Sophie Margaret Schmalhorst; Oct 30, 1929 to Oct 31, 1929

Excerpt from the book Hardships and Happy Times by Bert Russell

Pages 247 and 248

As told by Harold Theriault

The Graves At Packsaddle

 No trail ran upriver past Packsaddle till the developer of the St. Joe Quartz mine built a trail in 1908. Where in the early years the man got snowed in and killed his horses and hung his sawbuck packsaddles in the trees, they dangled there many years till people stole them for relics.

 Art Smith come here from Salmon, Idaho to be barn boss for the forest service. he was an expert horseman and took care of 11 pack strings-well over a hundred horses. Of course he had a blacksmith too for the shoeing.

 Art had a dray and hauled groceries and other freight up to the ranger station. After he got older he retired here. He was buried about 1938 up a little knoll at the mouth of Packsaddle Creek about 40 feet above the road beside the baby’s grave.

 The site was neglected so long that when Bobby Stauffer and I got permission from the forest service to cut three trees and clear it, the stump of one tree had 14 rings.

 We made a three quarter inch pipe cross for Art and a cross of half inch pipe for the baby.

Letter From the Baby’s Mother, April 4, 1973 to Bert Russell, author of this book.

Dear Mr. Russell,

 Our baby was born October 30, 1929 at 12:45 noon. Buried at noon October 31, 1929. Our Dr. busby said we need not send her to St. Maries.

 Harold Theriault gave us his steel tool chest and his wife fixed it lovely inside-put our baby away with loving care. I asked her, the morning of Oct. 31 to baptize her for me-Sophie Margaret Schmalhorst.

 Harold Theriault and Martin Kaehler had a lovely service for her. The grave was dug very deep so nothing could harm it, thanks to those dear friends.

 Mrs. Frances Theriault was my nurse. She passed away a few years ago. God bless her. She is in heaven.

 Mrs. Sophie Schmalhorst, Deer Lodge, Montana

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