

History -Trout Creek (Lago)

Lago is situated approximately twelve miles south and east of Grace, Idaho. Lago Ward (A ward is a congregation of the LDS church) was first known as Trout Creek Ward. John Gibbs served as presiding elder from 1888 to 1891 when the ward was formally organized with William McGee Harris as bishop and Benjamin Clegg and Jonathan Gibbs as counselors. It was one of the oldest wards in Gem Valley, reaching north to Chesterfield and Soda Springs. As other communities developed, wards were formed out of the old Trout Creek Ward, including the Lago Ward.

Lago was meant to be Se-go because the hills east of the W. H. Bassett store were covered with Se-go lilies. The Postal Department misread WH's handwriting and the community became Lago.

The big valley, where the Bear River flows south, is divided by lava flows that, at various times, flowed down the northern half of the valley. The southern part of the big valley is rolling hills and valleys with abundant water and grasslands, an ideal place for ranchers. It was first known as Gentile Valley because of the early non-Mormon (Gentile) settlers. The northern part of the valley is almost entirely dry land on top of the lava flow with many crevasses and little water. It was settled later. Its value depended entirely on the ability to divert water from the Bear River through canals to irrigate the land. After extreme effort, canals were successfully extended out over the lava flows and the land became very productive. In 1910 the entire valley was named Gem Valley. However the name Gentile Valley has hung on, particularly in the south end. Lago sets on the east side of the valley at about the midpoint.

Lago is a farming, dairy and ranching community with rolling hills and flat meadows that are farmed or grazed. Lava cliffs, caves and ridges mark the northern boundary. The eastern boundary is the Wasatch Mountains. The west boundary is the Bear River. The south boundary is lava cliffs and ridges from an earlier flow protruding out from under the rolling hills, creeks and meadows that form the community. It has two creeks running through it, Trout Creek and Whiskey Creek. Trout Creek was named for its abundant native trout. Whiskey Creek was named (so the story goes) when bootleggers dumped a large amount of whiskey mash into it to escape the law. The creeks teemed with fish, waterfowl and muskrat.

The main branch of Trout Creek emerges out of the mountains east of Lago. There is a high broad cliff face and a shallow cave eroded by millennia of water flowing out of it. Other springs flow out of the lava outcroppings on the north to form the north branch. It finally cascades over the lava ridge south of the Lago Cemetery where it merges with the south fork and then flows into the Bear River at Thatcher. Trout Creek was a wandering stream with large willow trees along the way that had fishing holes around their roots. Large bends formed great swimming holes.

Whiskey Creek emerges full stream out of the lava cliffs on the northeast. It meanders through a meadow-lined valley between farmed hills then flows over the ridge at the Fred Collin's place and into the Bear River.

The settlers filed for water rights on these creeks. Miles of canals and ditches were dug, following the contour of the hills, to distribute the water to the various farms and ranches. Land

above the contour of the highest ditches was not irrigated. The ditches often eroded away the clay soil forming large gullies, or washes as they were called. The ditches divided the land into small fields that were farmed or pastured. Hawthorne, Serviceberry, Chokecherry, Cottonwood, Quaking Aspen and other bushes and trees grew along the ditch banks. These growths were very wide and formed nesting and feeding areas for wildlife such as ring neck pheasants, magpies, crows and a variety of songbirds. During hunting season the local ranchers would hunt pheasants along these growths, with hunters on each side flushing out the birds with dogs. It was always good hunting. The fields and the lava outcroppings were infested with gray squirrels, rabbits and rock chucks (marmots) that destroyed crops and grassland. Hunting and trapping these varmints was a popular and needed sport.

Winter temperatures could reach below -40F and summer temperatures above 100. Snow could be several feet deep, burying fences and even telephone lines in drifts. Horses, cattle and milk cows had to be tended daily regardless of weather. Fields were plowed by single bottom horse drawn plows and sown by hand. Crops were harvested with scythe, binder and thresher. When the winter temperatures were severe and the winter long, entire cattle herds could starve or freeze to death. All work was done by hand with horse drawn wagons and implements. Cows were often milked in open corrals. Ice was cut from the Bear River in large blocks and hauled to ice sheds where it was covered with sawdust for use in iceboxes through the summer. Logs for lumber and trees for Christmas were hauled by horse and sleigh out of the mountain canyons to the east. As the farmers and ranchers became more successful, barns were built and better implements became available. Electricity, phone service, better roads and cars greatly improved the quality of life. Gradually, mostly after World War II, tractors and more powerful equipment replaced horses.

