

WAGNER, MINNIE I.

September 15, 1875-January 17, 1965

Mrs. Minnie I. Wagner, pioneer resident of Platte county and beloved teacher succumbed January 17 at Platte County Memorial Hospital following a brief illness. She would have been 90 years old on September 15, 1965. Mrs. Wagner was also well-known as a gracious and kindly hostess of Wheatland's Community Recreational Room, in which capacity she served for 12 years.

A native of Iowa, Mrs. Wagner taught in that state for a time before coming to Wyoming in 1905 to teach. It was while teaching at Uva school in 1905, that she met her future husband, Charles H. Wagner, whom she married at Missoula, Mont. On April 24, 1915. Until Mr. Wagner's death in 1934, the couple made their home on their Housetop ranch, 32 miles northwest of Wheatland at what was one the Owens post office. Mrs. Wagner homesteaded there in the spring of 1908, and through out her married life, she continued on occasion to teach school. After the death of her husband, she moved to Wheatland and resumed teaching on a full-time basis. When she retired permanently from teaching in 1944, she became the first Wyoming teacher to receive a pension under the state's teacher pension fund law.

When Platte county began to participate with the women's clubs in operation of the Community Recreation Room in 1951, Mrs. Wagner became its hostess, and worked regularly six days each week from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. until she retired February 1, 1963. Most days, except in the stormiest weather, she walked the distance to and from the job.

A native of Iowa, Mrs. Wagner through her life-time had been a remarkably active woman, and was the possessor of several "first" titles. As Minnie Idele Wagner, she was born at Rock Rapids, Ia., Sept. 15, 1875, the daughter of Allen Jerome and Rebecca Ann Gilliliam Wagner, and was the first white girl to be born in that Lyon county town. She was the second of a family of seven children. She attended school at Rock Rapids and at Springville, graduating from high school in 1894, one of a class of four to receive diplomas. She attended Iowa State Teachers college, Cedar Falls, Ia., Coe College, Cedar Rapids, Ia. And the University of Wyoming.

In May, 1963, at 88 years of age she made a trip to Iowa by herself, to attend the alumni association reunion of her high school at Springville. Mrs. Wagner was a member of the Methodist church, the Rebekah Lodge and was a long time member of the Wyoming State Historical Society, and the Wyoming Pioneer Ass.

Surviving are several nieces and nephews. In addition to her parents and husband, she was preceded in death by five sisters and a brother.

Last rites were held at the Schrader Chapel