what plants and roots growing in the woods were good to eat and how to catch chipmunks alive. Joe died

Narration – Ferry Crossing

during the Flu Epidemic of 1918. Willie married and had a family of several boys and was a prominent cattle man on Kelly Hill.” (*Amos Russell Michael’s life story, 1980*)

Things to think about: What do you think the children were looking forward to after traveling for several days? The Michael children were going to stay with their Grandma and Grandpa Reed. What do you like to do when you visit your relatives? Are these things the Michael kids would have done one hundred years ago?

Narration – Bridge Area

Directions to Stop #5

Return to the entrance to Locust Grove, and turn left on Kettle Park Road. Continue 2.3 miles on this road toward Hwy 395. Just prior to the intersection with the highway, pull into a turnout on the left side of the road. Be careful about traffic turning off Hwy 395. To view the bridge and river, you will need to walk a little way.

Stop #5—Bridges Across the River and Falls Area

Crossing the river on the ferry could be hard in bad weather or when the river was running very high. People began to want a better way to cross the river. The first car came to Kettle Falls in 1903, and cars became more common as the years went by. The falls were now becoming a tourist attraction. Automobile parties were organized to view the beautiful Kettle Falls on the Columbia River and maybe enjoy a picnic. By 1929, a bridge had been built, crossing the river just below the falls. Before the bridge, the Michaels would have had few occasions to go north of Kettle Falls.

Russell Michael claimed he was the first person to cross the bridge when it was opened to the public on November 1, 1929.

“I was working at the Kallstrom place packing apples when Elmer Hammond and a carload of young people stopped. They said the bridge was going to open, and they wanted to go across. It was only a mile or so from Kallstrom’s to the bridge, so I stepped on the running board and rode to the bridge. When we got there, I lay down on the fender alongside the engine. I was nearer the front of the car than anyone inside, so I was the first to cross.” *(Russell Michael, from remembered storytelling)* The current bridges you see today were completed in June of 1941.

Are you wondering where the falls are? They are under the lake created when Grand Coulee Dam was built and the lake filled in 1940/1941. The falls were beautiful, and they also provided a place for the native people to gather salmon as the fish came up the river from the Pacific Ocean to spawn. The different tribes would come from the Great Plains to the East and coastal areas from the West to fish, trade, and visit. This gathering started over 9,000 years ago and continued until 1940. “In June 1940, an estimated 8,000 to 10,000 people mourned the falls at a "Ceremony of Tears" organized by the Colvilles and attended by representatives of the Yakima, Spokane, Nez Perce, Flathead, Blackfeet, Coeur d'Alene, Tulalip, and Pend d'Oreille tribes.” *(Wikipedia)*

Uncle Harrison Reed wrote of the annual salmon gathering. He remembered “large numbers of Indians with their teepees and drying racks filled with large salmon drying in the sun, the Indians spearing the fish from a platform near the falls. The Indians

Narration – Bridge Area

were friendly except perhaps when they had a pow wow, which was fine, until some unscrupulous white men gave them whisky, ..." (Reed 4)

"The Indians would hang salmon during the fishing season in the trees along trails. This provided meals for those traveling the trails in the winter, which I suppose is the forerunner of our present-day drive-ins." (Reed 5)

Grandpa Henry Michael would never have crossed this bridge. He died in 1925, four years before the bridge was completed.

A possible added stop, if you have time, is the Kettle Falls Interpretive Center across Hwy 395. At this interpretive center, visitors have the chance to learn about the history of American Indians and white settlers in the area. Bottles, traps, and tools used by fur trappers and traders are on display. If you drive out to the old Mission building, there is a rock to the west where the Indians sharpened their spears.

Things to think about: Cars have only been in use for just over one hundred years. How do you think we will get from place to place in another hundred years? Can you imagine the falls and the salmon jumping up them? How big do you think the salmon were? What do you think it would sound like to be near where the river dropped 50 feet? Do you ever go someplace special for a picnic or hike?

Narration – Bert Reed Place

Directions to Stop #6

At the intersection, turn left on Hwy 395 and continue 0.5 miles. Turn left on Hwy 20 westbound towards Republic. Note the falls area on the right (north) as you go over the bridge, or stop at the Ferry County side and walk back on the bridge to get a good view of where the falls used to be. Continue 2.1 miles to the parking lot at the East Gateway of the Sherman Pass Byway on your left (east side) and stop here. Looking east toward the river you will see the approximate location of the Bert Reed Place.

