

Chapter 3

St. Ignatius Times

Sometime prior to 1928, Momma and Daddy met. They would often date on the weekends, and attend one of the many local barn dances. Daddy usually played the violin, or fiddle as it was called, at these dances. He learned to play at Fort Shaw Indian School, and may have picked up lessons from some of the old Metis buffalo hunters such as John Baptiste Falcon. After the usual courting, Momma and Daddy were married at the beautiful St. Ignatius Catholic Church in St. Ignatius by Father Louis Taelman, S. J., on February 6, 1928. Louis Blood and Josephine Ashley were the witnesses.

We see in the daily newspaper clipping that was kindly sent to me by my old friend, Bob Bigart, Librarian Emeritus of the Salish Kootenai College in Pablo, Montana:

The Daily Missoulian, Jan. 18, 1928, page 3:

"Two Get Licenses.

Marriage licenses were issued by the clerk of the court yesterday to Joseph M. Fisher and Florence Peletier, both Arlee residents, and to Louis Courchane of Polson and Violet Ashley of St. Ignatius."



Herman Ducharme Lucy & Fred Glover, ?, ?, & Momma Taken the day she got married in St. Ignatius, Montana, 1928. Looks like Charlie Ashley's place.



Fred Glover, Jr. & Daddy

Is that Equity Hall above the hill?

Someone told me (Joe Ashley or Aunt Rosie) that they had recently come in from camping in the mountains.



Momma



Taken on the day they got married, February 6, 1928.
Aunt Lucy Glover, Daddy, and Momma (Louis & Viola Courchane). Notice the arms
bands on Daddy's sleeves and the sweet peas growing on the fence & Momma's corsage.
Aunt Rosie told me that the dress was red, or was it blue with a red ribbon?

No. 7582

Marriage License

Louis Courchane
AND
W. H. Ashby

This License and Certificate must be returned by the person solemnizing the marriage to the Clerk of the District Court within thirty days after the marriage has been solemnized, under penalty of not less than ten or more than fifty dollars. See Sec. 3623 and 3625, Revised Codes.

Filed for record this *7th* day
of *February* A. D. 19*23*
at *3:30* P. M., and recorded in Book
P of Marriages on Page *421*
H. M. Raw
Clerk District Court.
By *M. J. ...* Deputy.
H. J. ...



Aunt Jennie Allison & Momma
And one of the Allison babies.



Momma

Marriage License

STATE OF MONTANA

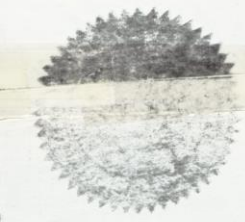
County of Missoula, ss.

To Any Person Authorized to Solemnize Marriages, Greeting:

You are hereby authorized to join in lawful wedlock and to celebrate within this County the rites and ceremonies of marriage between Louis Courchane a man, whose color is Indian; whose residence is Polson Mont; whose age is 30 years. Born at _____, County of _____ and State of Montana, and who has not been previously married or divorced. His father's christian and surname is John Courchane. His mother's christian and maiden name was _____, and Viola Ashley a woman, whose color is Indian, whose residence is St Ignace; whose age is 18 years. Born at St Ignace, County of _____ and State of Montana, and who has not been previously married or divorced. Her father's christian and surname is Charles Ashley. Her mother's christian and maiden name was _____

both parties being legally competent to enter into such contract of marriage. And this shall be your good and sufficient warrant therefor.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and official seal this 17th day of January A. D., 1928



By N. M. R... Clerk District Court
By M. J. Berrie Deputy

MARRIAGE CERTIFICATE

STATE OF MONTANA, } ss.
County of Missoula.

This is to Certify, That the undersigned, a Catholic Priest did, on the 6th day of February A. D., 1928, at St Ignace Mont in the said County of Missoula and State of Montana, join in lawful wedlock Louis Courchane and Viola Ashley with their mutual consent.

In the presence of Louis Blood and Mrs Josephine Ashby Witnesses.

WITNESSES SIGN HERE
Louis Blood } Witnesses.
Mrs Josephine Ashby }

Witness my hand this 6th day of February 1928
Rev. L. Tolman, O.F.M.
St Ignace Mont

No. 7589

MARRIAGE LICENSE

STATE OF MONTANA, }
COUNTY OF MISSOULA } ss.

