

Charles Earl Pettit -

Born April 10, 1885

Parsons, Providence of Maine, Italy

Parents were Joseph Pettit a Anna Collette  
Brothers were, Frank, Johnny Moses,  
Andrew Jack, Joseph & Dominic. All born  
Parsons Maine Italy.

# I Personal History of Charles B. Pilletti. 21

Started school when I was 4 years old.

The Sisters took care of us. When we were 10 years old they wouldn't let me go to school any longer. I guess they thought that was enough education. I met Han went to the 7<sup>th</sup> grade.

When I was 15 years old, I decided to become independent. I left home and was going to make it on my own. Three other boys and I was going to be grown up and do our own thing. We left Italy, went through Switzerland, France and Germany, which took us 17 days on foot. We was going to go to work on the Champion Journal when we got there we found out we weren't old enough to work.

The chef would look us up in jail at night and give us a free dinner, and let us

I was supposed to come to Duluth Minnesota but arrived in St. Louis Missouri, I had \$300 cash in my pocket. I took the train to my original destination, when I got there I was so surprised to see my uncle John Pettit. He left the old country after I did, and we both met without planning on it. Little Rock Arkansas, weathered stop, where I started working on the Pacific Railroad.

I worked 10 hrs. a day. The boss in man chewed tobacco and spit it. This made me sick. He would say "Nurry up" "Nurry up" and I would have to work faster and he would chew faster and spit faster. I worked 2 months 10 hrs a day for \$1.27 a day I couldn't stand that man and quit that job I was so glad to get away from him.

Uncle John Petter, Uncle Frank, John Proctor  
 John Proctor took a contract as stone mason.  
 I worked with them. After the job was finished  
 we was close to Alabama.

We worked all night and all day to get to the  
 Railroad, when we purchased a ticket and rode to Denver  
 Colorado.

I worked around most parts of the country  
 went to work in Summerville Utah in 1910 in the  
 coal mine. There was a great mine operator. I  
 was covered up with about 10 tons of coal. I  
 dont know how I got out of there. no body believed  
 I could have lived under all that coal. I have  
 dreams about it. It seems me and I wake  
 up and cant hardly breath. I believe its just  
 a terrible nightmare of days gone by. but I am  
 still scared from that struggle of it.

In the Spring of 1911, I was working in Panama, Illinois, about 11 miles from where you Shandrea was raised. I was working in the mine and I came out of the mine 1 minute before an explosion claimed the lives of 167 men. I had just been watching one man. I was thankful not to have been killed.

There was a rescue team formed. Two men would go in together. One man would go in and tie a rope around his waist and the other man would stay near the entrance. The front man would go into the mine and search for miners. When would be relayed by 2 men, each to take turns being the lead man.

When it came our turn my partner went.

Arrest. We got a rope tied it around his waist and crawled in on his belly. We got up there and saw out a lot faster than he went in. He was scared and started vomiting. He wouldn't go back in. It was my turn to in. I took a deep breath and started in. I got the rope around my waist and ~~the~~ another man held on to it by the mouth by the man. I was in front of me was the most horrible sight I have ever seen in my life. The body by a man lay in front of me. It was all bloodied up and the eyes were popped clean out by the head. I shuddered and shivered and sob and finally managed to get a rope around his arm and started to pull him out. The skin slipped right off the body. I was getting sick. After several



both mine sisters. We got to talking and she agreed to go out with me. I ask her to be my wife, I really loved that woman.

On Jan 12, 1912 she agreed to be my wife we were married at Terry Nant Indiana. She got pregnant right away. One day she was lifting a bag full of water to wash clothes in. She dropped it and squashed her stomach and cried out. "Charles I hurt real bad," She went into labor and my daughter Gemetta was born, two months ahead of the time. Remember. She was so little and tiny, she weighed 1 1/2#. We had to keep her in a homemade incubator which was a shoe box. Wrapped the baby in cotton and put her in warming oven to keep her alive. She had no fingernails. We feed her with an eye dropper. She was born in the middle of August. At



was so striking but and we had to have a piece in the stone all the time. She was the first of all my children born and look at her now. She's the biggest one.