Stop #6—Bert Reed Place

This is near where Bert Reed homesteaded and established his orchard. The actual area of the orchard is now flooded by Lake Roosevelt. Bert sold his place to Sophia and Victor Kallstrom in 1911, so they would have been Grandma and Grandpa Reed's neighbors.

Victor Kallstrom wrote of his experience here with his horse during a summer storm. "I had six acres of newly cleared ground planted to corn up on the hill north of us, and I was on the way there with the horse [Monte] and cultivator to harrow the corn patch, when I drove through the orchard. I noticed the apple trees were full of apples ready to be thinned and it looked like a good crop. Even the cherries were beginning to get the dark, red color that showed they would be ready for picking in a few days. It was with a feeling of well-being that I saw how the trees bent over with cherries—the income would be good. It was lovely to be a farmer and an orchardist! I was my own boss and didn't need to take orders from anyone. As soon as I came to the cornfield, I began harrowing between the rows. A wonderful smell came from the cultivated soil and the crops growing upon it, which took hold of me and increased my love for the earth.

"A black cloud was hastily spreading itself over the sky from the southwest. It was copper colored on the edges and looked ominous. Then it became completely still, not even a bird twittering, and all of nature seemed to be waiting ... for something to happen. Some large raindrops fell. 'No, there isn't any hurry,' I thought, and continued to harrow, but then some hail came and the most terrible peal of thunder followed the lightening that streaked across the sky. I unhitched the horse and drove down the hill, but it was too late. It was as if all the windows in heaven had opened and a huge sea of rain and hail came down. The road led down through a small canyon, which earlier in the day had been completely dry. When I came there, I was met by a surge of rushing, muddy water. I saw that I couldn't get across, so I swung to the left and stood with my back towards a large fir tree. I put the horse's head tight against me and the fir tree shielded us from the hail. That is the worst weather I had ever seen. It seemed as if everything evil had been turned loose. The wind howled and shrieked, and lightening followed lightening, so it sounded as if the thunder was roaring all around

Narration – Bert Reed Place

me while masses of water and hail hurled down. Stones and bushes were wrenched loose by the flood of water, and the bushes floated around me.

“It is during times like this that we realize God’s might and how almighty He is, and I realized my own weakness and smallness. The terrible weather stopped as quickly as it had begun. After most of the water ran off, Monte and I began traveling again—homewards, along the muddy and badly washed road. Near the upper part of the orchard, I met my wife. She came crying, with a rake in her hand to dig me out of the mud. In the orchard, the destruction was terrible. The cherry trees, which had been so bent down with fruit, were now completely bare, even the leaves had been knocked off. The irrigation ditches were full of cherries, and at the back of the house was a large drift of hail and cherries. The apple trees were just as bad off. The apples that were left were full of hail marks, so were useless. The peaches were also destroyed—the destruction was complete!!! I had figured the cherry harvest to be 9,000 lbs., and they were as good as sold at nine cents a pound. The apple crop should have been 5,000 boxes; peaches, 400 boxes; and the apricots and pears besides. Luckily, we had the first crop of alfalfa in, and because of the heavy rainfall, the second crop was good too. Thanks to having the cows and the sale of timber, we didn’t have to be needy.

“We stood in front of the house and viewed the destruction. The porch roof was completely torn apart, but the veranda and the apple tree had shielded the windows. The children came outside, quiet and sad.

“Suddenly the sun streamed again from a cloud-free sky, and the birds came out and sang as if nothing had happened.

“The broad and swift Columbia River just below me sang its monotonous, flowing song and reminded me of the stream song in Nykarleby [Finland], and immediately my thoughts flew back to my hometown. I could smell the scent of the lilacs and could see the mountain ash and aspen, dressed in their white summer clothing. In the morning, there would be people dressed in their very best hurrying to the ancient church to see the school children coming for their first communion. It was ‘Mid-Summer Evening.’”
(Kallstrom 32-33)

Note: Sophia Kallstrom, Victor’s wife, was Otto Fosback’s sister. Otto’s oldest daughter Bertha married Amos Russell Michael in 1932.

Things to think about: Have you ever been in a big storm? Was it as exciting as what Victor describes?