TO ANY PERSON AUTHORIZED TO SOLEMNIZE MARRIAGES—GREETING:

You are hereby authorized to join in lawful wedlock and celebrate within this County the rito and ceremonies of Marriage between

Louis Courchane a man whose color is White
whose residence is Polson, Mont.; whose age is 30 years.
Born at _____, County of _____ and
State of Montana and who has not been previously married or divorced.
His Father's Christian and Surname is John Courchane
His Mother's Christian and Maiden name was _____
and Viola Ashley a woman, whose color is White, whose residence
is St. Ignatius; whose age is 18 years.
Born at St. Ignatius, County of Polk and
State of Montana and who has not been previously married or divorced.
Her Father's Christian and Surname is Charles Ashley
Her Mother's Christian and Maiden name was _____

Both parties being legally competent to enter into such contract of marriage. And this shall be your good and sufficient warrant
therefor.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and official seal,
this 19th day of January A. D. 1981
H. M. Raw Clerk District Court.
By M. O'Brien Deputy.

(SEAL)

MARRIAGE CERTIFICATE

STATE OF MONTANA, }
COUNTY OF MISSOULA } ss.

THIS IS TO CERTIFY, That the undersigned, a Catholic Priest
did, on the 6th day of February A. D. 1981,
at St. Ignatius, Mont., in the said County of Missoula, and State of Montana,
join in lawful wedlock Louis Courchane
and Viola Ashley with their mutual consent.
In the presence of Louis Cloud and Mrs. Josephine Ashley Witnesses.

In the presence of
Louis Cloud } Witnesses.
and Mrs. Josephine Ashley }

WITNESS my hand this 6th day of February 1981
Rev. J. Tolman, S.J.
St. Ignatius, Mont.

Filed for Record this 7th day of February, 1981, at 9:30 o'clock A. M.
H. M. Raw Clerk District Court.
By M. O'Brien Deputy.

On March 12, 1981, Edna Cote Wheeler told Lilly Rose Jones the following story and is related by Lilly, "Edna told me bits and pieces about my parents, Viola Ashley and Louis Courchane, stories of when they were young and first married, and while they lived in St. Ignatius, Montana."

"She said that she remembers clearly the times that Daddy and Momma walked along the streets of St. Ignatius holding hands. And that they were very much in love and spent a happy honeymoon in St. Ignatius. Edna worked at Dugay's Cafe, and they often stopped in there just to chat with her for awhile. Edna also remembers that they lived in a

small white house, and my mother was always busy baking cakes, pies, and bread. Edna knew the Ashley girls and boys well, going to school with most of them at the Ursuline's. This was a Catholic school operated by the Ursuline nuns. After Ellen (Newman) Ashley died, her children were taken to Grandmother Mary (Ermatinger) Ashley's to live. The children lived with her until they married. Edna remembered Daddy as a soft-spoken and shy man." To add to this Daddy's cousin, Martina Azure Ashley, remembered to JoAnn Roullier, that they would "dance the night away" at dances held in the homes of Uncle Frank and Aunt Jenny Allison, John and Mary Michel and Joe and Ruth McClure.

Momma was a cook by profession, a vocation she had learned by daily practice. I have always been told that she had learned to cook as soon as she was old enough to reach the burners on the wood stove at the Ashley place. Momma spent her entire life cooking in cafes or restaurants, somewhere in Montana or Washington State. She enjoyed many pleasant hours baking pies, cakes, bread, and cookies. I can remember how happy she was at those times. She attained some of her first practical experience as a professional cook at Dugay's Cafe in St. Ignatius, Montana. She had many jobs as a cook in her lifetime, especially in Wenatchee.

When the stock market crashed in 1929 and the Great Depression put millions out of work, the Courchane's were just as affected by it as any other working class family. Times became extremely difficult. During the early years of the Depression, Daddy and Momma, had three children: James Joseph, Dona May and Lilly Rose (who was always called Sassy), all born in St. Ignatius, Montana.

As stated during the Great Depression times were extremely hard for the working class. Things were especially bad, economically on the Flathead Reservation. But life was made bearable by the fact that plenty of natural resources were available in the Courchane family's backyard. Daddy earned fifty cents a day, when he could find employment. Sometimes he and Uncle Lem Ashley would cut and sell firewood. A garden also added to the larder. The vegetables from the garden were canned by Momma and she made all kinds of fruit and berry jams and jellies from fruits foraged from the countryside. They had chickens, pheasants, and an occasional pig (brought by Jim Grinder who sometimes "camped" with them). Deer and elk were plentiful. They managed to get by.