But the winter weather also provided wonderful recreation. The cutoff bends of Bear River would freeze providing large spaces of clear ice for skating. Horse drawn sleds, blankets, pots of chili, hot chocolate, a fire, moonlight and skaters filled out the party. The hills were grand for skiing and tobogganing. The frozen creeks sheltered clear pools of water that harbored flocks of Mallard ducks. In summer, the creeks provided swimming pools (boys only skinny dipping) and fishing and the flowing ditches became play places.

Cattle were ranged in the mountains to the east. Some cattle ranchers had large range holdings north of Soda Springs. Hence branding, vaccinations, castration and ear cutting were a regular part of the spring work. Range riders with pack strings supplied salt licks for the cattle during the summer. In the fall they were gathered and sold or herded back to the fields for the winter.

In the years following World War II the ditches were removed forming larger fields to accommodate the larger equipment. Later, a pipe pressure system was installed that irrigates virtually all of the land. Trout Creek was dredged and straightened for more useable land. The removal of the ditches with their trees and shrubs and the dredging of the creek dramatically changed the face of the land. DDT was heavily used killing the willow trees. The community lost its pristine beauty and most of the wildlife habitats were destroyed.

Among the early settlers in the Lago area were Eli Morgan and Frank Luscher. Eli Morgan settled on what became the Glen Ruud place. Morgan Ridge, just north of the Trout Creek spring, was named after him. Frank Luscher settled on what became the Hiram Swensen and Ed Meacham places. Chris Mickelsen settled on what became the Bitton place. Pete Hansen bought the Pete Lund place. W. H. Bassett homesteaded and his place became the Alfred

Hansen place. The C. H. Bassett place, also homesteaded, became the Willis Bassett place. Julius Bassett and Frances Bassett homesteaded [but did not prove up on it] what became the John R. Turner homestead. Anton Mickelsen homesteaded what became the Michael Mickelsen place. Fred Collins settled on what became the Harris Mickelsen place. John Sorensen settled on what became the Harry Steele place. The Billingsly's left and their house remained empty for many years. The Elliots left and their unfinished house stood for many years. Lorenzo Barnes Rodeback built many of the homes in Lago. The John Sorensen and C. H. Bassett II homes built by him are still standing and beautifully maintained. Mary Ellen Rodeback, his wife, taught at the schoolhouse east of the Clark Mickelsen place.

People built log cabins or small frame houses and barns, and then built more substantial buildings as their wealth improved. There were many abandoned cabins, sheds and homes where people had moved away or moved to a larger home. Essentially every home had a garden and orchard. Hundreds of bottles of meat, fruits and vegetables were canned by each home each fall. Deer were killed and made into jerky or frozen when possible. Ducks and geese were shot and roasted. Pheasants, blue grouse and sage hens were hunted and cooked. Homes were often surrounded by tall growths of Lombardy Poplars as wind breaks. There were poor and not so poor. They carried gold and silver coins in their purses and pockets. They shared ditches, not always without conflict, and worked together to clean them each spring. They helped each other with the harvest.

Large family gatherings were common at Thanksgiving, Christmas, Easter, Memorial Day, Fourth of July, Labor Day and other odd times. The food was abundant and good. On Memorial Day, Chokecherry blossoms, Lilacs, Peonies and other flowers were cut and used to decorate the graves. Everyone went to the cemeteries at about the same time dressed up in suits and dresses out of respect for the dead and for each other. They visited and talked of old times. Families would travel to Fish Haven on Bear Lake, Hooper Springs north of Soda springs, and Lava Hot Springs or along the Bear River for swimming, fishing and picnicking. Trips to the mountains were made to gather huckleberries, a lot of work for a little. Chokecherries were gathered and made into syrup and wine. During the summer everyone who was able would play hide-and-peek, kick-the-can, Annie-I-Over, and baseball or pitch horseshoes. Gatherings were rotated around the different homes. Adults played pinochle and talked. Children played pinochle, rook, old maid, pickup sticks, tidily winks, monopoly, checkers, Chinese checkers and other games. There were big little books and comic books to read. Pulp westerns were popular. Children often stayed overnight, sleeping several to a bed.