Narration – Wheeler Place

Directions to Stop #7

Leaving this stop, turn left and continue on Hwy 20 another 2.5 miles to the Inchelium (Lake Ellen) sign and turn left. Continue 2 miles, and pull off safely. This is where the road to Haag Cove goes left. Looking toward the east, you will see a tree and part of an old fence. This is about where the house on the Wheeler place would have been.

Stop #7—Wheeler Place

In 1914 the Michael family moved to this location and lived here until 1920. Ethel Caroline, Henry **Jay** and Minnie Lorraine were born while they were living here, and Mary died here at the age of six.

All of the family had to work very hard both on their farm and for neighbors. Russell remembers, “There was plenty to do for us boys, helping with the chores, planting and harvesting, etc. Ross and I worked part of the time at the Sengfelter Orchards, later the Alloway Orchard, now the Sherman Creek Orchard.”

But the boys weren’t the only ones working. This is an account written by Reeda Fay Michael Foster.

“When I was eleven (1916), I worked that summer for Grace Alloway taking care of children, preparing vegetables, and doing dishes for \$1.00 a week. Then when I was thirteen (1918), I was cooking for a crew of twenty. There was no electricity or water in the house. I carried water from the irrigation ditch, which was near the house, heated it in the reservoir attached to the wood range, [and also] had to clean and fill kerosene lamps every day, as well as sweep and make beds. Boughten and prepared food were unheard of, so I baked bread, pies, cakes, and cookies in the old wood range, cooking for people three meals a day. At that time, I was getting \$5.00 a week. I have always been a small person and weighed about 75 pounds at the time.” (*Résumé of Reeda Fay Michael Foster, written September 25, 1979*)

Ethel Caroline—born June 24, 1915

Henry **Jay**—born April 15, 1917

Minnie Lorraine—born September 25, 1919

Things to think about: Have you ever done work for someone and gotten paid? How much did you make? What would your kitchen look like if the only food you had was what your family had grown?

Narration – Lesh Place

Directions to Stop #8

Turn left towards Haag Cove. Go another 0.4 miles. Look for an old sign on the left side of the road. Pull off safely. There isn't much to see here, but this is the approximate location of the Lesh Place.

Stop #8—Lesh Place

The Michael family moved to the Lesh place, the former Marion Post Office and store, in March 1912, and lived here until 1914, when they moved to the Wheeler Place. Before leaving Indiana, the Michaels had sold all their farm equipment, horses and most of their household items. They put their money in the bank at Kettle Falls and planned on using it to set up their new farm.

Russell recounts, “The rural delivery had just started, so the post office has been discontinued, but we still had the store. Just after we got moved, the bank where the folks had put all their money went broke, taking all of their life savings, leaving us in a new country without team or machinery, and (with) a large family. We had paid one year's rent and bought a cow from the widow we rented from. Grandpa (Reed) loaned us the money to buy a team and other necessary things to get us by. During the two years we had the store, my dad rented other land, he substituted as mail carrier and was the District Road Supervisor.” (*Amos Russell Michael's life story*)

In another account Russell wrote, “We had just got moved (to the Lesh place) and bought a cow and team of horses, when the Bank went broke and we lost all the money we had from our sale in the East. Even the check for the team bounced, so we had to pay for them again. About ten years later there was a settlement that paid five cents on the dollar.”

“The store didn't bring in much income. Most of our customers were the Indians that stopped as they traveled forth and back from Kelly Hill to the South Half. Mostly lunch stuff crackers, cookies and canned goods. Dad hauled supplies from Meyers Falls as he ordered from Spokane.” (*Letter to Karen, about 1972*)

Another child was added to the family while they lived here. Fred Guy Michael was born March 23, 1913.

Things to think about: The Michael family had help from Grandpa Reed when they lost their money. Whom would you depend on if you needed help?

Narration – #10 Schoolhouse

Directions to Stop #9

Return Stop #7 turn left continuing toward Inchelium. Continue about another 0.9 miles to German Road, and turn right where you can see the pink house. This building was the #10 Schoolhouse.

Stop #9—#10 Schoolhouse

While the Michael family was living at the Lesh and Wheeler places, from 1912 until 1920, the children attended #10 School. Ross, Ruth, and Russell graduated from eighth grade here. Jon, Ina, and Fred would have also been old enough to attend school here.