Lucy Glover, Louis Courchane (Daddy), Aunt Elizabeth Ashley (Auntie), Fred Glover, Tom Ashley & Uncle Lem Ashley. Huckleberry picking & gathering herbs.





Daddy and Fred Glover standing in front of their moonshine still, which was hidden in the willows. (According to both Rose Ashley Williams and Joe Ashley). Notice the armbands and the Stetson hats. Uncle Fred was one person who seem to change his appearance each decade, from the 1920's to the 1940's he "aged and got heavier" in an almost rapid manner.

Jimmy's Birth Certificate
Standard Certificate of Birth C13378 (Altered) off. #53, 182 8-15-84 BR
Department of Public Health, Division of Vital Statistics

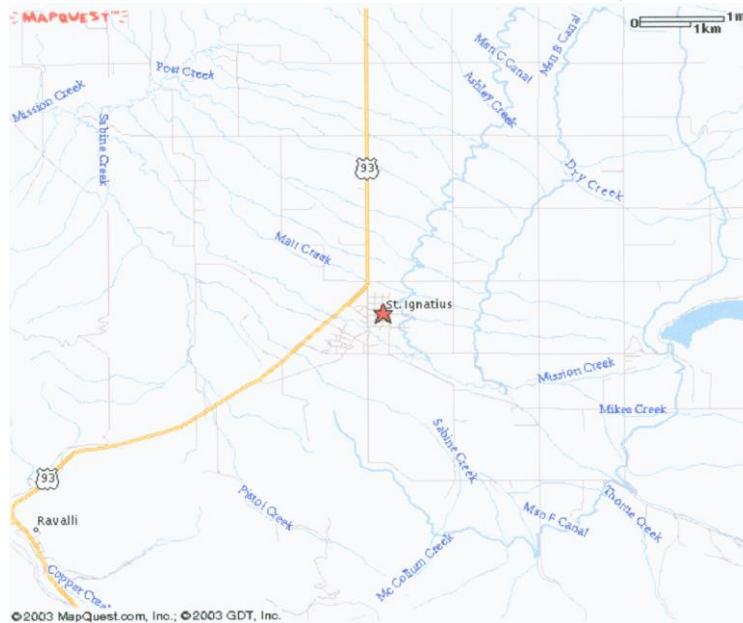
State of Montana [La 874]
 Place of Birth
 County of Lake
 Village or City of St. Ignatius No. Street. Reg. No. 16
 Full Name of Child: James Joseph Courchene (altered to state Courchane)
 Sex of Child: Male Legitimate: Yes
 Date of Birth: May 1, 1928
 Father: Louis Luke Courchene Residence: St. Ignatius (altered to Courchane)
 Color: H.B. age at last birthday: 30 Years Birthplace: Occupation: Logging Camp
 Mother: Viola Ashley Residence: St. Ignatius Occupation: Housewife
 Color: QB age at last birthday: 18 Years Birthplace: St. Ignatius
 Number of children born to this mother including present birth:
 (a) Born alive and now living 1
 prophylactic was used to prevent ophthalmia neonatorum? Silver Nitrate 1%

Certificate of Attending Physician or Midwife:

I hereby certify I attended the birth of this child, who was alive at 10 p.m.
 Signature: Geo. E. Armour, M.D. Filed: June 5, 1928 M. M. Twichel Registrar

Jimmy's Certificate of Baptism Church of St. Ignatius Mission

This is to certify that James Joseph Courchaine child of Louis Courchaine and Viola Ashley born in St. Ignatius, Mont. On the 1st day of May 1928 was baptized on the 10th day of May 1928 According to the rite of the Roman Catholic Church by the Rev. M. A. Dimier, S.J., the Sponsors being Mrs. Fred Glover and (blank) as appears from the Baptismal Register of this Church. Dated 10/16/85 Gus Schmidt, S.J. Pastor



Notice Ashley Creek & Dry Creek on left ? The Ashley allotments where in this area. mapsquest.com



Sisters of Providence Hospital St. Julian's (formerly the early church building) courtesy of the Jesuit Oregon Province Archives, Gonzaga University, negative no. 114.10.01)



St. Ignatius Mission Hospital (courtesy of the Jesuit Oregon Province Archives, Gonzaga University, negative no. 114.10.02) I was here with Momma to visit someone in the late 1950's.

JOE CAR

THE ROCKET GOLF BALL CO. HAS ALREADY MADE AN OFFER OF \$500,000 FOR THE SECRET FORMULA AND THE MCCRACKEN CO. IS ABOUT TO SUBMIT AN OFFER!

