Marion Hurren Woolf was born and raised in the Riverdale, Idaho area. He helped his father on the family ranch. When he was about 20 years old he left home and went to Canada. He found work herding sheep. Instead of taking money he worked for shares of sheep. He then sold his sheep and with that money he purchased property in Iona.

He met and later married Lilly Gertrude Ashcraft. She was a perfume representative from the California Co. She traveled her designated territory in her horse and carriage.

Marion and Lilly were married 24 Aug. 1906 in their new home in Iona by Bishop Charles W. Rockwood. They had come to make Iona their home.

Marion was a lover of good horses. He was a very proud man. His harnesses were always meticulous, with pretty white celluloid rings in summer and replaced by bells in the winter. No matter how tired he was at the days end, his animals were always cared for first.

He loved children. He would hook up the sleigh in the winter and take all the children for sleigh rides when school was out. They have fond memories of the sleigh bells attached to the harnesses as they would glide over the snow.

He built an ice house and would carry bricks of ice from the canal bank to the house so the family could enjoy their ice cream and lemonade in the summer. During the winter months he kept a huge tree stump with a chain attached. Then the team of horses was used to pull it around the community making trails for the children to walk to school on.

Marion was a very kind man with quite a sense of humor. He was very generous with all he had. His wife always kidded him saying, “Marion if you could take off your head you would give it to someone.”

Marion was a good provider. He enjoyed hunting and always brought home a deer and elk for the family’s meat. Lily was a homemaker. She would pack picnic lunches and the whole family would go chokecherry picking. She would make delicious syrup out of the wild cherries for the families enjoyment. She was especially good with the sick. If anyone was ill they always came seeking Lilly’s help.

Both Marion and Lilly were active members of the LDS Church. Lilly served as a Sunday School teacher. They both had the true pioneer spirit of being hard workers. When hail wiped out their crops, they never gave up. At another time when fire destroyed their fields, they still kept faith and never gave in. Each hardship made them stronger and more determined to keep trying.

They were blessed with 4 children while living in Iona: Arnold Marion born 21 June 1907 married Margaret E. Jorgensen; Fay A. Born 2 June 1909 married Leslie McMullen; Parmer born 16 May 1911 married Wilma Hartert; and Ona Mae born 12 May 1913 married Jerry Owens.

The family spent 10 years in their Iona House. Later the family moved to Teton to dry farm. Three more children were born: Edna Diane born 12 June 1915 married William Kenche; Gretta born 14 Feb. 1918 married Leo Cl Higbee; and J. D. (Dale) born 27 Jan. 1921 married Joan Rose Casper 13 May 1950. They have resided in Iona the past 30 years. Marion and Lilly have 20 grandchildren.
