

CHRONOLOGY OF AUSTIN WEIKERT'S LIFE

Compiled by Mid Connelly from family documents and personal recollections

- 1893 Date of birth January 5, 1893, Helena, Montana. Parents: Andrews James Weikert (born 1845 in Tiffin, Ohio; died 12/12/1922 in North Fork) and Elizabeth Alleman Weikert (born 12/25/1860 near Hagerstown MD, died 9/16/19 in Helena MT).
- 1917 Marine Corps July 12, 1917 to February 11, 1919. Given address: Winston MT
Letter 9/26/19 re travel allowance, \$60 etc., total \$92.56 Sent to Winston, registered 5/23/19, received 5/26/19 by J. A. "Art" Weikert. Austin at Columbia Falls.
- 1919 May 10 Austin Weikert first came to the North Fork. Walked from Belton to Schoenberger's, ate, then attended dance at the Vance's Residence June 7 – dance at Ford Schoolhouse
Stopped at Big Creek, then Teakettle. No ranger at Big Creek.
Teakettle – Blasted stumps, then to Big Creek to pack out. Charge of trail crew out of Hay Creek until snowstorm stopped.
Sept. – Austin's mother died. He went to Helena.
Oct. 13 – His father came to Belton. Stayed at cabin near river toward Harvey Vought. Worked on Highway 2, ran horse grader, about two miles east of Belton. Worked until closed down for the winter.
- 1920 Feb – Went trapping, caught 26 marten (1 brought \$85)
Charge of Ford Station (now private) for Blackfoot National Forest. Sent out trail crews, provisioned them, etc. (Check Bill Yenne book on Blackfoot NF)
Filed Homestead Entry 08383 on March 25, for Section 34, Township 37N, Range 22W, 147.59 acres at \$1.25 per acre.
April – Charlie Pohl's – trapped beaver. Couple of trips to Columbia Falls with furs.
Got groceries.
May – Took Dad to homestead, in good tent, dug hole, nothing froze. Had barrel heater through next winter.
Built own first cabin and fencing.
Scored stringers by blocking off 3-foot lengths, take wedge, split most of it out. Score to 1" from chalk line. Charlie Wise hewed balance off.
- 1921 Bridge at Canadian line for Charlie Wise, spring to fall
64-foot stringers. Jack Reuter hewed a couple; Charlie the rest. Austin scored for Charlie
Lot of waste hewing 64' stringers out of 2½' logs – 14x12", 12" about size of top
Boarded at Charlie Wise's on every weekend.
I had poor river pigs – Wanagun log drive, often couldn't get them to go straight down river
Winter – went trapping at Hoolie Stine's at Hay Creek.
Cabin at Moran – 1½ days to build.
Coal Creek via Cyclone Lake – 1 day, one layer of shakes on Dad's cabin
Hoolie's back was out, old injury. Went up to mountains looking for him.
- 1922 Marvin Spink asked him to do job reporting weather at mouth of Coal Creek for Two weeks. Report 3 times a day. Fished rest of the time. Never so bored to death.
Danny Sullivan – new home for Jean at Sullivan Meadows. (see 1935)

