

WYOMING'S PIONEER RANCHES

by
Three Native Sons of the Laramie Plains

ROBERT
HOMER
BURNS

"BOB"

ANDREW
SPRINGS
GILLESPIE

"BUD"

WILLING
GAY
RICHARDSON

"WILLING"

Bob Burns A. S. Gillespie
Feb 12, 1956

*Thanks for
your fine
historical
material
on irrigation.*



TOP-OF-THE-WORLD PRESS—1955

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ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The Writers have given Acknowledgments at the end of each Chapter but they would like to acknowledge the help and inspiration given by their families and friends.

The printers spent much time over and above line of duty in making this book a masterpiece of make-up and arrangement. The writers would like to mention the members of the staff of the Mountain States Litho Company who labored long and faithfully and gave of their time and skill to make this a most presentable book. Our sincere thanks to Messrs. Howard A. Rhodes, Chuck Street, John R. Gaddis, Sr., John R. Gaddis, Jr., Don Friedrichs and to Mesdames Billie Street and Emily Mast.

The writers would also mention the staff of the Laramie Printers, Inc., who have made the book presentable in a most durable and attractive binding.

And Bob Burns would be amiss for upon him fell the enjoyable but arduous task of editing and arranging the text and pictures and he salutes his good wife, Agnes Burns, who did all of the typing of the manuscript, and who made many suggestions as to how clearly and how much verbosity he should use in making the picture of the ranches of the Laramie Plains clear, interesting and not wearisome to the readers.

Many corrections and additions to the text and pictures will be found in the Addenda Section at the end of the book.

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PREFACE

Perched on top of the Rocky Mountains is a vast rolling prairie, known as the Laramie Plains, which is among the, if not the highest plateau of more than 7,000 feet elevation in the world. These plains are typical of the Great Plains, all with their azure backdrops which are emblematic of Wyoming which received its name from the Indian term for Great Plains.

Since the days of written records the Laramie Plains, the **LOCALE OF THIS BOOK**, have been a favorite gathering place for Red Men and White Men alike. They came to these plains to enjoy the invigorating, clear air of these high places, and to harvest the bountiful natural resources consisting of game, fur, minerals, and livestock.

As has been the case since the dawn of man's history, all kinds of men came, and their history is at once the record of all the virtues and vices that man is subject to. They were, in all cases, motivated by a pioneer spirit, and the writers, being of the second generation after the settlement of the pioneer ranches of these plains, have from childhood been steeped in this spirit.

If this book contains a little of the stark courage and base cowardness, some of the faith in God and the faithlessness of the other kingdom, some of the vision and sightlessness, some of the responsibility contrasted to lovableness and irresponsibility, some of the humility as well as conceit, some of the kindness and villany, some good luck and bad luck, and some of the skill and mismanagement that made up the people who played their part on life's stage on these ranches of the Laramie Plains; then the God-given talents the writers happen to have will have borne fruit and fulfilled our task in recording this history of one of the great natural resources of Wyoming and the West. It has truly been said that Grass Makes Wyoming and Wyoming is the West.

Sincerely yours for a Greater and a More Wonderful Wyoming.

Three Native Sons: Bob, Bud and Willing

December 1955

WYOMING'S PIONEER RANCHES

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Otto Burns on "Bumpas". 1920.



S. W. Gillespie and his pack of hounds. Photo taken about 1900 in front of Mrs. McDermott's Hotel in old Rock Creek.



Wm. Richardson on "Judge" which he bought from Judge Mentzer of Cheyenne. 1924.

This book is dedicated to
our dear Dads and Mothers
who were pioneers of the
Laramie Plains.

Our Dads are riding their
favorite horses--They are
gone from this life but
their memory and example
lives in their families
and friends.

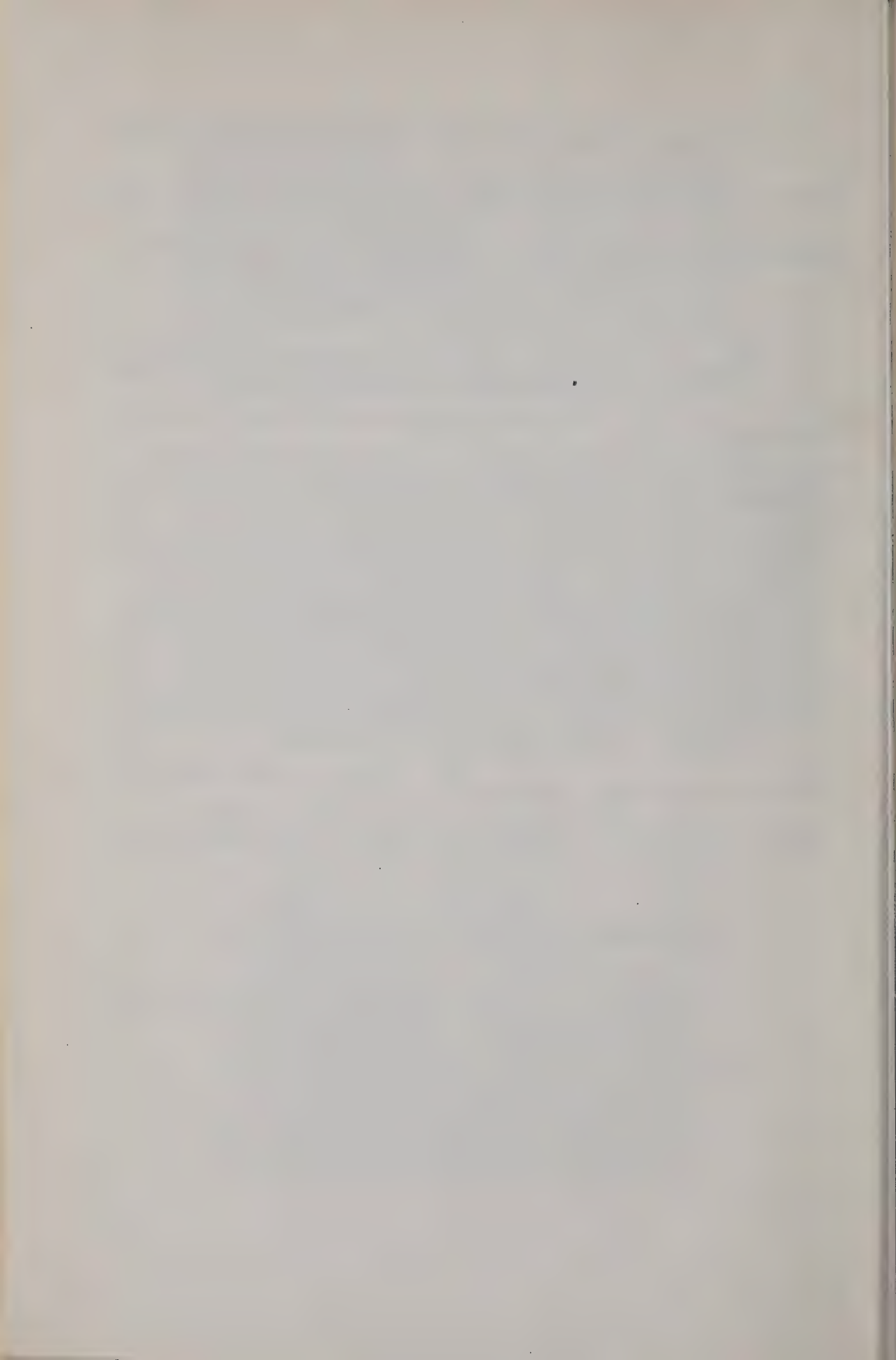
We revere their
memory and this book
is our tribute to them.

Sincerely

Robert H Burns

A. S. Gillespie

Willing & Richardson



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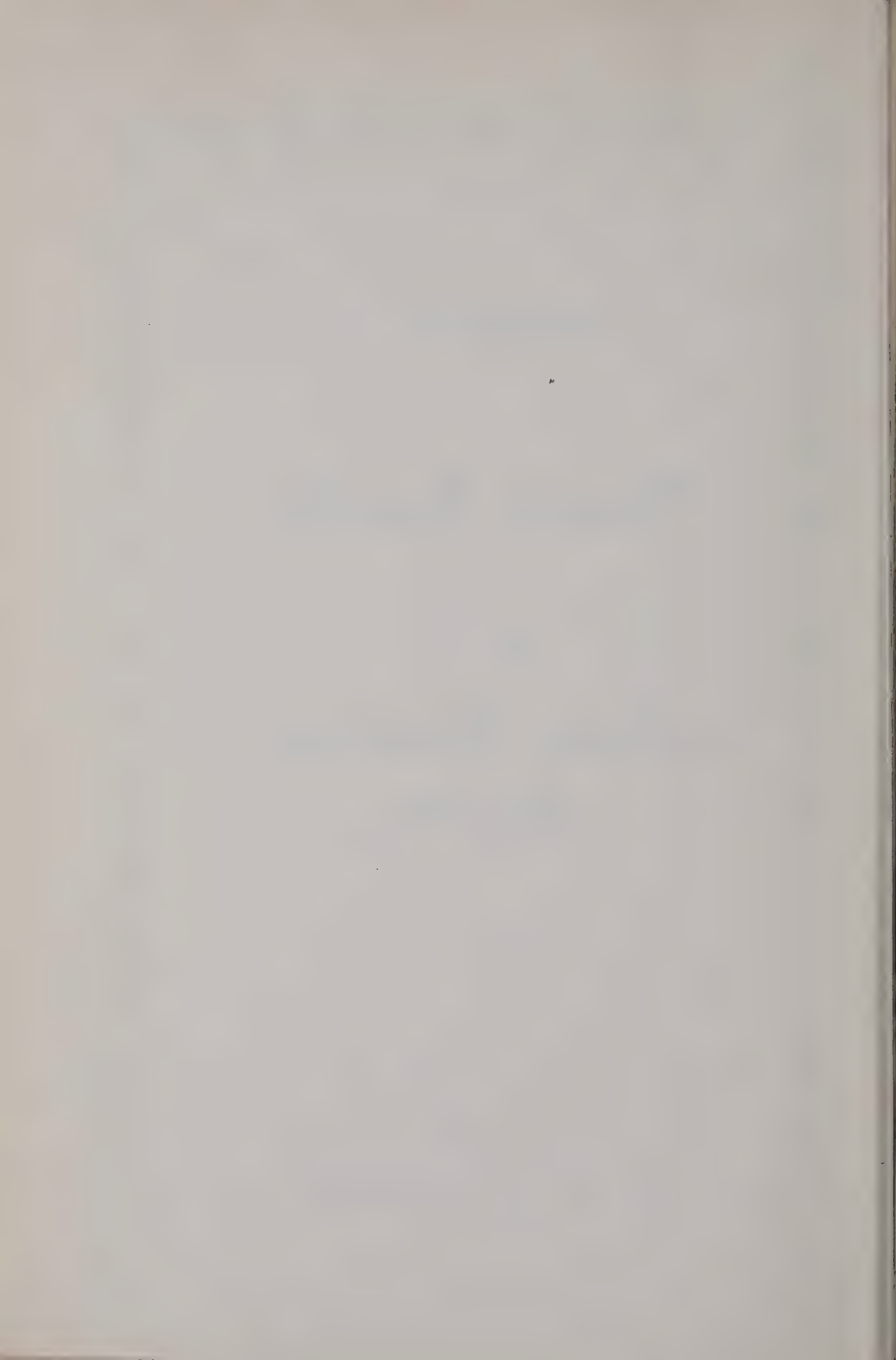
CHAPTER I

Pioneer Ranches

of the

Rocky Mountain

Empire



CHAPTER I

PIONEER RANCHES OF THE ROCKY MOUNTAIN EMPIRE Resources of Plains and Origin of Intermountain Livestock Industry

R. H. "Bob" Burns

EARLY explorers and later emigrants noticed the thick sod of grass covering the western plains west of the 100th meridian and they also noticed the good condition of the large herds of game such as buffalo, antelope, deer, and elk.

It is not surprising that when travel-weary oxen were turned loose to graze on these short grasses they soon recovered their strength and rapidly put on flesh. Many such incidents involving travel-weary oxen have been reported by word of mouth. Stage masters and others with business acumen were not long in picking up these worn-out oxen and feeding them up and selling them in a few months when they had made a marvelous recovery.

Nimmo, in his publication *Range and Ranch Cattle Traffic*, spoke as follows concerning the origin of the grazing industry:

"Concerning the origin of the northwestern grazing there are different accounts. There has been a common supposition that the fact of thrift of the buffalo in former years, during inclement season, suggested the feasibility of pasturing cattle on the wild range. But, whatever might have been inferred from the habits of the buffalo, the first demonstration of the fattening effects of winter feeding in the north seems to have been an accidental discovery. In the winter of 1864-65, just twenty years ago, Mr. E. S. Newman, who was conducting a train of supplies overland to Camp Douglas, was

snowed up on the Laramie Plains. Arranging the train in habitable shape, he turned the oxen out to die in the neighboring waste places. However the fatigued cattle began to improve from the start and in March they were gathered up in better condition than when they were set adrift to starve and feed the wolves. The discovery led to the purchase of stock cattle for fattening in the north, and the trade has steadily grown to its present proportions, accelerated greatly during the past fifteen years by the building of various roads to the North and West."

This reference led the writer to believe that the range cattle industry might have started on the Laramie Plains as a sequel to the above mentioned incident, but until recently he has been unable to trace the cattle ranching operations of Mr. E. S. Newman. The second clue to the operations of Mr. Newman is found in a news item in the *Breeders' Gazette* in 1883, an outstanding livestock periodical published in Chicago. Excerpts from this article are as follows:

"H. L. Newman, the wealthy St. Louis stock-raiser and banker, who, with his brother E. S. Newman, was the first to discover that cattle would live and flourish the year around in the northern plains is now head of the firm of Newman Brothers and Farr, who own 86,000 head of cattle. The firm's ranges are now scattered from Montana to Texas. They have two in Wyoming, one of which is on the Powder River and the other on the Tongue River reaching into Montana; one in Nebraska on the Niobrara; one in the Indian Territory extending down

into the Texas Panhandle; and one upon the uplands in far western Texas. The Niobrara range covers an area of 30 by 65 miles. The Powder and Tongue ranges will alone support 30,000 head of cattle. In Indian Territory they are leasing 128,000 acres from the Indians, having been the first to agitate the leasing question when Carl Schurz was secretary of the Interior. Their cattle today are worth \$2,500,000 while horses, acquired lands, fences, improvements and franchises easily bring the value up to \$3,000,000. This season they will market 14,000 beeves, from which they will clear, after the season's expenses are paid, upwards of \$3,000,000. The practical details of this gigantic business are managed by Mr. E. S. Newman, whose headquarters are on the Niobrara range. Mr. H. L. Newman rarely visits the ranges—some of them he has barely seen, but is engaged in managing the books at the St. Louis stockyards. In the course of a recent interview, he confidently expressed the opinion that there would be no break in the price of stocks in the next three or four years. The widespread desire to engage in the business, he said, had of course raised prices to some extent, but an ever-increasing and healthful demand would off-set this. Altogether, he saw no reason why the cattle business should not continue to yield as large profits as ever, and present the finest opportunities for the investment of capital."

This news item showed definitely that Mr. E. S. Newman mentioned by Nimmo had followed up his accidental discovery of the value of western grasses for cattle, by engaging in the cattle business, and had extensive holdings in several states in 1883.

The writer then tried to locate the ranches mentioned, particularly those mentioned as located on the Powder and Tongue Rivers in Wyoming and the Niobrara in Nebraska. He also tried to find out if there was any record of the Newman family residing in St. Louis. The ranches in Wyoming could not be located.

The fifth edition of the Wyoming

Stock Growers' Brand Book, published in 1887 contains an entry concerning the Niobrara Cattle Company and mentions Mr. E. S. Newman as General Manager, and T. B. Irwin as foreman of the Running Water range with post office address at Pine Ridge, Dakota, and J. S. Irwin as foreman of the Powder River range with post office address at Miles City, Montana. The 1880, 1881 and 1882 editions of the Wyoming Stock Growers Brand Book also listed the Niobrara Cattle Company and in those years the headquarters was given as Pine Ridge, Dakota. Mr. Roy Ross of Gordon, Nebraska, son of Ed Ross of the Newman outfit, informs the writer that the headquarters of the Newman ranch was on the Niobrara (Indian name for Running Water), but mail and telegrams came by Pine Ridge, Dakota. Pine Ridge was the headquarters of the Sioux Indian Reservation.

None of the old timers in northeastern Wyoming on the Powder and Tongue Rivers had heard of E. S. Newman and they were inclined to think that the Newman ranches mentioned as the Powder River and Tongue River places were probably in Montana near Miles City. Later information obtained by the writer in the Sandhills region of Nebraska proved they were right. Mr. Sidney Irwin, the younger brother of T. B. and J. S. Irwin is living in Valentine and the writer visited him in May 1952. He stated that he worked for his brother, J. S. Irwin, and accompanied the Newman cattle from the Niobrara to Montana in 1887 and definitely located the headquarters ranch in Montana as south of Miles City at the junction of the Little Powder and Big Powder rivers, some eight

miles from the present city of Broadus, Montana. This information was confirmed by Mr. Lou Grill of Miles City, Montana, who has checked such records as were available and located old brand notices in the early newspapers, as well as talking with old timers there.

The Missouri Historical Society of St. Louis, through Barbara Kell, furnished the writer with information that the H. L. and E. S. Newman families were listed in the St. Louis City Directory from 1884 to 1888, as interested in the banking and ranching business. In fact H. L. and E. S. Newman were listed as President and Vice-President of the Niobrara Cattle Company in 1885. In 1889 neither H. L. or E. S. Newman were listed.

Later the writer located two surviving members of the E. S. and H. L. Newman families. Mrs. C. A. Newman of El Paso, Texas is a daughter-in-law of E. S. Newman, who died in El Paso in 1913. Mrs. Edith Newman Reynolds of Whittier, California is the daughter of H. L. Newman and has furnished the writer with the diary of her father. One entry from this diary is of particular interest:

"In 1883 I bought half interest in a train belonging to D. W. Powers of 21 wagons which were loaded with general merchandise on our own account and sent to Salt Lake City, Utah. My brother E. S. went with the train. The venture proved a good one and the next time we sent a much larger number of wagons also loaded with our own goods—and I continued in freighting until 1867 when I opened a bank in Leavenworth, Kansas, Newman and Havens, which we continued until 1874, when I moved to St. Louis and opened the bank at the National Stock Yards, Illinois."

Mrs. Reynolds has also furnished the writer the obituary of her father, taken from an El Paso paper dated Febru-

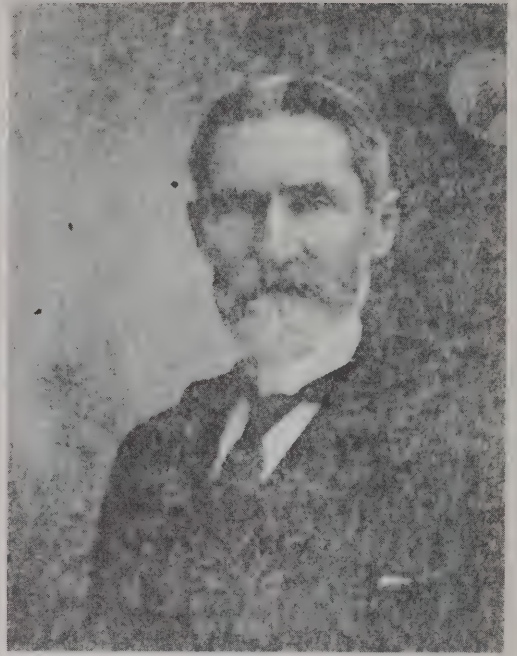
ary 23, 1911. This clipping traces his life work. He was born near Lexington, Kentucky, lost his parents at 14 years of age and resided with relatives and was educated in local schools. In the early 60's he came to Leavenworth, Kansas, and began his active business career. Lucrative freighting contracts for territory to the west enabled him to start a banking venture. The Civil War caused a serious setback to the banking and freighting business at Leavenworth, but after the four years of turmoil, Mr. Newman promoted another bank, the first one in Salt Lake City. This bank was very successful, but he sold out and transferred to St. Louis where he established the National Stock Yard Bank, which is still in existence. After more success there he moved to Joplin, Mo., in 1887 and established the Joplin National Bank. In 1893 he went to El Paso for his health and there started a banking business named H. L. Newman and Son, which eventually become the American National Bank. His cattle ventures were extensive until 1886, when much was lost in Colorado, Nebraska and Montana. Then he transferred his holdings to Texas. In 1895 Mr. Newman sold his livestock interests to Reynolds and Son of Kent, Texas.

The information in this obituary checks all of the information from other sources, and indicates where H. L. Newman went when he left St. Louis in 1887 and was not listed in the 1889 Directory.

The writer had an interesting conference with Mrs. Edith Newman Reynolds at Whittier, California on June 30, 1952. She mentioned that her father's (H. L. Newman) first job at



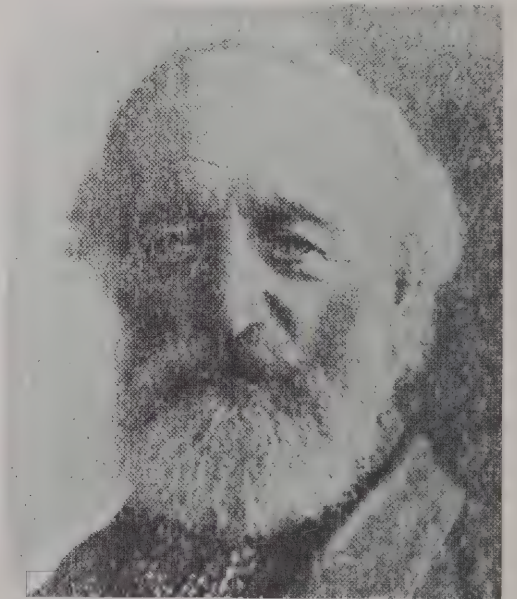
Mr. E. S. "Zeke" Newman; pioneer cattleman of the Rocky Mountain region who had holdings from Texas to Montana with his headquarters at the Niobrara Ranch near the present city of Gordon, Nebraska. Photo taken about 1910, by courtesy Mrs. C. M. Newman of El Paso, Texas



Mr. Henry L. Newman, older brother, who took care of the banking end of the business. Photo taken about 1900, by courtesy Edith Newman Reynolds of Whittier, Calif.