Grandpa Henry died in 1925 while they were living on Bald Hill, and the family continued living there until 1929. We will hear more of that story later.

From the spring of 1929 until the spring of 1932, Russell rented the Cranston Place. Grandma Cora, Fred, Ethel, Jay, Minnie and Orin lived there, and all helped to provide a living for the family. Education was important and these younger children attended the #10 School. Minnie remembers, “Orin and I would ride the horse from the Cranston Place to school then put the reins over the saddle horn. The horse would go home. After school, Orin and I would walk home with the older children.” (*Minnie remembering with Fred N. Michael and Leo Fuller, 2010*)

The kids continued to attend this school until about 1934. That was the year Grandma Cora had married Lew Fuller and moved back to the Bald Hill property. The children then went to Stony Acres School #19.

Things to think about: This was a one-room school with all grades taught by the same teacher. How is this different from where you go to school? Would you like to have all your brothers or sisters in the same classroom with you? How do you get to school? How would you like to ride a horse to school?

Narration – Sherman Creek Grange

Directions to Stop #10

Continue 0.4 miles. A little south of where Lupine Hill Road goes uphill, you will find the location of the Sherman Creek Grange Hall.

Stop #10—Sherman Creek Grange Hall Site

The National Grange of the Patrons of Husbandry was founded in 1867 to provide social and cultural benefits for isolated rural communities. This movement grew rapidly and became a political force representing farmers' interests.

The Sherman Creek Grange was organized in 1910, and the Grange Hall was ready for use in November of 1911. The first hall burned in 1929. The second hall burned in March of 1962, shortly after this Grange had surrendered its charter. For 50 years this was a center for community gatherings. Many of our family have been members of the Grange.

Uncle Harrison Reed wrote about some of the fun had at the Grange Hall. "The social life of the community was centered around the church and Grange Hall. The Grange sponsored Christmas treats and party, with the three schools furnishing the programs. It was looked forward to by all. Also, the old-time dances at the Grange Hall had music by the Scott family, John Ford, Bertha Roper, Nancy Allen. The highlight of these was the St. Patrick's Day dance, the last of the season, with Tom Roper, Joe Aubertin, and myself calling the squares, usually getting home in time for the morning chores." (*Reed 8*)

Here is something else that happened at the Grange, remembered by Russell Michael's wife Bertha.

"Around 1920 a few cars began to appear. The man that ran the theater (*probably in Kettle Falls-kc*) had a Model T, and he came over to the Grange Hall twice a month and showed movies for a while in the summertime (silent of course). He jacked up the back wheel of his Ford to get power for his machinery." (*Bertha Michael's letter to Karen, about 1972*)

Things to think about: Does your whole family ever go to a dance? Have you ever been to a drive-in movie? What are some of the fun things your family does together?

Narration – Garden Valley Church and Cemetery

Directions to Stop #11

Continue on German Road to the stop sign, and turn right, back onto the Inchelium Highway. Continue 0.8 miles, and turn right on the Lake Ellen Campground Road. Continue 0.8 miles, and turn left into the Garden Valley Church/ Cemetery.

Stop #11—Garden Valley Church/Cemetery

“The land for the Garden Valley Community Church and Cemetery was donated by Dick and Bertha Ensminger to be used by the community for a cemetery and church. One of the first burials in the cemetery was William Maddox in 1908. Construction of the church building was started in 1909 and completed in 1911.” (*Rail*)

Harrison Reed remembered that his father, James V. Reed, and his brother, Bert Reed, purchased planed lumber from a mill in Stevens County. This was probably used for casing for the church. Harrison also remembered taking the team across the Columbia River on the ferry to pick up the lumber and haul it to the church. He would have been about ten years old at that time. (*Reed 6*)

Many of our relatives are buried in this cemetery. If you get out to look around, see if you can find the Michael name, but also look for Reed, Foster, Staehly, and Dodd.

Russell told of coming here to church. “All of us kids would be in the back of the sleigh or wagon on hay and blankets while my mother and father sat on the seat. Dad would light up a cigar and sing ‘Count Your Blessings,’ his favorite hymn.” When asked if Grandpa Henry had a good singing voice, Russell said that he hadn’t sung in the church choir or anything, but Russell thought the horses enjoyed his father’s singing.