- Helped Johnny Walsh build log house in December. Kintla P.O. at Walshes for years.
Cut barn logs for homestead.
Built porch on Mrs. Steve Tryon's. Bought piece from Geo. Grubb's homestead.
Road goes in just before land line _____ on way to Quartz & Logging. Hidden
Meadows, Whiskey Creek – spring
Dec. 12 – Austin's father died
- 1923 Lewis Hotel built 1914 by B.B. Gilam.
May 8 – John Lewis, head of Lake McDonald – new kitchen tiles, helps dining room
and worked in lodge. Set glass in counter. Played cards with Mrs. Lewis, Mrs.
Mrs. Russell, Frank Neeley and others. For Mrs. Russell helped paint room a “no
color” that would enhance the exhibit.
Gaylord Hotel in Columbia Falls
Park Service – packed grub to workmen on existing Garden Wall trail crew.
Talked to Jack Reuter at mouth of Logan Creek, snowshoe cabin be built
Looked for lost couple who took canoe on Lake McDonald and ran into sudden squall
Cleaned trails to Trout Lake and Lincoln Lake – caught 20 fish, someone left fry pan
Charlie Wise, Boots Coombs & he contracted clearing right-of-way between Golden
Stairs and Devil's Stairs.
St. Mary's – East side work for Hainey Vaught on Going to the Sun Road. Stevens
Bros. contract, right-of-way clearing
Mike Brunner foreman at Many Glacier
Fall trip to Great Falls. Winter at Logan Creek at Jean Sullivan's. Set hooks on Jammer.
- 1924 Glacier Park logging of John Walsh. Palouse Bill teamster on that job.
Theo Christensen, Sullivans and Millers, Tom Hattagon
Joe Delfry, Powell, water line to Apgar campgrounds. Bored 3” holes in plank mangles
using brace and expanding bit.
Mess hall – Many Glacier. 50 x 25. Bath, roof on barn for 50 head horses.
W.L. Adair – blasting stumps, road grading, cut posts
Late May hard freeze and Austin was heart sick – all along fence rows, beside posts,
where birds hugged for shelter. Dozens of small birds were early and froze. Mentioned
particularly the blue birds.
Ben Hensen worked for him on 300 yds. SW of store. Cut trees out on right-of-way from
Adair's on Polebridge Rd. to foot of hill on North Fork Rd.
Worked Tom Gardner's camp (lumbering) – put up frame building and others at
Blanchard Lake out of Whitefish (south).
Worst storm ever seen Dec. 15. Holcombs' son Fred killed in Columbia Falls by tree.
Killed fruit trees and others. Harry Holcomb was in Kalispell with Austin to file
Final proof on homestead, application for patent.
Steve McKeown – Mother says his wife had little old lot. Lived near Evans place.
- 1925 Worked for Haney Vaught who was in charge of a job on the Stevens Bros. contract
for a few miles above Avalanche Creek on Going to the Sun.
Contracted log bridges and culverts.
Russians – powder monkeys. Got made and flew self and others up.
Up North Fork – got Al Johnson to go on a contract
Saw grizzly at McDonald Creek one evening, most beautiful and largest.
Story: Engineer Al Helper went to Logan Pass – Sun road not through. Strictly a
walk and got chased by big grizzly.

