

Louis Newman (1868-1932) in Los Angeles

In 1920, Louis Newman decided to move to Los Angeles so that his two deaf children could have better education and opportunities. During this period, he got a painting from the resident of Great Falls, the renowned Western artist, [Charles Marion Russell](#). Sometime, along the way, that painting disappeared. The family does not know how that happened, but paintings from that famous artist are now worth a lot of money. During that time, he took a trip to Europe to visit some family members that remained in Austria and German. He could offer to sponsor them to come to the United States. Most of them (failing to see the future correctly) refused, choosing to stay in Europe. Only his (half?) brother, Harry Newman, accepted the offer and moved to Great Falls. Harry then also moved to Los Angeles; he never married; and passed away around 1948. Louis moved his family into a house in Hollywood so the children could get a better education, while he completed his Montana obligations. He is listed in the 1920 census as having residences in both Great Falls and Hollywood. When he closed out his Montana businesses, he had fifty thousand dollars to invest. He went looking for opportunities in Los Angeles that would provide the family with some income. His wife, Jennie, had a younger sister, Antoinette Sims, who had moved to Los Angeles. Her husband, Herman Sims, was in the real estate business in Los Angeles (as were about 1 in every 7 people in the area). He was shown some property on Wilshire Boulevard near La Cienega Street, but he was from Montana, where land was plentiful and cheap. He therefore was not interested in investing in land in Los Angeles (a very poor decision). He went looking for a business to buy that would provide some income. After some search, he settled on investing in a downtown Los Angeles wholesale grocery business. The motto for that business was "sell it or smell it". His son, Edmund, joined him running the business. I wonder if he was influenced by the history of James J. Hill, who also started out in the wholesale grocery business. During the 1920s, his business did reasonably until the Great Depression started in 1929, then started to fail and eventually went bankrupt by 1931. His son, Arthur, commented that he was born in Great Falls with a silver spoon in his mouth (symbol of wealth), but it was hocked, and he never got it back.

The California records show that his pretty and deaf daughter, Bernice, at age 26 married Abraham Wirshberg, who was also deaf, on 27 Jun 1928. He was known in the deaf community as Al Wish. He was viewed by the community as a nice person, but they did not get along well. Bernice was lonely and moved back in with her mother which was comforting to her. Later, Bernice was washing dishes and dropped one into the sink which broke. Jennie got mad at Bernice for being careless. Soon she found out that Bernice was developing [Multiple Sclerosis](#). The disease progressed and soon Bernice was confined to a wheelchair. Later research showed that the incidence of Multiple Sclerosis is higher among people raised in the northern parts of Montana, Minnesota, and Michigan. She was born and raised for the first 10 years of her life in Havre, Montana, which fits the pattern. In the United States, the highest incidence of the affliction is in Key West, Florida. It is not yet known (as of 2018) what causes that auto-immune disease to start to progress and what is the relevance of the strange distribution.

In 1932, Louis developed severe colon cancer, and was quite disappointed by the financial turn of events. He passed away in 1932 leaving a destitute family with his wife and three children at home. He is buried at the Hollywoodland Cemetery in Hollywood, California. That cemetery had financial problems and is no longer open to the public. The family soon lost the house in Hollywood because they could not pay the mortgage on the property. The depression era assistance program for home owners came too late to help them save their home.

His son, Edmund, (sometimes mis-spelled Edmond in the records) went to work after the business failed and had several jobs over the years. When once asked about his employment history, he said "Have you got all day to hear about it?". Edmund married Gloria Edna Davis on 03 Jan 1937. They had one daughter, Nicki.

His youngest son, Arthur had made many friends at school at the Los Angeles Polytechnic High that was located near his residence in downtown Los Angeles. He remained friends with that group for his entire life. Arthur had to quit school and get a job to help support the family. He made three investments: he bought United States Savings Bonds, he got a whole life insurance policy with Jennie as his beneficiary, and he purchased cemetery property. None of these were good choices. Arthur went to the agency that found employment for disabled workers and went to work at various jobs. During World War II, he worked in a pie factory which made thousands of pies for the war effort. However, he only knew how to make pies by the hundred with the large machinery, and could not make just one pie. He was married in a civil ceremony on 22 Jul 1944 to Phyllis Charnie Kurk. He was still living at home with Jennie. Arthur took his new wife home to her and said "meet the wife". He then moved out to an apartment which was up some steep stairs over a liquor store in Venice, California. They had one son, Louis George. After the war, a family friend found him a job in the jewelry business making rings. He worked in that field in downtown Los Angeles for 40 years until he retired in 1985.

Jennie Sinaberg Newman continued on to the next phase of her life which lasted for 49 years more. She was always an elegant woman who treated everyone with respect and friendliness. She outlived all her younger siblings, and despite her 15 major operations, lived to be 105 years old when she passed away in 23 Dec 1981 in Los Angeles. She had many stories to tell about life on the frontier in Montana with her husband Louis Newman.