Count Your Blessings—Johnson Oatman, Jr. 1897

When upon life’s billows you are tempest tossed,
When you are discouraged, thinking all is lost,
Count your many blessings, name them one by one,
And it will surprise you what the Lord hath done.

Refrain:

Count your blessings, name them one by one,
Count your blessings, see what God hath done!
Count your blessings, name them one by one,
And it will surprise you what the Lord hath done.

Narration – Garden Valley Church and Cemetery

Are you ever burdened with a load of care?
Does the cross seem heavy you are called to bear?
Count your many blessings, every doubt will fly,
And you will be singing as the days go by.

Refrain

When you look at others with their lands and gold,
Think that Christ has promised you His wealth untold;
Count your many blessings. Wealth can never buy
Your reward in heaven, nor your home on high.

Refrain

So, amid the conflict whether great or small,
Do not be disheartened, God is over all;
Count your many blessings, angels will attend,
Help and comfort give you to your journey's end.

Refrain

Things to think about: Among the descents of Grandpa Henry, we have many different faith traditions. Are any ideas in this song similar to your family's religious or spiritual beliefs?

Note: The cemetery is situated behind the church and is still used for burials. The Garden Valley Cemetery Association maintains the cemetery, which is not associated with the church” (*Rail*)

Narration – Mud Lake

Directions to Stop #12

Leaving the church, turn left towards Lake Ellen. Continue about 2 miles; pull off safely to view Mud Lake.

Stop #12—Mud Lake

There isn't too much to see at this location because our family never did build on this land. Grandpa Henry and Grandma Cora bought 80 acres of uncleared land in 1918 from Jack and Louise Perkins. Grandpa Henry and a neighbor, Otto Fosback, made a deal with the Mallory Brothers. Henry and Otto would buy a sawmill and sell it to the Mallory Brothers. In return the brothers would pay for the mill by cutting lumber for Henry and Otto.

This was a very good deal for everyone. Some of the lumber was used to build the new #19 Schoolhouse. Grandpa Henry used some to add on to the house on Bald Hill, the Gwen Place. Otto used his lumber to build a house. The #19 Schoolhouse and the house on the Gwen Place are gone, but the Fosback place can still be seen on the Mary Ellen Road.

Things to think about: Do you ever trade things with your friends? Have you ever cooperated with others to the benefit of all, such as on a team?

Narration – Stony Acres School #19

Directions to Stop #13

Continue another 0.7 miles, and turn right on Lake Ellen Road. Park here to see what remains of the Stony Acres School.

Stop #13—Stony Acres School #19

Before the new school was built with the lumber from Mud Lake, the classes for District #19 were held in an old log building on the Fosback Place. The new District #19 school was called Stony Acres because the area around it had so many rocks. The building that was the school is no longer standing, but I bet you can see some of the rocks that were lying around here when the Michael children attended this school.

Reeda, Jon, Ina, Fred, Ethel, Jay, Minnie, and Orin would have all gone to this school at some time. This school would also have had all the children in one classroom with only one teacher.

Stony Acres school was used until about 1955, when the kids from Sherman Creek started being bused to Kettle Falls. Many of Grandpa Henry and Grandma Cora's grandchildren also spent some of their school years here. This would include Willard Michael, Genevieve Michael, Jon Michael, Albert Staehly, Ray Staehly, Fred N. Michael, Evelyn Michael, Delmar Ralph Foster, Deon Foster, Larry Foster, Leo Fuller, Cora Jean Fuller, Billy Michael, Danny Michael, and Rob Michael.

Things to think about: There are some names that are used again and again in our family. Do you have a name that is the same as or similar to anyone else in the Michael Family?

Narration – Bald Hill-Gwen Place

Directions to Stop #14

Continue on Lake Ellen Road about 0.2 miles. Look to the north, where you should see a hill without many trees, the “Bald Hill.”

Stop #14—Gwen Place-Bald Hill

In 1920, Grandpa Henry bought 160 acres here from the Gwen family. Some of the family’s best and worst times were here on Bald Hill. By the time they moved here, they had a herd of cattle, had plenty of lumber from the Mud Lake property, and were well established in the community. Grandpa Henry had attended the Lutheran Academy in Otis, Indiana, where he received a teaching certificate. Although he never taught, he had more education than many people in the area and neighbors often sought his advice.

