

HENKE, JULIANA BARBARA KEILHAUER

February 7, 1852-June 5, 1936

The thinning ranks of Wyoming pioneers lost another of their number, with the death of Mrs. Raymond A. Henke Friday, June 5 at 8:00 a.m. Mrs. Henke had been ill about six weeks to a general breakdown due to the infirmities of age. However, her death came unexpectedly, as she sank into a deep sleep from which she failed to waken. In 1926 she sustained a broken hip and she had never completely recovered from the shock of this accident.

Juliana Barbara Keilhauer was born February 7, 1852 in Pfalz, Germany, and reached the age of 84 years and 5 months at the time of her death. She was educated in Germany and emigrated to this country with her mother, after her father's death, at the age of seventeen, establishing a home in New York City.

In the year 1875 Miss Keilhauer was united in marriage to Ernest Plaga, and four years later, the family moved westward and located at Laramie City. Six children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Plaga, Ernest, Carl, Julia, Fred, Otto W. and Alvin R. The two older children died before the Plagas left New York, and Julia and Fred a few years later, so the two surviving sons are Otto W. and Alvin R. and one granddaughter, Thelma Irene.

Otto W. Plaga is now a resident of Saratoga, this state, but he lived in Wheatland until 1931. He was city marshal for the years 1919-1922, and was connected with the state law enforcement department for a number of years. He also won the title of Champion bronco rider, an honor he won at Frontier Days in 1901. He repeated in 1902. Mr. and Mrs. Plaga were in Wheatland a few days before Mrs. Henke's death, but had returned to Saratoga and were not here at the time of her demise. However, they returned to Wheatland and were in attendance at the funeral.

Alvin Plaga is now making his home with his family, on the old home ranch on the Sibylle.

Ernest Plaga, Sr. died in the year 1898 and in 1900, Mrs. Plaga was married to Raymond A. Henke.

The lives of all pioneers have been enriched with many unusual experiences, and Mrs. Henke could look back on a life filled to the brim with interesting memories.

(Paragraph missing) moved to the first ranch established on the Sibylle, and named it the Two-Heart ranch. Here the younger two children were born, and for two years, Mrs. Plaga lived alone with the children, while her husband supervised work at the Laramie Rolling Mills, making rails for the Union Pacific. The two small boys had no other playmates but Indians.

Jake Keilhauer, brother of Mrs. Henke, was stationed with the cavalry at Ft. Laramie from 1879-1880 and was then transferred to Ft. Saunders south of Laramie City. When the Plaga family arrived from New York, they were met by 4-mule teams and escorted from the railroad to Ft. Saunders. It was the first time the young woman had seen Indians and the sight of her new homeland must have indeed been thrilling.

The Two-Heart ranch was in the midst of wild and unsettled country. The nearest ranch was twelve miles away and Laramie City a distance of 50 miles. Laramie City at that time consisted of two streets, with a population of about 700. Twice a year, the family drove 4-horse teams to Laramie for provisions. The Two-Heart ranch was famous