There were favorite radio programs. Our Gal Sunday, Helen Trent and others that women listened to came on mid morning. Hop Herrigan, The Lone Ranger and other adventure stories came just as children were coming home from school. I Love a Mystery, It Pays to Be Funny, Jack Benny, Amos and Andy and others came on in the evening before bedtime.

When the population was small mail was delivered to Thatcher, south of Lago. The settlers took turns going after it. It was distributed to the Trout Creek settlers from the Frank Luscher home, which later became the post office with Frank Luscher as postmaster.

The Swensen brothers had the contract to carry the mail for twelve years. In the springtime, when the river flooded the flat land, they were able to go by boat from the old Fred Collins' place to the Peck Brothers store in Thatcher. Other times they went on horseback, forded the river, and then crossed again at the old log bridge below the Central High School at Thatcher. When

the Oregon Short Line Railroad was completed, a mail route was established from Soda Springs to Lago.

When Frank Luscher moved away, the post office was moved to the W. H. Bassett store. After his death, his daughter Lutie and her husband, Hiram Swensen, became the storeowners and postmasters. After Hiram's sudden death Lutie moved the store and post office to a building in front of the Raymond Swensen home and then into the front room in her house. In 1942 she married Alfred Hansen and the post office was moved to the old W. H. Bassett home until the route was discontinued.

The old road, the Pioneer Road, followed the east side of Trout Creek from Thatcher past the Bennett and Wright places then up the hill past John Sorensen's place, then over the hill to the Bassett store. This was a central hub for the valley. Grace did not become established until after Utah Power built the Grace Dam and Power plant. Charles Henry Bassett II built his large house across the road from the W. H. Bassett store and rented rooms to travelers. The road then turned west a quarter mile then right past the Luscher place then right again before turning north, crossing the north branch of Trout Creek then over the lava cliffs above the Chris Mickelsen place to Bench. This was the main road of travel east of the Bear River until Highway 34 was built up the center of valley from Preston through Thatcher to Grace.

W. H. Bassett started a small merchandise store in Lago in about 1890. A larger store was built in about 1900. It served the entire valley from Alexander to Preston. It carried the household staples, farming supplies and machinery such a large farming community required. The first telephone line was built from Soda Springs to the W. H. Bassett home. The line was principally for emergency use, such as calling for the doctor or other help. Dr. Kackley became famous for his willingness to travel from Soda Springs to the farms and ranches when needed. W. H. operated the store until 1929 when he was killed in a car accident at McGammon, Idaho.

The Blacksmith shop was owned by James Fowler and was located on the corner south of the sawmill. The sawmill was located where the road turns east to Ant canyon. It was water powered through a penstock and water wheel from the hill above. It went through various ownerships starting with a man named Hillyard. Hillyard sold to Moorehead who sold to Alfred Hansen. Michael Mickelsen bought it from Alfred and operated it for a number of years. He sold to the Robinson brothers who operated it more years and then shut it down.

The Lago LDS church house was built in 1894 on the corner west of the Don Bassett home. It was a plain building, basically an assembly hall with curtained off spaces for classes. It was heated by a single potbelly stove in the center. Music was played from a foot pumped organ. Church services were held every Sunday. The seats were movable benches that could be pushed back against the walls for dancing. A live caller and fiddle player called out reels, squares and grand marches at gatherings on weekday nights. There was an active scout troop. Additional classrooms and indoor restrooms were added in later years. When the LDS Church consolidated the valley wards and built new brick buildings, the Lago church house was torn down for materials.

A Presbyterian church was built on the corner north of the Luscher home. It was a fine church, tall with a steeped roof, wooden pillars that supported a bell on the steep roof. Reverend Woodman was the minister. It is described as filled with people and busy with activity. This church established the cemetery on Elliot Hill. It was there in the 1880's but discontinued

services in about 1910 when there was no minister. The building was used as a school for a few years, and then stood empty and finally burned.