IT'S A FACT SHRUEL - THE MCCRACKEN CO. IS GOING TO MAKE US A BIG OFFER FOR OUR SECRET!

FINE! BE MORE THE MERRIER - CALL ME UP WHEN YOU HEAR FROM THEM!

I WONDER IF I'M ACTUALLY HEADED FOR A BIG WAD OF DOUGH - EASY DOUGH!

THIS IS MR. PRESSLER OF THE BINGSPALU GOLF CO. / WE'VE THRED OUT YOUR BOMED-UP GOLF BALL AND ARE PREPARED TO MAKE YOU A VERY FLATTERING OFFER FOR YOUR SECRET PROCESS - MAY I CALL AT YOUR OFFICE?

SURE!

YAHOO!

MUTT AND JEFF - Isn't That Just Like Mutt By Bud Fisher

MUTT FOR THE OVERCOAT AND SUIT I WOULDNT GIVE OVER TWELVE DOLLARS.

SOLD!

BYE, MUTT!

MUTT, YOU MUST BE CRAZY. YOU PAID THIRTY BUCKS FOR THAT OVERCOAT ONLY LAST WEEK.

COME ON, WE'RE GOING TO THE FLORIST AND SPEND THE TWELVE BUCKS!

NOW TAKE THAT TWELVE DOLLAR BOUQUET TO YOUR GIRL AND TELL HER TO ACCEPT IT FROM YOU WITH YOUR LOVE!

MUTT, YOU'RE A WONDER BUT I CAN'T FIGURE YOU OUT!

HONEY, I JUST ADORE YOU FOR BRINGING ME THOSE BEAUTIFUL FLOWERS!

THEY COST 12 BUCKS!

I'LL MOVE A MOUNTAIN, IF NECESSARY, TO GET JEFF MARRIED! AS A BACHELOR HE'S FAR TOO HAPPY TO SUIT ME!

LITTLE MARY MIXUP By R. M. Brinkerhoff

HERE COMES DR. KELLY. I HAVE MY SEEN HIM SINCE I HAD THE MUMPS.

GOOD EVENING, MARY. HOW ARE ALL YOUR EGGS?

OH - PRETTY WELL.

AINT DOCTORS. FUNNY - ALWAYS TRYING TO FIND OUT, IF THERE ISNT SOMEBODY SICK.

HEY DOCTOR - YOU NEED IT WORRY - IF MY FOLKS GET SICK - THEY'LL SEND FOR YOU AND NOT SOME OTHER DOCTOR -

HIGH PRESSURE PETE SO NEAR - YET, SO FAR BY SWAN

ANOTHER DAY FINDS HANK AND PETE STILL BOUNDING THE JUNGLES OF PANAMA LOOKING FOR WILD GAME.

OH BOY! I WISH WE COULD GET AN ELEPHANT - I'D BEHOLD IT'S SO HOME OWN A ZEBU OF WILD ANIMALS FOR THEIR MUSEUM!

AINT SEEN ONE ALL MORNING!

NOT ONE!

LET'S TRY ON THAT ROCK ANHILE - I'M ALL IN!

HOURS LATER.

DRAGONHIT - LET'S GO BACK TO CAMP - THERE AINT AN ELEPHANT WITHIN A THOUSAND MILES FROM HERE.

From The Wenatchee Daily World, May 1, 1928, Jimmy Courchane's birthday.



Uncle Lem Ashley & Daddy in back.
Auntie & Tom Ashley, Lucy & Fred
Glover. Picking huckleberries.



Momma and Jimmy



Momma and Jimmy



Aunt Letty and Jimmy
(Leonard Williams' ID)

From The Ronan Pioneer, Thursday, June 13, 1929, p4:

"Charles Ashley, 51, died Wednesday June 5th at his home. Burial took place from the Catholic Church Saturday at 10 o'clock. He is survived by one sister, Elizabeth Ashley, two brothers, Frank and William Ashley and eight children."