Charles H. Hutton photo, by Kirkland Studio of Cheyenne. WRCIS Neg. No. 13



Phil Mandel, pioneer of the Paramie Plains, who first crossed the plains in 1859, made a land filing in 1864 and spent the balance of his life here. Photo from Laramie Republican Obituary 1917. R. H. Burns collection

Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, was in the store owned by Mr. Russell, of the firm of Russell, Majors and Waddell who were responsible for arousing his interest in the range cattle business. This ties in nicely with information on the livestock industry of Colorado and Wyoming (BAI 1889-90) which states:

"In 1858, when a United States force under Col. Albert Sidney Johnson was ordered to Salt Lake City with troops to subdue the Mormons, a party of Government freighters, Messrs. Russell, Majors and Waddell, who had many times before crossed the vast, sandy plains west of the Missouri River started with a long train from Fort Leavenworth in Kansas loaded with Government supplies and bound for Fort Douglas, at or near Salt Lake. It was rather late in the season when the journey began, and after many unexpected and unavoidable delays the caravan arrived at a point near where the small town of Bordeaux, Wyoming now stands; and concluded that it would be impossible to reach the fort during the winter, in consequence of the snow, they went into camp. In a brief time they began to run short of feed for their stock, and it was determined to drive the cattle to the Chugwater Creek, a small stream but a few miles away, and leave them to 'rustle' for themselves, with little hope of ever seeing them again, as it was feared they would either die from starvation and their bones would be found in the spring or the Indians would slaughter them for beef. The winter was unusually severe but when spring came and the freighters went out on the Chugwater Creek, they were more than glad to find in the immediate vicinity of where they had left them, some three or four of their cattle in splendid condition. They began to search for more and in a few days found nearly every hoof they had turned out early in the winter, and all fat enough for beef".

Sheldon, in writing of Sheridan County Region in Nebraska, states:

"After the final removal of the Sioux Indians to the Rosebud and Pine Ridge reservations in Dakota in 1877-1878, ranchers could move their cattle into the former Sioux

tribal area north of the Sandhills. The first ranches were the Newman and Hunter ranches on the Niobrara. Government contracts to furnish fresh beef to the Indians on the Rosebud and Pine Ridge were obtained by both Newman and Hunter and provided for a time, the chief outlet for the marketing of their cattle."

Dahlman in his recollections of cowboy life in western Nebraska wrote:

"The Newman ranch in 1878 was located at the mouth of Antelope Creek on the Niobrara, twelve miles east of where the town of Gordon now stands. It was one of the large cow ranches handling from 10,000 to 15,000 head".

The writer, in May 1952, visited the site of the Newman ranch with Mr. Roy Ross of Gordon, son of Ed Ross, one of the foremen for the E. S. "Zeke" Newman outfit. The description given above was quite correct as one of the original buildings was still standing at the mouth of Antelope Creek, with the old hewn logs now covered with siding which was weathered and broken in places, exposing the old logs. The shape of the building was similar to that shown in the old picture which Mr. Waddill kindly loaned to the writer.

On this same trip in 1952, the writer talked with Mr. Sidney Irwin, younger brother of J. S. "Billy" Irwin, foreman of the Powder River Range of the Niobrara Cattle Company (E. S. Newman, Gen. Mgr.). He definitely located the Powder River Ranch as at the junction of the Little and Big Powder Rivers some 120 miles south and west of Miles City, Montana. This information was confirmed by Mr. Lou Grill of Miles City, who located the old brand advertisements of the Niobrara Cattle Company and these list two ranches in Montana for this company, one on the Powder River and Mizpah and the other to

the north on the Dry Creek and Sand Creek ranges.

Bob Miller, of Burwell, Nebraska, who came up the Texas trail with cattle as a youngster, wrote the following letter to the writer concerning his connection with the Newman outfit:

"What I knew about Mr. E. S. Newman. I went to work for E. S. Newman in the spring of 1877. Mr. Newman had bought the Hays stock of cattle for \$7.75 a head straight through except the spring calves. These we killed each morning because they could not walk, so every morning we would ride up to a calf and put our Winchester or Colts 45 to its head and fire away, and then run the mother with the herd and that night rope the mothers and side-line them so they would not go back to where she hid the calf—. These cattle were listed for Wind River, Montana, but Mr. Newman changed his mind when we got to Dodge City. Tom Mahan who was our foreman to Dodge City, turned the herd over to Ellis Chalk, my old school mate, and we drove the cattle over to Ellis, Kansas where we held them to fatten them. . . . I went back home to Texas. . . Done the trail the next year 1878, with the same foreman, T. J. Mahan, who drove a herd for Major J. S. Smith and Bob Savage, the former from Bates, Illinois and Mr. Savage of Corpus Christi. . . . When I came back from Chicago where I had been with a shipment of beeves, I quit, much to the discomfiture of Mr. Snyder, who said he intended to give me a permanent job, but I decided to go where my old school mate was and that was Ellis Chalk, who was working for E. S. Newman and Hunter, the latter also of St. Louis, Mo. Newman and Hunter had the contract of furnishing the Sioux Indians and Pine Ridge and Rosebud agencies with cattle, 250 head every 10 days at each agency, and what we called a dry issue—in December to last them through till we could gather cattle for the spring issue. And the Indians done their own delivery as long as they had any cattle. They generally ran short and we had to supply more. After Newman and Hunter had filled their contract, they, of course, returned to their individual ranches. Mr. Newman was located on the Running

Water, south of Gordon at the mouth of Antelope Creek. Mr. Newman who ran the N Bar Ranch drove his cattle west when the big ranches were run out of the Sandhills by the settlers.— In 1910 I went to El Paso and who should I find but Mr. E. S. Newman and his brother Tom. I talked with Mr. Newman and as he had been all over the world, I asked him if he had ever found any range that would equal the Sandhills of Nebraska and he said no. I left El Paso and I have never seen him since. He was a fine man and all of his boys liked him".

Lillian Robins Emende in her history of Sheridan County states that the first ranch in the Gordon locality, according to Ben Robins of Rushville, was the Newman ranch; established in 1878 by E. S. and H. L. Newman. The home ranch of the Newman outfit was located at the mouth of Antelope Creek about 12 miles southeast of Gordon, but Mr. Newman had a small house 60 miles south of there. The range was approximately 20 miles east and west and 70 miles north and south. . . From 30,000 to 50,000 head of cattle were run on the ranges of the Newman and Hunter ranches, the latter adjoining the former. Mr. Robins, who worked for Newman from 1880 to 1882, remembers some of the men who worked for that outfit, such as James C. Dahlman, Ed Ross, Johnny Burges, Archie Reardon, George Parker, Harry Ruttger, John Green, Bob Miller, Bill Ellis, Harry Landers, Andy Wheat and Stonewall Irwin.

Mrs. C. M. Newman of El Paso advised the writer that Mr. E. S. Newman died in El Paso on April 22, 1913 and that Tom Newman operated a ranch at Kent, Texas which is now operated by his son Tom, Junior.

So it is definitely established that the Newmans began operations on their



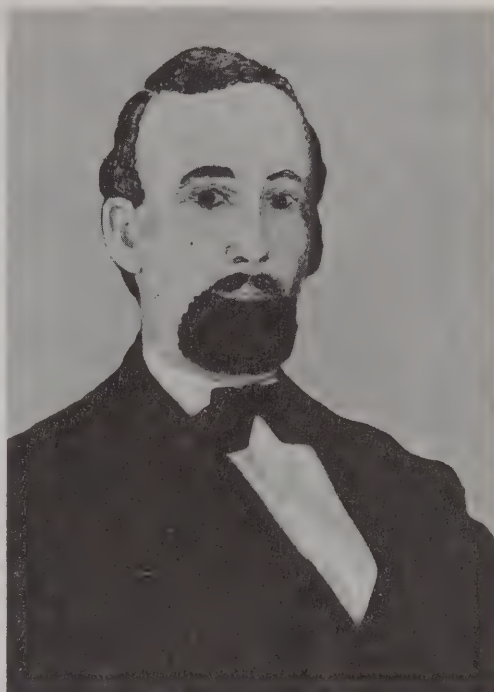
Broncho Sam and a group of riders working for Tom Alsop. Other riders are Rod McKay, Dayton Hendricks and John Bringolf, a brother of Mrs. Tom Alsop. Photo by Jackson Bros. of Omaha in '70s, Courtesy Louise Alsop Pedersen of Denver, Colo.



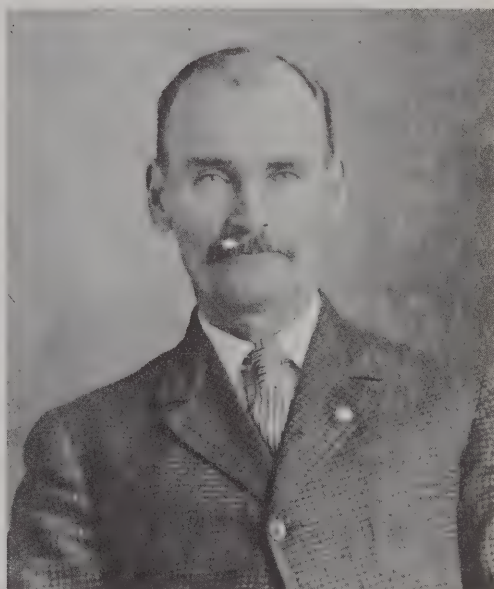
Broncho Sam amid the vast Laramie Plains where he worked for Tom Alsop.—Photo by Jackson Bros. of Omaha in '70s, Courtesy Louise Alsop Pedersen of Denver, Colo.



Early day settler's home of huge logs; presumably on Laramie Plains.—Photo by Jackson Bros. of Omaha in '70s, courtesy Louise Alsop Pedersen of Denver, Colo.



Tom Alsop, pioneer ranchman who lost his oxen and foresaw the future of the Laramie Plains as a livestock producer. Photo by Courtesy Louise Alsop Pedersen



R. B. Miller, who drove cattle up from Texas for the Newmans in 1877.—Photo taken about 1900, by courtesy of R. B. Miller

Niobrara Cattle Company ranches in 1878 and in Montana in 1887.

Laramie Plains First Area to Produce Range Cattle

Upon top of the world are the Laramie Plains, an extensive plateau lying on top of the Rocky Mountains at an elevation of around 7000 feet above sea level. They extend some hundred miles north and south from the Colorado line to Laramie Peak, and are some fifty miles wide from the crest of the Laramie Mountains (Black Hills) on the east, to the Medicine Bow Mountains of the west. The plains, along with the rivers and mountains, all bear the name Laramie, from Jacques LaRamie, an early day French trapper who was killed by Indians in 1820 near the mouth of the river that now bears his name. Miss Hebard gave an account of his activities, but nothing about his origin except that he came from Canada as a free lance fur trader after working with the Northwest Fur Company. Mrs. Null of St. Charles, Missouri states that a family of LaRamies live there who might be related to Jacques LaRamie, for the Franch settlement there dated from the fur trading days when St. Louis was a fur trading center. St. Charles is about fifteen miles northwest of St. Louis and on the north side of the Missouri River. It was a town at the time of the Lewis and Clark Expedition 1804- 1806. She states that Fabian LaRamie, a resident of St. Charles at the present time, told her that his father, now 91 years of age, thinks that Jacques LaRamie could be his grandfather's uncle, for his forefathers were all fur traders and came through Canada.

Resources of the Laramie Plains

Since the early days the Laramie Plains have produced a variety of natural resources including fur, game, minerals, timber, and livestock. The fact that the Laramie Plains are perched on the top of the Rocky Mountains is well shown on the physiographic map, with the rugged contours of the mountains surrounding the plains on three sides, the east, south, and west and almost encircling them on the north with a series of broken ranges west of Laramie Peak.

The fact that the Laramie Plains was the battle field of the northern and southern Indian tribes indicate its desirability as a hunting ground, with plenty of grass for game animals. The Medicine Bow mountains were named in part, for the bow woods growing there.

General Ashley, one of the early travelers across the Laramie Plains in March 1825, stated that he "was delighted with the variegated scenery presented by the valleys and mountains which were enlivened by innumerable herds of buffalo, antelope, and mountain sheep grazing on them; and what mostly added to their interest in the whole scene were the many small streams issuing from the mountains, bordered with a thin growth of small willows and richly stocked with beaver." Today, a hundred and thirty years later, we have plenty of willows, beaver, antelope, and deer on these Laramie Plains.

Here on the Laramie Plains is one of the incidents tying up the fattening of travel-weary oxen and an established ranch business carrying cattle over the winter and raising calves on



*Fort Sanders, Wyo. Ter. 1875. Charley Hutton lived here a number of years and died here.
Photo by courtesy of Robert D. Hanesworth of Cheyenne, Wyo.*



*The Newman Ranch on the Niobrara, about 1886.—Photo by courtesy P. H. Waddill
of Gordon, Nebraska*

the range. The Pioneer ranchers of the Laramie Plains who were the first to engage in the livestock business here were Tom Alsop, Charley Hutton, and Phil Mandel.

Tom Alsop, a prominent cattleman of early Wyoming range days, spent his life on the Laramie Plains and built up a ranch empire. Information about his experience with abandoned oxen has been given the author by his son John Alsop, who lives in St. George, Utah. Tom Alsop, born in England in 1832, came to New York State with his parents when five years old. He came to Wyoming in 1860 as the foreman of a string of bull teams for Ed Creighton of Omaha. He had fifty wagons with four to five bulls per wagon and ran these wagons from Omaha to Deadwood and Omaha to Salt Lake City. When returning from Salt Lake City in 1863 he was caught in a snow storm on Sherman Hill in December and could not turn a wheel. He was forced to turn the oxen loose to shift for themselves and as he and his men rode horseback to Omaha, he fully expected the oxen to die of exposure and starvation in this wintry, snowy country. The next spring he and his men returned to salvage what they could of their wagon train and oxen and were flabbergasted to find the oxen not only alive but healthy and fat on Sand Creek, a sheltered valley some twenty miles west of Sherman Hill. Evidently Tom Alsop, as well as his employer Ed Creighton remembered this incident, for when they finished up a grading contract on the Union Pacific Railroad in 1868 in western Wyoming near Bridger Station, Tom Alsop and another hired hand, Charlie Hutton, returned to Laramie

and with the financial backing of their boss Ed Creighton they started in the ranching business with headquarters at the Stage Crossing of the Big Laramie River, some eight miles southwest of Laramie City. (Laramie Daily Boomerang, January 8, 1889).

"In February 1871 Haley and Fox slaughtered a four-year-old steer, the first and only one of that age ever raised from a calf here on the Laramie Plains and it is a sight to see the carcass. The meat weighed 982 pounds dressed, the fat on the outside of the meat on the ribs is fully two inches thick. This steer has always run at large on the plains, having no feed but grass, summer and winter, not even having been fed hay in the winter." (Laramie D. Sentinel 2-23-71 p. 3).

The partnership of Creighton, Hutton and Alsop was dissolved after the death of Ed Creighton in 1874. Alsop took the ranch on the west side of the river while Hutton took the portion on the east side. Then, in 1880, Alsop sold out his ranch to Balch and Bacon and his cattle and brand to Dr. W. Harris, who took cattle and brand to Johnson County. There, in 1892, the Harris ranch called the TA ranch after the brand became famous as the headquarters for the "whitecap" invaders when they were besieged by the settlers after the invaders had come into the country with the avowed purpose of executing rustlers and had killed Nate Champion and "Nick" Ray (Clay 1924).

Tom Alsop was a native of England and like other countrymen, had an inherent love for, and skill with livestock. He loved good cattle, horses and sheep. (L.D.S. 6-25-70). Besides raising cattle and sheep, Alsop raised

high class Morgan horses to furnish motive power for the street cars of the large cities of that time. Many of the street car horses used in Omaha came from Alsop's ranch south of Laramie. Tom Alsop was one of the first men to have sheep as well as cattle, and in 1870 the partnership of Creighton, Hutton and Alsop (L.D.S. 8-23-70) brought to Laramie 3,000 head of sheep from Iowa. In 1870 one of Alsop's sheep herders (L.D.S. 10-31-70) found an enormous mountain lion in one of the pits scooped out of the sandrock by the wind and rain. This was undoubtedly one of the pits, close to, if not the one, known today as the "Animal Trap," just west and south of Chimney Rock. The lion could not be taken from the pit alive, so was shot and skinned. The skin, measuring eight foot seven inches from tip to tip, was hung up as a trophy in the Alsop home. Alsop raised one shorthorn steer that was quite famous. The steer stood seven foot three inches high at the shoulders and weighed 2,360 pounds. This steer never got very fat for he was so high from the ground that he had to stand in low places and graze the higher ones like on ditch banks. He was shipped to Omaha but broke his leg and ended up in the soap factory.

Tom Alsop moved to the Little Laramie around 1880 and purchased land from Charley Chase and others. He planted the grove, the dead trees of which still stand on the Ralph May ranch at the Junction of the Herrick and Sprague lanes, some 15 miles northwest of Laramie. He also built the large barn there for his horses and it is a typical English-type barn with many box stalls for the blooded horses.

Today some of the box stalls have been removed, but the barn still stands as a typical reminder of the early horse and livestock days of the Laramie Plains. More details concerning Mr. Alsop will be given in the chapter dealing with the Little Laramie ranches as this is the ranch known as the Alsop ranch today.

As mentioned, Charley Hutton retained the ranch on the Big Laramie River for a number of years. It will be described under the ranches of the Big Laramie. Charley Hutton favored Texas cattle, which were cheaper and took less feed, while Tom Alsop favored Shorthorn cattle, known in those days as Durhams, and fine Morgan horses, which took more care and feed but brought more returns.

The third pioneer, Phil Mandel, was a very early settler on the Laramie Plains. Phil Mandel had the first recorded filing on land in the Laramie Plains which was filed in Dakota territory, before Wyoming was a territory, in 1864. He was stage master at the Little Laramie River crossing of the Overland Stage route. The Bureau of Animal Industry Report for 1889-90 mentioned that, "early in the 60's a man named Phillip Mendall (undoubtedly a misspelling of Mandel) took up a ranch on Lone Pine near the Little Laramie and concluded to try an experiment. He purchased all of the foot-sore, worn-out cattle from passing freighters, turned them out on the range, and found that they did remarkably well through the winter; but in the early spring the Indians made a raid upon him and captured almost his entire herd". Phil Mandel spent the rest of his life here on the Laramie Plains and his ranching operations

will be described along with the other ranches on the Little Laramie River.

The operations of these three men, definitely establish the Laramie Plains as the site of the early operations of the livestock industry in the Inter-mountain country. They started operations in the 60's, which is earlier than the Newman ranches started in Nebraska and Phil Mandel was contemporary with Si Kelly and others on the Chugwater who made a business of caring for and renovating worn-out wagon-train oxen of the freighters during the winter months.

CHAPTER I

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Remains of the Newman Ranch on the Niobrara.—Photo by R. H. Burns in 1952



The old Blacksmith shop at the Mandel Ranch. Photo by Joe Kay for R. H. Burns

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CHAPTER I

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5. John D. Alsop to R. H. Burns, Mar. 29,
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6. Roy S. Ross to R. H. Burns Nov. 30,
1951. Three 8x10¼" sheets.
7. Mrs. C. M. Newman to R. H. Burns,
Jan. 10, 1952. Two 8½x11" sheets.
8. R. B. Miller to R. H. Burns Dec. 20,
1951. Eight 8½x11" sheets.



A view of the Laramie Plains showing meadows and grass land. R. H. Burns Collection

(6)
~~Linn~~ ~~St. Louis~~

1114 St. Louis St.
 Jan. 16th 1933

Mr. & Mrs. Loring
 Loring family
 Loring family
 Loring family

I have received and
 read your very lovely
 "Loring family greeting" for
 the year 1932" and have
 enjoyed every word of it and
 it reminded me of some of
 the times spent in dear
 old Wyoming. I think to-day

America does enjoy many of the spiritual values of life more than any other country and I think we stand as a beacon light - a way-shower and we are not perfect but that light shines and America is doing a wonderful work. I know you must have a fine family of boys and girls and now your grand children. Brother John tells me he knew your parents before they were married and I am glad to hear your mother

is enjoying herself in Calif.

Do I think of the days
I drove my beautiful horse
"Lute" and often would go thru
the "Pass & anal" your ranch
now I believe you told me
going after the mail at
Waysiding station and I would
often have with me (you)
Leslie Miller to open the gates
then just a boy at the ranch
with my brothers.

The Halsey family often spent
their summers at their ranch
there at the station, and

Anna Haley would be the postmistress
 there for the summer months,
 but Mr Haley would scold me
 when he saw me driving without
 a whip but those ^{were} happy days.

This Xmas I received a lovely
 message from Anna Haley George
 away off in New Haven Conn. I
 don't know whether she has
 left this part of the country
 to be with her daughters but
 such is life we do not know
 what the next day will bring.

I only in hopes more news
 will come over about my father's
 large estate, and that I may be

able to act and do something about it. A fine lawyer here always wanted to see what I might do about it. He said he never heard of such a way to handle an estate so very unlawful and I know it is never too late to do right.

I have just found among my relics a Souvenir of the Class of 91 - First Annual Commencement of the University of Wyoming. Most all of these old teachers with long beards, Prof. Wm. Wilson Prof. Cooky with long back 'ones and I can't

remember them, as they do in
these old pictures, but I suppose
they do look that way.

Wishing you and your fine
family much happiness and
joy in the New Year.