I was ignorant and so was Thabile, about a woman taking care & not lifting heavy things When she was pregnant. We was so young and didn't know only what experience would teach us. We learned a hard way.

When our baby Gwametha was 6 mths old we moved out to Utah. Her name put on the train, Uncle John Birtt met us at the station. He gave us a ride to Huntington in a wagon. We lived in a log cabin, about  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile up the creek. out past where the city dumps is now. The cabin was still standing about 5 years ago.   
 see other side please

1919 Charles brought his first head of cattle. He brought 100 head of cows, from Ed's team of Huntington and paid \$100.00 a head for them. 3 years later the cows sell for \$25.00 a head & no better. Went broke at that time.

He brought sheep and lost completely. Broke when the Depression hit a few years later.

Mable was one of the pioneer women. She had very little and worked hard like a trooper and never complained.

Next day after we was getting settled in our cabin. It was Mabel's birthday. She was 15 years old. John my son was born March 22, 1914 at Huntington Utah in that same log cabin.

Almost a year later, in July, 1915. We move to Watts Canyon. My daughter's daughter was 3 years old. We homesteaded 648 acres.

I lived in Watts for 4 months alone except for my own family we had no neighbors. We was the first family to live there. We lived in a tent. One winter I got real sick and couldn't get out of bed. Mable got a stick and went out in the deep snow, to get pieces of wood to burn for the fire. She had to knot down the pieces of wood from trees. It was

as cold and we never had any food to eat. Made prayer and ask God to help her family. Shortly after a Railroad man came and ask me to give them the night of way. When the triple is they wanted to give me \$1,000 check so they would build me a 4 room house. I decided to take the money.

So even so I got well and was able I went to Pine in a wagon. To get some lumber to build a house. I loaded the lumber and supplies on the wagon. I left enough room for 2 boxes of groceries behind the front seat, and put a row of on top and tied it down that groceries at Pine Commission and lumber from Stinson Lumber. I had \$1,77.00 and a few cents left. Went to Pine Commission and ask if they had any deer then someone found

an old rag doll in the back compartment, bought the  
stuff off and I got a toy stick horse.

Mable got a bright smile on her face when I  
came home with Rag Ann doll, and toy horse for  
kids and groceries for family to eat. She exclaimed  
"Ce hanki. Shank God" I prayed for a long time  
for him to help so and my prayers were  
answered. She was overjoyed and thank God.  
The Power and Light Co paid me for putting  
light poles through my property \$20 a pole or \$200  
for all poles.

Pretty soon there were tents all over. In  
the fall of the next year the town needed a  
school house. Commissioner Miles and school  
teacher ask me to sell 2 acres for the school  
and 1 acre for playground. I sold it for \$250 advance.

All the children would come over and make  
would feed them. They all loved her. She always  
had a lot of children around her.

We lived in Watts for 18 years. During that  
time, Pauline and Grace, two more daughters  
were born to me. We lived there until 1932  
When the water went dry, we moved to Pine, that  
We lived on a farm south of town.

My son Charlie Jr. was born. Soon after  
Mable had Phenomena for 3 weeks. Mr. Wilson from  
Denon was his Dr. When she stopped a speech  
attack. I called Dr. Robertson and ask him  
if he could take my wife to the hospital.  
He was a good friend. His wife Christine kept  
Mable for 7 months, at her home, she took  
good care of my kids too.

Dr. Charles Ruggani said Mable had heart trouble too and had to have complete bed rest.

When Robertson was the best friend I had. If it wasn't for him I wouldn't have anything.

I tended sheep and cows, it cost \$20 a month to keep 100 sheep. I told Peter to keep the money cause he had helped me, Mable and my family.

We refused and said we'd use pencil and didn't want any pay for helping out.