There was a school, Dist. 9, on the corner below the Chris Mickelsen place. A cottonwood tree used to grow there. Another school, Dist. 19, was on the hill above the Lago Cemetery. In 1919 the two districts were consolidated and a two-room brick school was built next to the LDS church, housing two classrooms, one for grades 1-4 and the other for grades 5-8. There was a teacher for each room. It had indoor restrooms and a full basement that was used for community dances and other events. Outside there were swings, teeter-totters and a merry-go-round. Students played hopscotch, skip rope, may I, marbles, mumble peg, tag and baseball. In the winter the farmer across the road flooded his field for ice-skating. Fox and geese was a popular winter game. Students rode horses or walked to school. There was a paneled vehicle that was used as a school bus for more distant students and during bad weather. In the spring and fall and in the winter when the snows were deep and the weather permitted the students would walk along the roads or through the snow covered fields to the school. It was a wonderful sight to see them coming singly or in groups. The school was abandoned and torn down after consolidation of the valley schools following World War II.

The first cemetery was on the Loveland place, later purchased by C. H. Bassett. Joe Fowler deeded two acres of land near Trout Creek, to the LDS Church for internments. The graves on the Bassett place were moved to the new cemetery. A cemetery district was formed and the land deeds were transferred. The community voted to plant grass, shrubs and to provide perpetual care to the new cemetery. It is well taken care of today.

A third cemetery was established on top of the Elliot Hill. It contains about fifteen graves. It was called the Presbyterian Cemetery or the Gentile cemetery or the Old Pioneer Cemetery. Members of the Luscher, Mickelsen, Rasmussen and Collins family are buried there. It is on top of a tall hill surrounded by cultivated ground and can only be reached by horse or an ATV. Some of the tombstones date back to 1893. The last burial (Hy Collins) was in 1926. Sagebrush and iris flowers still grow there.

Memories from Clarence (Bud) Hansen January 2008

1. The Elliot Schoolhouse is the District 9 schoolhouse on the corner below Chris Mickelsen's. The Lars Hansen children went to this school. James Clyde Elliot was the teacher. He also homesteaded. He later sold 40 acres to Ed Meacham. The old road went from the Elliot place over the hill past the Pioneer Cemetery to the Dist 9 schoolhouse. The dug way along the hill above Trout Creek had not been built. This school burned down and the children went to school at the Presbyterian Church until another could be built.
2. School district 19 was located across from the Lago cemetery. Mary Ellen Rodeback taught at this school. All the Bassett kids attended. Mary Ellen was also part of a family dance band that played from Lago to Soda Springs.
3. The District 48 brick schoolhouse was built in the 1920's. Francis Bassett and Mable Farr were the first teachers. They each taught a room of four grades. This is where Leona Hansen (daughter of Lars and Dorthea Hansen) met Elgin Watts. They later married. He

was doing tinwork on the schoolhouse. Later, he put in a carbide light plant for Lars Peter and Dorothea Hansen.

4. The Presbyterian Church was there before the Lago Ward LDS church house. It had wood siding and shingles and a bell. The bell was moved to Grace.
5. Joe Fowler deeded the Lago Cemetery land to the LDS church and they transferred the deed to the cemetery district when it was formed.
6. There was a cemetery on the dry piece of ground, by the dug way, east and south of Charlie Bassett's house. They used this spot because it was "high and dry". Bud does not know who was buried there but he remembers people saying they were moved to the Lago Cemetery.
7. The cemetery on the Elliot Hill was called the Gentile or Old Pioneer cemetery
8. Chris Mickelsen and Maren Anderson homesteaded here. Maren had 5 children: Peter, Dorthea, Mary, Helma, and Chris. Maren died young and Chris remarried, raised his children and moved to California. He sold the homestead to Beckstead. Beckstead was Clarence Bassett's father in law. Clarence was the son of William Henry Bassett. Beckstead then sold to Louis K. Bitton. Beckstead also sold him the Hubbard Place (Where Vard Harris lived). The Hubbard place was on school land, this is why it was sold. Louis K. lived in the Mickelsen home. When young Lou married Eva they built a new home.
9. Chris sold everything in the enclosure and it turned out that some belonged to the Elliot place. Beckstead sued and won the suit. On the map the jog from Chris Mickelsen's to school district 9 is the part in question. Chris and Maren are buried on the Elliot Hill. Chris and Maren were both converts to the LDS church. Chris and his parents and two brothers came to Utah. When in New York City the father came up missing and the family had to come to Utah without him. Chris met and married Maren in Salt Lake City. He was sent back to Denmark on a 2-year mission. When he returned the couple settled in Huntsville and later in Lago.
10. William McGee Harris & Harriet Carson moved to Lago in 1891 and settled here. Bud remembers the story of a neighbor of Chris Mickelson's in Utah. He came here first and wrote Chris to come up to heaven. Chris homesteaded Bitton's and the neighbor took up Harris's. Somewhere in this time frame McGee Harris gained ownership. When McGee retired to Grace, Guy stayed on the place. He married Vara Hubbard. They had three children, Vard, Margie, and Mardene (Bud says Mardene was the lone survivor of triplets). Vara died and Guy married Cora Christensen. They had two sons, Robert and McGee, and two stepchildren Loren and Carla Mae.
11. Bryon McGee Harris married Sophronia Bassett. He built a brick house on the corner below McGee Harris that still stands. He raised turkeys. Sophronia died young and left a son Bill. Bill went to live with his grandma Harris for a while and later went to live with Lutie Swensen, Sophronia's sister. Bud Bassett, the son of Harold Bassett, later purchased the house for Martha, his wife.