Yours most truly
Louise Abrahm Pedersen

See also MSS. in my file
NW July
by RBH

Burwell, Nebraska
December 20, 1951

* Corrections furnished
by Mr Miller
Mar 31, 1952

What I know about
E & Newman

I went to work for E & Newman, the spring of 1877
Mr Newman had bought the ^{stock} ^{cattle} ^{* stock} ^{cattle}
the ^{trap} stock of ^{per} ^{head} ^{straight}
for \$775 through ⁱⁿ ^{the} ^{spring}
Calus. There we killed each
morning, because they could
not walk, so every morning
we would ride up to
a calf and put our hands
or feet .45, to its head +
fire away and then run
the net into the head
and that night rape the
matters and side line them
so they would not go back
to where she had the calf
that was so darky Del

N THIS IS THE NEWMAN BRAND THAT BOB MILLER KNEW

2 These cattle were started
 for Wood River northward
 but Mr Newman changed
 his mind when we got
 to Dodge City Tom ^{Mahan}
 who was our foreman
 to Dodge City turned the
 herd over to Ellis Chalk -
 Mr old school man & we
 drove the cattle over to Ellis
 Star, when we held them to
 "fatten them, that's the
 the U P Express was robbed
 at Big Spring near \$ of 60000 -
 dollar in 20 dollar Gold pieces
 and Potts & Collins being 2
 of the robbers were held having them pay
 \$ 20000 - (1/3 the amt of the
 Gold, I went back home to
 Texas, drove the trail the
 next year, 1878 with the
 same foreman, J. Mahan

3 who drove a herd for
 May 9th smuck and Bel
 Savage, the former from
 Bates Ill, and Mr Savage
 of Corpus Christi. In that yr
 1878, I drove a herd of Beef
 Cattle to Neb City, to Overton
 Bros. of Neb City, and 300, or
 so, to Allen Bros of Hamburg
 Iowa, crossing the Mo at
 that point on the Missouri
 After delivering this herd
 I went back to Iowa &
 in the Spring of 1879, found
 me driving again for S & S -
 under the fore man ship of
 "Old Joe Mangum, and we
 made up one herd of 32
 hundred head of 2 & 3 yr old
 steers, and delivered them
 to JH & JW Snyder, who were

I believe Manager of the
 L.F. our firm, belonging to
 Mrs. J. of Denver, I helped
 to pack a couple train loads
 of 4 yr old ^{Beaver} Beavers and
 ship from Julesburg to Chicago
 when I came back I quit
 much to the disappointment
 of Mr. Snyder, who said
 he intended to give me a
 permanent job, but I wanted
 to go to where my old school
 mate was, and that was
 Ellis Chalk, who was working for
 E. S. Nesoman & Heintz the letter
 also of St. Louis Mo, Nesoman
 and Heintz had the contract of
 furnishing the Sioux Indian at
 Pine Ridge and Rose but
 agencies with cattle, 250 head

5 every 10 days at each agency
 and what we called a
 big sale - in Dec to
 last them through till
 we could get cattle for
 the Spring sale. and the
 Indians done their own
 deliversony as long as they
 had any cattle, they generally
 run short and we had
 to supply more. After N+H
 had filled their contract they
 of course refered to the
 Individual ranchs, Mr Nesoma
 was beald on the Remony
 walk south of Lodge, at the
 mouth of Antelope Creek, Mr
 Nesomas who ^{now} runs the N ^{ranch}
 done his cattle work when
 the big ranches were run out

6 of the sand hills by the
 settlers I remained ^{only}
 a short time after that go-
 ing into business for my self
 In 1910 I went to El Paso +
 who should I find but
 Mr Ed Keenan and his Bro
 Tom, I talked to Mr Keenan
 and as he had been all
 over the "World" I asked him
 if he ever found any range
 that would equal the sand
 hills of Neb, and he said No -
 I left El Paso and I have
 never seen him since.
 He was a fine man and
 all of his boys lived home - He
 had cattle down from Oregon
 by Beey Down, met the OY
 Carey farmer, I knew ^{how}
 I am the oldest ^{old} ^{old} ^{old}

7) was ^{Cowboy} ~~Cowboy~~ ^{who} ~~came~~ ^{came}
 here in the 70's ^{she}
 was 3 of us, that ^{as}
 the 3 eldest ⁱⁿ
 this sand hill country

I came here Sep 1879.

Bennie Robbins a few weeks
 later than me, and Ed Ross
 a little later don't know
 his date of coming, but
 we called here the first
 Ben Robbins did a few
 days after our "Beeman" Ranch
 ah" Ed Ross a yr or so
 later, don't remember the
 year, but did the day be
 fore my B.D. and so far
 as we could find out now

I am the oldest, old ^{Cowboy}
^{Cowboy} ~~Cowboy~~ ^{leaving}, I would like
 to know if ^{you} know of

My leaving when in town
 then there are 3 + new Lockhart
 my self. I was born at Lockhart
 Caldwell Co.
 Caldwell Co. July 94 yrs + 6 mos
 old, am in good health
 except when the Dr calls
 heart disease, my wife is
 leaving and is 83 yrs Dec 18
 of July, we have celebrated
 our 67th Wedding Anniversary.
 Can't see to write ^{only}
 by using a ^{black} ^{blotter} ^{only}
 write on a straight line
 I will get some one to
 read your letter to me + I
 will endeavor to ans your
 queries, I have gave you all
 the information I can with out
 questions, we are having well
 weather here, This is Bernell
 on the north fork river

If you can get me a Dr would

I will appreciate it

If you can get me an
 old logo stock Association
 Board Book I will appre-
 tiate it very much, I have
 lost mine.

1873
 any
 be patient + you
 read it
 Dr. B. B. B.

Dec 20th = 1951

Springdale Wash
March 27-1952

Dear Mr. Burns:-

Your letter of 17th received, was surely glad to hear from you. How I would like to meet you some time, surely you have done a major job, being to write up the Laramie basin history.

Anyway, that I have wrote you, you are welcome to use, I only wish that I could have been there with you, you seem to try to be so fair with all.

Now that I am in my 80th year, I don't know when I will ever be out there again.

After living all these years in this beautiful country and climate, I think will never get out here, but I still love the Laramie basin.

I don't know just how long I will be here at Jim Canyon but we have a nice home in St George, so if every you should come this way, we would love to have you stop with us.

I have father old cap and ball six shooter, that he use in those early days. You could have it to, if you would, to go along with the set.

Very truly yours

John Dalrop

Garrison, Nebraska.
November 30, 1951

Mr. Robert H. Burns,
Head Wool Department,
University of Wyoming,
College of Agriculture,
Laramie, Wyoming.

Dear Mr. Burns:

Your letter received. Also letters from Prof.
W. W. Derrick and Mr. C. S. Reace of Simeon.

Ever since I can remember I have heard stories
of the happenings on the Newman N ranch which was
located on the Niobrara river near the mouth of Ante-
lope creek but in Cherry county and not Sherdian
county as has been stated. The ranch building were
south of Antelope creek about 300 yards on the west side
of the river.

Father (Ed T. Ross) started to work for Mr. Newman
E. S. or Zeke as he was known around here in the 1890's,
in the summer of 1882 and was on the pay roll continuously
as long as Newmans ranched in Nebraska or Montana.

When he went to work for the N their range extended
east about 40 miles or half way to the Mayberry ranch and
west which was located on Boiling Springs Flats on the
river. This was known as the Boiling Springs Ranch.
Newman went west about half way to Deer creek where Hunter
and Evans had a ranch.

The N had a large pasture some 8 x 6 miles north of
the river and extending into the north sandhills. They
used most of the hills north of the river but were afraid
of the sandhills south of the river, for some reason or
other. The old Kearney Trail went from Pine Ridge to
Kearney right through them and the Indians hunted in the
sandhills a good deal as some buffalo always wintered in
them. The N did use some country south of the river known
as Pole creek flats. This consisted of some 15,000 acres
and consisted of low rolling hills and small to large
valleys. There several lakes and Pole creek for water and
is now several nice ranches and a number of farms. Mr.
Newman had established line camps at various points at the
edge of the high hills and keep turning the cattle back
towards the river. These were the younger or new cattle
that had been brought up the trail.

WYOMING'S PIONEER RANCHES

The three ranches named were established primarily to supply beef to the Indians of the Pine Ridge and Rosebud reservations which lay to the north so the older or fatter cattle were run north of the river and in the big pasture so as to be handy for issue which was every month during the summer and most of the winter or until late in the year. I have heard Dad tell about making issues in November and also in March but do not remember ever hearing him say any thing about December, January and February. I have heard him tell about spending Christmas in Pine Ridge but he helped watch the horse herd on Craven creek near Pine Ridge.

The N issued most of their stuff at Pine Ridge but did make several issues to Rosebud. One was for the Boillings Springs, which had lost their gather in a stampede and would be late for the issue.

T. B. (Bennett) Irwin was ranch manager and Perry Parker was ranch boss. Johnnie Burgess was range boss when Dad went to work. His first shipment (Dads) was from Ogallala, Nebraska the fall of 1882. They took the beef herd up river to Box Butte creek and then southeast by way of Crystal lake, This route again went thru the sandhills, and down Blue Creek to the North Platte.

The 1884 beef shipment was made over the F. E. & M. V. Ry. I do not remember whether the shipment was made from Valentine or east of the river but from that locality. Mrs. Doctor Compton might be able to tell you exactly. Her folk ran a hotel in Gordon and Valentine during that time and I am sure that she knew Mr. Newman.

Stonewall and Billie Irwin, brothers of Bennett, also worked for the N during this time (1882 -1884). I think that they worked mostly with the trail herds. One or both with Jim Dalhman brought a herd from Oregon about this time. It must have been before 1882 because Jim was working at Pine Ridge in 1882 and was mayor of Chadron later.

About this time one of the Irwin boys and Jim proposed that the outfit work the south hills and Mr. Newman let them take a small bunch of boys and see what they could do. They came out with quite a herd of cattle mostly of them fat though it was early spring. Some of the cattle were slick five and six year olds.

About 1883 Mr Newman acquired a ranch in Montana at the mouth of Tongue river and moved some cattle from here up there. Also he brought in a herd from Texas and Okalahoma. He moved the last of his Nebraska cattle to Montana during the summer of 1885. Dad was in charge of this herd.

Page 3. R. H. F.

1199537

Dad ~~was~~ ran a roundup wagon for the N during the summer of 1886 and looked after the ranch the winter of 86 and 87. This was the winter that wiped Newmans out. The remnants of the cow herd was sold to Jhannie Crews and Dad delivered them to his ranch on Musselshell, for Mr. Newman.

I do not remember of Dad ever calling the outfit by any other name than Newman's or the N. They were located on Powder and Tongue rivers or between them. Dad always spoke of the ranch headquarters as being on or at the mouth of Tongue River or I should say Pumpkin creek. They worked on Powder river also west to Rosebud creek. Miles City was their town and J. S. (Stonewall) Irwin was the foreman when Dad got up there. Fennett had gone with the new railroad as a solicitor and Billie Irwin was dead.

I do not know that Mr. Newman sold his Niobrara ranch. I though that he just moved out. Some time when I am in Valentine I will look this up. Say you might write to Judge J. C. Quigley and ask him about this. He is a son of an old cowboy who was foreman of the Boiling Springs and later owned it. He is an attorney and also an abstractor. I am sure that he could give you some helpful information.

Mr. Newman moved from Nebraska after the country began to settle up and the homesteaders was taking up his range. He also thought that the harder grass of Montana would suprlly better beef and it was more open. By 1891 when I came here almost every quarter section had been filed on except in the sandhills and a lot of the valley land had squatters on it with some homesteaders.

Mr. Newman was a called at our house when ever he was in the country and I have guided him on some of his calls about the country that he was once familiar with but was now laid out in section lines.

He was and assayer by profession and had spent some time in South Africa in the gold fields. His brother was a banker in St. Louis and E. S. might have had stock in the bank, I was too small to be interested in that, He did become interested in a ranch in Okalohoma and they did real well. After the Sioux were placed on reservations he knew that they would have to be fed. He had a lot of influential friends and had gotten this tip, so in 1878 he came to Fort ? near Burwell Nebraska and hire a young fellow to drive him over the western part of the state. They arrived at Fort Robinson in time and there he was told about the country south of Pine Ridge and came down this way and finally decided to locate on Antelope creek on the river as they could follow Antelope creek cross the devide and hit another creek running towards Pine Ridge and they would have water. Antelope did not run all of the time but there were springs that would supply a fair sized herd. it would be an easy drive. he was not

Page 4. R. H. B.

much afraid of competition as his competitors would have to come from Wyoming and it would be a long drive and more or less a dry one.

The hard winter of 1886 -87 broke him and I do not know where he lived or just what business he was in until about 1903 he came back, he had been back off and on, and got a ranch near Cody, Nebraska. He lived in Cody. He brought in about the first Herefords that I ever saw. He and Dad would argue the merits of the Herefords and Durhams. Mr. Newman won out on that argument as there is very few Durhams in this country.

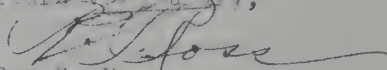
When Dad arrived in Montana with his herd Mr Newman asked him what he thought of the country. Dad said "I think that you left the best damn cow country in the world, this looks like it would get pretty cold". I have heard Mr. Newman laugh and say "Ed it sure did get damn cold up there. I do not recall how long he stayed around Cody but when he quit there he went to El Paso, Texas and developed Newman Heights and I think that his son Chares still lives there. It was in El Paso that I last saw him.

Father passed away three years ago this coming May.

r.H.Waddill Gordon, Neb. did have some pictures of the old ranch a few years back. You might write him and find out.

I trust that this disjointed ramblings will be of some help to you in undertaking. if I can ever be of further help to you just let me know.

Yours very truly,


Roy S. Ross.

CC: W. W. Derrick.

U was the ranch brand?
S " " trail brand right?

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Mr. Tom Lea, Jr.
Mr. Dan Fonder
Mr. Sam Young
Mrs. Otis Coles
Mrs. Mallory Miller
Mrs. James A. Pickett
Mrs. Eugene Fox
Mrs. W. W. Turney
Mrs. O. L. Shipman
Mrs. C. M. Newman
Mrs. Louis A. Scott
Mr. David Lerner
Mr. Carl O. Wylar

El Paso International Museum

1205 MONTANA ST. EL PASO, TEXAS

June 1952

Dear Mr. ...

University of Wyoming -

Laramie - Wyo -

Dear Sir: - Mrs. Thompson from our library called
me yesterday. She said in connection with
E. S. Keenan, W. L. Keenan, Mrs. Keenan, that
she would like you to give you some thing
you may want.

Mrs. E. S. Keenan was my husband's father - he
passed away Apr 22nd 1913 - his son W. L. Keenan
his son & my husband died Nov 1st 1941 -
he has one son Charles W. Keenan of San Diego
Calif. - they are three sons -
Mrs. Keenan was the sister of Mr. Keenan
She died June 7th 1946 - the land here belongs to
Mrs. Porter Thompson of Portland Maine -
The W. L. Keenan died a good many years
ago - was his wife - they had eight children
all of them gone except one daughter -
Mrs. O. L. Reynolds of Dallas Tex - 1100
Lake View - she lived there.

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 Mr. H. D. Fulwiler
 VICE PRESIDENT
 Mrs. C. M. Newman
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 Mrs. Olga Wilson
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1205 MONTANA ST. EL PASO, TEXAS

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 Mrs. W. W. Turney
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 Mrs. C. M. Newman
 Mrs. Louis A. Scott
 Mr. David Lerner
 Mr. Carl O. Wylor

You may be interested in an incident which occurred probably twenty years ago. My husband & I were traveling down State Street in Chicago - My husband saw a young Indian with his head down & a couple of boys with him - they were selling heads of manpan & my husband said "heads of manpan take back to our boy" - when the Indian saw him, probably attracted by his station hat - which he always wore - he threw up his head and said "Haw" & my husband said "Haw" - The Indian said - you Kemeau & told him he was an Indian Policeman who rescued him in Montana years before - it seems my husband was lost in a blizzard & this father paid a reward for him & the Indian found him - he paid me for Hockett man's coat & let him go - I have told you maybe something of what you want - My truly
 Mrs. C. M. Kemeau - Director

their deaths -
 Mr H. L. Kemeau had one son who owned & operated Kemeau Ranch - 7/8 miles north of here - a road leading to the ranch beyond is known as Kemeau Road -
 His husband & his father Mr E. S. Kemeau had a business here for many years known as Kemeau Investment Co - they also operated in Mexico - their additional name was known as Highland Park & Morningside Heights -
 You will doubt know about their ranching interests in Montana - I have a book in my book of brands - It was published by Montana Stock Growers Assn. in 1886 & it is a first addition - Mr E. S. Kemeau was a member of the Executive Committee, also "Durdock Kemeau" -
 Mr Tom Kemeau was a third brother but was not interested with the other brothers in Montana - he operated a ranch they all owned at Kent - Tex - he has one son Tom Jr. who lives here - enclosed is a clipping I found among my husband's effects - I am sorry there is no date on it.

24 576

St George Utah
April 26-1944

Dear Mr Burns:

There is so much to tell about those days, that I thought had better write some more.

I believe that I know your father well, Otto Burns and he married a fine looking woman by the name of Bantore.

He worked a long time for Robert H. De Homier.

Will try to tell about the big steer raised from those hundred short horns. This steer was 7ft. 3 in. in the shoulder. He so tall that he could not reach the ground to feed. When in the field, he would be in the creek or stream feeding off the banks. Father keep him in at a feed rack most of time, and would try to sell him to the circus, but they said he was to big for them to handle.

He was never fat, so Father shipped him to Omaha, the steer weighed 2360 lbs, and it slipped in the stock yards and broke a leg, and yard men had him in soapsuds before Father knew what happen.

I believe Guy Holliday would remember him.

Father certainly did raised some fine horses, and will try to tell of one. When the Johnson cowboy cattle war was on, they was a man that killed on a bridge just at noon day, 25 miles out from Thurston and he was unsharpened at 1 o'clock, and this freed the man, for the Judge, said this could not be done in 1 hour and the horse was a T horse. I sold 52 head of horses to the British government, for the Boer was in South Africa and they send word back, that they out done every other horse.

I received your information blanks some time ago but I seem always put thing off. So Harry & Wacchiter sent me another from Mrs Mabel C. Allen, and I would like to have you thank her for it.

Well Robert I want to see the University in, in 1871 and so on. If you should want to know more, am willing to try give it to you.

Very truly yours
John T. Tilton

Thomas Alrop born in Yorkshire June 23-1832 and came to this country with his parents, when 7 years old, and settled in New York state near Albany.

Came west to Omaha, some time in the 50's.

A Bull train that he was foreman of, had 50 wagons with 4 to 6 bulls to the wagon. He ran this train to Deadwood South Dakota and to Salt Lake City from Omaha 1860 to 1863 and when he was returning from Salt Lake City in 1863, he was caught in a snow storm at Sherman hill and had to turn the oxen loose. He and the men return to Omaha on horse back. Next spring he returned to look up the oxen and found them up on San Creek all fat and dandy.

Then Ed Creighton, Alrop and Hutton went into the cattle business on the Laramie plains. "So I think they were the first to start the stock raising."

Tom Alrop afterward started for himself raising horses for street cars and also high grade Durham cattle, which he sold the Durham cattle to Dr. Harris, who moved them to Johnson county where the battle was took place at the T ranch. That was very fat head brand T, which means Tom Alrop.

In 1860, he sold the old ranch to Charlie Hutton and move over to the Little Laramie, and bought out Phil Mandel, John Paulson and Mr. Chase and also bought Luther Williams out in Laramie. Now when the Standard Oil station on Main and here is where we all went to school.

On the Little Laramie is where he build the big house and planted the Alrop grove of trees.

At one time he owned 1100 head of horses and about 100 good riders. Brown Sam, was his horse breaker.

His horse brand T on left shoulder and large L on left hip in the side!

Mother came to Laramie with me from Omaha 1874 William J. and Louise was born at the Old Stage Station and Thomas J. was born in Laramie.

I could tell you many things about those early days if I could see you some time. A lot better than I can write it.

Very truly yours John D. Alrop

ZION NATIONAL PARK LODGE

Zion National Park P.O., Utah



Springdale Utah
Sept 25 - 1902

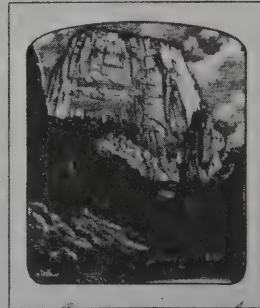
Dear Mr. Brewster:

I try to answer letter but the time
is so short. you know Sam was very
life from Wyoming, and he was, as he
said, a talker. He said he was a English
man taller, still like Spanish in the
best of world, and Sam was half Spanish
your paper. But he had an "English name
and throat". I believe Sam was a fine
man when he came to the 2nd world war
for he was one of those boys from the
South Texas, from the state of Wyoming
at one the Stockman shows in the 70-.

He was a wonderful big shooter shot, for
I remember the time he was in a battle
with the Indians.
He was a fine man, as about what you
want to see. we wait

ZION NATIONAL PARK LODGE

Zion National Park P.O., Utah



I was about 10 years old, when I met him
 and the man with his, I think that
 name of them the best, I was 4. It was
 a man, I would go down to see
 him every day, and remember of Dan Bacon
 saying, "What is your that you'll love!
 We would be your best."

I guess this is a good picture of him
 and the picture is from a man, not from
 a man himself, and my father and the
 picture is small.

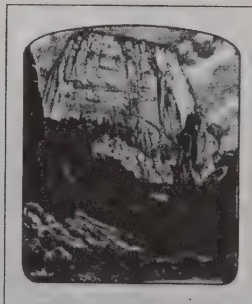
Dan Bacon is the man, and the
 man is the ranch, and Dan Bacon
 is not it. I do not remember the
 name. I do, ^{not} remember Sam ever working
 for Charlie Houston.

"Who is Bud Gillespie? I remember Sam
 Gillespie away from the Big Laramie line.

I have thought many nice things, since my
 first visit to the ranch. Dan Bacon
 is the best.

ZION NATIONAL PARK LODGE

Zion National Park P.O., Utah



My dear Ben:

I thought of some more stories about
 other men, as Tom Douglas, Ed Houston
 and man that live along & you know
 Carmic Park, by the name of Frank Prager

- He came into that country 1838², and
 when he would come to town never stop
 to the kitchen table and get a drink.