- Called by Joe Heimes, Ranger, to go up on Longfellow.
 Contract road camp – Douglas & Williams Camp 2 for men to fight fire.
 Yerman, Many Glacier District Ranger, to supply crew men. No supplies – Austin
 Says rest, wait for food. Ranger says to up to fire line. Austin said “No.” Ranger said,
 “Do as I say.” “Nuts!” Ranger broke Austin’s nose.
- 1926 Fires. New fire came up from roots under trunk of snag by Holcombs. Had to fight again.
- 1927 Three cabin contracts. Snowshoe cabin with Jean Sullivan at Lee’s Creek. Snowshoe
 cabin with Jean Sullivan at south of Lincoln Creek (halfway between Big Creek
 and Canyon Creek and across NF river in Park). Supplies from road on west side –
 raft crossed and landed where they wanted. Burned in 1929, rebuilt 1931.
 Third cabin two miles below Granite Park, in fall. Took up trail crew and went up
 Ahern Creek.
 Bridge up McDonald Creek on trail to Granite Park, 80 x 8 close to foot of mountain.
 Trail crew of 27 men. Until August, left because of fire.
 Aug. 8, 1927 – Proved up on claim
 Put up concrete chimney for Mr. Price.
 Took trail crew up McDonald Creek.
 Built log bridge
 Got three snowshoe cabins Jean Sullivan
 Leoler (?) Creek
 North Fork in Park and Lees Creek
- 1928 Took trail on up to Granite Park, then went over to Ahern Creek
 Built three fire caches that fall: Polebridge (S&W), Waterton Lake (S&W),
 Belly River (S&W) (Joe Heimes, \$450)
 May 14 – Paid taxes at courthouse
 Cut cord wood at the line with Emil Peterson and Carl Scheidt
- 1929 January – caught in avalanche coyote hunting. Cut his own slide out, went to Fred
 Johnson’s. Sent word to Ruth that he was OK.
 February 22 – married to Ruth Dinwiddie in Whitefish
 Late Mar-Apr – Up Yakinikak Creek
 16-mile creek for Flathead Forest – Canyon Creek to Werner Peak. Described in Bill
 Yenne’s book. Ruth to Indiana, but brother Bill came in July?
 Some second growth timber in areas. Necessary to haul large logs considerable
 distance. #G89 \$463.52.
 Sept-Oct – Fire cache St. Mary’s. Red Eagle? Don Mummerts.
 12 x 15, down to Missoula and up east side to St. Mary’s. Check your fire arms back
 By Canada.
 Fall – Boundary Creek – fire cache or snowshoe cabin
 Two cabin contracts: St. Mary’s fire cache and Many Glacier – held over until later
 (1931).
 Nyack fire – save Headquarters, sec. & Eng. others.
 Fire fighter crews pulled – Belton, cut 12’ swath
 April 7 – Fred Johnson died
 Oct. 7 – Ben Price killed in car accident, Charlie Waters driving
 Bill decided to go to college. Find something to do about Al Katy(?).

- 1930 Cut cord wood for Oil rig at the lion with Harry Holcomb and Earl Ballard. Bill here. ESP – Dad snowshoed in.
 Bid on 100,000 shakes (cut 70,000) on Lake McDonald. All dead standing cedar from 1929 fire.
 February – Dick Woodmansee died. Emil Peterson bought part of his property.
 Pack up some. Ordered at store. Set up camp on east side of lake. No truck.
 Had macaroni and more macaroni and finally by 3rd day no salt!
 Dad took park and went to see Park blasting. Brought down 30,000 tons over road.
 Slight miscalculation! Dad crossed slide – truck there took him into Columbia Falls and got some groceries. Back to camp. Didn't finish because sent to Middle Fork and North Fork. Ranger station, "Flathead Station" – barn, fire cache, Wood shed (even had jar shelves in food cellar) to replace things burned in fire.
 Years later ranger station was moved, road closed. Little trace now.
 Grandparents came out in July. Took Bill home.
 Late Fall – Quartz Lake (foot of Quartz), snowshoe cabin. Packed in from Cummings Ranch. G913. 12 x 14, log walls well chinked and the log rafters 1" shalling(?) and shake roof.
 Oct. 26 – In car accident on North Fork road, Austin and pregnant Ruth, Mary Noble (young lady in car). Austin in hospital rest of the year. Home before Christmas.
- 1931 Spring, back to work.
 Art & Ireta over
 May – Many Glacier fire cache; Kennedy Creek barn and woodshed
 Rock shelter and cabin at Stoney Indian Pass
 Lincoln Creek snowshoe cabin – stone construction, 1 room 12x14, cost \$1400
 Daughter Barbara Ruth born June 26 on Ruth's 26th birthday.
 October – Fish Creek, boat house and wood shed contract; Ruth cooked for, stayed in boathouse. Barb tiny baby.
 Late fall – Sherwood's contract on clearing his place up. Nine-man crew. Finish next year.
 Rebuilt Lincoln Creek snowshoe cabin. Building broke up, rafted down, rebuilt Logging Lake snowshoe cabin with Ace Powell. Completed neat appearing shelter cabin - now offers a safe retreat from the sudden storm to those who desire refuge.
 Oct. – Lake McDonald ranger station, woodshed.
 [Original notes give lots of data on size, materials, costs]
- 1932 Back to Sherwoods – snow on ground. Finished clearing, cut stumps to ground.
 Built solid dock 23 x 65'.
 Wood sheds for Park
 Barb fell downstairs, outside steps at homestead cabin.
 Walter Ranger Station – ranger residence. Solid log 24 x 36. Bath, living, kitchen, 2 bedrooms, back entry, hall.
- 1933 Worked for Bill Adair in Polebridge.
 Shakes on Sherwood's lodge. Mr. Sherwood had stroke. Felt very bad, as Jim was such a dynamic man, so it was crutches for him from then on.
 July – Attended Going to the Sun Road dedication ceremonies
 Nov. – Bowman snowshoe cabin, G-913 standard cabin, \$372.86. Area burned in 1910. Virgin timber, N. jack pine burnt area.
 Bowman boat house, G-331 standard boat house, \$319.23.

