

Anita Cassel and family

The first Cassel in our lineage came over the waters in 1839 and eventually settled in La Crosse, Wisconsin. Just do a search on "John A Cassel la crosse WI." You will then be able to find the pertinent history which is in a book. John's son, Walter was the father of Wesley Walter (W.W.) Cassel . Anyway, Wes was born in 1903 in La Crosse. According to family sources (if my memory is correct), Walter and his kids, including George, W.W., and Mick (Harry?) went west to farm in the Glasgow, Mt area where Fort Peck Dam is today. Mick later settled in Modesto, and George moved on to the Red Bluff area and was a very colorful and funny guy. George's boy, though, was killed in an accident. If you search George's name in Red Bluff, you'll find his grandkids, Steve Cassel and George Cassel who still live in the area. My grandfather, Walter Wesley (WW), grew up and (from my memory) worked on the rail road at one time and was in the city of Chicago. W. W. told me that Chicago got much colder at times then eastern Mt which is saying A LOT. In the early 20's (about 1924-6), W. W. obtained a Coca Cola franchise in the Glasgow area. In those days, there were small Coke bottling operations all over the land.

They also adopted **Anita who later married Bill Folda**. It may be important for you to know that Edith's maiden name was Wambeke. If you do a search on "Edith Irene Wambeke" you will find her tombstone and obituary. Wes and Edith were struck by a speeding ambulance in 1986 and Edith didn't make it out of the hospital. **Anita's boy, Terry Folda** and I were the last to see her alive. My father, Philip Wesley Cassel, went into the military in about 1948 and served in the Korean War. After he came back to Havre, he eventually took over the day-to-day management of the Coca-Cola operation in Havre. Michael Cassel was very, very intelligent, could shoot and ski very well, had great eyesight and could fly planes. Mike also went into the military and there is not much that can be said about his service as it was classified I've been told. Mike was also a very colorful guy but I really did not know him very well. He did live in the Havre area at times but his family is no longer in the area. His boy, Glenn Cassel of California City might be a good source of the information you are looking for as he (like his father) is very colorful, has a really good memory, and might be able to give you some more family history. You can find him easily with the search terms of Glenn Cassel and California City.

Anita's husband, Bill Folda passed away when I was a small boy, and she went on to live in Havre with her kids for many years. We used to visit each other all the time. Her name is now Anita Daniel and she now lives in Big Timber, Mt. She will likely have some pertinent information about living with Wes as an adopted child. Wes and Edith would travel into California and even Mexico in the cold Winters while my father, Phil ran the bottling operation. The family got a lot of help from Guy Anez and his family, including his sons, Jim, Bob and Daryl. The Anez family worked with W.W. and Phil for decades. At one point, Wes offered to make Guy a partner in the operation. I knew Guy and Daryl as a very young boy. I always thought they were very nice. Anyway, if you want to see some great photos and information about Havre and the Coke Plant, look at Jim Anez's site. You can find it with a search of "Jim's place coca cola." I really like the photos because most are of life in the old plant. In about 1968, Phil (my Dad) got the new Coke plant built and new bottling line put in while W.W. was away for the Winter. The story is that he was really pissed off when he got back into town.

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