12. Thomas Glenn Harris was in World War I. He came home disabled and never married. He lived in a small house down below Guy's. After his father died his mother came and lived with him. He fell in the creek in front of the house and drowned.
13. The James Elliot House. One of the Elliot daughters married Blackie Thomas and they lived there. The property was sold to Lars Peter Hansen. Grandma Hansen gave it to Una, her daughter. Una traded it to Lou Bitton for cattle property around Henry, north of Soda Springs. Alfred bought the Elliot hill for Bud and Phil but the deed was never registered.
14. Charles Bassett hired Andrew Ruud to fence his place. With the money earned (it took a year or two) Andrew filed on his own place. He had three sons, Glen, Norman & Andrew. Norman stayed on the home place and took care of Andrew. Norman never married. They mortgaged the home place to buy Glen's.
15. Eli Morgan sold to W.H. Meacham. This is where their children were raised. Ed and Julia remained in the valley. Amanda married Don Bassett. Glenn Rudd bought his place from Redford's who bought it from Meachams. Upon Glen's death the property split between his son's Alan and Boyd.
16. There was a little log home across the road, south, of Vard Harris (Hubbard). Willie Elliot lived there. Charlie and Elsie Hubbard rented for a short time then sold to Ed Meacham. He sold to Marvin Prescott and Marvin sold to Harlan Gunnel.
17. Joe Swensen homesteaded. He married and had three sons Earl, Leon and Willis and a daughter, Lona. The daughter married James Oleorenshaw. Bud says when Joe's wife died he remembers our mother, Adelia, was Relief Society president and she arranged the funeral. Joe's sons, Leon and Earl, stayed on the northeast Lago homestead. Willis married "Toots" and they went to live with Jim Swensen. Apparently Jim was used to living alone. He built them a little house on Whiskey Creek with 40 acres below his home. Willis expected to buy the place from Jim, but he fell into the water wheel of the electric plant and was killed. Jack Hubbard married Afton Swensen, Leon's daughter, and he bought out Earl and Leon. Earl had passed away and Leon moved to Utah.
18. Lars H. Hansen homesteaded 80 acres across the road east of Leon's. Lars was married to Maria Larsen. Bud thinks Maria had been married before and brought a son, Henry Christensen, into the family. Lars and Maria had 4 children, Lars Peter and Martha (twins) and Christen and Julius. Pete was our grandfather. He Married Dorthea Mickelsen. Martha married Niels Peterson and moved to Swan Valley. Christen had a homestead on the Bench. Julius married Merintha Turner. Bud doesn't know where they went.
19. When Lars H. died Maria sold to Leon Swensen and Pete built her a little house where the spring was up the road towards the Henry Christensen place. Bud remembers going up to Lars H's home when Maria sold it. They took the old clock off the wall. The clock was in Pete and Dorthea's home for years and was passed down to Dallas Hansen and his daughter, JeNene.
20. Lars Peter H F Hansen (Pete) bought his property from Pete Lund and added to it with school land just north of the place. He and Dorthea raised their family there. Pete built a

log house and then, with the help of Rodebacks, built another home. Bud says it was his pride and joy and he became very depressed when it was torn down to make a duplex for his family and Emil and Lorette. After Pete died Emil built a new brick home across the street for Grandma Dorthea and Una (on the old school land). Emil later built a home for his son Wayne in front of where Maria's cabin had been.

