



## THE SEADIN FAMILY HISTORY

Nils Olof Sjödin was born in Bjällsta, Indal, Sweden on September 28, 1875. At the age of 16 he left Goteborg on May 24, 1892 to come to America. His destination was Missoula, Montana. He left behind his mother, father, and three sisters. He made the journey with his cousin, also 16. Two young boys leaving Sweden in search of a better life in America. Upon arrival in America, Nils changed his name to Nels Seadin.

Karolina Johansdotter born June 27, 1874 in Sweden left from Kristiania on November 2, 1897, destination Wollmer (Troy), Idaho. She left behind her mother, father, three sisters to join her brothers who had already made the long journey to America. Many Swedes were living in Troy and of course there were many with the name of Johnson, so many in fact, the mailman couldn't keep mail delivery straight. John, Lena's younger brother, decided he would change his last name to Linderman. When Lena arrived she could not speak English and wore a sign around her neck where she was to go.

Karolina changed her name to Carolina (Lena) Johnson. She was not sure how the name Linderman fit in for her but it didn't really matter as two years later Lena & Nels married in Mullan, Idaho May 31, 1899. She became Lena Seadin. They were anxious to start their family in America and the first of six children was born a year later in Mullan, Idaho. She was named Mildred (1901). Soon followed, Tor (1903), Elsie (1906), Walt (1908), Margaret (1912), and Robert (Bob) (1915).

Nels was a miner and moved his young wife and baby daughter to Garnet in 1902. The last five children were born either in Garnet or Missoula. They lived in a small log cabin and the children attended school in Garnet. Children were only required to go to school until eighth grade. If they were to continue schooling they could attend high school in Missoula. Tor, the 2<sup>nd</sup> child, chose to continue his education, moving in with a family in



Tor Seadin

Missoula. He attended Missoula High School. Was very bright and a star athlete. After graduation in June 1923, he was determined to continue his education. He moved to Butte preparing to attend the Butte School of Mines, a technical college specializing in science and engineering.

During that summer he went to work at the Elm Orlu mine in Butte doing contract work to earn some money while awaiting the school term to begin. He was working his last shift at the mine when he and another young man apparently lingered too long after firing the fuse for blasting. Their bodies were found by the next shift. His body was brought back to Missoula for services and burial in the Missoula Cemetery. Nels and Lena were grief-stricken losing their oldest son, who had such a promising future ahead of him.

In 1927, Nels was 52 years old and was physically unable to continue the hard work required to work the mines. Opportunity knocked on the door when Mr. Adams, the Postmaster of Garnet, fell ill and had to move his family to Missoula. Nels became the Postmaster. He moved his family to live in the Adams house. It was a much nicer house than the log cabins they had lived in. This house had a wall making two separate rooms with a covered path leading to the outhouse. Only two of their children were still living at home, Margaret (15) and Bob (12). The other children were adults and had gone on to marry and living their lives.

Margaret had been born with a birth defect, Spina Bifida. She was in a wheelchair her entire life. She was a beautiful little girl with soft blonde curls. The entire town rallied around her, adoring that beautiful child who sat in a wheelchair. Margaret can be seen in some of the printed postcards sold in Garnet. She beat the odds and lived to be 25 years old, passing away in 1937. Again Nels and Lena would bear the grief of losing another child. She



was buried in the Missoula Cemetery close to her brother, Tor. Her headstone is in the shape of a heart.

The summer of 1936, Elsie Craddock, moved to Garnet to be with her father, Ernie Craddock. She had been raised in the Twin Bridges Orphans Home. After graduation from high school, she went to stay with her father who was living in Garnet. She was a

beauty with natural curly platinum blonde hair, slim and an outgoing personality. Bob was 21 that year and when he first set eyes on this beauty new to town, he promptly discarded his current girlfriend. He vowed to marry the attractive blonde who had just arrived in town. Six months later they were married in Missoula.

Bob and Elsie settled in a small log cabin built by Nels and started their family. Bob worked for McDonald's mine and also leased several small mines on his own.

The year following their marriage, Elsie gave birth to their first son. He was named Gary Robert and was the delight of their lives. They were happy newlyweds enjoying their lives and their new baby. A second child came along 2 years later, a daughter named Carol.

Bob needed to support and take care of his growing family. He worked hard in the mines, dry drilling feeling his body was indestructible. He hunted for deer/elk to provide meat for his family. Occasionally they bought slab bacon and did monthly shopping in Missoula. Some small items were purchased at Davy's store in Garnet. The wild meat was stored in their shed or hung in a mine tunnel where it was shared with friends and family.

Nels and Lena loved and enjoyed their grandchild. Lena sent pictures home to her Mother in Sweden. And she taught her young daughter-in-law how to cook and take care of a baby. But that would end.

Nels fell ill in 1939 with pulmonary pneumonia. He was taken to Butte on March 4<sup>th</sup> to seek medical attention, but he died two days later. He was 63 years old. His body was returned to Missoula where he was laid to rest in the Missoula cemetery close to his two children who had preceded him in death. It was thought best to move Lena to Butte to live with her oldest living son, Walt. She was to live another 15 years. She was 80 when she passed away. Her final resting place is in Butte. She never learned how to write or read English, although she did learn to speak English speaking with a strong Swedish accent. Memories of this wonderful Swedish grandmother are etched deep in my heart.

By the early 1940's Garnet's residents were rapidly diminishing, with the miners leaving for work elsewhere. Montana.

Throughout the years Bob & Elsie would take their children back to Missoula and Garnet. Childhood memories often come back of traveling up that switch back road that Bob knew like the back of his hand and often bragged he could drive it blindfolded or in the dark of night without headlights on. He would show his children where he was born and grew up and where he met their Mother. Elsie would teach her children how to pick huckleberries, which were abundant. She would show them all the wild flowers, telling them the names of all, which she knew very well.

Bob health began to fail suffering from lung problems. He spent many years off and on in the Heart and Lung Hospital in Galen MT. He developed siliceous from dry drilling in the mines, wearing only his cap and lights with no face mask. During that time he would occasionally take leave of the hospital and have his children or friends take him back to his beloved home of Garnet. He loved it there and cherished his memories of his youth and time spent there. Before his death in 1968, he made his wishes very clear to his children, that when he died he wanted to be cremated and his ashes taken back to Garnet. Those wishes were followed and his ashes were returned to the town he loved so very much.

I often return to Missoula and visit the old Missoula cemetery, cleaning the head stones of Nels, Tor and Margaret and go to Garnet to pay my respects to my father's final resting place, which is now my oldest brother, Gary's final resting place as well.

*This family history of the Seadin family is being submitted by Sharon Seadin Baldwin.*