He was into all some of our stories.

as I am old hunter, he was some

frontierman, and some old stage

driver, like Tom & Houston, really

old stories but true.

I hope you will get some more.

Yours truly,

5

D. L. HOPWOOD

Phone MAin 6245

copy
to my
file
Laramie Plains

Hopwood

COMMERCIAL AND
SCENIC PHOTOGRAPHER1515 Tremont Place
Denver 2, ColoradoNov 13th 1951

Dear Mr Burns -

Thank you so much for

sending me the small albumen prints made
by my father, circa 1867-8. I have shown
them around among interested friends but could
find no one who knew much about Pioneer Dams
and nobody who could identify the fine example
of the early settler's log cabin. I have made
copies of these for my file, so if you ever need
copies you can have them and not risk
sending around the originals. I enjoyed your
short visit a hope I may have the pleasure
of talking with you again sometime. Please
let me know whenever I can be of any
help to you in your research.

Sincerely

W. S. Jackson

Original photos enclosed. returned to Al Hop file #117

MARKS AND BRANDS OF ALBANY COUNTY—1871-1880

From Original Books in the Office of
County Clerk of Albany County
By A. S. "Bud" Gillespie and R. H. "Bob" Burns

THESE brands were entered in the order filed and the figures give the month, day and year on which they were filed. The list is a kind of Who's Who of Albany County Livestock Raisers, some of which became well established through the years and others whose names disappear from the tax rolls in a few years.

These rugged men all had one thing in common, namely an unbounded faith in the future of the livestock industry on the Laramie Plains. They backed this faith with grandiose plans

for the future financed by large loans of money on which they paid the going rate of interest of one percent per month. Their plans and the stories of the wealth of the livestock industry with no overhead to amount to anything soon stocked the sweeping plains with great herds of cattle, horses and sheep. These pioneer stockmen were from all walks of life and in the words of Sam Walter Foss—"The men who are good and the men who are bad; As good and as bad as I".

→→→→ Left side or shoulder.
C Latham & Co. 10-21-71

F Left shoulder or hip for cattle.
L Left shoulder for horses
P Adopted for brand for all livestock. 6-21-72
E. Stillmore

◇ For cattle. 6-29-72
George Harper.

T For horses. 7-13-72
George Harper.
Transferred to D. B. Smith.

T For horses and cattle. 9-18-72
Creighton and Alsop

□ For cattle 9-13-72
Creighton and Alsop.

J For horses and mules. 9-20-72
R. H. and Sam Johns.

× X For all livestock 12-23-72
Noah Wallis.

R For all livestock. C for sheep. 1-2-73
Rumsey Coates Co.

Ⓝ For cattle. 1-18-73
A. J. Nash.

E For all livestock. 3-13-73
Edward Farrell.

U For cattle.
C For horses. 3-26-73
Catherine Erhart.

Ⓣ For horned cattle. 5-14-73
Samuel H. Collins.

♥ For all livestock. 5-17-73
Brand sold to Suddith and Montgomery
Ora Haley. 8-6-79

WYOMING'S PIONEER RANCHES

- | | | | |
|---|----------|---|---------|
| ∇ For cattle.
A. D. Camp. | 9-20-73 | J C For left side of cattle.
John Colford. | 4-16-74 |
| + For all livestock.
S. D. Pease. | 9-20-73 | V For left hip cattle.
J. E. Gates. | 4-29-74 |
| ⊖ For all livestock.
J. J. Ihmsen. | 10-30-73 | ∇ also ∇ For left shoulder of
horse and mules.
C. B. Sprague. | 5-19-74 |
| 2 For left shoulder horses.
J. G. Kent. | 12-22-73 | M W For all livestock.
Marsh Wolbull. | 5-28-74 |
| K Left shoulder horses.
J. G. Kent and Co. | 12-22-73 | ⊗ For all livestock
Daniel Nottage. | 6-4-74 |
| HOI For cattle.
J. W. Meldrum. | 2-9-74 | JA For left hip on all livestock.
James Anderson. | 6-13-74 |
| □ For cattle.
Hans Anderson. | 3-6-74 | JK For right hip on all livestock.
James Anderson. | 8-10-74 |
| W For left hip cattle.
Clark and Willard. | 4-15-74 | D For left shoulder on all livestock.
D. A. Taylor. | 7-15-74 |


































Physiographic Map of the Laramie Plains—courtesy S. H. Knight, Laramie, Wyo.

- 9 For right hip of all livestock. 8-14-74
"Abandoned"
- WD For either hip of all livestock. 9-12-74
W. Dunning.
- 7 For left hip on all livestock. 9-24-74
"Abandoned." Ziggy M. Sevry.
- Y For left shoulder on all livestock. 10-5-74
Patrick C. McCarty.
- X For left side and shoulder for all livestock. 10-13-74
James King.
- B For all livestock. 10-13-74
H. J. Fisher.
- III For left shoulder on all livestock. 10-22-74
Al Houston.
- 4 For all livestock. 11-25-74
W.S. Crockett.
- A For left side on all livestock. 11-25-74
E. J. Ashton.
- 5 For right side and left hip. 12-30-74
John Keane.
- B For left side of cattle. 12-3-74
James Bammon.
- K For side also left hip on cattle. 1-2-74
Thomas Alsop.
Dr. Harris.
- M For left shoulder of horses. 2-8-74
Michael Kelly.
- Δ For left side or hip on all livestock.
Ezra Fleming.
- Figure of rickles on left hip on all livestock. 6-24-75
A.R. Bunker.
- F For left side of cattle. 6-28-75
Brocker and Brammer.
- © ^{small} For cattle. 7-13-75
Sallie Newell.
- O For left side cattle. 8-10-75
C.C. Albright Co.
- Z For all livestock. 8-10-75
Perry Brickford.
- I For all livestock. 9-8-75
George Garrett.
- T For cattle. 10-2-75
John Weaver.
- FOX For all livestock. 10-28-75
George W. Fox.
- Δ For cattle. 11-9-75
John B. Ecker.
- MP For all livestock. 12-24-75
Patrick Welch.
- TC For right hip on all livestock. 1-6-76
Thomas W. Cox.
- S M For right hip of cattle. 3-28-76
S. M. Schmes.
- J For all livestock. 4-3-76
Edward Brady.
- OX For left ribs on cattle. 4-5-76
William Maxwell.
- 9I For left hip of all livestock. 4-17-76
J. W. and G. R. Brown.
Sold to C. G. Hogan.
- NJ For cattle. 5-27-76
Andrew Jackson.
- Δ For cattle. 5-29-76
H. J. Clugston.
- C For all livestock. 6-21-76
Jonas Meyers.
- 7 For cattle. 6-27-76
Martin Zimmerman.
- C For cattle. 8-11-76
Charles A. Chase.
- L For left side on cattle. 9-5-76
Frances Moore.
- ⊔ For all livestock. J. M. Bird. 9-12-76
- U For all livestock. 9-12-76
Galucha B. Grow.
- E For all livestock. 11-23-76
Don Cameron.
- ⊙ For all livestock. 12-16-76
C. F. Phillips.
- N For cattle. 12-16-76
Mary Holliday.
- SGH For all livestock. 2-24-77
St. Joseph's Hospital.
- HG For all livestock. 4-11-77
Huson and Clark.
- 112 For all livestock. 4-14-77
J. H. + G. W. Stanley.
- V For left side of cattle. 4-21-77
R. E. Fitch.

- FJ For all livestock. 5-21-77
Goetz Bros.
- RH For cattle. 5-25-77
R. H. McGerory.
- ⌘ For both sides of cattle 6-2-77
also K and V O also —
Sudduth and Montgomery.
- ES For all livestock. 5-25-77
Edward S. Smith.
- W For all livestock 6-4-77
James W. Ingersoll.
- 2 For cattle 6-16-77
J. W. Phillips
- 9 For cattle. 6-26-77
Thayer and Hughes.
- LR For livestock. Frank Walcott. 7-12-77
- Y For cattle. 7-13-77
Peter Christensen.
- W For cattle. 8-3-77
Otto Gramm.
- TDA For all livestock. 8-25-77
J. G. Abbott.
- For all livestock. 9-10-77
D. K. Ford Jr.
- KIT For cattle. 9-24-77
Thomas Kirby.
- ∩ For left hip of cattle. 9-26-77
∩ For left shoulder horses.
Edgar B. Brownson
- ∴ Three dots with bar in
any position for horses
Three dots in triangular position
of M. Waters
- GY For cattle. 10-5-77
J. M. Carey and Bro.
- IB For cattle. 10-5-77
Daniel Mc Alvain.
- 8-B For left side of all livestock. 10-23-77
William Ward.
- CM For cattle, behind left shoulder. 10-26-77
Charles Mitchell.
- OC For cattle. 10-3-77
Q Keystone for horses.
J. E. Boyd.
- ⤴ For all livestock. 12-7-77
Emerson Bros.
- ⊖ For all livestock. 1-29-78
M. C. Brown.
- ⤵ For all livestock. 1-29-78
J. W. Donnellan.
- ⤵ For cattle. 2-16-78
John Martin.
- ∞ For all livestock. 2-16-78
John Goetz.
- Outline of a fish For all 2-16-78.
livestock.
A. Shelton
- Bell for all kinds of livestock. 2-16-78
H. Rice Trumbell.
- ⊖ Shield for all kinds 2-16-78
of livestock.
C. A. Punkie.
- A mortar and pestle for 2-16-78
all kinds of livestock.
Wm C. Wilson Jr.
- ⊖ Smokestack for all kinds 2-16-78
of livestock. James Hardman.
- Hat or vase for all kinds of livestock. 2-16-78
W. H. Bath and Bro.
- ⊖ For all kinds of livestock. 2-16-78
Homer and Sargent.
- Outline of a pistol for all 2-16-78
kinds of livestock.
Morgan Knadler.
- ⊖ Pitches brand for all livestock. 2-16-78
Ann M. Strong.
- Outline of a sheep for a brand 2-16-78
for all livestock.
C. F. Sodergreen.
- ⊖ Finchers brand for all 2-16-78
kinds of livestock.
Gus a Burg
- ⊖ For all kinds of livestock. 2-16-78
H. Kennedy.
- ⊖ Horseshoe for brand for 2-16-78
all kinds of livestock.
M. E. Nellis.
- ∩ For cattle and horses. 2-16-78
Peter Johnson.
- ↑ For all livestock. 2-16-78
James Davidson.
- ⊖ For all livestock. 2-16-78
J. C. Allyn.
- ⊖ For all livestock 2-16-78
J. S. Given
- 2 For all livestock. 2-23-78
A. S. Blackburn
- ⊖ For cattle. 2-28-78
C. B. Sprague.
- ROOT For all livestock. C. B. ROOT 3-18-78

NK or NK For cattle. J. K. Brown.	4-4-78	☐ For all livestock. Fred Banforth.	5-3-78
☐ For all livestock. H. D. Richardson.	4-10-78	☉ For all livestock. Eugene Baily.	6-14-78
VSI For cattle. VS For horses. N. Spindler.	4-12-78	☐ For all livestock. A. R. Teroy.	6-14-78
☐ For all livestock. Coughlin Bros.	4-22-78	☐ and ☐ For all livestock C. D. Motlery.	6-14-78
TUK For all livestock. Chas M. Turch.	4-22-78	☐ For horses. Wm Demming.	6-14-78
DIP For all livestock. L. Patton	4-22-78	47 For all livestock Chas. Cormers.	6-14-78
SD For all livestock. Huntton and Bullock.	4-22-78	☐ For all livestock. J. A. Anthony.	6-14-78
FIN For all livestock. J. J. Fein.	4-22-78	AR For all livestock. Alex Rankin.	6-14-78
SD For all livestock. Oscar W. Sodergreen.	4-27-78	X= or IX For all livestock. H. C. Harney.	6-14-78
☐ For all livestock. J. J. Hines.	5-2-78	Out line of man and cat. for all livestock. J. H. Jrewartha.	6-14-78
24 For all livestock. J. W. Harris.	5-2-78	☐ For all livestock Alex Johnson	6-14-78
☐ or ☐ For cattle and horses. John Gunster.	5-2-78	☐ For all livestock 6-14-78	
☐ For all livestock. Con Hammond.	5-6-78	☐ For all livestock. Al Sutherland.	6-14-78
☐ For all livestock. Jennie Cohen.	5-13-78	☐ For all livestock James Blau	7-1-78
☐ For all livestock James Barmon.	5-13-78	PD For all livestock. Peter McDermott.	7-1-78
☐ For all livestock. Ellen Hall.	5-1-78	☐ For left side on cattle.	7-1-78
JDA For all livestock. John J. and Dan M. Arnold.	5-1-78	☐ For left on cattle and left shoulder horses. Recorded on consent of Marsh and Harper. E. S. Baker.	7-1-78
DG For all livestock. Powell and McMillan.	5-1-78	☐ For all livestock. B. Baylis.	7-1-78
☐ For all livestock. E. A. Christie.	5-13-78	☐ For all livestock. E. Filliston.	7-1-78
MCH For all livestock. Michael McHugh.	5-13-78	☐ For all livestock Fletcher Campbell	7-1-78
WJW For all livestock.	5-13-78	☐ For all livestock Andrew Gilchrist	8-24-78
☐ and ☐ A. J. Melcalf.	5-13-78	☐ For all livestock Peter Johnson & Co.	8-24-78
FEE For all livestock. Lawrence Fee.	5-13-78	☐ For shoulder and TL on left side cattle. Horses branded right hip Marsh and Hutton	8-24-78
☐ For all livestock. John Mc Gill.	5-3-78		

-  Shoe makers sewing awl 11-8-78
H. G. Welch.
-  For all livestock. 11-21-78
W. S. Murphy.
- J N For cattle 11-21-78
Mrs. M. E. Joslin.
-  For all livestock 1-15-79
James Ypildon
- P For all livestock. Guides 11-21-78
used before the rolls in the rolling mill.
Wm. E. Latham.
- O Z For all livestock. H-21-78
Wolf and Jenkins.
Later Marsh and Cooper.
-  For all livestock 11-21-78
S. Slaymaker.
-  For cattle and used on 11-21-78
horses later.
Lawrence and McGibbon.
- 80 For any part of meat cattle. 11-21-78
Hutton and Bullock.
- F B For all livestock. 11-21-78
C. C. Bushnell.
-  For all livestock. 12-11-78
Mrs. Sayers.
-  For left shoulder of all livestock. 2-6-79
James Halstead.
Three speed cone pulley
-  For all livestock. 2-6-79
Thomas McHugh
- P A T For left side of all livestock. 2-10-78
Patrick Carroll.
-  Left side on cattle. 2-15-79
P Left shoulder on horses.
Andrew Johnson.
-  For all livestock. 2-26-79
-  For all livestock. 2-27-79
John A. Fitze
- P P For left side of cattle and 3-1-79
left hip also for horses also.
R. C. Huson.
Sold to John McGillin in 1883
-  For cattle 3-11-79
Donald Cameron.
He sold to Judson, Fisher and Sutphen
- Brand for cattle was a wattle 3-14-79
between the eyes.
W. A. Williams.
- A swallow for out of ends of 3-14-79
both ears and an under bit out
of both ears for a brand.
O. T. Wallace.
-  For left hip on all livestock. 4-2-79
Reed and Dunbar.
-  For left hip on cattle and horses. 2-24-79
Joseph Murphy.
-  For cattle 4-18-79
Andrew Nelson
-  For all livestock. 4-18-79
Stephen Downey.
-  For cattle, left shoulder horses. 4-6-79
-  For cattle. 4-14-79
John Boyle.
-  For all livestock. 4-14-79
D. J. Stanton
-  For all livestock. 6-16-79
-  For all livestock 6-16-79
-  For hip and loin on cattle 3-1-79
and thigh on horses.
-  Also 36, 37 For left side of 4-22-79
all livestock.
Oscar Rogers
-  For left side on cattle 4-23-79
and left shoulder horses.
or or or Horace Brown.
-  For left hip cattle. P Left shoulder 4-23-79
for horses. George T. Phepps.
-  For right hip cattle and 4-23-79
right shoulder on horses.
John D. O'Brien.
-  For left side on cattle and 4-25-79
left shoulder on horses.
-  For left side cattle 4-25-79
Mrs. Catherine Crehart
Thomas J. Swan only has
use of above brand to use on
left side of cattle with consent
of Mrs. Catherine Crehart.
-  For all livestock. 5-2-79
C. B. Root
-  For cattle and horses 5-6-79
J. K. Stuart.
-  For all livestock 5-24-79
Walter E. Marsh

- 1/3 For all livestock. 5-24-79
 Richard Butler
- 63 For left side of cattle. 5-24-79
 John Hayes.
- B E thus B E For cattle. 5-24-79
 Oscar Bloom.
- ☆ For left side of cattle and 5-24-79
 left shoulder of horses.
 C. A. Leroy.
- ⌒ For left side of cattle 5-24-79
 and left shoulder of horses.
 C. W. Webber.
- ⌒ For right hip of cattle 5-28-79
 Amanda Richardson.
- For both sides of cattle and
 left shoulder of horses.
 J. B. Collins.
- C. J For cattle. Left side 5-31-79
 Con Hammond.
- O B For cattle and horses. 5-31-79
- D. D For left hip or side on 6-6-79
 all livestock.
 D. A. Taylor.
- V For cattle and sheep. 6-10-79
 J. B. Simpson.
- 2 For cattle horses and mules. 4-13-79
 -† For nose on sheep.
- P M For cattle. 6-6-79
 P. G. Murphy.
- 33 For all livestock. 6-6-79
 Loranis M. Metcalf.
- ◁ For left side of cattle and 6-12-79
 one on each hip.
 L. D. Groves.
- % For hip on horses. 6-14-78
 C. B. Root.
- ⊙ For both sides of cattle 6-14-78
 E. Erinson
- 36 B For both sides of cattle. 6-18-78
 J. L. Ford.
- B B For both sides of cattle. 6-18-79
 Mrs. Mary Garrett.
- 3 C For cattle. 6-19-79
 Ford and Smith.
- E K For all livestock. 6-24-79
 E K The above brand is
 put on the latter way.
 C. Jebbets.
- G K For all livestock. 6-24-79
 G Sept. 6th 1879 For horses.
 32 For left hip of cattle
 W. Messelroy.
- J K For side or hip on cattle. 5-12-79
 N. E. Anderson.
- M For cattle. 5-12-79
 W. S. Hough.
- O P For cattle. 6-30-79
 Charles Hendy.
- O O For all livestock. 7-1-79
 John Kellog.
- E E For all livestock. 7-19-79
 Hannibal Pickford.
- M Mason's plumb level. 7-1-79
- ⊔ Gold pen for cattle. 6-22-79
 Mrs. Georgia Miller.
- ♡ For all livestock. 7-6-79
 Charles Herbig.
- J For all livestock. 6-20-79
 J. J. Grow.
- ~ ~ For side of cattle 7-21-79
 and hip on horses.
 Mrs. Sara Nottage.
- 1 B thus B For cattle and horses. 7-21-79
 Charles J. Steadman.
- 40 H For face of sheep. 6-12-79
 H. Kennedy.
- C For cattle. 6-30-79
 E. Christie.
- ⊕ For horses. 6-18-79
 A. J. Wilkins.
- F or Δ or F Brands 6-20-79
 of Thomas J. Swan.
- P P For cattle. 7-3-79
 John Reid.
- D F For sides of cattle. 7-24-79
 Dennis Fee.
- S B For right side on all livestock 8-20-79
 George Mc Miller.
- 3 H For cattle or horses. 8-5-79
 Andrew Johnson.
- ⌒ For cattle. 8-2-79
 ⌒ Horses ⌒ Cattle.
- C For right shoulder horses. 8-2-79
 M. L. Williams

- B For right side of cattle. 7-26-79
 B For both sides of cattle.
 William Bellin
- + For left hip and right side 8-26-79
 of cattle and left hip on horses.
 H. C. Lewis and Company.
- T For left side of cattle. 8-26-79
 Conner and Cassidy.
- OG For left hip on cattle 8-5-79
 Harry Halloway.
- 4 For left side of cattle. 8-16-79
 and left shoulder horses.
 D. S. Clark and Dechard.
- H For left side of cattle. 7-6-79
 D. S. Clark
- G For left side of cattle and 7-6-79
 horses
 Willis O. Stanley.
- 77 For both sides of cattle. 7-1-79
- X For left side of horses
 and cattle. 7-5-79
- 9 For left shoulder of horses 7-15-79
 Samuel D. Buskirk.
- A For right hip of cattle. 7-30-79
 John Baird.
- 44 For side on cattle any 6-20-79
 place for horses.
 Warren Blien.
- W For both sides of cattle. 7-6-79
 Albert Webb.
- KC For any place on cattle 7-27-79
 and right hip on horses.
 Peters Bros. and Weidman.
- 43 For cattle. 7-6-79
 John Wilhelmsen.
- T and K used separately 9-6-79
 on sheep.
 Mrs. M. E. Kennedy.
- 15H For cattle 10-6-79
 Herman Bros.
- VK For left side of livestock. 7-25-79
 Same cattle have one horn
 sawed off. Calves branded on both sides.
 A. S. Hayes.
- For left side of cattle. 10-28-79
 Kelley and Eberhardy.
- W For cattle and horses. 10-7-79
 H. G. Brown.
- U For cattle, horses and mules, 10-13-79
 Mules branded, mule shoe. M. E. McCaslin
- TG For right side of cattle. 10-13-79
 Thomas Green.
- E3 For cattle and horses. 10-7-79
- OS For right side of cattle. 10-22-79
 Right Hip, son's brand.
 Johnson and Walker.
- A. Bar. Thus A, running over of 10-21-79
 of shoulder and running down both sides
 R. H. McMorde.
- N For cattle 12-9-80
 E. J. Swazery.
- P For sides of cattle and 12-10-79
 and right shoulder of horses.
 Paul Parco and Brothers.
- LP For either shoulder of cattle. 12-11-79
 Paul Pearson.
- For brand a cattle on right shoulder. 12-27-79
 of cattle. F. B. Collins.
- T For left side of cattle and left 12-30-79
 shoulder of horses. John Clark.
- J For left side of cattle and 12-2-80
 left hip horses. Mrs. Evonice Brorrett.
- JL For right ribs of cattle. 6-25-80
 J. J. Harris.
- C and S For all livestock. 5-14-80
 D. H. Ford and C. J. Smith
- TOM For right side on cattle. 1-8-80
 Thomas Kirwan.
- ND For left side of cattle. 1-8-80
 N. R. Davis
- D For both sides of cattle and 1-7-80
 put on left hip. J. C. Clugston and Co.
- W For cattle. 2-3-80
 C. Raymond.
- Q For left side on cattle. 2-3-80
 O. P. Yelton.
- F For left side of cattle and 2-3-80
 left shoulder on horses.
 Trabing Brothers.
- W For cattle. 2-3-80
 Thomas D. Davis.
- HT For right side of cattle. 4-1-80
 Anthony Johnson.
- 3E For left hip of cattle and 2-5-80
 left shoulder of horses.
 A. C. Good.
- CDK For all livestock. 2-7-80
 J. J. Chadwick.

