

MAD DOG ATTACK!
By Edna's son Paul M. Riley

“Lloyd, why is old Shep acting so funny? This morning I gave him a crust of bread. He wouldn't eat it. He just took it and hid it. He hasn't touched his food or his water today.” Fourteen year old Edna Butler was speaking to her seventeen year old brother. It was 1923. They were herding their father's sheep on the Koontz Ranch, near Simla, in Eastern Colorado. Their father, Charles Francis Butler, had bought the Ranch many years previously. Their father was quite ill so his two older children had to manage the sheep. They needed old Shep, their English sheep dog, to round up the sheep and keep them together.

“I am worried” Lloyd replied, “Shep hasn't been obeying all my orders. Just now he looked at me and snarled. I hear that a dog was found with Rabies in Colorado Springs a little while ago. Another was found in Limon. Some time ago Shep chased off a stray dog. He may have been bitten. Stay away from him! I am going to watch him closely!”

Suddenly Shep growled and jumped for Lloyd's throat. Lloyd saw the attack out of the corner of his eye and stepped back. Shep's teeth locked on the corner of Lloyd's shirt collar, ripping it off. Instantly Lloyd knew their lives were in danger. He struck the dog as hard as he could with his heavy shepherd's staff, fracturing the dog's skull and breaking the staff into two pieces. Fortunately Lloyd was wearing heavy leather gloves. He grabbed Shep and held the dogs mouth closed. Edna sat on the dog while Lloyd put the longest piece of his broken staff across the dog's mouth and twisted it until the dog stopped breathing. They placed the dog in a deep abandoned badger den and covered it with large stones to keep other animals away. Lloyd's shirt and gloves were burned. Edna washed with strong soap, then boiled their clothes. If they had got even a scratch it could have been fatal!

Year's later Edna realized that God was watching over them. There were other times when God spared their lives. She knew that God had plans for her. A few years later, after this experience, Edna became a Christian and married John Riley, a neighbor boy, who was one of Lloyd's best friends. They later became missionaries. She often said that God treated her as if she was His only child!