- Logging Lake snowshoe cabin \$485.98 – five miles from ranger station, Austin and Asa Powell
- Camas Dutch Creek snowshoe cabin \$387.41, NR Rd. by the Dutch Creek wagon rd. ½ mile. Austin and Asa Powell. Replaced old one.
- Broke ankle after – Freshly hewn spruce logs taken from the surrounding woods.
- Hurry to get home – dropped something, slid down roof
- Daughter Elizabeth Dean born Dec. 8
- Boarded at Kid Fredericks (related to Mary Young)
- Dec. 7 up NF at Tiny Powell – brought load down – arrive 11 pm.
- Lived in Cap McDonald’s old Anderson place. Built house at Lakeside.
- 1934 Sprague Creek Camp rest station, P&W
- Contract broke us – new landscape engineer insisted rocks be cut 90% time.
- Wouldn’t pay until all his way. Had to borrow to pay crew etc. to start next job.
- Old Headquarters comfort station (by Lincoln Creek), P&W
- St. Mary’s Service Station – CCC job, not contract
- Two Medicine Lake – fire cache?
- 1935 Jan. - Fish Creek Barn with CCC. Wood shed (contract), small boat house (P&W)
- Jan. – Apgar boathouse for dory for Park Service, SE end of lake, P&W, Big Vic
- Feb. – Lake McDonald boat house, barn, head of lake. CCC – P&W skilled labor.
- Many Glacier Club House – early winter. This burned in summer 1935 fire (’36?)
- Walton Ranger Station and barn. Austin and Asa Powell and CCC
- Whitey Beane, Clarence Metzger, Jean Sullivan worked on ranger station.
- Same plans as Nyack for barn.
- Nyack Barn – Park Service & CCC, P&W & CCC
- Stayed at Sherwood’s boathouse (early) with two kids
- Helped with Denny Sullivan’s new building for Jean & May
- Fall – Madge Cooper’s at Canadian line
- Son James Austin born November 11 in hospital
- 1936-1944 Blank
- Daughter Mildred Clare born October 26, 1936
- 1944 Getting logs for Lopp’s log house
- Daughter Mary Catherine born October 22, 1944 at Kalispell General Hospital
- 1945-1952 Blank
- 1953 Josephine Lake – Oastler shelter, built at Headquarters, Park took down.
- Bill Yenne. Austin took one day with trail crew to put up. Took total of one week off from Superior Building [where he was employed].
- 1954 Polebridge – Rebuilt bridge with Park crew
- 1955 Judge Pray shelter cabin – contract. Two Medicine Lake area. “Pray was more instrumental in getting Glacier Park set aside than anyone else.” Same work as Oastler shelter.
- 1956 Blank
- 1957 Austin had lung surgery. Holdover medical problem from 1931 accident.
- 1958 Blank

- 1959 Orville & Helen Foreman cabin – finished in 1961
- 1964 Kintla Lake – rustic railing and foot bridge, one span replaced – tree fell on.
Bowman Lake – rustic railing on foot bridge
- 1972 Austin moved to the Veterans Home in Columbia Falls.
- 1982 Austin died on February 11.