- Hth For both sides of livestock. 3-10-80
 A. H. Overman.
- T For cattle. 3-4-80
 C. W. Bingham.
- * For left side of cattle. 4-23-80
 Alfred Eckhart.
- J M For left side of cattle. 4-14-80
 George Marion.
- T For left side of cattle. 4-17-80
 M. C. Fitzmorris.
- 30 For left thigh on cattle. 4-13-80
 Thomas Whitridge.
- For all livestock. 4-3-80
 Teschmaker and De Biller.
- U For right side of cattle. 18 80
 J. Boberg.
- N For right side of animals 5-15-80
 G. Kruse.
- ◊ For left side of livestock. 5-3-80
 George Harper and Company.
 Sold to J. Q. Harrison 4-18-73
- T H For left side of cattle. 5-3-80
 H For left shoulder of horses.
- O For right shoulder of horses. 5-3-80
 Marsh and Hutton.
- 10 For left hip of cattle and horses. 4-5-80
 Frank Prager.
- T R For left side of livestock 4-20-80
 Donald L. Popper.
- C F For left side on cattle.
 S. E. Ferguson.
- F E For any place on all livestock. 6-21-80
 Fred Chrisman.
- W For right hip of cattle and 5-6-80
 left hip of animals. A. W. Laramex.
- T F For left side of all livestock. 6-25-80
 C. Boulware.
- H For left side of all horned 6-25-80
 livestock. Hobbs and Bates.
- Use ear mark for cattle 6-21-80
 brand. A. K. Seward.
- Another ear mark used for brand 5-24-80
 G. A. Burg.
- E For left shoulder of horses, mares. 6-25-80
 Jennima Brown.
- P I For all livestock 6-25-80
 Frank Mulhern & son
- For all livestock. 6-14-80
 Baker and Miller.
- M C For left side of cattle. 6-2-80
 Peter McFarland.
- H Both sides of cattle left hip 5-29-80
 or shoulder of horses. Manson & Haines.
 12-5-80. Sold to A. G. Dumm.
- Under bit and swallow fork 6-26-80
 in each ear for sheep. L. D. Kennedy.
- H P For left side of cattle. 7-24-80
 J. N. Lane.
- C C For cattle. J. M. for left 6-29-80
 strip of cattle. J. D. Alford.
- F H For right side of cattle 7-7-80
 and right shoulder of horses.
 Dennis Ryan.
- E For cattle and horses. 7-12-80
 J. Chrisman.
- H I J For right side of cattle. 7-24-80
 David Harden.
- 96 For any part of cattle. 8-4-80
 Benjamin Weaver & Co.
- Also $\frac{1}{2}$ For cattle. 8-7-80
- X For left hip cattle. 7-31-80
 J. A. Grace or J. D. Adams.
- P I For left hip of cattle. 7-31-80
 J. W. Brahman.
- H X For left side of cattle. 8-17-80
 John Lane.
- C For any part of horses or cattle. 7-5-80
 Marcell Honsey & Co.
- ⊕ C O For left side of cattle. 8-27-80
 William H. Yankee.
- End of rail and bar 9-7-80
 J. J. Chopper.
- 4011 For any part of cattle. 7-10-80
 J. E. Adams
- W For left side of cattle and
 left shoulder of horses.
 Henry Wagner.
- V For left side of cattle and 7-28-80
 left shoulder of horses.
 S. J. Phillips.
- G For left side of cattle 9-30-80
 Henry J. Dunham.
- U For right side of cattle. 10-12-80
 P. M. Doyle.

- 3 For left hip of cattle or horses. 10-15-80
 William Downing.
- 4 For cattle. 8-12-80
 C. J. Olson.
- 5 For cattle. 8-12-80
 Harriet Buzzel.
- 6 For cattle. 8-12-80
- 7 For left stiff or shoulder of horses. 8-14-80
 John Straus
- 8 For left shoulder of horses or mules. 9-15-80
 Wm. H. Yankee, J. C. Caley and O. A. Boss.
- 9 For left shoulder of cattle and horses. 9-24-80
 William Hunt.
- 10 For left shoulder of cattle. 8-20-80
 E. C. Hallenbeck & Co.
- 11 For either side of cattle. 10-8-80
 Zachariah Thomason.
- 12 For left side of cattle. 10-9-80
 Hugh Atkinson
- 13 For right side of cattle and left shoulder of horses. 9-28-80
- 14 For horn brand on work stock. G. D. Thayer.
- 15 For left shoulder of horses. 8-18-80
 For left C. Bilderbark.
- 16 For left hip on horses. 8-8-80
 W. F. Dolphe
- 17 For left hip of all livestock. 9-23-80
 Malcolm Campbell.
- 18 For left hip of all livestock. 9-23-80
 James Monroe.
- 19 For left hip on all livestock. 9-23-80
 Joseph Clifford.
- 20 For any part of cattle. 8-1-80
 21 For horse. Murray and Pringle
- 22 For left hip on horses and cattle. 10-8-80
 Mrs. C. C. Henry.
- 23 For left side of cattle and left shoulder of horses. 10-8-80
 Spencer & Soots.
- 24 + CR For all livestock. 9-30-80
 C. Hecht and Bro.
- 25 For cattle. 9-21-80
 F. E. and C. E. Newland & S. N. Beckwith
- 26 For right side of cattle. 10-13-80
 Rush Lantz & Co.
- 27 For any part of livestock. 11-27-80
 Chas. Hecht.
- 28 For left side of cattle and left shoulder of horses. 11-10-80
- 29 For left side on cattle. 10-12-80
 Hugh Atkinson
- 30 For all livestock. 10-27-80
 Samuel Groves

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CHAPTER II

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Dr. H. Latham,

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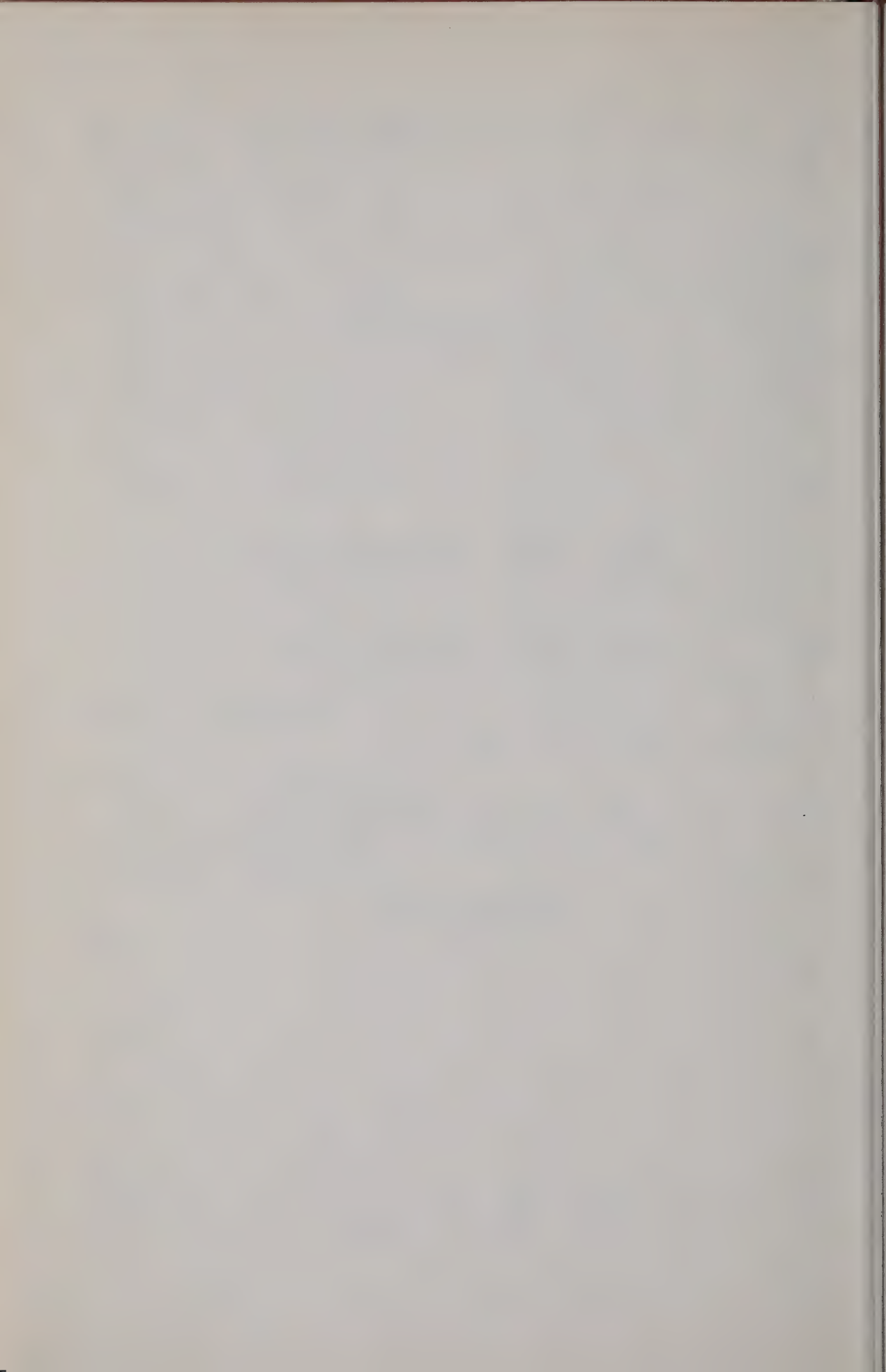
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CHAPTER II

Dr. H. Latham, U. P. Surgeon and Laramie Plains Booster

By R. H. "Bob" Burns

DR. LATHAM came to Laramie with the railroad as the Chief Surgeon for that organization and soon became a booster for the undeveloped resources of the vast Laramie Plains. The Laramie Daily Sentinel for Aug. 9, 1870, mentions that Dr. Latham and his Company (H. Latham, H. W. Gray and Charles A. Lambert) have the finest drove of cattle of all the thousands which had been located in the valley. They are the finest because they are worth the most money. Out of about 3,000 head there are nearly 1,000 calves which were not reckoned in the purchase and may be said to have cost nothing. The balance are nearly all cows, yearling and two year old cattle. On May 8, 1871 the same paper mentioned that a party of eastern gentlemen in partnership with Dr. Latham have located near Wyoming Station. The G.L.O. Map of 1871 shows the ranch of Dr. Latham on SE $\frac{1}{4}$ Section 20, Township 18, Range 77W. on Cooper Creek at the Overland stage road crossing. This would be close to the present Hansell place, now occupied by the Yankowski family. The Latham Bottoms between Wyoming Station and Bosler, on the west side of the Railroad are named after Dr. Latham. Nancy Fillmore Brown giving her girlhood recollections of Laramie in 1870-71 (Wyo. Hist. Quart. 1-15-24) speaks as follows: "Dr. Latham, a most interesting character.

A tall erect person and was Union Pacific Surgeon in charge of the hospital here. He was full of anecdotes and a charming talker, a man of culture and education. Years after he left here I met him in California, where he was managing Mrs. Hurst's large estate. Previous to that, after leaving here, he held some important educational commission in Japan." Dr. Latham made numerous trips to the east and the Laramie Daily Sentinel of Feb. 10, 1871, states that Dr. H. Latham returned to our city last evening after a lengthy and extended visit in New England, New York and Washington. "We are glad to welcome the Doctor back though it is safe to bet that he put in his time for the benefit of Wyoming while he was circulating around in the East." The same paper on March 13, 1871 welcomes the arrival of a daughter in the Latham family, and in April Dr. Latham was the Secretary of the Committee which drew up a constitution and by-laws for the Stock Grazing Association, grandpappy of the Wyoming Stock Growers and Wool Growers Associations. The Laramie Daily Sentinel of May 10, 1871, mentions Dr. Latham's letters to the Omaha Herald which were published in pamphlet form and today that pamphlet is a very rare and prized publication. The writer has seen the only copy in this area, at the Denver Public Library and Dr. Latham makes

quite a survey, all-be-it a most enthusiastic one, concerning the possibilities of Stock Grazing in the Trans-Missouri area. The introduction reads "The pasture lands of North America: Winter Grazing: The sources of the future beef and wool supply of the United States. A description of the vast region lying between the Arkansas on the south, the British Possessions on the north, the 100th Meridian on the east, and the summit of the Rocky Mountains on the west, where the grasses are self-curing, and where sheep and cattle live and thrive the year around without other food or shelter than that afforded by nature." Let us look at some further excerpts from the pamphlet.

Letter to H. Latham from Alex Majors of Soda Springs (Majors was the founder of the original express company who also had extensive livestock holdings and other businesses), Utah, dated May 1, 1869—Has grazed cattle on plains and mountains for twenty years. During that time I have never had less than 500 head of work cattle and for two winters in 1857 and 1858 I wintered 15,000 head of work oxen on the plains. My experience extends from El Paso to an area 100 miles north of Fort Benton, Montana. Then oxen in fall become fat by spring with no feed except grass, and as high as 33½ percent have been sold as beef in the spring."

Letter to H. Latham from Edward Creighton, President First National bank of Omaha dated April 15, 1870 at Omaha, Nebr. (Creighton was the financial partner of Hutton and Alsop, who started ranching on the Laramie Plains in 1869)—"My first grazing in the country west of the Missouri River

was during the winter of 1859. Since then I have grazed stock, including horses, sheep and cattle, for eleven winters in Colorado, Wyoming, Utah and Montana. The first seven winters I grazed work oxen mostly. Large work oxen winter exceedingly well on grasses and come out in good condition for summer work on May 1. The last four winters I have been raising stock and have had large herds of cows and calves. During the present winter (1869-70) I have wintered about 8,000 head. They have done exceptionally well, no shelter but bluffs and hills and no feed but wild grasses.—we have had 3,000 sheep the past winter and they are in the best of order and many were sold for mutton. The west has a great future in livestock raising and a hundred years hence our increased population, even as dense as is Europe, can be supplied with wool, mutton, beef and horses from this area at half the present prices of eastern-produced stock."

Extract from message of Governor J. A. Campbell of Wyoming—"There is an old Spanish proverb that 'wherever the foot of the sheep touches, the land turns to gold'. The dry 'gravelly soil of our plains is peculiarly adapted to sheep raising for it produces the richest of grasses and preserves their feet from diseases fatal to flocks in moister climates. For years the United States has been importing an average of 50 million pounds of wool per year and this insures a ready market. Not only sheep but other wool bearing animals like cashmere and alpaca goats could be raised and their importation should be encouraged."

Article IV in Latham pamphlet—North Platte Valley, North Park, Big

and Little Laramies—Fifteen million acres of unsurpassed winter and summer grazing in the region of pine forests and cool fields—Source to mouth of North Platte is a distance of 800 miles or more. All the region at east base of Black Hills has been favorite wintering grounds for past twenty years from Cache la Poudre on south to Fort Fetterman on the north. Climate at Fort Laramie for twenty-year period is 50 degrees Fahrenheit. Mean temperature for spring months 47 degrees, for summer months 72 degrees, and for autumn 50 degrees; for winter 31 degrees. Annual rainfall about 18 inches, distributed as follows: Spring 8.69 inches, summer 5.7 inches,

and autumn 3.96 inches, snowfall is 18 inches. Extent and resources of North Platte Basin estimated at eight million acres of pasture. Ohio has six million sheep, yielding eighteen million pounds of wool, with an income to farmers of four and a half million dollars. This eight million acres in the North Platte basin would feed at least eight million sheep yielding twenty-four million pounds of wool at Ohio prices worth six million dollars."

It is interesting to compare this prophecy with the way the sheep industry did grow in Wyoming. Wyoming Agricultural Statistics (Bul. 16) for 1951 gives the following figures:

Year	No. Farms and Ranches	No. Sheep and Lambs	Av. No. Sheep and Lambs per Farm & Ranch
1870	175	6,409	37
1900	6,095	3,327,185	546
1935	17,487	3,475,723	199 (Peak year)
1950	12,612	1,783,711	141

Dr. Latham was an optimist but nevertheless the Wyoming ranges can support three and a half million sheep nicely.

Dr. Latham's pamphlet has this to say of the Laramie Plains.—The great Laramie plains are 90 miles north and south and 60 miles east and west. It is on the extreme northern portion of these plains in the valley of Deer Creek that General Reynolds wintered during the winter of 1860 and of which he remarks: "The fact that 70 exhausted animals turned out to winter on the plains the first of November, came out in the spring in the best condition and with the loss of but one of the num-

ber is the most forcible commentary I can make of the quality of the grass and the character of the winter. Since 1869 many herds of work oxen belonging to emigrants, freighters and ranchers have grazed here each winter. It is on these plains in the Laramie Valley that Messrs. Creighton and Hutton have their sheep, horses and cattle, and which Mr. Edward Creighton says (undated letter, probably 1870)—"The last four winters I have been raising stock and have had large herds of cows and calves in the valley of the Laramie. The present winter (1869-70??) I have wintered 8,000 head. They have done exceedingly well. We have had

3,000 head of sheep the past winter and they are in the best of shape and are being sold daily for mutton. Dr. Latham speaks of visiting the herds and flocks of the Plains, the cattle, horses, and sheep of Creighton, Hutton and Alsop on the Big Laramie. Herd of 4,000 cows, 3,600 calves, 1,000 two-year-olds, and 500 yearlings. Range takes in an area fifteen by twenty miles. Beef herd of 3,500 Texas cattle averaging 1,300 pounds liveweight. Blooded stock cattle on And Creek number 400 head, mostly cows. Durham bulls from Ohio are used. There are 10,000 sheep plus 3,000 lambs, some from New Mexico; but many fine Merinos from Iowa which average fully 5 pounds of wool per head. They have an investment of \$300,000; with five miles of fence enclosing hay grounds and pasture for riding stock.

Dr. H. Latham registered the first brand in Albany County, which has the following entry in Book 1, Marks and Brands of Albany County—


Laramie, W. T.,
October 2, 1871

"I hereby send you for record the brand adopted by Latham & Co. viz: An arrow on left side or left shoulder. The arrow on some cattle is very much like a bar brand.

Signed: H. Latham

The Laramie Daily Sentinel of Dec. 9 and 22, 1873 gives the account of a petition for adjudication of bankruptcy for Latham & Co., and evidently the business did not prosper and Dr. Latham in September 1873 wrote from Japan, where he had gone suddenly, to accept a lucrative position as Superintendent for a Railroad, and later wrote from Japan in Sept. 11, 1874 that he was Superintendent of the Imperial College there, and gives a lively description of the low costs there and the fine countryside and mentions incidentally that he is in good health and weighs 205 pounds and is still growing. He states that he has classes in geometry, algebra, natural philosophy, political economy and other branches. The Laramie Daily Sentinel of Sept. 20, 1876 gives an account of proceedings in the District Court and states—Of the civil business there have been two old Albany County suits, which have taken up considerable time. One of them is in regard to the closing out of the stock interests of Dr. Latham by his creditors.

This is the last mention of Dr. Latham who wrote glowingly of the grass resources of the Laramie Plains, but seemingly was one of those who did not have the business acumen to make a success of the business. However, his glowing accounts had much to do with others trying the stock growing business and these did make a success of it.