Aunt Rosie and Jimmy



Momma and Jimmy

Dona's Birth Certificate State of Montana - Standard Certificate of Birth

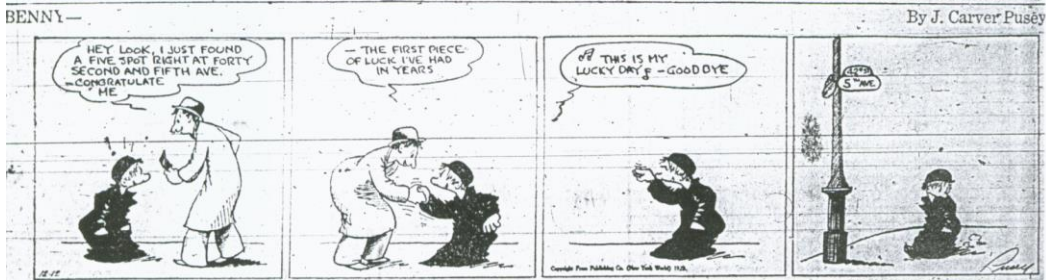
- (1) St. Ignatius, Lake County
- (2) Donna May Courchane
- (3) sex-F
- (7) legitimate? - yes
- (8) date of birth - Dec. 12/29
- (9) Father: Louis Courchane
- (10) residence - St. Ignatius
- (11) race: Indian - Tribe Cree 1/2
- (12) age last birthday- 32 years
- (13) birthplace: St. Ignatius
- (14) trade: woodchopper
- (18) Mother: Viola Ashley
- (19) residence: St. Ignatius
- (20) race: Indian - Tribe Spokane 5/16
- (21) age last birthday - 20 years
- (22) birthplace: St. Ignatius
- (23) trade: housewife
- (27) number children of this mother (a) born alive and now living 2 (including this child)

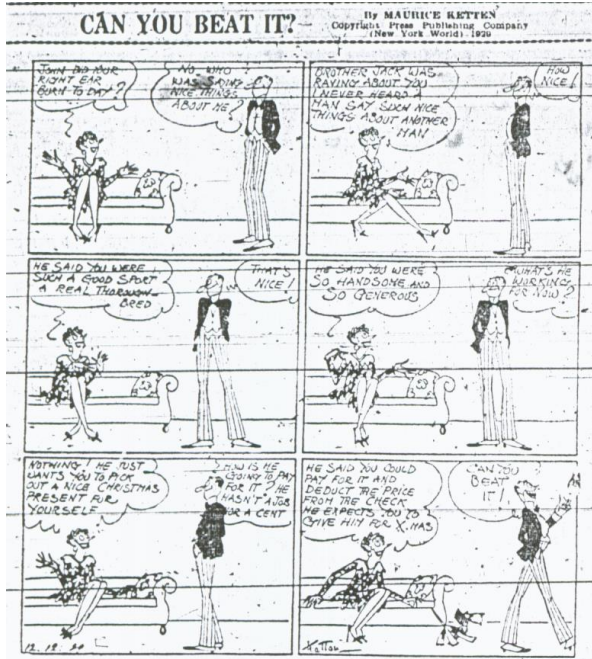
Certificate of Attending Physician or Midwife "I hereby certify that I attended the birth of this child, who was alive at 10 a m on the date above stated.

signed Geo.E. Armour St. Ignatius, Mont. Filed - Jan. 6, 1930 M. M. Twichel - register.

Dona's Baptism Certificate of Baptism - Church of St. Ignatius Mission

This is to certify Donna May Courchaine child of Louis Courchaine and Viola Ashley born in St. Ignatius, Mont. on the 12th day of Dec.1929. Was Baptized on the 19th day of Dec.1929. According to the Rite of the Roman Catholic Church by the Rev. M.A. Dimier, S.J. The sponsors being Mrs. Kirkpatrick and Mrs. Grover Dumont by proxy as appears from the Baptismal Register of this church. Dated 10/23/85 Gus H. Schmidt, S.J. Pastor





From The Wenatchee Daily World, December 12, 1929 Dona Courchane's birthday.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE - BUREAU OF THE CENSUS
FIFTEENTH CENSUS OF THE UNITED STATES: 1930
POPULATION SCHEDULE

Enumeration District No. 23-7 Sheet No. 3A 144

Enumerated by me on Apr 4, 1930 Isabel R. Goble

PLACE OF BIRTH	NAME	RELATION	SEX	AGE	MARRIAGE	EDUCATION	PLACE OF BIRTH			MARITAL STATUS	OCCUPATION	INDUSTRY	INDUSTRY CODE	INDUSTRY INDEX	INDUSTRY SYMBOL
							State	Territory	Foreign						
18	Samuel Robert	Retiree	M	67	1862	12	Montana	Montana	Montana	Widowed					
19	Cordelia Brown	Wife	F	34	1896	10	Montana	Montana	Montana	Married					
20	Victoria	Wife	F	32	1898	10	Montana	Montana	Montana	Married					
21	Bonnie M.	Daughter	F	7	1923	10	Montana	Montana	Montana	Married					
22	Josephine	Daughter	F	5	1925	10	Montana	Montana	Montana	Married					
23	Pauline	Daughter	F	3	1927	10	Montana	Montana	Montana	Married					

1930 US Census, Montana (Mission, Lake, Montana; Roll 1257; Page: 3A; Enumeration District: 7; Image: 891.0)

In the 1930 U.S. Census Daddy gave his occupation as teamster in the Lumber camp.