One day I was branding sheep up on Paper Bench. Matt Warner was by and said "Charlie is that all the horses ya got." I told him that was is and he said "I will give ya one next time I see you." I got a lot down on the sheep. "Next Tuesday he brought 2 horses back with him and said "Take your pick" So I did the best one and he said "I thought you would choose that one. It's a good one."

Sometimes I left my son John to tend sheep up on Mabel's water. He was 12 or 13 years old also my daughter Juanella would help feed them -

I took a wagon up to water, to take down a horse and more to the Pines, Pines by Pines. It was the horse next to the school in water -

Mable died on Oct. 17, 1936 from Rheumatism & Heart trouble. Two years later my good friend Ostrander

married Lani Burns Dymun in 1938.

Divorced her. married Christina Ostrander Rumpage

Robertson Feb 4, 1942. Christina and I was going to be married, but her family wanted me to be a Mormon. I was baptized into the F.M. Schuch by Bob Ruttymen and confirmed by Jess & Bryan on Jan 10, 1943. Married with Christina's son a while. We didn't get along too good & was divorced.



When I married Muriel Brown in 1955.

Divorced her. Married Ethel Morris Smith Nov, 1956  
She was young at heart and a good person. She  
died in 1972.

I remarried Muriel Brown in 1973. She died  
in 1979.

I tended cows for my son John when I was  
85 years young. He had to go in the hospital  
so I helped tend his cows.

I am 91 years young and I take care of a beautiful  
garden every year. I take care of my own self.  
I have Black Angus and rely on Oregon from  
a tank. I have coal mines and can make  
your lungs go bad. I can't breathe  
so well sometimes - also a little cooking, burn  
more than I eat. I like western books & daily newspapers

I saw some clippings from the paper.

Generally I think most people are good people that I have met.

I have 5 generations, that's all right for a young person, so I hope to have to be 100 years and many 2 more women - I guess making I'd dream about the women of my age me a query it would probably make my job. I guess that's a good way to feel young at heart.

I reside in Huntington W. Va. This afternoon church. I love to talk with people. I have children, grand children and great grandchildren and great great grandchildren.

Names, Dates & Places were taken over past year  
Shanely would tell them to me and I would  
got them down and try to capture a little bit of  
his life history and of the early prison days.  
Last time I recorded information Shanely & talked  
for 2 hours. He was exhausted and could talk  
very fast. Finally he was out of breath and had  
to have some oxygen. I visit him regularly. He  
is a working man. He loves to see a garden  
grow. Grow of Roses and all flowers.  
He is getting on in years and is well. He has  
a health nurse once or twice a week check  
him. He lives alone but has good neighbors  
who look in on him.

There's been rumors that Thangpa was in on the Great Cattle Steal Robbery". I mentioned this to him. He let out a chuckle and said he that his neighbor that lived by him in Huntington when he first moved to Utah was pretty close with the "Thang".

Joe Walker's sweetheart Sally married Jack in 1911 or 1912; after Joe got shot by accident for stealing a horse. Jack was my neighbor on Hill. He told me of this account of Robbery.

— After Daniels Robbed the Office and made them get away. They rode up a side canyon up by Helges then. Out on top of Mountain across to Muelwitz & came down Huntington Canyon. Stopped at the place where there used to be a little bar just up the canyon then. They lost some money off one horse

and a man found it and returned it a got 1<sup>st</sup> toward from there they rode to Buck Horn Reservoir, just below the reservoir they ate dinner, which was cooked by 2 women who were waiting there with their dinner.

The party was showing them and they went up on top of Cedar Mountain and down by Chimney Rock. They came to a 2 ft ~~gap~~ and deep deep crossing. The barrels crossed it. The party decided to go around by Green River and the party met up with the Gang at the Green River and they shot the horses out from under and the money went down the Green River. Well that's the way it was some 100 years ago today.

Walter By. Chaalen Jensen  
 (see Book)