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CHAPTER III





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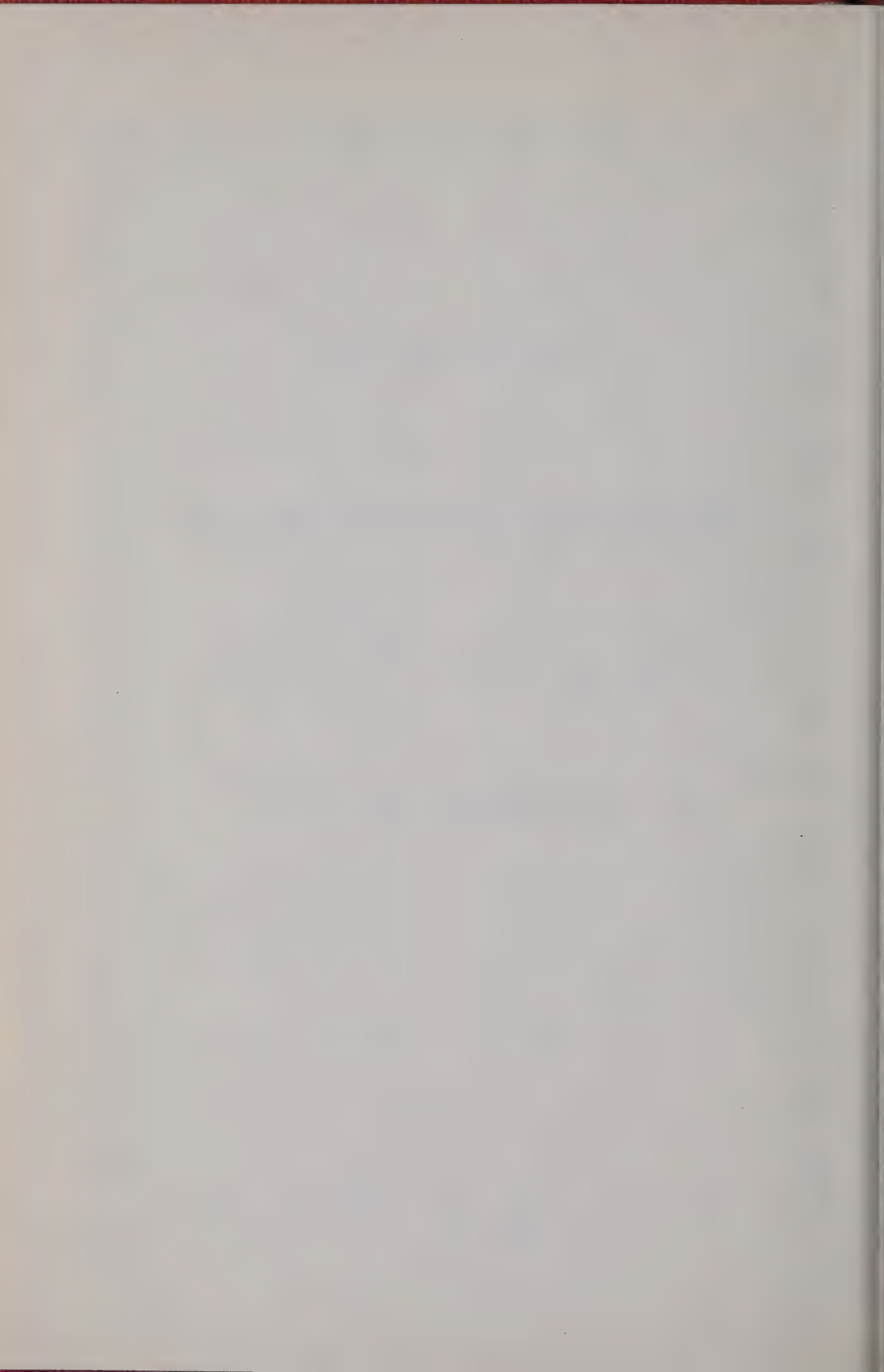
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CHAPTER III

ORGANIZATION OF WYOMING STOCKGRAZERS ASSOCIATION IN LARAMIE IN 1871

By R. H. "Bob" Burns

FOUR of Laramie's pioneers, Messrs. Haley, Fox, Latham and Hutton, along with Mr. Kingman of Cheyenne, appear on the invitation to all those in Wyoming territory interested in stock grazing to come to a meeting. The meeting was held at Laramie on April 14, 1871, and resulted in the organization of the Wyoming Stock Graziers Association, which later became the Wyoming Stockgrowers Association. Mr. Kingman had holdings east of Cheyenne, while Ora Haley was a pioneer cattleman as well as the first meat market owner in Laramie. He later had ranches on both the Little and Big Laramie Rivers and eventually had cow camps scattered all the way to the Bear River in western Colorado. He built the stone buildings around 1870 which still stand on the JO Ranch some 20 miles southeast of Dad in south-central Carbon County. In Laramie in 1886 Ora Haley built the residence for his family which is now the American Legion home, which still bears the inscription 'Anno Domini' 1886, high up on the wall above the entrance door facing east. George W. Fox, Haley's partner in the meat market, was in various businesses in Laramie and in his later years spent a great amount of time and money in the development of mines around Cooper Hill, which is north of the present

oil camp at Quealy Dome.

Dr. H. Latham was the first Union Pacific doctor in Laramie and an all-out booster for the livestock business on these Laramie Plains. In fact he was a one-man chamber of commerce and spread the gospel of Laramie City and the Laramie Plains in many populous areas of the country and particularly in New England. Charley Hutton was one of the firm of Creighton, Hutton and Alsop, the original ranchers of these Laramie Plains and among the first in the west to see the future of making beef on grass. He built up and lived for years on the Heart Ranch some ten miles southwest of Laramie on the Big Laramie River. Hutton Grove, the large cottonwood grove in that vicinity, was named for Charley Hutton.

Need For and Usefulness of a Stock Association

At the meeting of the citizens of Wyoming Territory interested in stock and wool growing, Mr. Luther Fillmore was elected Chairman and Colonel Frank Wolcott, Secretary. Dr. Latham stated that the purpose of the meeting was to organize a permanent society of stock growers of the territory to obtain concentrated action for introducing blooded stock of all kinds, to determine and control the time of

running-at-large of bulls; to encourage men of small means through establishing cooperative herds; to prevent straying of stock and ensure return to the rightful owners; to detect and punish stock thieves so that all property would be just as safe on these plains and mountains as in the small pastures back east; and to secure such legislation as experience may suggest for the best interests of the stock-raiser of the territory.

Constitution Adopted for the Society

The committee on permanent organization in May, 1871, reported the constitution which was adopted and thus the Wyoming Stock and Wool Growers Society was organized in Laramie to serve the entire territory of Wyoming. It is interesting to note that a section of the constitution states that the regular meeting of the society shall be held at the capitol of the territory on the second Tuesday of November in each year. The committee which drafted this constitution consisted of Charley Hutton, Dr. Latham, and Ora Haley of Laramie, and Governor Campbell and Col. Wolcott of Cheyenne.

First Officers of the Society

The first officers to hold office under the constitution consisted of Governor J. A. Campbell, President, and five Vice-Presidents from different counties; T. Alsop from Albany, J. W. Illiff from Laramie, E. Hunt from Carbon, S. J. Field from Sweetwater, and W. A. Carter from Uinta. Luther Fillmore of Laramie was elected treasurer and H. Latham, secretary. The first annual meeting of the Wyoming Stock Graziers' Association was held in

Cheyenne the second Tuesday of November, as specified in the constitution. The officers were reelected. In August 1872 stock growers of Albany County organized a Wyoming Horse Improvement Association with Tom Alsop as President and Wm. Hunter, Secretary. They held races to prove the quality of their stock and the first races held in August 1872 were well attended.

The Association grew in importance, and now in 1955 is in its 84th year.

The Wyoming Wool Growers Association was formed in Cheyenne in April 1905. The call for the meeting was made by George Walker, Secretary of the Board of Sheep Commissioners for April 11-13, 1905, at the request of many sheepmen of Wyoming. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss forestry and other problems of interest to sheepmen, particularly the tariff, inasmuch as there was a strong possibility of the U. S. Congress being called into special session to revise the Tariff. The Wyoming Wool Growers, now in its fiftieth year, is a strong representative of the sheepmen of Wyoming in the halls of Congress in Washington. J. Byron Wilson, present Secretary, is the son of the first and long-time President of the Wyoming Wool Growers, Dr. J. M. Wilson, who was president of the Board of Sheep Commissioners in 1905 when the Wool Growers were organized.

Thus Laramie, the cradle of the range industry in Wyoming was naturally the logical place for the organization of a Stock Graziers Society, which, later developed into one of the earliest and strongest of the great cattlemen's association which served them, as today, as a model of an organization

which extends expert service to its members in checking stray stock on all livestock markets and seeing that the proceeds from their sale gets to the rightful owner.

CHAPTER III

SOURCES AND FURTHER READING

ANONYMOUS 1871

Notice to those interested in stock grazing. Laramie Daily Sentinel April 13-14, 1871. Page 3.

ANONYMOUS 1871

Minutes of Meeting of those interested in stock grazing. Laramie Daily Sentinel April 17, 1871. Page 3.

ANONYMOUS 1871

Adjourned meeting for the organization of a Territorial Stock and Wool Growing Association, was held at the Railroad Superintendent's office on Saturday evening last. Constitution adopted. Officers elected. Laramie Daily Sentinel May 31, 1871. Page 2.

ANONYMOUS 1872

Stock Growers organize Wyoming Horse Improvement Association of Albany County. Thos. Alsop, President and Wm. Hunter, Secretary. Laramie Daily Sentinel, Aug. 1, 1872. Page 3, Col. 2.

ANONYMOUS 1872

Opening races of Horse Association well attended. Laramie Daily Sentinel Aug. 5, 1872. Page 3, Col. 2.

ANONYMOUS 1905

Flockmasters at Cheyenne. First annual convention of the Wyoming Wool Growers Association is very successful. Fight expected over leasing of public lands by the government. Meeting called to order by Dr. J. M. Wilson of the State Board of Sheep Commissioners. Committees appointed for Resolutions and By-Laws. Laramie Boomerang April 13, 1905. Page 1, Col. 1.

LATHAM H. 1871

Notice of Annual Meeting of Wyoming Stock Graziers' Association at Cheyenne on second Tuesday of November. Laramie Daily Sentinel Nov. 8, 1871. Page 3, Col. 2.

LATHAM, H. 1871

Report on meeting of the Wyoming Stock Graziers' Association at Cheyenne. Officers reelected. Laramie Daily Bulletin Nov. 16, 1871. Page 3, Col. 2.

WALKER, Geo. S. 1905 (Secy.)

Board of Sheep Commissioners. Meeting of flockmasters is called to take place at Cheyenne on April 11-13. In response to request by many sheepmen of Wyoming the State Board of Sheep Commissioners has called a meeting of the flockmasters—for the purpose of organizing the Wyoming Wool Growers' Association, and to discuss forestry and other problems of interest to sheepmen. Possibility of extra session of Congress being called to revise Tariff. Laramie Boomerang Apr. 8, 1905. Page 2, Col. 2.

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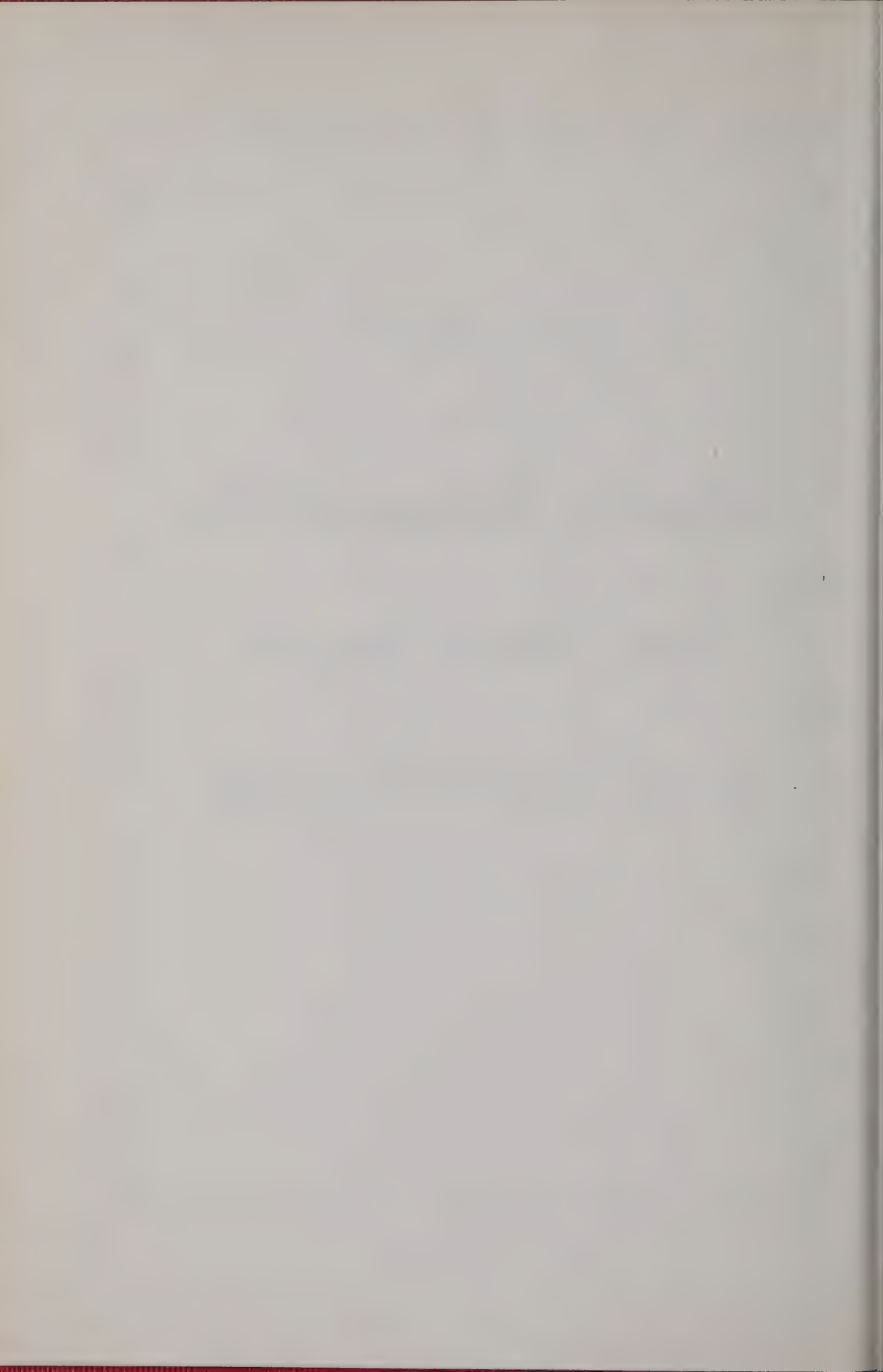
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CHAPTER IV

*Clashes Between Cattle
and Sheep Owners
on the Laramie Plains*

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CHAPTER IV

CLASHES BETWEEN CATTLE AND SHEEP OWNERS ON THE LARAMIE PLAINS

By R. H. "Bob" Burns

ALTHOUGH cattle and sheep owners did not settle their differences without violence in many areas of the west, the Laramie Plains were peculiarly free of such trouble. Creighton, Hutton and Alsop, pioneer ranchers, had both sheep and cattle. Insofar as the writer is aware there were only two incidents on the Laramie Plains in which violence and death followed a controversy over ranch by cattle and sheepmen.

The first incident happened on Dutton Creek and is reported in the Laramie Boomerang for May 3, 1905. This article gives an interview with Mrs. James Daugherty, a remarkable pioneer woman who was in town as a witness in a suit of the railroad company. She was the first woman to cross the plains on a stage and her first husband, Mr. Lubber, was killed by Indians near the home on Dutton Creek on September 17, 1876. He was from Denver and she had married him there after taking a trip to Virginia City, Montana, as a nurse to a Doctor's family. Mr. Lubber was killed under mysterious circumstances and the rumor was that he was killed at the instigation of cattle interests, which rumor has never been authenticated. Be that as it may, the fact is that a sheepman was killed after being warned to keep off that range. Mrs.

Fannie G. H. Johnson, who lived on the Hansell place on Cooper Creek, knew where Mr. Lubber was buried near that ranch, but in recent years activity by the oil companies has obliterated the location of the grave.

Mrs. Florence McCollum and the late Joe King furnished the writer with information concerning the so-called Albany County Sheep Raid. The headlines in the Laramie Boomerang tell the story in short and startling sentences. On April 27, 1904, the story on the front page was headed: "Raid upon a sheep camp—three hundred sheep slaughtered by masked men—Maxwell and Stevens flock were grazed upon deeded land leased from owner by sheepmen—Raid by band of sixteen masked men on sheep camp of Maxwell & Stevens on Weaver Ranch, twenty-four miles south of Laramie—Two sheep wagons destroyed by fire and 300 head of sheep killed—Cyrus Engbrson, foreman of the sheep camp, brought in word after walking seven miles from sheep camp to Tie Siding and thence by train to Laramie. Warrants sworn out for the men recognized by the herders."

This story was in favor of the sheepmen. However there was another side to the story and in a news item on May 14, 1904 Anny Keyes stated in a letter to the newspaper that the sheep were



Dead sheep after Stevens-Maxwell raid. Photo by B. C. Buffum.

trespassing and on April 18 were on the Keyes ranch land where they did not belong. In another item appearing in the May 15, 1904 Laramie Boomerang a number of ranchmen who signed their names, maintain that the sheep flock of Maxwell and Stevens had trespassed on their lands at various times and were trespassing as much of the time as they were on their leased land. The June 4, 1904 Laramie Boomerang carries the news item titled—"A verdict of not guilty. Ranchmen charged with sheep raid are acquitted. Jury was out five hours—Prosecution sought to prove identification by the herders and defense an alibi in each case. Herders swore that they recognized raiders in spite of their masks."

The ranchmen were particularly irate because Mr. Stevens, who had run these sheep on the south Sybille, had brought them over to the Tie Siding area and had gone into partner-

ship with Mr. Maxwell, ostensibly to gain range rights, and then had leased the Weaver land, which the ranchmen maintain was not sufficiently large to furnish range for the band of sheep, and consequently the sheep were constantly trespassing on the property of neighboring ranchers.

The Laramie Boomerang for Dec. 13, 1904 states that Dr. Stevens bought out the interest of Mr. William Maxwell in the Maxwell-Stevens herd of sheep. The sheep are ranging upon the range of Mr. Stevens in the Sybille in charge of Charles Jarvis as foreman.

This incident was the only one of consequence in which Albany County cattle and sheepmen disagreed, and the trouble broke out in violence. In fact the earliest ranchers, such as Creighton, Hutton and Alsop, ran both cattle and sheep and Bob Homer ran sheep for many years until the bad storms late in the 1880s forced him out of the business.



Burned wagon, cabin and dead sheep—Stevens-Maxwell raid. Archives and Western History Department, University of Wyoming Library



Men pulling wool from dead sheep—Stevens-Maxwell raid. Archives and Western History Department., University of Wyoming Library

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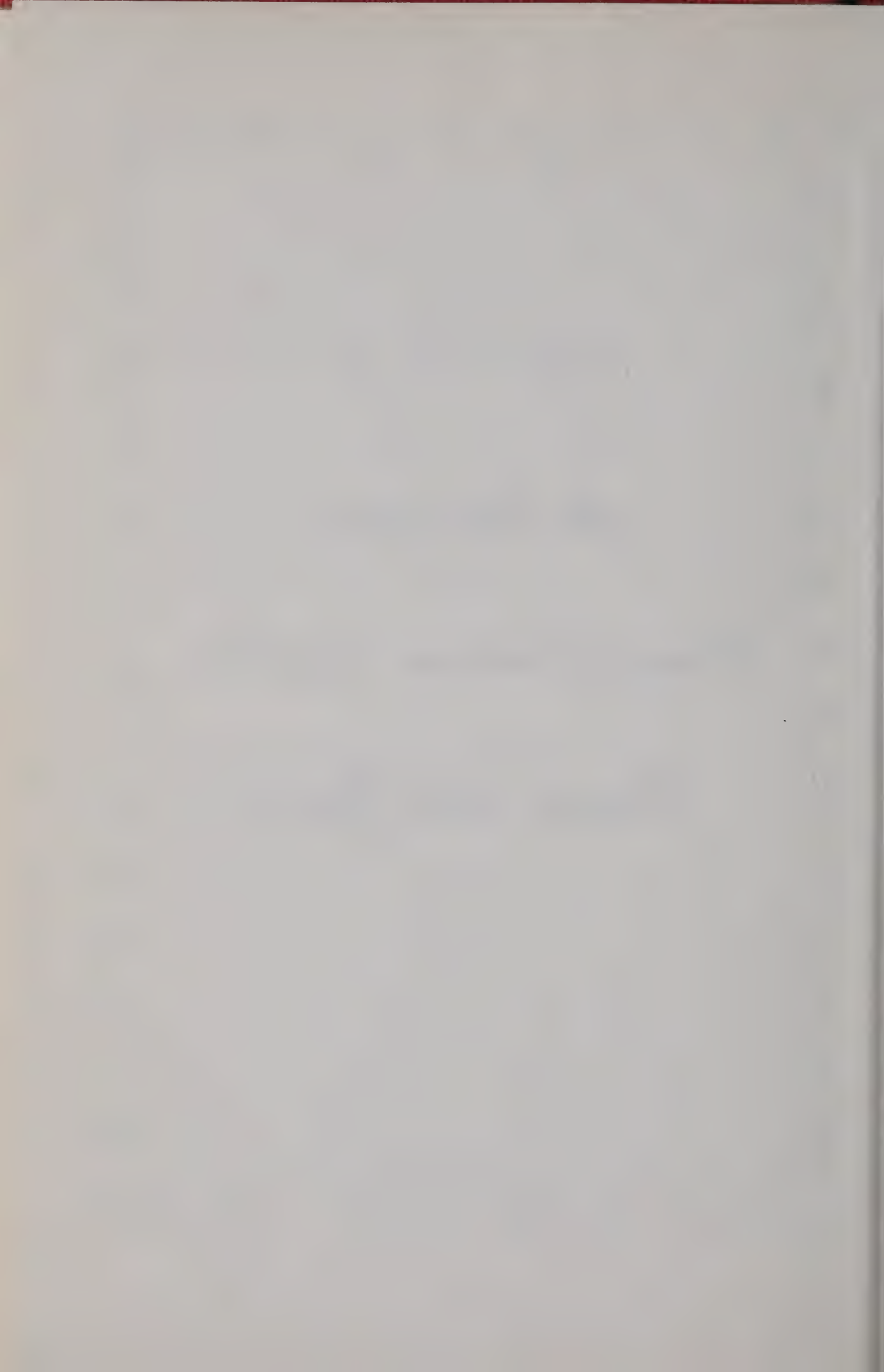
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CHAPTER V

AL HOUSTON, PIONEER INDIAN FIGHTER, HUNTER AND GUIDE

By R. H. "Bob" Burns

AL HOUSTON came west to Denver in 1857 from Kansas City by Wagon Train. He hunted game for the Overland Stage Company around 1860, between Laramie and Bitter Creek, and furnished meat for the Union Pacific Railroad construction crews. About 1863 he settled on the Laramie River just north of where Laramie City was later located. In 1879 he moved to the Platte River valley. He sold out in 1909 and moved to California, where he died on Nov. 20, 1915. He was a guide for hunting parties and was a great friend of Captain Cooper of the firm of Marsh & Cooper, who ran the 7L Ranch. One fall Capt. Cooper could not come for a hunting trip he had made arrangements for with Al Houston, so he wired from England to his partner Bob Marsh, to give Al Houston a present of \$1000. Around 1860 Al Houston had one of the first repeating Winchester rifles in the range country. This was a sixteen shot repeater and he gave the Indians a surprise and a scare when they rushed him, as was customary after the first shot from a muzzle loader. The Indians would wait for the first shot from a muzzle loader and then would rush the unarmed (unloaded) pioneer and overpower him before he could reload. Houston fooled them with his repeater and killed off five in all before they could reconsider their

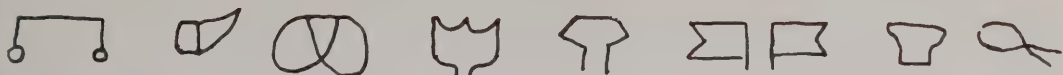
action and beat a hasty retreat.