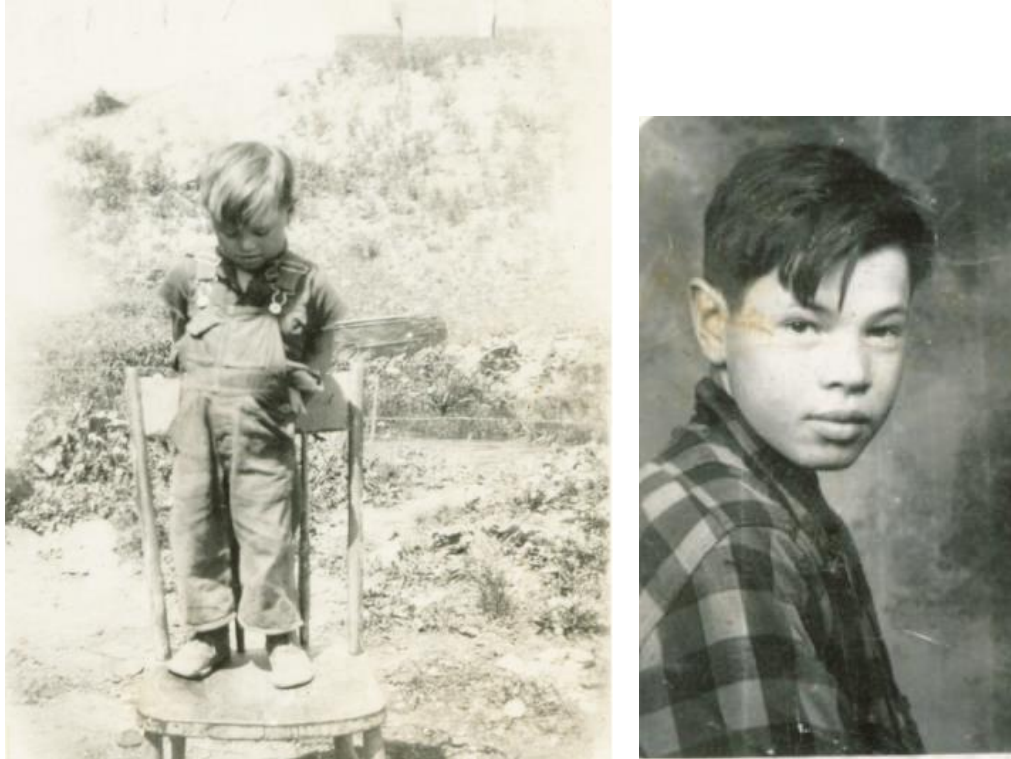
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24	Samuel Robert	Retiree	M	67	1862	12	Montana	Montana	Montana	Widowed					
25	Cordelia Brown	Wife	F	34	1896	10	Montana	Montana	Montana	Married					
26	Victoria	Wife	F	32	1898	10	Montana	Montana	Montana	Married					
27	Bonnie M.	Daughter	F	7	1923	10	Montana	Montana	Montana	Married					
28	Josephine	Daughter	F	5	1925	10	Montana	Montana	Montana	Married					
29	Pauline	Daughter	F	3	1927	10	Montana	Montana	Montana	Married					
30	William James	Head	M	38	1892	10	Montana	Montana	Montana	Married	Teamster	4300			
31	Elizabeth	Wife	F	36	1894	10	Montana	Montana	Montana	Married					
32	Gerrard	Daughter	F	11	1919	10	Montana	Montana	Montana	Married					
33	Josephine	Daughter	F	9	1921	10	Montana	Montana	Montana	Married					
34	Elizabeth	Daughter	F	7	1923	10	Montana	Montana	Montana	Married					
35	William James	Head	M	38	1892	10	Montana	Montana	Montana	Married	Teamster	4300			
36	Elizabeth	Wife	F	36	1894	10	Montana	Montana	Montana	Married					
37	Gerrard	Daughter	F	11	1919	10	Montana	Montana	Montana	Married					
38	Josephine	Daughter	F	9	1921	10	Montana	Montana	Montana	Married					
39	Elizabeth	Daughter	F	7	1923	10	Montana	Montana	Montana	Married					
40	William James	Head	M	38	1892	10	Montana	Montana	Montana	Married	Teamster	4300			
41	Elizabeth	Wife	F	36	1894	10	Montana	Montana	Montana	Married					
42	Gerrard	Daughter	F	11	1919	10	Montana	Montana	Montana	Married					
43	Josephine	Daughter	F	9	1921	10	Montana	Montana	Montana	Married					
44	Elizabeth	Daughter	F	7	1923	10	Montana	Montana	Montana	Married					

