

The Woods Family and Some Stories of the Moon Creek Area near Blaine

Unknown date this story was written

Typed in January, 2023 by Dean Bones

Ray Woods was born in Hale County, Missouri, the son of James and Lissa KINNAMON Woods. At the age of 5 he came west with his parents by train in 1900 to Sheridan, and after waiting a week there Monk Woods, brother of James of the Beaver area, came and helped the family go to the Beaver area where the Walter Kinnamon family were living. Monk, whose real name was Fafhel C. Woods, was born in 1871 and had come to Beaver over the old Jones Trail in 1900 also.

Ray Woods married Lela Mae Burbank, and to this union were born Lyle and Aletha. Lela passed away in 1935, and in 1944 Ray married Margaret Charlotte Bolin.

Lyle married Louise Smith, daughter of Augusta Thomas by Augusta's first husband Wallace Franklin Smith. Augusta was the sister of Ulysses "Dick" Edwards of the Sandlake area.

Aletha married Arnold Schroeder.

Aletha was born in the Blaine area and is one of the few who were born there and still live there.

Ray was asked if he had any good bootleg moonshine stories. He said, "I have never seen a still in operation, but the hills were full of stills. As near as I ever saw a still in action was some old barrels. I know people fed the mash to their hogs."

He was asked about some hunting stories, and this cougar story came to light: "I got a cougar right up the creek. We were milking one evening, and a neighbor living up the creek was out looking for some calves. He saw this cougar, so he came down here, and Lyle and I rushed right up there with a rifle. The horrible part of this story is the that the neighbor followed us all the way up there with his gun cocked and loaded read to shoot me in the back. It was not intentional. We did not know it 'till we got up there. The old fellow, Pete, evidently had a case of buck fever.

I killed the cougar, and afterwards thinking about it - it was kinda scary. This cougar was standing just ready to jump into the brush. I just took a wild shot at him. I couldn't see the sights, just an outline. When we came back home to get flashlights my brother came back with us with a shotgun. The cougar was there,

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and his eyes would shine with the lights on them. He had been dead quite a while. I had broken his back."

"We loaded the cougar on the old Ford and took it to town. We had a picture taken of it on the courthouse lawn. We showed the cougar to Felix Gatens, the game officer at that time. I told Felix I didn't have a hunting license. He replied, 'If you were hunting cougar it doesn't make a damn bit of difference whether you had a license or not. You don't need no license for that.' "

It seems Felix had had an unpleasant experience with a cougar.

Aletha said, "The bounty came in quite handy. We didn't have much money at that time, and you, Dad, split the money with Mr. Pederson."

A photo of Ray was found in Johnny Burbank's album showing him with an army rifle.

Ray continued, "The mules in the Kinnamon picture came here by train from Missouri. They came to the valley and then were driven over the hills to here.

I saw lots of mules in service at Camp Lewis (now Fort Lewis). I never went any further than Camp Lewis. I didn't ship across. We were on the list to go. They shipped the mules, but we didn't go. My job was a horse and mule outfit. I was supposed to be in charge of the caissons hauling ammunition up to the front lines. I'd be in charge of 3 of these caissons, but I would have a horse and have a rifle and pistol. I would lead them where they were going.

Brother Roy was not in the service. My brother Ollie was through the war. At one time he was a runner from 1 trench to another. The officers were in the back trench. The soldiers were up in the front lines. My brother was to take a message to the front lines. But when he dropped down into the trench he sprained his ankle, and the fellow that had to take his place got killed. Ollie never did get hurt."

Ray had 3 brothers, Roy, Ollie and Jess. One sister died when she was a young woman.

Ray shared more, "Well, in those days we didn't have many doctors. She died of what they called milk leg at that time. She was up here on the homestead when

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her boy was born. The doctor came from Tillamook, and people along the way had a change of saddle horses for him. I think the doctor's name was Smith."

Tell us about the river when the Meadow Lake Dam went out. "At that time the water was under this old store building down here in Blaine, and the cedar floating logs would run their noses up under it. But the store was not damaged. It was a spectacular sight to witness. Logs floated up onto Moon Creek Road. After the flood fish were all over the fields.

Seth Moon was here before we came. I don't know just when he came. When he left here my dad bought the place. Seth Moon taught my 2 brothers to make cheese. Part of this house we are living in now was once part of a cheese factory. The boys stayed with the Moon family while learning the cheese business."

When the Moon family left here they went up river and crossed over to Willamina. My brother went with them with a horse to help. There was a trail through the Jones property. There was a swinging bridge across the river, and at spots the river could be forded."

My folks homesteaded in this area before they bought this place which is the Seth Moon place. I have made my living here on the place and worked on the roads. To get away from it all now and then I go fishing. I love to fish!"

Who donated the land for the Blaine Cemetery?

Valentine C. Sears. They owned the land next to it. When she, *Sarah Ann Sears*, died we had no cemetery, so the family donated the land. This cemetery is well take care of. The upper part of the cemetery was given for a church, but the church was never built."

Ed Kinnamon, brother of my mother, had a homestead right up the hill from where the house is right on the old road. I helped build that road. He lived there many years and had a cheese factory. He finally moved to Salem."