The late Oscar Sodergreen told the writer that Al Houston was at the Mandel ranch when he came to Wyoming in 1873 and soon afterwards Houston moved across the river. Oscar remembered vividly Al's repeating Winchester rifle which was around a .44 rim-fire caliber. The late Jim King told the writer that Al Houston was one of the finest shots he ever saw perform. He could pick out certain game animals from a herd with his rifle. He invited Jim, as a kid of twelve, to go on a two month's hunting trip with one of his parties, but Jim's Dad thought Jim was too young. Bill Houston, a brother, married a squaw. Al moved around from place to place with his wagon and team. When he saw a good piece of land he would settle there for a while and then sell out. Consequently he had many locations, but never a permanent one. He had a fine team which he called "Shad" and "Billy". He used this team on his numerous hunting trips where he acted as guide for hunting parties.

The Laramie Daily Sentinel of June 30, 1871 reports that "an English gentleman has been making Laramie his headquarters for hunting trips into the neighboring mountains during the past year. He went out west with 'Al' Houston, who is his constant hunting companion. A friend of ours came

across the party only a day's ride from here in the North Park, one day this week, and from him we learn that they are having a good time and fine sport. Besides innumerable quantities of deer, elk, antelope, etc., they had

'bagged' nine bears, some of them monsters. One weighed over 800 pounds. The 'Wilds of Africa' don't furnish any finer field for the sportsman than this Rocky Mountain region."



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CHAPTER VI

Landmarks on the

Laramie Plains

Part 1

CHAPTER VI

LANDMARKS ON THE LARAMIE PLAINS

Part I.

By A. S. "Bud" Gillespie

INASMUCH as this article is a personal narrative of the experiences of the author, it will be written in the first person.

Past articles have mentioned that the Laramie Plains is one of the largest plateaus in the world at such a high elevation, and it measures about 100 miles long and 50 miles wide. The elevation is around 7,000 feet and this high elevation and the wide open spaces give the country its barren but fascinating distances and its breezy and unpredictable climate.

Now to get the orientation of this article clear it is necessary to spot the location of the Gillespie ranch, which was the center of my travels, herein related. The Gillespie ranch was located on the Big Laramie River on Section 10 Township 20, Range 74, and this location is 18 miles east and 1½ miles south from Rock River. It was fifteen miles southeast of the old station of Rock Creek.

Where I was raised, every morning when the weather was reasonably clear, you could open the door and there before you stood one of the most prominent land marks in the country—Laramie Peak, waiting to bid you top of the morning! It stands there with its head some 11,000 feet above sea level and from its lofty summit one can

see landmarks in four different states. It is seldom covered with snow, possibly due to its lack of timber cover and its solid rock formation. This fine landmark is visible from almost anywhere on the Laramie Plains and on a clear day can be seen as a point on the horizon some ninety miles away. There have been some disastrous plane crashes on this peak and no survivors have been left to tell the tale. Among those lost in crashes were a bride and groom and they never even found as much as the Bride's rings.

ELK MOUNTAIN is another landmark which the Laramie Plains people are proud of. It even acts as a barometer and one often hears the natives say—Look out, 'the old lady' has her nightcap on, and when the clouds shroud the summit some nasty weather is usually brewing. In the morning, if that mountain summit is clear, you are reasonably safe in starting on a day's journey, but take care if the old lady has her nightcap on. Elk Mountain stands off independently from the north extremity of the Medicine Bow Mountains and is a dangerous place for aviators. One small mail plane crashed against its east wall and another large plane full of passengers crashed on a spine which projects southwest from the crest of the peak.



Laramie Peak. (Midwest Review Photo.)



Chimney Rock. (Svenson-Ludwig Studio Photo)

A bride and groom were lost in that crash and most of the other deceased passengers were boys in service who were on furlough. Snow can usually be seen on Elk Mountain as late as August and one peculiar spot on the east face, from the town of Elk Mountain, appears to be a likeness of Abe Lincoln's head. Its elevation is slightly over eleven thousand feet and it is slightly lower than Laramie Peak. Elk Mountain can not be seen from Laramie as it is around the shoulder of the Medicine Bow range north of Morgan, but when one travels a few miles north of Laramie, Elk Mountain comes prominently into view on the left.

The MEDICINE BOW MOUNTAINS are more than a single landmark for they are a range of mountains extending north from North Park and ending in a series of peaks north of the so-called SNOWY RANGE, which culminates in ELK MOUNTAIN their northern extremity. These mountains range in height up to 12,000 feet, with Medicine Bow Peak the highest point, being almost straight west of Laramie. Portions of it are snow covered for most of the year, and the great escarpments which give the Snowy Range its name, are made up of white quartzite and other rocks of white, which give it a white appearance even when not covered with snow. This heavy snow cover makes it quite a place for tourists to make snow balls in July, and is quite an attraction for those who have just come from the dank heat of the East and Midwest in mid-summer. These mountains are covered with a heavy growth of commercial timber which not only has furnished ties and timber since early days, but also holds the

snow, which insures an adequate water supply for the growing of hay and crops along the numerous streams which find their source in its snow-capped summits. Its numerous streams and alpine lakes, most of them above timber line, furnish scenery and fishing for the tourists and many summer cabins are nestled in the timber in the lower elevations along the streams and lakes and they give delightful rest and relaxation to their owners who come seeking a haven from the cares and vexations of a world which moves so swiftly and at times rather madly. Wild game is found throughout the mountains which furnish summer range for a considerable number of sleek "white-faces" and a few "woolies".

South of the Snowy Range is a separate range called SHEEP MOUNTAIN, and an interesting trip is to circle this mountain, going up Fox Creek from Woods Landing and skirting the west side and coming around the north end and then cutting back south to the Strom Ranch, and back to the Woods Landing road. At a distance from the east it appears to be in the shape of a sheep. It is entirely separated from the other range. It is quite rocky and has sparse stands of evergreen timber and quaking aspen and is well stocked with deer.

Just south of Sheep Mountain is another prominent landmark, JELM MOUNTAIN, which can be seen from almost anywhere in the eastern part of the Plains. It is somewhat the shape of Elk Mountain but is not so large or so high. The northern slope has a considerable amount of timber and a fair amount of land area, as Bob Burns can attest to after trying to catch up with an elk herd there some years ago.

Going on south there is a smaller mountain called RING MOUNTAIN, which has the appearance of having an iron ring pressed down on it, leaving a furrow around its slopes.

Next we come to RED MOUNTAIN, which is rightfully named, and the red bluffs around a portion of its perimeter show up prominently particularly on the south side. This in the past has been a favorite deer hunting site and the wily deer must be watched for they circle the south point and come out ahead of an unwily hunter who does not cover the returning trail on the west side. There are scattered patches of timber on Red Mountain and a fairly good trail ascends the west side.

The next landmark is BULL MOUNTAIN, most of which lies in Colorado and which runs almost east and west and has a large area of land and considerable timber.

Now we are ready for the sandstone landmarks around Sand Creek, which have been a rendezvous for picnickers and geologists alike, since the early days and are the site of the shelter which early day oxen found in December 1865 and by their example, started the range livestock business. In this area wind erosion has resulted in many fantastic shapes of rocks and the rough surface of the rocks make them easy to climb and a favorite place for the outdoor enthusiasts to picnic. The most prominent landmark in this area is CHIMNEY ROCK, which gets its name from its "chimney-like" appearance when viewed from the north. From the west or east sides this rock has the appearance of a camel and is sometimes called CAMEL ROCK. This rock has been the goal of many amateur climbers and has been insur-

mountable without the help of ropes. Bill Wurl, who now lives just north of Chimney Rock, was the first to climb the rock, as a youngster, and did it by putting iron pins in a crack in the rock and climbing up from one pin to the next higher one. The pins were put in at arm's length.

Just west and a little south of Chimney Rock is the famous animal trap which from early days has been a noted place. Many have likely seen the picture post card of some steers trapped in this natural bowl-like depression in the sand rock. The Laramie Daily Sentinel on October 31, 1870, has the following item: "One of Thos. Alsop's herders found a mountain lion in the 'kettle or Lion's Den' at Sand Creek. They could not get the lion out of the 'DEN' alive so shot it and the skin measured eight feet seven inches from tip to tip and has been tanned and graces the walls of Mr. Alsop's Laramie residence."

At the north end of the Boulder Ridge are another group of Red Rocks which have been the scene of many picnics during the past sixty years. Many initials are carved in these soft sand rocks and the single column rock which supports an eagle's nest has not been climbed so far as known.

Another group of popular picnic rocks are located between Red Buttes and Colores, and are east and a little south of the Red Buttes Fish Hatchery.

The AMES MONUMENT is a famous landmark some five miles west of Buford and the same distance north-east of Tie Siding. This monument was erected on the site of the old Sherman Station in memory of the Ames brothers, Oakes and Oliver, who played

a leading part in the erection of the Union Pacific Railroad. This monument was erected in 1881 and is a geometrical pyramid some sixty feet square and the same in height. It is built of immense granite blocks, some six feet square, which were hauled to the site by ox team from a group of rocks about a mile west known as Reed's Rock, in honor of the first surveyor-general of Wyoming, Silas Reed, who pointed out the superior quality of this material. There is an interesting item about the Ames Monument. It seems that by mistake it was located on a Government section instead of on railroad land, as presumed. Mr. Coutant, the author of the excellent history on Wyoming, recounts that a justice of peace in Laramie, named Murphy, knew of the mistake and hastened to the land office in Cheyenne, filed on the land and then wrote to the Union Pacific to please remove the pile of rock from his land. Consternation reigned among Union Pacific officials but their counsel made a study of the situation and after several conferences convinced Mr. Murphy that he might lose his position if he persisted in his action. The final outcome was that he traded his interest in the Ames Monument land for several town lots in Laramie.

North of the Ames Monument, the first landmark in the Laramie Mountains, sometimes called the Blackhills, is POLE MOUNTAIN, which lies in the middle of the well known Happy Jack area. Happy Jack was a man with a real sense of humor, who used to haul wood to Laramie. North of Pole Mountain, we come to PILOT KNOB, a real landmark overlooking the Laramie Plains and lying about

seven miles due east of Laramie. The name Pilot Knob designates the fact that this high point dominates the Laramie Plains and a grand view is unfolded before those who stand on its summit and look westward out over the Laramie Plains. One never realizes the large number of lakes on the Laramie Plains until one looks out over them from Pilot Knob or other high points on the Laramie range. Many University students have walked out to Pilot Knob and a favorite stunt in years past was to get up early on a weekend morning and walk out before breakfast, but often the breakfast was a very late one for the fourteen-mile walk up hill and down was time consuming. Today one can drive a car up the Happy Jack road, turn left to the Beacon light, and then meander left over to Pilot Knob and then drop off rapidly down a steep rocky trail which comes in at the bend of the highway close to the limestone quarry east of Laramie. Looking west from Pilot Knob the Snowy Range seems very close indeed, but beware of the distance in the clear atmosphere; many have had a long walk because it looked so close. Looking southeast from Pilot Knob we see POLE MOUNTAIN on the horizon. It looks high because of the low valleys surrounding it and branches of Pole Creek run in the valleys on either side of Pole Mountain.

Going on to the north one comes in sight of RAGGED TOP. It is well-named for its outline is as jagged as the teeth of a saber-toothed tiger, except these teeth are reversed. It is a splendid landmark for those who are not familiar with the country. It lies some thirteen miles east and nine miles north of Laramie.

WYOMING'S PIONEER RANCHES



Elk Mountain from Northeast. Landmark along Lincoln Highway U. S. 30. Elevation 11,162 ft. (Dexter Press Photo.)



Elk Mountain with Richardson Ranch in foreground. (R. H. Burns Photo.)



Animal Trap and Chimney Rock

Another prominent landmark in this area is GREENTOP MOUNTAIN, which lies almost directly six miles south of Ragged Top and the same distance northeast of Pilot Knob.

BALDY MOUNTAIN is just a large mountain southeast of Wall Rock canyon, some twenty miles northeast of Laramie. It is quite a hideout for horses. When one goes hunting for horses in the Wall Rock pasture, visit Baldy Mountain first for you are very apt to find them high up on that mountain. One must follow them closely, for they will head out for Wall Rock Canyon. When they get through that canyon they will head north close to the foot of the mountains. If one is not riding a good horse they will out-run you and come on back up to the top of Baldy Mountain.

Most everyone in Laramie knows the Ninth Street road and the Spur, which is quite a landmark, some six miles out. This limestone ridge is the site of the University quarry, which furnishes building blocks for the University buildings. Beyond the University quarry a road goes up Rogers Canyon, named for Oscar Rogers, an early day carpenter and timber man who brought wood to town by this route from his ranch in the hills. Just east of the Spur about six miles, is another landmark called DIRTY M Mountain, which purportedly was the site of the habitation of a careless housekeeper. Oscar Rogers had a ranch at the foot of this landmark in early days.

When you get over to Long's Canyon, going toward the Sybille, you will see another peak along the west side of the canyon. This peak, called Long Canpon Peak, is some thirty-

two miles north and a little east of Laramie and is a sharp pointed peak of solid rock. It has never been scaled insofar as is known.

Going down the Sybille you will come in view of Sheep Rock. When one travels the Wheatland cut-off, it stands up prominently, seemingly at the end of the road. This high rock close to the highway on the left side, is shaped like a sheep lying down for a noon-day rest.

We have spoken of the Sybille several times and this name is applied to an area of country as well as the streams which drain it. John Clay has written some delightful and touching stories of the Sybille and those who have read it never have forgotten the poignant story "The Silence of the Sybille" which appeared in the Breeder's Gazette for December 18, 1901. It was reprinted in John Clay's book, "My Life on the Range."

As one goes down the Sybille, a range of hills comes to view on the west side of the Highway. The main prominence is called SQUAW MOUNTAIN and is distinctively shaped like a squaw with a blanket wrapped about her body.

Going back up into the hills not far from the Laramie River Canyon one comes in sight of another high peak. It is called BULL PEAK and is named after the bull camp where some of the bulls that were used to haul freight out of Rock Creek Station, in the early days, were wintered.

Going on north and just a little east you come to ASHLEY MOUNTAIN. It is located between Ashley Creek and Duck Creek, and is almost entirely covered with timber in contrast to other peaks. There was an old cabin

on the south side of that mountain, with a mysterious past, for no one knew its history. It was constructed with wood pins and there was not a nail in the entire structure. Ashley Mountain was named for a trapper and hunter who was the father of the late Mrs. Frank Robinson.

NOTCH PEAK is a distinctive and beautiful landmark. It is just east of Ashley Mountain and its peaks have never been scaled.

Further north one comes to LEE MOUNTAIN, which was named after Charley Lee, an old timer who settled on the south side of this mountain and built up a small ranch.

Continuing north from Laramie, in the horse and buggy days, you would go through a lane for twenty-eight miles. This was known as the BOUGHTON LANE after the rancher of that name. The first landmark you would notice would be the Spur, which projects out from the Laramie Mountains. When about eighteen miles out you would notice a canyon coming out to the west from the mountains; this is WALL ROCK CANYON. About two and a half miles north you would come to MIDDLE CREEK, which has cut its way through that high divide parallel to the Wall Rock Creek. North of that about two miles is GATE CREEK which found its way to the Laramie Plains by the same process. The next landmark is Plumbago Canyon, the most prominent one in the area. The stream flows north to the Sybille Springs and then is known as the Sybille Creek from that place on. The grove of trees around the Sybille Springs can be seen from the present highway to the west, just as the road turns east through the Morton Pass.

The next sight on the old Fort Fetterman road is the BLUE GRASS RIDGES. From the top of this ridge you can see as far as a man cares to ride horseback in one day. This is a wonderful grass country and used to be known as Blue Grass flats. In the middle of these flats is the largest natural water hole in the world, the BLUE GRASS WELL, which in the old days used to furnish water for thousands of cattle and other livestock which grazed this area. On present roads this well is eight miles due east of the McGill or Two Bar Bridge across the Laramie River.

About twenty-nine miles out on the Fetterman Road you will come within a mile and a quarter of the Blue Grass Knoll which stands up more than a thousand feet above the surrounding country. It comes to a sharp point and contains no rock on the surface, being covered with soil. On the left is IONE LAKE, which at one time was supposed to be bottomless, but is now drained and supports some fine meadows and cottonwood trees, which make it look like an oasis.

For about fifteen miles you will be traveling parallel with the Blue Grass Ridge. Just west of the divide, between Rock Creek and the Laramie River and southeast of old Rock Creek Station you will see CHALK BLUFF. It is really a prominent landmark for the "Riders of the Purple Sage." It is chalky nature but would not make a suitable mark on a schoolroom blackboard.

Now we are getting close to BOSWELL SPRINGS, named for the early day U. S. Marshall and Sheriff. You will notice the hills of the same name which make a prominent landmark.

The next landmark is the PINE RIDGE. From the west summit of this ridge you are at a high elevation and can look over a spacious countryside.

The GREASEWOOD KNOLL can be seen at a great distance, and west of that knoll the country is as level as a floor.

From the point on Pine Ridge one can see a Chalk Bluff way to the north near Bates Hole, and the other landmark of the same name is in sight to the southeast. From that point an old-timer located a riderless bronc carrying a U. S. Mail pouch strapped to the saddle. It seems that the bronc bucked the mail rider off and started carrying the mail.

One can also see BUCK POINT, another well defined landmark. It is on the north side of the Greasewood Flats and overlooks Sheep Creek and that vicinity. After crossing Pine Ridge, looking to the right, you will see PINTO ROCK. It is the highest landmark among what are called the Pinto Hills.

Northwest from BUCK POINT you can see BOOT HEEL, located over north of Sheep Creek and west of the graded road running from Rock River to Marshall. It is a prominent landmark and has the distinctive shape of the heel of a cowboy's boot. It can be seen for miles and was well known to early-day cowpunchers when the country was a free and open range.

Looking southwest from BOOT HEEL, you will see the TB MOUNTAINS, which were named after the brand of the Trabing Brothers, who had a cattle outfit with headquarters sixteen miles north of the present City of Medicine Bow. These Trabings had

stores in Laramie, Medicine Bow and Elk Mountain and at one time had a store at Trabing City, now a ghost town some sixteen miles southeast of Buffalo. A man by the name of Bill Laherty worked for them, and some of the old timers give him credit of being the best roper they ever saw perform.

Going south and a little east of the TB Ranch you will come in sight of the LOOKOUT FLATS, the west end of which is perhaps the highest point on the Laramie Plains. That point is located southeast of Rock River on the south side of the railroad.

COOPER HILL is a bare grassy mountain that stands up on edge along the northeast side of the Medicine Bow Range. It was the center of much mining activity and prospecting in earlier days. Near Cooper Hill is the site of the pioneer residence of that king of recluses, our first dude, Clement Bengough, who is buried high on the bare hillside.

MEDICINE BOW PEAK stands up some higher than the rest of the peaks in the Medicine Bow range of mountains, commonly known in these parts as the Snowy Range. When you are thirty or forty miles northeast of Medicine Bow Peak it shows clearly its prominence and is nearly always covered with snow. The white appearance of the Snowy Range is due in part to an almost perpetual coat of snow, and in part to the white quartz rock which looks like snow from a distance.

SUGAR LOAF is a cone-shaped peak composed of solid granite. It is on the north side of the Laramie River Canyon between the river and Cherry Creek. It can be seen for many miles in almost any direction, and from the



*South Side of Elk Mountain with Sheep on John Cheesebrough Ranch.
(Photo by Farm Credit Admin. of Omaha)*

southwest it can be seen from the far-away Medicine Bow Mountains. Another less prominent landmark of the same name, SUGAR LOAF, is located at the foot of the Medicine Bow Peak.

RING MOUNTAIN is located over in the Sand Creek vicinity, south and west of Laramie and just south of Jelm.

This completes our tour of the major landmarks of the Laramie Plains, that high plateau sitting on top of the Rockies, which is truly one of the

regions which rightfully may be called the 'Top of the World'. From Pilot Knob on the east hills, to Medicine Bow Peak on the west, and from Laramie Peak on the north, to Chimney Rock on the south, it is a region of high grassy plains, of startling clear distances and exhilarating spaces. It is truly a most distinctive country and one which holds its people with a spell that nearly always results in their return should they stray to other "ranges".

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CHAPTER VII

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Land Descriptions

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Origin of Terms Section.

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Township and Range

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CHAPTER VII

LAND DESCRIPTIONS

Origin of Terms Section, Township and Range

By R. H. "Bob" Burns

PRACTICALLY everyone is familiar with the terms used in descriptions of land but few know the derivation of these descriptive terms. This system is of recent development and no mention is made of it in the history of medieval or ancient nations. Since the days of the clay tablet deeds of Babylon, land had always been described by boundaries, and ownerships were irregularly placed. Lands were always settled first and surveyed afterwards. Then someone thought it might be better if this process were reversed and the lands surveyed first and settled later. This process was always difficult for people had to be located on the land before any law and order (including surveying) was established.

DISPOSAL OF LAND IN REVOLUTIONARY TIMES. Before the American Revolution the colonies had for years disposed of their lands under two distinct systems, based on different physical and economic conditions. These two land systems, developed in Colonial times, have been called the New England and the Southern systems. The **NEW ENGLAND SYSTEM** was based somewhat on the county, town, or parish systems which had existed in England for a long time. There a township was an irregular area or district surrounding a town or village. In fact, the district was it-

self frequently called a "town". In New England we find the settlers following this system by laying out "towns" or townships where there were no actual towns or villages. These prospective towns were laid out preceding private ownership and consequently there could be no title to the land outside a town or township. Within the township the land was divided into tracts by the colony or individual owners, and these tracts were a definite area and plats were prepared and the boundaries definitely recorded. Surveys of such tracts almost always preceded settlement.