Jimmy recalled, "We lived in St. Ignatius near Aunt Rebecca Jamison's and the Lozeau's, or that part of town called Ragtown. I remember seeing Grandma Mary Ashley once, she used to talk to me, and I tried to talk back to her in Indian. I can also remember Uncle Jimmy Ashley, and I used to hide behind a big rock that was in Ragtown, when he would ride in on a gallop swinging his rope and yelling, with a ten gallon hat on his head. He was a wild cowboy and fearless of horses. I was small then a little guy."



Jimmy Courchane (“Jimmy High Pockets”, or “Jimmy Gimme” were his nicknames at this time. The photograph on the left is taken in Ragtown.

During the times when they lived in Ragtown, Daddy added to the family’s finances by making home-brewed beer. And according to some the old timers in St. Ignatius that I talked to in the late 1960’s, he made some especially good beer. Joe Ashley recalled those times and how he and Harold Mitchell, Sr. would stop at the Courchane's in the wee hours of the night for drink. It seems that one time they drank all of his available stock and wanted more. So Daddy went into the back room, where he made his brew, filled more bottles and capped them. The beer was green, but this didn't bother his thirsty customers, who drank it and still wanted more. This kept up for sometime, with Daddy capping bottles as fast as Joe and Harold uncapped them. Finally he told them, "Come into the backroom. Here is the brew, you might as well drink it from here and save me the trouble of bottling it." Full of brew and not caring if it was still making, they did just that! Joe Ashley told me this story and laughed that laugh of his and said, “Yes, it’s true!”

Another time the United States Internal Revenue Service people (Revenuers) came poking around at Ragtown for suspected bootleggers. One of their scheduled stops was at the Courchane’s little house. At that time Jimmy was just starting to talk fluently, and on hearing the Revenuers ask the very nervous Daddy and Momma about the whereabouts of any stills. He volunteered to tell them. He kept saying, "Hey mister, we got one," as he pulled at one of the federal official's pant leg. Luckily the revenuers didn't understand what he was trying to tell them, and ignored Jimmy to Daddy’s relief! I hear that Daddy’s still and others were still hidden in the mountains around St. Ignatius for years afterwards. And every once in awhile some old still is discovered by a hunter or sawyer.

One weekend in the early 1930's, Daddy, Momma, Jacque and Rosie Williams decided to attend the big dance at Rainbow Hall in Post Creek (that is what the place was called later, but I don't know if it was called Rainbow in those days). So Daddy and Jacque loaded up the car with bottles of home-brewed beer probably intending to sell it to the dancers. After loading up they drove out of St. Ignatius in good spirits, to the dance, but on the way the caps of the beer bottles started popping off. Pop! Pop! On one trip to the dance the bottle caps popped spewing home brew all over the car. Aunt Rosie said it smelled like a brewery by the time they got to the dance. The women worried over the beer smell and the men over the loss of the beer. They all laughed about it later. (This remembered by Leonard Williams)



Daddy and Momma with Dona and baby, Sassy at their home in Ragtown [a part of St. Ignatius]. Daddy's is sitting in what looks like the same chair that Jimmy's standing on in the above photograph. Notice the big apron women always wore cooking in those days. And the safety pin clasped to Momma's dress.