21. The Hillyard saw mill took 40 acres off the Andrew Rudd place. Several cabins were built for his workers (above Meachams at the fence line). He sold to Morehead and Alfred Hansen bought from Morehead. Alfred and Adelia moved into the little house that was part of the property and this is where three of their children, Dallas, Clarence (Bud) and Dorothy, were born. Alfred had been adding to the house when he and Adelia moved to the W. H. Bassett place. Many families lived there after that, Bud remembers the Weavers. They had five or six children. Then the Campbells, Lloyd Bennett, then the Bullocks. It was when the Bullocks lived there that the house burned down. Alfred sold the mill to Michael Mickelsen. He sold to Robinsons. Robinsons built the house that Phil and Carol Hansen lived in. Phil and Carol Hansen bought the home and property from Robinsons and lived there for several years. They later built a new home across the street from the old mill site.
22. Jim Fowler homesteaded below the sawmill and built a home and blacksmith shop. When his wife died he moved into a little house that sat beside his blacksmith shop. Don and Amanda Bassett rented the house and land. This is where their family was raised. This is where Rex lost his fingers playing with a dynamite cap. Later Don moved into the house on the corner he purchased from W.H. Bassett and farmed the Jens Swensen place. Harris Mickelsen then bought the Fowler homestead and he and Norma raised most of their family there. Harris sold to Elvin Meacham. This gave him the money to buy the Fred Collin's place.
23. Lester Rodeback, son of Barnes, built a little home across the road west of the Lago Church house. Clarence and Ivy Beckstead Bassett bought it and moved it to the corner north of the WH Bassett store. After Clarence and Ivy moved to California Harry and Mae Bassett lived in the house while he was working in WH's store. Finally Don and Amanda Bassett bought it from WH. When Don died it went to his son, Rex.
24. Henry Christensen's place was about one half mile east of the Pete Lund place. Bud thinks this was the son of Maria Larsen Hansen. He homesteaded and built a home there. Later he sold to -----Fowler, who sold it to Jim Swensen, who sold to Melvin Mickelsen. It was called Blackie Thomas's place because he lived and raised his family there. Bud says the house was still there after the war, but burned down. (Do Boyd and Jane own it now?) Henry Christensen and L. J. Durant owned and operated the buttery down below Mendenhalls on the river. Henry later moved the cheese factory to Grace.
25. Soran Jensen homesteaded the property north from the John Sorensen house to the Lago-Liberty road. Soran was a single man who fell off his haystack, lit on his pitchfork, and was killed. John Sorensen got that piece and homesteaded more. The original home was the old one where LeGrand Kuntz lived. Sorensen's, with Barnes Rodebacks help, built the beautiful home still standing. Sorensen's sold to Harry Steele in the 30's. It went to Val, his son, then to Val's daughter, Glenna Steele and her husband Lynn Rasmussen. Lynn and Glenna restored the old home.