The existing house on the property was too small for the family. By this time, Ruth was married, but that still left ten children at home, an even dozen in this family. An addition was built higher up the slope from the original house. This addition was connected to the original house by a sloping hallway. Aunt Minnie and Leo Fuller remember this hall as a great play area. They would roll things from the upper level through the hall to the lower level. *(Fred, Leo, and Minnie talking at visit, 2010)*

Although they were still working hard, they had time for some fun. There were fishing trips, huckleberry picking, dances, and sometimes a ride in one of the few cars in the area. Russell also told of racing horses and just exploring the area on horseback. Remember, in the early days, there wasn’t any electricity, so there was no TV, no computers, and no Ipods.

The last member of the family was born while they lived here. William **Orin** Michael was born on February 6, 1922.

The spring of 1923 brought tragedy to the family. One Sunday in April, Grandma Cora’s sister Ina and her husband Bert Crofoot drove their new car out to visit the Michael family. The Michael and Crofoot girls went up the south side of Bald Hill to look for wildflowers. Jon and Russell went with them for a ways, then went on towards Lake Ellen. While Russell read, Jon started rolling rocks off the cliff. In the process, Jon slipped and fell over the cliff. He was very badly injured and died about three days later. Jon was 16 years old at the time. He had always had a cheerful and helpful nature, and his death was hard on the whole family. *(As Fred N. Michael remembers it being told.)*

Grandpa Henry had had typhoid fever as a youngster, and this had left him with a heart condition. As a result of this, Grandpa Henry died on August 17, 1925, at the age of 48.

Narration – Bald Hill-Gwen Place

In about 1980, Amos Russell Michael wrote this about his father. “His opinion on social and political issues was often asked for by the neighbors, although they did not always agree. He liked to get the thoughts on an issue before expressing himself. He was a strong believer in many things that are now the normal way of life, but many thought impossible then: Social Security, government guarantee on checking accounts, cooperative marketing, etc. He was very opposed to war. His contention was that all wars since the beginning of time were fought for gain—more territory, slaves, prestige, or riches—with the poorer people suffering the most.

“He left this world with the belief that somewhere there was a place that all people would be equal and would be accepted, not by the worldly goods they had obtained, but by the service they had given humanity.” (*Résumé of Henry Carl Lewis Michael written by Amos Russell Michael, about 1980*)

So fourteen years after coming to Washington, Grandma Cora was left with a large farm and a large family with the youngest child Orin being only three years old. Ruth, and Reeda were married, and Ross married in 1926. Russell helped by farming Bald Hill for two years, 1926 and 1927. In 1928, Ross moved back to Bald Hill with his family and farmed it until about 1934. From 1929 until 1932, Russell rented and farmed the Cranston Place near the Garden Valley Church. Grandma Cora and the younger children—Ethel, Jay, Minnie, and Orin—lived here, too, and helped as they were able. Fred started working for Bob Jackson in 1930 and later for Emil Robert as a sheep herder. Ina lived most of this time with Grandma Reed to help her after Grandpa Reed died in 1929.

Ina married Lew Fuller but died shortly after the birth of her second child, Cora Jean, in 1933. In 1934, Grandma Cora married Lew Fuller. Along with Jay, Minnie, Orin, and Ina’s children Leo and Cora Jean, they moved back to Bald Hill.

By 1942, the family was growing up. Ross, Ruth, Russell, Reeda, Ethel, and Minnie had married and stayed in the Stevens-Ferry County area. Jay, Fred and Orin had all joined the military. Lew and Grandma Cora Fuller had moved to Colville with Leo and Cora Jean. Then in 1956, Grandma Cora died in Chewelah.

If you are interested in the story of what happens next, you will have to ask your grandma or grandpa, your aunts and uncles, or maybe one of your many other relatives. There are lots of good stories out there.

Narration – Lake Ellen

If you would like to continue, the Lake Ellen Campground is about another 1.4 miles, and there is a good overlook of the lake at about 1.7 miles from Stop #13—Stony Acres School.

This is a wonderful place to fish and dip in the water, if you can take the cold. The Michael children would have come here to enjoy any free time they had.

We hope you've enjoyed listening to some family history.

