

BIOGRAPHY OF MARGARET BATEMAN
BORN DEC. 1, 1911
MARRIED CHARLES SHEDDEN
WHO WAS BORN ON SEPT. 7, 1903
THEIR CHILDREN ARE
CHARLES BORN JULY 16, 1933
JAMES BORN MAY 29, 1939
ALBERT BORN JULY 31, 1941
PREPARED BY JOYCE MUHLESTEIN
WYOMING HISTORY
DEC. 10, 1991

Margaret's great grandmother, Lucy Brown Dexter, came from England on a boat chartered by the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. Pamela Dexter was the daughter of Lucy Brown who was also born in England. She married James Attride and they had a daughter, Elizabeth. Elizabeth was born in Almy, Wyoming. She married William Bateman, who was also from Almy. They were married in Cumberland, Wyoming and had a son there. They moved to Sublet, Wyoming and had a daughter there, Margaret Bateman. When Margaret was just 9 months old they moved their family to Hanna, Wyoming where they lived for 13 years. Margaret liked living in Hanna.

Hanna was a small mining town made up of smaller mining camps. Margaret and her parents lived in number 3 Camp about a mile from the main town. The family had to go into town for their mail and other supplies. Mr. Bateman worked at the mine owned by John Hay so they had to live in his camp. Number 3 Camp was between Hanna and Elmo. Elmo was occupied by a group of Finnish people. It was in Elmo that they did most of their shopping. The mining town was made up of Finnish miners, Greeks, Italians and Japanese. While Margaret was growing up there they all seemed to get along well. They did live mostly in their own little camps. Number 3 Town was made up of English and Finnish miners. There was only about 20 houses in 3 Town so everybody knew each other.

Margaret went to school in Hanna from the 1st to the 8th grade. They went to school in a covered wagon, it was driven by Amos Kerr, a pegged leg fellow, they called him Pegged Kerr. The wagon was very cold in the winter. Later they were taken to school in a bus. It was driven by a retired miner who they called Uncle Bob Cardwell. They enjoyed the bus, but every time it snowed

the bus couldn't get them so they would have to walk.

The Bateman family attended the Methodist church, the only formal church in Hanna. On occasion the Mormon Missionaries would come and hold cottage meetings in some ones home. They would then attend these meetings. This was Margaret's first recollection of the church. When Margaret was 8 years old, she along with several of her cousins were baptized by the missionaries in the reservoir, sometime in April and it was cold. Her mother and father had already been baptized.

Life for the miners and their families was hard. The homes were small. They tried to raise chickens but not for long. They did for a while have a horse and buggy. There was one doctor in town, if he was needed, someone would have to go to his place and tell him you needed a house call. He would usually come the same day. Most of the babies were born in a small hospital in Hanna. Margaret was delivered by Dr. McGill and when she needed her birth certificate she was able to find him in Lyman, Wyoming, he was then retired. The stores came to the houses. Every morning a man would come to the house and take your order then he'd deliver it in the afternoon. There were several accidents in the mines and Margaret's father was eventually injured in one.

The Bateman's moved to Rock Springs, Wyoming when Margaret was to start high school. The Hanna mines were beginning to close down. Mr. Bateman worked at the Colony Coal Co. mine up Dead Horse Canyon in Rock Springs. He was injured badly in a mining accident. The doctors wanted to remove his leg because the bone had been shattered. They scraped all the bone out and put in a piece of ox bone with silver plates. He remained in the hospital for 8 months. He took a job as a janitor at union hall. He wouldn't file for social security because he thought it was charity. After some talking he finally did

file and received his first check of about \$1,000.00.

Margaret started high school in Rock Springs. Her dad told her to go to school the first day they arrived in Rock Springs. She didn't even know where the school was and this caused her to stay awake all night worrying about the next morning. However, when she started off in the morning she saw a girl who looked her age walking to school. She inquired if the girl was going to high school and she was. They went to school together and became long time friends. This was Fanny Keelin. She lived just across the street. Margaret didn't have any idea as to what she should pursue in high school. She first signed up for home economics but after telling her mother all the supplies she would need her mother informed her that she could not take that class. Her mother would not buy the supplies. When she went back to school they suggested she take typing instead which she did and enjoyed very much. She continued through high school majoring in the commercial classes. During her senior year she worked in the superintendent and principals office. She often did the duplicating work which took a lot of work and skill. The mimeograph machines had to be inked. You would first cut the stencil on a typewriter with its ribbon removed then ink the roller, and put the stencil on and turn and turn by hand to make your copies. If you did it just right you would be able to make a couple of hundred copies off of one stencil.