26. Billingsly built a home on the corner on a gravel bar across from Sorensen's. Their daughter, Ida, was one of Adelia Bassett's best friends. He built the "Billingsly ditch" from Trout Creek above Vard Harris's house south to his place. He sold 80 acres (in front of Sorensen's) to Charlie Bassett and sold the rest to Calvin Bennett. Calvin sold to Bub's (?) and he sold to Clark Mickelsen.
27. Joe Fowler sold his homestead to Thomas Bennett. Thomas gave the place to Roe and Dennis, his sons. Dennis sold his half to Roe and moved away.
28. Elmer Bennett lived across the highway in the old home. He was another of Thomas's sons. Elmer had health problems and never married.
29. The Roy and Reba Turner place was part of the Julius Bassett homestead.
30. John R. Turner was on or bought the Julius Bassett homestead. Bud doesn't think Julius ever completely "proved" up on this homestead. John Turner's wife, Mary Ann, delivered babies in the valley. Bud remembers at least once when she took our mother, Adelia, to help her with deliveries. They hatched out chickens and Bud remembers going with Adelia to buy 24 chicks. John built the house that Henry and Ila Turner lived in.
31. Lars Rasmussen and Anna Julia Anderson Rasmussen purchased their land on Whiskey Creek (some of the Anderson homestead?). Lars died young leaving Annie to raise her 12 children alone. Annie sold to Pete and Leonard Rasmussen, but they grew tired of farming, so she sold to Loren. Loren and Deal raised their family there. It now belongs to their son, Gene. Lars and Annie's first little log house sat along the fence above Meachams where Phil Hansen had his barn. There was another house across the creek. Many families lived in these homes when the sawmill was running.
32. Carson Bennett sold his homestead to Heb Turner. Heb sold to Jay Turner.
33. Fred Collins homesteaded, built a house under the hill and farmed. His son Arthur built a new home at the top of the hill across from Rasmussens. Los Toon lived in Fred's old house for a while. Art had another piece of property in Grey's lake and Bud says he lost the Lago place to Utah Mortgage and Loan. The new house sat vacant until Harris Mickelson sold his place to Meacham's and bought it. UM&L was anxious to get rid of it.
34. Harold Bassett's place was part of the Andersen homestead. Harold and Ruby Rodeback lived in an old house until Harold built the new one. Bud says when Harold went to furnish his new home he came and got Francis Bassett to go with him to pick out the furniture. He and Ruby had 4 children, Norma, Jack, Carl (Bud) and Grace. Harold and Ruby divorced when Grace graduated from High School. Harold married Mickey and stayed on the place until his death when Bud and Martha took it over.
35. Bud thinks Jack Fowler homesteaded this place. He built a house and it burned down so he built another. He had two daughters, Blanche & Donna, and, four sons, Russell, Max, Leo and Dale. He sold to Max and Max sold to Harold Bassett.

36. Jens Swensen homesteaded. He and his wife, Mett, had four children, Jim, Joe, Hiram and Mary. Jens died while Jim, the oldest, was still very young. Jim bought the homestead. He married Dot late in life and they did not have any children. When Dot died it went to her daughter Jennie Norcutt. She and Percy were childless. They built a small home below the main house. When Jennie died it went to Percy. It now belongs to ----- Mickelsen's.
37. The other brother, Hiram Swensen, homesteaded on Whiskey Creek. He married Lutie Bassett. They lived in a house they built on Whiskey Creek. They then bought 80 acres from Ed Meacham, which was part of the Luscher place. They moved the house from Whiskey Creek over the hill and across from Ed's.
38. Luscher's homesteaded and raised their family in Lago. Bud can only remember Dot, who, when she married, moved to Wyoming. When her husband died Dot and her three children returned to Lago where she married Jim Swenson. Luscher sold to Ed Meacham.
39. Anton Mickelsen homesteaded. He built the house and raised a large family. Bud says he was raking hay north of the W. H. Bassett store and had a heart attack and died. He came to Lago because his mother Dorothy Peterson Swensen and a brother Christen, were there. The place then went to Michael and next to Mike and Louise. They all raised large families there.
40. Niels Sorensen, brother of John Sorensen, homesteaded on Trout Creek south of Anton Mickelsen. Bud says John Sorensen went on a mission to Norway and while there he met Leta. He sent her home expecting to come home and marry her. When he got home she had already married Niels. Neils had a muskrat farm with the pond and everything fenced in. He had built a home out in the field but it burned down. That's when he built the house on Melvin's corner.
41. Clark and Melvin Mickelsen bought the Niels Sorensen homestead. Melvin took the north half of the property. Melvin moved the house Niels had built to Grace. Bud says the house was moved up there by the park He doesn't remember which house. Melvin also bought the L. J. Durant place (the one that ran the buttery with the Henry Christensen) from his wife after he passed away. Later, Melvin bought the Blackie Thomas (Henry Christensen) place from Jim Swensen. Clark took the south half of the property. Clark tore down the old house and built a new one. He farmed and raised chickens in a huge chicken barn. He later sold to his son Rodger and they built Clark and Helen a new home across the street from the cemetery.
42. Ed Meacham bought his place from the Luscher's. Ed farmed and ran sheep. He had a herd of sheep back of Bench and also on leased land at the mouth of Ant Canyon. He had a little house there and the girls would take turns going up to live and tend the sheep. Ed sold 80 acres across the road from his house to Hiram Swensen. When Ed got out of the sheep business he turned to dairy cows and the girls did the milking. When Marvin Prescott married Edsel, Ed's daughter, he moved a small house in south of Ed's for he and Edsel to live in. When Julia died, Ed remarried and moved to Grace. Marvin bought the property.

