

Paul Harold Russell 1907 - 1975 As submitted by Joyce Russell Brocke of Kendrick ID

Paul Harold Russell, the son of James William Russell and his first wife, Charlotte (Lottie) Ellendar Watters. Paul had one full sister, Violet Ellendar Russell who later married with Elmer Holmquist.

Paul was born in Skedee, Oklahoma on February 25, 1907. Paul emigrated at the age of nine years old from Oklahoma to the Denton , Montana area with his parents along with some of the Watters relatives; his Grandmother Nancy Ellendar Watters, his Uncle Monroe Watters and Aunt Flora Watters, and his Uncle Fred Watters. They hired a boxcar which was delivered in the spring to Oklahoma and in which they loaded up with all their household goods, and partitioned a section for their livestock. They all traveled in this boxcar during the summertime. According to Paul's sister, Violet, they made frequent stops in order to water and tend the livestock and the boxcar got quite hot on the train sometimes. They looked forward to evenings when things cooled down considerably. Violet was three years old at the time of the journey. Many pioneers came on the train. They came for the land grab to file claims on 360 acre sections of Montana land they would have to prove up on.

The Mother, Lottie, was ill with tuberculosis and the bitter Montana winters had no mercy on one with tuberculosis. Her illness worsened after they arrived in the Denton, Montana area at the Russell homestead. After Lottie's death in November of 1915, his father relied increasingly on his son, Paul, to help with chores on the homestead. Perhaps he relied too much on Paul as he was still only a lad. For one so young, he was expected to help with huge dray horses and hard farm labor which was somewhat unfair. Paul ran away to live with the Watters relatives.

James then married the schoolteacher, Winifred Stephens, who became like a Mother to both Paul and Violet. Paul grew up and married Marie Aloise Snider, the daughter of John Nelson Snider and Grace Bernice Veeder. Paul and Marie had one son born December 23, 1929 named Donald Leonard Russell. Paul and Marie later divorced and Paul remarried two more times.

At one time, Paul had a restaurant in Missoula called Talk of the Town and he was quite a good cook. His son Donald said one summer he worked for his Dad and spent the whole summer making milkshakes. When World War II broke out, Paul Harold Russell closed down his restaurant and went to work in a munitions factory near Portland, Oregon. There he met and married Trinia Alonzo. They had one child, Paul Harold Russell Jr., and Paul Sr. also adopted her son from a previous marriage, Johnny. He was geared for having a large family would dearly have loved that.



His first son, Donald, entered the military at age sixteen and traveled to Korea and Japan. Following the second World War, he married Mary Linn Chase, who had been adopted as Marsh. As a result of Donald's travels, Paul was not able to see his son nor meet his grandchildren until they returned stateside in 1961.

Paul was a photographer for the Missoulian. Before that, even as a firefighter, he took pictures of the fires. He even had the Russell Photography studio in Missoula, Montana. When his son, Donald, returned stateside to be stationed with his young family in Mountain Home Air Force Base, Idaho, Paul, Triny and Paul Harold Russell Jr. visited them on base. Paul took a picture of his grandchildren. H just put the boys on the back of the sofa: (left to right) James Donald Russell, Harold Stephen Russell, Frank Linn Russell (seated), Joyce Marie Russell, Mary Linn Chase Russell, baby is William Paul Russell and Paul's oldest son, Donald Leonard Russell.