Margaret also enjoyed taking shorthand and would often sit in church and take down the speeches given there. She recently cleaned out her basement and found an old box of these speeches, she could still read them.

Margaret graduated in 1929 in a graduating class of 129. The largest that had ever been in Rock Springs. There were too many graduates for the high school so they had to hold their ceremony at the Realto Theater. It stood

where the Rock Springs National Bank stands today.

Throughout her growing up Margaret was never allowed out at night. She didn't attend her high school proms, no parties not even those sponsored by the church she attended. Her parents were very strict and kept a tight hold on their children. The community wasn't a bad community but for some reason she was very much restricted in her fun activities. She often went to the beginning of an activity, a party or ball game but usually had to return before it was over. This did make her quite unhappy as a teenager.

When she graduated from high school she went right to work for the telephone company, however, after her training she was told she would have to work nights and her parents wouldn't hear of it, so she had to quit. She was fortunate throughout her life whenever she had to quit or was laid off she was able to find employment immediately. Often times she was offered a job. She must of been a good, skilled worker. Margaret worked for Sweetwater County Superintendent of schools. The superintendent was Meriam Shedden, her future husband's mother. At that time the County had 23 school districts. There was one at South Baxter, Granger, Green River, Superior, Wamsutter, Riner, Bear Oil, Burnt Fork, Eden, Farson, Point of Rocks. The superintendent visited each of the districts, to test students and check on things in general. Margaret worked there for 4 years, she left shortly after she was married. All the time she was working she was never permitted to keep her pay check, she had to give it to her father who in turn gave her an allowance of \$5.00 a month. She saved some of her allowance to pay tuition for night school to improve her skills. Later Margaret went to work for a local lumber company. The Bureau of Reclamation where she met an old friend from Hanna. She worked at the Rock Springs High School as secretary to the principal and then she started her own

business. She opened a Yarn Shop in her garage, moved it to a building down on K St. in Rock Springs, and later to the Plaza Mall. Margaret didn't learn to knit at home as a young girl. Her mother did knit. She knitted for the Red Cross during World War I but she didn't share her skills with her children. Margaret took her first knitting class when she was 55 years old. She loved it and continued with her own shop, giving lessons and so forth.

Mrs. Shedden, introduced her son, Charles, to Margaret and they began to date. They made plans to marry but had to keep changing the date as different emergencies came up. Charles felt he needed to continue to help his mom after his father died to support the children at home. Mrs. Shedden finally told him they should get married, he had a nice girl and he should marry her. On November 26, 1932 they were married. Her parents gift for her wedding was her pay check. With this unexpected money they took a trip to Denver, Colorado for their honeymoon. They were only able to drive the car to Cheyenne because a storm had come up and the roads were closed. They took the train from there and back.

The newlyweds made their home in Rock Springs. Charlie drove a gasoline truck for Standard of Indiana for 40 years. Margaret stayed at home with her children, three boys, Charles who was born July 16, 1933, James who was born May 29, 1939 and Albert who was born July 31, 1941. She with her three boys would clean and care for her mother and father. This took a lot of her time and energy. Especially since her mother was very demanding. What her mother said was right and there was no changing it. She did enjoy her mother-in-law who was a kind and loving person towards Margaret.

Margaret wanted to buy a home but Charlie was reluctant. Eventually she decided to take her boys down to look at the new subdivision being built on

Hay St. She spoke to the contractor and put her name on the list for a lot and home. She went home and told Charlie that she and the boys were moving he could come if he would like that she had signed up for a home. Charlie did go and look at the lot she had chose and didn't like it. He in turn choose the lot on Dickson where they still live and put his name on it. They moved into their new home in May of 1952 their oldest son Charles was married there in the following October.

Margaret and Charlie now go to Arizona for the winters. Before they leave all the old originals on Dickson St. get together and go to dinner. There are still several there. Mrs. Smith, Mrs. Kershisnik, Mrs. Melinkovech and Mrs. Frame.

Margaret enjoyed living in Hanna and Rock Springs. She has noticed the changes that have taken place. During the war, women were working in the mines and they were kept on because they were such good workers, after the men came home. During the boom, in the late 70's the rush of people both good and bad caused many changes to take place in Rock Springs.