43. Joseph Oleorenshaw: After Chris's neighbor sold out to McGee Harris he took up the corner and later sold the farm to Joseph Oleorenshaw. Joseph was born deaf so his parents sent him to school in Ogden. It was there that he met and married Helma Mickelsen, daughter of Chris. They moved to Grace first and then to Lago.
44. Jens Swensen homesteaded 160 acres. The cabin was back and a little above where the new Lago schoolhouse used to be. Jen's nickname was Bally. He was a single man. He went to Ogden on business and there he met Dorothy Pederson Mickelson. Dorothy wanted a ride to Lago as her son's were there. That is how the two met and later married. After Dorothy died Jens remarried and had a daughter. The church and school were located on his property. He gave 40 acres across the road to Anton Mickelson, Dorothy's son. He also sold 50 acres to W.H. Bassett (that was the north end east of the Bassett ditch). W.H. was suppose to buy the rest, but he made a trip to Salt Lake City and when he came home Charlie had offered more money and he bought it for Don.
45. Pete Mickelsen's home was located down the hill from Sorensen's (Pete was the son of Chris, brother to Dorthea). He married (?) the daughter of the homesteader who proved this place. Her name was Annie Lefler. They had twin girls and a boy. Pete left his family when he received an inheritance from his father. He and his brother Chris went to the Tetons to homestead. There they both married and each had 12 children. The winters in the Tetons proved too harsh for the brothers so they relocated in Blackfoot. Pete's son started a meatpacking place in Blackfoot. The rest of the children moved to Montana. The Lago wife (?) sold to Calvin Bennett.
46. The Lorenzo Barnes Rodeback home was across from Pete Mickelsens (at the bottom of the hill). Barnes bought this homestead from Joseph B Wright. Mrs. Wright and Grandma Bassett were good friends and she would come to the house to visit. It was later sold to Sorensen's, but this was during the depression and they lost the place to Utah Mortgage and loan. Willis Wright bought it from the loan company.

Memories from Franklin Michael (Mike) Mickelsen 2008

1. In the notes from Bud, he was right about the events, but it was the wrong name. The man that fell from the haystack, was a Dutch man named Gottlieb Neuensvander. He lived in a small cabin just south of John Sorensen, on the top of the hill, and east of the Billingsley home. He worked for wages, and had a few chickens, which he called "shackins". He went to see Aunt Molly Bassett, and said, "Vould yu like to buy some shackins?". Molly said "sure Gottlief, how many do you have?" He said "Aye got von".
2. He got feed for his chickens, as pay for his help, when it was needed. He came over to our place, and asked Dad, Michael Mickelson, for some wheat. He had a large bag, and Dad put a lot in it. he asked for "yust a lille more" again and again, until the gag was so full it was hard to tie. Dad helped him get it on his back, and he crawled across a footbridge that spanned Trout Creek. This was way before noon, and as the sun was going down, he was just on top of the hill north of John Sorensen's.

3. One time, they were threshing, and 3 or 4 men were pulling straw and headings away from the mouth of the Thresher. Gottlieb was standing close, and they told him to stand back. He said "Aye know vhat aye'm doink" A few minutes later, there was a yell, and Clarence Bassett had speared him through his upper lip.
4. Soren Jensen, was my grandmother Mickelson's brother. He came from Denmark, to see his sister, and to settle near her. Grandmother Mickelson was living with Michael and Sadie, therefore, Soren Jensen was living with them. He sewed his underwear on in September, and they were not removed until May. He would haul manure out of the barn, on a manure sledge, and that was all that he would do. My Sister, Estella, was about a year old, and mother said she didn't think she could stand it. He lost his pocketknife in Trout Creek, and after long debate, waded out and got it. Then he laid on the creek bank to dry. Grandmother remarried, and Soren went back to Denmark. He didn't want to be buried here, because a volcano would blow him out of his grave.
5. The place that you refer to as the Durrant place, was originally the Nels Anderson place. This was Annie Rasmussen's family. They had a small reservoir, above the house, known as Anderson Pond.

Compiled by Stanley D. Hansen, March 2008.

Some information taken from "Gems" of Our Valley.

Other information through correspondence and telephone calls from the memories of various people who live or lived in Lago.