Things to think about: Much of this information was written down by the Michael children after they had grown up. Maybe we'd have heard different stories if they had kept a journal when they were young. How about keeping a journal of your own? Who knows? Maybe someday your descendants will be interested to know what you saw and thought when you were younger.

Timeline

*The twenty-two years preceding 1911, when the Michael Family moved to Washington State and the one hundred years since have been interesting, history-making, or have been important to the Michael Family in some way. Some of the events that impacted Stevens and Ferry County are noted below. The items specific to our family are in **bold**.*

- 1889 Washington becomes 42nd state admitted to the Union
- 1889 Ferry County becomes separate county from Stevens County
- 1889 40 acres plotted for town site of Kettle Falls
- 1890 Spokane Falls and Northern Railroad completed from Colville to Marcus through Meyers Falls
- 1891 Rochester Hotel completed in Kettle Falls
- 1896 Ferry County allotted and opened for mining
- 1900 October 10, north half of Ferry County opened to homesteading
- 1902 **James V. and Ruth Ann Reed arrive**
- 1903 Dr. Parker buys first automobile in Kettle Falls
- 1906 Fruit warehouse built in Meyers Falls
- 1910 Sherman Creek Grange organized
- 1911 **Michael Family arrives in area**
- 1912 Garden Valley Church completed, Woodrow Wilson elected president, **Michael Family moves to Lesh Place**
- 1913 **Fred born in March**
- 1914 **Michael Family moves to Wheeler Place, Mary dies in December,** World War I begins
- 1915 **Ethel born in June**
- 1916
- 1917 **Jay born in April**
- 1918 World War I ends, flu epidemic hits
- 1919 **Minnie born in September**
- 1920 **Ruth married, Grandpa Henry buys Gwen Place (Bald Hill),** Warren G. Harding elected president, prohibition in effect until 1933, women get the right to vote
- 1921 **Albert Staehly born, the only grandchild Grandpa Henry would have known**
- 1922 **Orin born**
- 1923 **Jon dies in April**
- 1924 Calvin Coolidge elected president
- 1925 **Reeda marries in February, Henry dies in August, Cora stays on Bald Hill with Ross, Russell, Ina, Fred, Ethel, Jay, Minnie and Orin**
- 1926 **Russell farms Bald Hill, Ross marries and moves to his own place**
- 1927 **Russell farms Bald Hill**
- 1928 **Russell goes to Palouse Country, Ross farms Bald Hill,** Herbert Hoover elected president

Timeline

- 1929 **Russell rents Cranston Place, Cora and children live there, Ross farms Bald Hill, Ina lives with Grandma Reed after Grandpa Reed's death until 1932; stock market crash begins Great Depression; Reeda moves to Portland**
- 1930 **Russell lives on Cranston Place with Cora and Ethel, Jay, Minnie, Orin (from Russell's résumé); Ross farms Bald Hill and Ethel lives with him some to help; Fred works with Bob Jackson as a sheep herder**
- 1931 **Russell lives on Cranston Place with Cora and children, Ross farms Bald Hill, Reeda moves to Kansas**
- 1932 **Russell marries and moves to Barnaby Creek, Jay with him some; Cora and children move to Day Place; Ross farms Bald Hill; Ina marries; Fred works for Emil Robert Sr.; Reeda returns to Ferry County; Franklin D. Roosevelt elected president**
- 1933 **Ina dies in May, Ross moves to Stevens County**
- 1934 **Cora marries Lew Fuller; Cora, Lew, and children (including Leo and Cora Jean) move to Bald Hill; Ethel marries; Ross lives on Barnaby Creek**
- 1935 **Reeda moves to Culp place and lives there 36 years**
- 1936 **Minnie marries**
- 1937
- 1938
- 1939 World War II begins in Europe
- 1940 **Jay joins Marines**
- 1941 Pearl Harbor bombed, US enters World War II
- 1942 **Fullers leave Bald Hill and move near Colville, Fred joins Army, Orin marries and joins Navy, electricity becomes available**
- 1943 **Russell moves to Hodde's**
- 1944 **Russell moves to Greenwood, Franklin Roosevelt dies Harry Truman becomes president**
- 1945 **Fullers move into town of Colville, Fred discharged**
- 1946
- 1947
- 1948
- 1949
- 1950
- 1951 **Lew Fuller dies, Uncle Fred lives with Cora two years**
- 1952 Dwight Eisenhower elected president
- 1953
- 1954 **Russell moves to Kettle Falls**
- 1955 **Allen Shunk visits from Indiana. After Grandpa Henry's death, the Michael family in Washington hadn't had much contact with the Michael family in the East. This cousin's visit re-established those ties. Allen's mother was Marie Elizabeth Michael Shunk, Grandpa Henry's sister**
- 1956 **Cora dies, First Family Reunion held in Chewelah Park**

More Stories

From Amos **Russell** Michael's writings:

"These are a couple stories my dad told us kids many times as we were growing up. It was many years later that I figured out what the moral of them was and what he was trying to tell us.