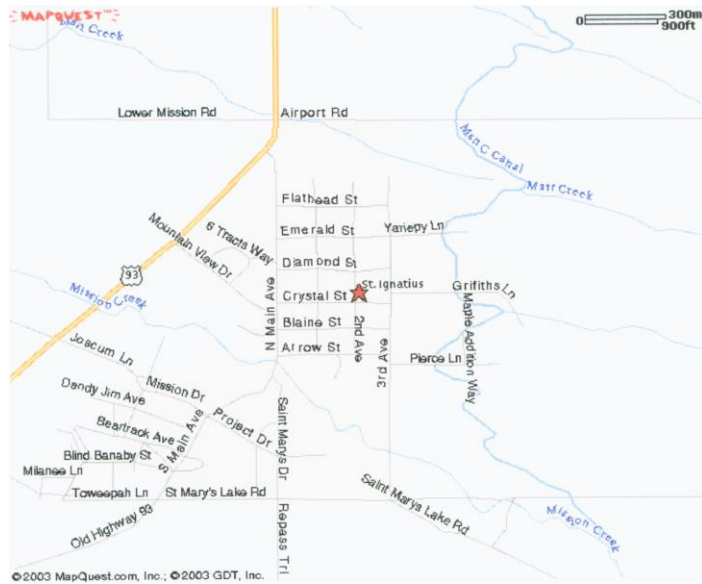
During those times Momma's sisters all lived in the St. Ignatius region, Aunt Jennie on the Allison ranch, Aunt Louise with one of her older sisters or with Auntie and Lem Ashley, Aunt Letty by Beckwith's Mercantile Store, Aunt Lucy by the mountains and Aunt Rosie in the old Pablo house near the Holy Family Hospital. Leonard Williams remembered that Uncle Jacque Williams got bit by a black widow spider one day. He had reached under the seat of his pick-up to get his tool box and was bitten by the black widow! He retreated to the hospital for attention. There was a ditch or stream that had a culvert over it by the Pablo house, and on passing it on the way to the hospital Jacque noticed it was plugged up with car springs, so he reached down and cleared the springs out. The water then ran smoother through the culvert. He had told his little boys, Leonard and Freddie to stay home before he left. But they trailed behind him without him knowing it. Crossing the culvert Leonard fell in the stream and was completely submersed on his back, and he said later, "I looked up through the water and could see Freddie looking down at me! Pretty soon here came Freddie plunging into the water after me. We both were swiped through the culvert to the other end where there was a wooden flue with slats across it every few feet. Freddie got hung up on these slats by the arm. By

this time Aunt Rosie had “missed them” and went looking and calling for them, she figured that they probably followed Uncle Jacque so she went towards the hospital. When Aunt Rosie saw the culvert she could also see Freddie on the other side bobbing up and down, bobbing up and down in rhythm to the water’s current. She screamed and ran over and pulled him out, at the same time Junior Felsman rushed up and pulled out Leonard. They laid them on the ground and pumped the water out of them, both boys recovered. But they sure were lucky! Because if Uncle Jacque had not taken out the springs they would probably have drowned! Junior Felsman was a cousin, Oswald August Felsman, he was later was killed in action in World War II in France.

The Pablo house was a big place with an upstairs and was located by the old Holy Family hospital and the Jesuit Father’s apple orchard. Daddy and Uncle Jacque would “raid” the apple orchard sometimes so Momma and Aunt Rosie could bake apple pies from the “fruits of their labor”. Mrs. Abraham lived by and dried meat in her yard, occasionally Auntie Ashley would visit her. Her little old house had a dirt floor on which Auntie and Mrs. Abraham would sit talk “Indian fashion”.

Upstairs in the old Pablo house was a big box and one day Freddie climb into it, he had been left behind one day by Uncle Jacque and Leonard as they sneaked away from him. The two had went over to Aunt Letty’s to listen to “Henry Aldrich” on her radio (they did not have one). Anyway while in the big box Freddie heard Mrs. Abraham pounding dried meat. He was scared of her anyway and on hearing the pounding he tried to get out of the box to run downstairs, but it was too high for him. In his attempts to get out he tipped the box over and it rolled down the long stairs to the bottom with him still inside, head over heels! Bump! Bump! Until box and Freddie both hit the floor at the bottom of the stairs in a crash. Aunt Rosie screamed and ran over to the box and rescued him. She later told Jacque and Leonard that, “Brother almost killed himself”, while you were gone, almost matter of factly.

At that time, Aunt Letty lived in a little cabin towards the Mission Creek bridge, just past Beckwith’s and the Oswald Felsman’s place (Kenny McClure’s place is there now, 2009). It is well known that a man named Striker, had been murdered there and his jaw cut off so his gold teeth could be extracted. Aunt Letty did not live in the house then and I don’t exactly know when the murder took place, before she lived there or afterwards.



A Map from mapsquest.com



St. Julian Hospital of St. Ignatius, Montana (courtesy of JoAnn Blood Roullier)