"Two men were taking a short cut through a pasture when an angry bull decided they had no business there and was about to charge them. One man scrambled up a rather small tree leaving no room for the other. That man had to jump into a stump hole that had been burned out.

"After some time, the bull started away. About that time the fellow in the hole raised up and of course the bull came back. After three or four times of this the fellow in the tree called to the one in the hole. 'If I were you, I would stay down in that hole until the bull leaves for good.' The fellow in the hole replied, 'Mister. if you were me, you would come out of this hole as fast as you could. What you don't know is that there is a skunk down here.'"

"Moral: Be sure you know ALL the facts before you say, 'If I were you.'

"It was the custom years ago for renters to move to a new farm every few years. Mr. Jones decided to move from Webster County about 100 miles west to Boone County. When he got near where he was going, he stopped to stay the night at a farm. During his conversation with the farmer, he asked about the area he was going to, what kind of neighbors he might have and such. The farmer asked, 'What kind of neighbors did you have where you came from?'

"Mr. Jones replied, 'That is one of the things I hate about moving. I had such good neighbors. They were always ready to help each other and loan their tools. If they borrowed your tools there were always returned in good shape.'

"The farmer said, "' think you will find good neighbors where you are going.'

"A few days later Mr. Brown stopped at the same farm on his way to Boone County. He also inquired about his perspective neighbors. The farmer asked the same question, 'What kind of neighbors did you have where you came from?'

"Mr. Brown replied, 'That is one of the main reasons I'm moving. The neighbors were so unreasonable. If you borrowed something and broke it and didn't fix it before they came to get it, you know they wouldn't loan you anything again. They thought it was my place to bring things back as soon as I was through with them and in good shape too.'

"The farmer said, "I think YOU will have the same kind of neighbors where you are going.'"

"Moral: If you want good neighbors, be a good neighbor."

More Stories

Likewise, Russell included this quotation from Granddad Kowitz.

“Never say, ‘I am the best’ or ‘I have the best.’ Someone may try to prove otherwise. If you say, ‘I am ONE of the best’ or ‘I have ONE of the best,’ there will be no argument.”

He also included this poem in his writings.

*Let others cheer the winning man.
There is one I hold worthwhile.
It is he who does the best he can
And loses with a smile.
Beaten he is but not to stay
Down with the rank and file.
That man WILL win some other day,
Who loses with a smile.*

In the spring of 2010, Leo Fuller visited with Fred N. Michael. Some of their conversations were taped. This story told by Leo gives you an idea of some hazards faced by the family.

“Ruth and Lawrence lived on Staehly Mountain and were a long, long way from medical help.

“Ruth and Lawrence had a dog. The dog kept track of Ray. The dog would get bit by a rattlesnake two or three times a year then kind of get immune to it. He’d get sick and swell up and everything. He’d follow Ray. He was just a little peanut.

“So we were in the field, and I was up on the rack, and Lawrence was pitching to me. Pretty soon I saw Ray coming just bawling and bawling, and the dog wasn’t with him. And here Ray had gotten bitten on the leg, so here we go.

“We took him into the house. Aunt Ruth heated up a bottle and put it on there. They took him in. Last time I saw Ray, I don’t know how many years ago, he still had that scar where the meat was destroyed.”

When I was talking with Pat Michael about this tour he told me about Orin’s experience after he enlisted in the Navy. Of course, the largest body of water Orin had ever seen was the Columbia River, so I don’t know what led him to enlist in the Navy. On his first trip out on a Navy ship, he was sick from the minute he stepped on board until he stepped ashore. This experience led those in command to reassign Orin to a submarine. This seemed to work for him, and that is where he spent his time in the Navy.

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