THE TOWNS WERE RESPONSIBLE for the accuracy of the surveys, and the officials consequently were careful to accurately determine the borders. Townships were sometimes laid out in tiers, rows, ranks or ranges, but generally in distant locations. The favorite size was an area six miles square. Possibly this was due to the fact that few people at that time realized the usefulness of the decimal system and were no doubt used to the six and twelve scheme which is still used in the English monetary system. They were also used to dozen and half dozen units. The townships were limited to the six mile space because the influence of a village or town in those days could hardly extend more than a

few miles with the slow means of transportation available at that time.

THE FIRST TOWNSHIP WAS INCORPORATED as early as 1652 at Chelmsford, Massachusetts, and included a rectangular area of land measuring six miles square, totaling thirty square miles. In 1741 a twelve-mile square township was set up in Wadchuset. In 1656, Marlborough, Mass. was laid out six miles square, but it was not laid out in true meridional directions. Probably the first six-mile square township laid out in true directions, north and south, was that of Bennington, New Hampshire which was located in 1749. Thus New England developed the system of townships which originally was derived from the early Anglo-Saxon township or tunscape, similar in root or stem to landscape. A tun was a tract of ground enclosed with a fence or wall.

DIFFERENT LAND SYSTEM IN SOUTH. The Southern System differed from the New England system in that the land was taken up by location of warrants and concessions, for separated tracts of any size or shape, on any unappropriated land. Surveys were supposed to be made by public surveyors, but skilled men were scarce and official duties many, so usually a large part of the surveying was done by unskilled deputies and errors were frequent. THE VIRGINIA SYSTEM called for warrants, caveats and grants, while the NEW ENGLAND system called for a simple deed. The Southern system was also used in North Carolina as well as in the territories of Kentucky and Tennessee.

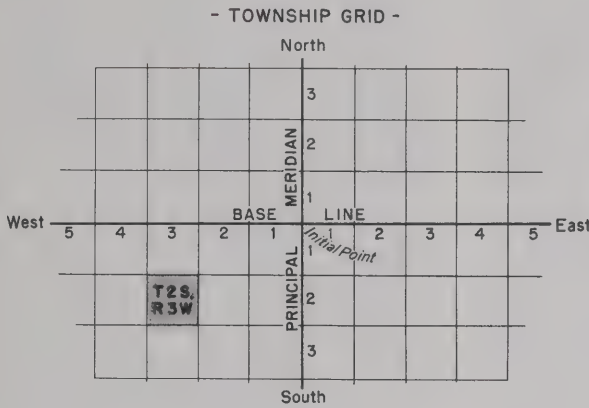
TWO SYSTEMS DIFFERENT. The difference between these two systems

is apparent. Under the New England plan, protection was provided against overlapping surveys and title disputes; the town was the guarantor for the accuracy of the survey. An individual could not horde the best land for himself for the land owner or townspeople shared in each division of the unappropriated land. This system afforded security of title and orderly settlement of new lands.

On the other hand, THE SOUTHERN SYSTEM required only individual initiative. A person selected a desirable portion of vacant land, and had it laid out by a Government surveyor under supervision of the selector. The system of indiscriminate location paid no attention to the location of any other pieces of land owned by the selector. The surveys were often incorrect, recording was carelessly done and natural boundaries were used. These factors resulted in confusion and litigation, but the system was a natural development in the South where there were large plantations, slave labor, and a mild climate which favored the extension of settlements both along the coast lands and on favorable locations along streams, rivers and lakes in the inland country. Some Virginia statesmen, notably Thomas Jefferson, had urged that the New England System be adopted in the disposal of Virginia State lands, but without success.

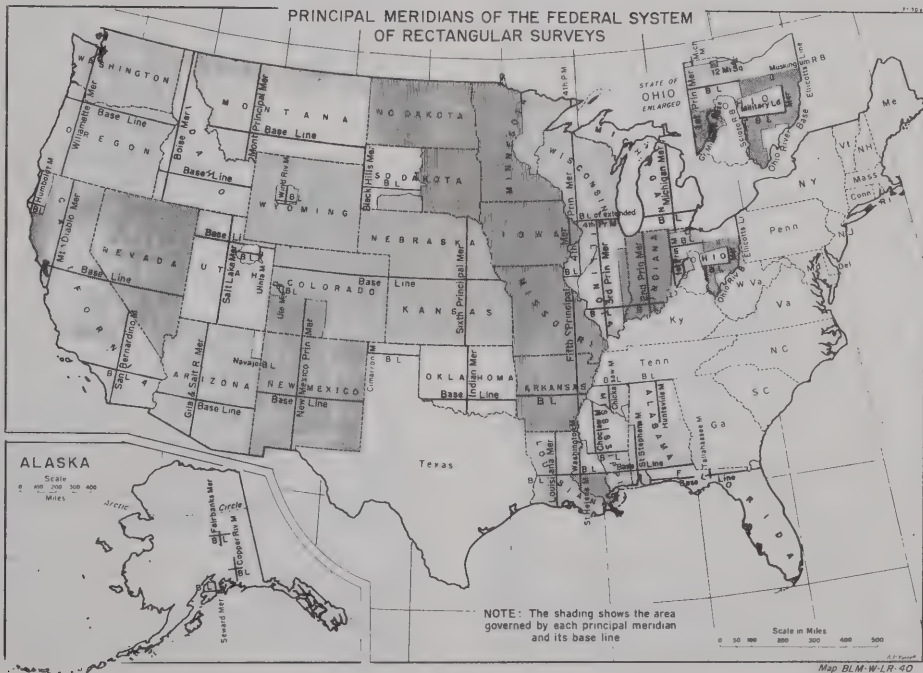
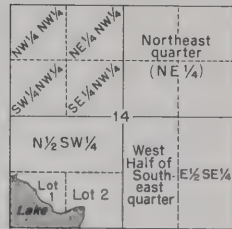
THE ORDINANCE OF 1785. RECTANGULAR SYSTEM OF SURVEYING LAND. On May 7, 1784 a committee of the Continental Congress, composed of Thomas Jefferson of Virginia, chairman, Hugh Williamson of North Carolina, David Howell of Rhode Island, Elbridge Gerry of Massachusetts, and Jacob Reed of South

GENERALIZED DIAGRAM OF THE RECTANGULAR SYSTEM OF SURVEYS



6	5	4	3	2	1
7	8	9	10	11	12
18	17	16	15	Section 14	13
19	20	21	22	23	24
30	29	28	27	26	25
31	32	33	34	35	36

SECTION 14



Carolina, reported "an ordinance for ascertaining the mode of locating and disposing of lands in the western territory and for other purposes therein mentioned." This ordinance which evidently had been prepared with the greatest care was wholly in Jefferson's handwriting and there is every reason to believe that he was its sole author. That part of the report which related to surveys made provision for the division of the public lands into "hundreds" of 10 geographical miles square and those again into lots of one mile square each, to be numbered from 1 to 100, and all lines to be laid out on the ground in the cardinal directions. It so happened that several weeks after this ordinance was reported Jefferson was commissioned by the Continental Congress as Minister to France, to assist Franklin and Adams in negotiating commercial treaties with European countries and shortly thereafter left the United States. He therefore took no further part in the discussions of this question. The responsibility of guiding the pending legislation to enactment into law, to which there was considerable opposition, appears to have fallen to William Grayson, delegate to the Continental Congress from Virginia, who, on April 14, 1785, reported out of Committee a new ordinance which closely followed in principle the one written by Jefferson, but which modified in some respects a few of the minor provisions thereof. The most important of these amendments, as far as the surveying feature was concerned, was a reduction in size of the township from 10 to 7 square miles, and the appointment of a Geographer of the United States. Also, for the first time in the record of this legislation, Grayson's report employed the words

"TOWNSHIP" and "SECTION". Finally after several weeks of earnest debate and bitter contention between the advocates of survey and location, the bill was amended to provide for a 6-MILE SQUARE TOWNSHIP in lieu of one of seven miles square, and for "lots" to be protracted on paper instead of "sections" to be established on the ground, and in this form it became a law on May 20, 1785. This method is known as the rectangular system of land surveys.

The Ordinance of 1785 provided that territory ceded by the States was to be sold as soon as the Indian titles were purchased. The formation of states was no longer prerequisite. Land was to be surveyed in townships six miles square, subdivided into lots or sections one mile square. First lines North and South, East and West were to commence on the Ohio River at the Pennsylvania border; only township lines were to be actually surveyed. The Townships were to be sold alternately as a whole and by lots. Sales were to take place in the states. A RANGE was a tier of townships running from North to South, enumerated from East to West. When seven ranges were surveyed the townships were to be drawn by lot, one-seventh for the Continental Army, and the balance for the states, to be sold by the commissioners of the land office therein at public auction. A minimum price of one dollar per acre was established to be paid in specie, or land office certificates; but the expenses of surveying, calculated at thirty-six dollars a township, were to be paid by the purchaser at the time of sale. Purchasers secured deeds for definite tracts of land. Congress reserved sections 8, 11, 26, and 29 in each township and one-third of all gold, sil-

ver, lead and copper mines. Section 16 was reserved to maintain the public schools. The form of deeds and the manner of issuing them was also provided for. Thus, this ORDINANCE of 1785, which is the FOUNDATION of our NATIONAL LAND SYSTEM of SECTIONS, TOWNSHIPS AND RANGES, was a compromise of conflicting interests and opinions, based on the methods used by the older states. The presurvey features of the Northern system were adopted, along with the individual or section purchase of the South. The FIRST APPLICATION of the new CONGRESSIONAL TOWNSHIP PLAN of 1785 was along "Ellicott's Line" or the Eastern edge of the Northwest or Indian Territory, now the State of Ohio. These are the "Old Seven Ranges". The starting point of the FIRST PRINCIPAL MERIDIAN, governing succeeding ranges is the junction of the Ohio and Miami Rivers. As the country grew, other PRINCIPAL MERIDIANS were established, and designated by numbers, up to the SIXTH, in Kansas and Nebraska. The THIRD begins at the confluence of the Ohio and Mississippi Rivers, and the FIFTH at the Mississippi and Arkansas Rivers. After the SIXTH, the meridians were designated by name. Some were named for rivers as the WILLIAMETTE and the GILA and SALT RIVER meridians. Others took the names of mountains, as MOUNT SAN BERNARDINO, and MOUNT DIABLO. The area governed by each meridian differs greatly. The FIFTH runs to Township 163 North and Range 106 West.

To Putnam probably belongs the credit of having recommended to Congress the MODERN SYSTEM OF

NUMBERING "SECTIONS" (which name was first used by him in place of "lots"), of running their boundaries out on the ground, and of throwing the excess and deficiency of measurement on the north and west exterior boundaries; also for having first used bearing trees as corner accessories.

THE PUBLIC DOMAIN ESTABLISHED. The public domain is the original landed estate of the American people, the property of all of the citizens of a great democracy. In its broadest sense, it covered three-fourths of the continental United States and all of Alaska, a total of one billion eight hundred million acres, or two million eight hundred thousand square miles. It embraced practically all of the lands in the United States west of the Mississippi River (except Texas), north and west of the Ohio River, and south and west of Tennessee and Georgia. This tremendous area belonged to all the people. Through their elected representatives, the Congress, they have established policies and programs for the disposition and use of their landed estate. These policies and programs have been executed by the President, the elected head of the Republic, through his executive agencies, both military and civil. The courts have assisted in carrying out the will of the Congress by interpreting the law when problems arose in the application of the statutes in the dynamic economy of the United States.

Volumes have been written, and will be written, on the history of the public domain. It is the purpose here merely to point out the highlights of that history.

PUBLIC DOMAIN SET UP. The acquisition of the public domain be-

gan with the cession by the original States at the conclusion of the Revolutionary War, when the boundaries of the new republic were determined by treaty with Great Britain. But the boundaries of the thirteen original states were not fixed, for each laid claim to the "wilderness" lying west of their boundaries and extending to the Mississippi River. As a part of the compromise which led to the formation of a strong central government, the States between 1781 and 1802 ceded to the Federal Government, with certain exemptions and reservations, their claims to their western lands and in so doing creating a public domain of more than two hundred million acres.

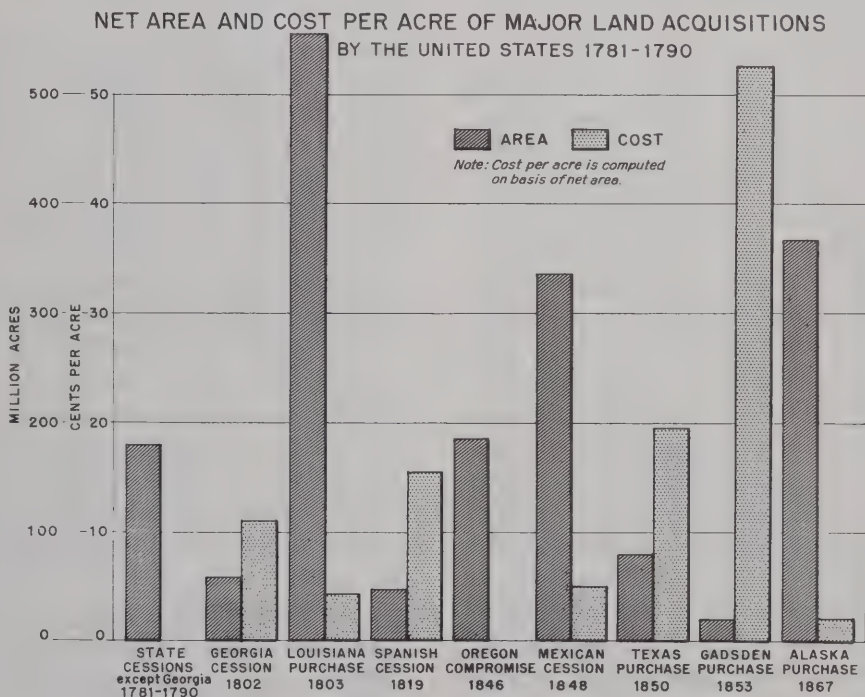
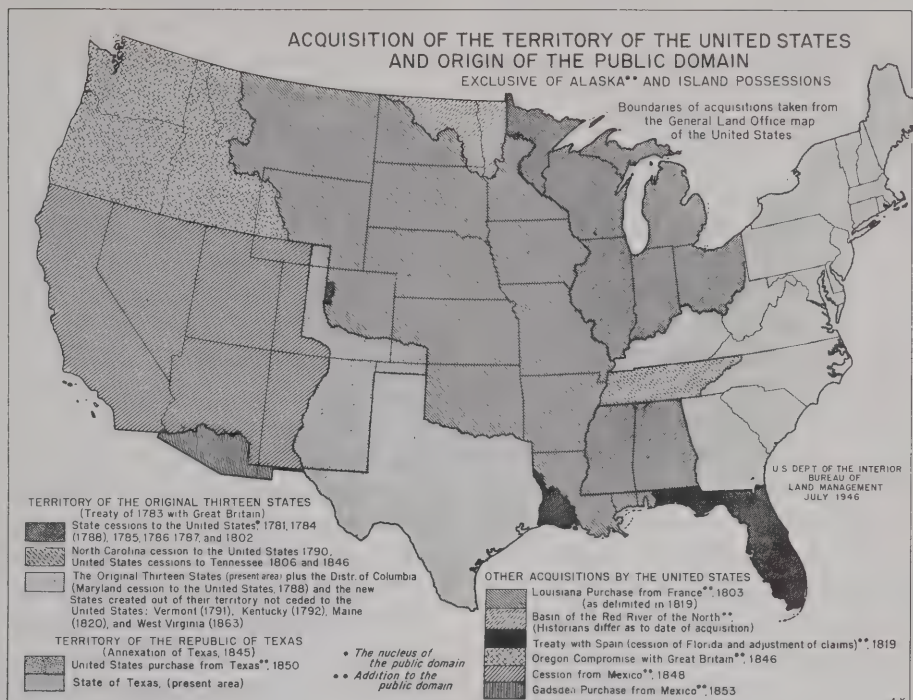
LAND OBTAINED FROM SPAIN, FRANCE, MEXICO, and RUSSIA. Other additions to the public domain were made by purchases such as LOUISIANA TERRITORY from France in 1803. Other additions were the cession of FLORIDA by Spain, together with adjustments in the boundaries of Spanish and American holdings west of the Mississippi River in 1819 (SPANISH CESSION). The settlement of the boundaries of American and British possessions in the Northwest in 1846 (OREGON COMPROMISE), the cession of the Southwest by Mexico in 1848 (MEXICAN CESSION), the purchase from Texas of more than seventy-five million acres of land north and west of its present boundaries in 1850 (TEXAS PURCHASE), and the purchase from Mexico of nineteen million acres in the Southwest in 1853 (GADSEN PURCHASE). In 1867 Russia sold the entire Territory of Alaska to the United States (ALASKA PURCHASE). The total area of land thus acquired by the

Federal Government for all of the people amounted to one billion four hundred million acres in the States and three hundred and sixty-five million acres in Alaska.

Between 1803 and 1912 the entire public domain was carved into NEW STATES which were gradually admitted into the Union on an equal basis with all other States. When they were admitted to the Union all public-domain states waived all claim to the Federal lands within their boundaries.

In the early days of the nation, the Federal Government was short on cash but long on land, and it was natural that they used such land for "internal improvements" to build up the country, particularly in the newly acquired territories. Accordingly when each public domain State was admitted to the Union, it received grants of public lands which it could use or dispose of for various public purposes. These grants were increasingly more liberal and included those for support of common-school systems and higher education, public institutions, and other public projects. THE FIRST SCHOOL GRANT was made in Ohio in 1803. This policy is still active, for since 1915 some twenty-one million acres in Alaska have been reserved for granting to the Territory for its school system when it enters the UNION.

FEDERAL LAND GRANTS TO STATES. In addition to this general policy of granting lands to States upon their admission to the Union, the Congress has enacted a large number of laws creating grants for special purposes and programs. For the most part Congress granted the lands to the States which in turn either granted the lands to private companies to un-



dertake the projects or used the proceeds from the sale of the lands for public works. Outstanding among these great programs were those for the construction of military wagon roads (FIRST ROAD GRANT 1823, last 1869)—the construction of Canals (FIRST CANAL GRANT 1827, last 1866)—the improvement of rivers (FIRST RIVER GRANT 1828, last 1862)—the construction of railroads (RAILROAD GRANTS 1850-1871)—the reclamation of swamp lands (SWAMP GRANTS, 1849, 1850, et al)—and the reclamation of arid lands (DESERT GRANTS), 1894 and 1910. Other interesting grants include the 1862 grant to all States to provide funds for agricultural and mechanical colleges (A & M COLLEGE GRANT) and the 1841 grant of some 500,000 acres to each of various States for use in financing various types of "internal improvements" (GENERAL PURPOSE GRANT).

OTHER FEDERAL LAND GRANTS. Not all improvement grants, however, were made to the States. In 1796 for example, the Congress granted a preemption right of three square miles of land in Ohio to Ebenezer Zane to maintain a road (ZANE'S TRACE) and ferry service on the road from Wheeling, West Virginia, to Limestone. With respect to the railroad grants mentioned above, the earlier grants were made to the States. But, beginning in 1862 with the grants for the great transcontinental railroads, most of the grants were made directly to private corporations organized to undertake the building of the roads. . . . In all, the United States has given to the individual STATES more than two hundred million acres

of public domain lands and the railroad corporations have received more than ninety million acres.

The disposal of public lands has been a long and controversial subject. At first the Cash Policy prevailed but later the Settlement Policy and combinations of this and the Cash Sale policy have been used. In the west the settlement of the country was of primary importance. In 1785 provisions for the rectangular survey of the public lands ruled out from the start hodge-podge disposal of the public domain. In 1807, not only was ADVANCE SETTLEMENT FORBIDDEN by Congress prior to sale of public lands or other permission, but penalties for trespassers were specified. Legislative fiat, almost needless to say, was not wholly effective. A series of LIMITED PREEMPTION LAWS were passed during the period 1800 to 1841 which gave "squattors" the right to purchase the lands upon which they settled. Finally Congress enacted a general PREEMPTION LAW which permitted settlers to enter upon public lands eventually, both surveyed and unsurveyed, and to secure patent for them after complying with the rules as to residence and cultivation and after paying for the land at a minimum statutory price per acre.

HOMESTEADS MADE AVAILABLE. Any price was too much in the opinion of the champions of the settlers and in 1862 they won their way when President Abraham Lincoln signed the FIVE YEAR HOMESTEAD ACT. The end of PREEMPTION did not come until 1891 when the 1841 act was repealed. The original HOMESTEAD ACT permitted settlers to enter as much as 160 acres of public

lands, eventually surveyed or unsurveyed. The settler could "prove up" and obtain a patent after constructing a habitable house, reducing part of the land into cultivation, and residing upon the lands for a period of five years (reduced to three years by the **THREE YEAR HOMESTEAD ACT** of 1912). Under these conditions, there was no charge for the lands except for nominal service charges. Modification of the **HOMESTEAD ACT** included the increase of acreage to 320 acres for homesteaders on dry-farming lands in the West (**ENLARGED HOMESTEAD ACT** of 1909) and to 640 acres for homesteaders on arid range lands (**STOCKRAISING HOMESTEAD ACT** of 1916). No cultivation was needed in connection with stockraising homesteads, but range improvements must be substituted. Irrigable lands with Federal reclamation projects were opened to **RECLAMATION HOMESTEAD** in 1902 and agricultural lands within national forests to **FOREST HOMESTEAD** in 1906. **THE TAYLOR GRAZING ACT** of 1934 **ENDED** homesteading under the stockraising homestead act. The classification provisions of the Taylor Act result in again having **ADVANCE SETTLEMENT FORBIDDEN IN THE STATES**, without prior classification by the Government. The ban on advance settlement does not apply to public lands in Alaska. Under the **HOMESTEAD ACT** of 1862, as amended, almost 300 million acres have been patented to settlers and its major provisions are still in force.

DESERT ACT LANDS. The Desert Land Act is in a class by itself. It applies to public lands which are not cultivatable without irrigation. The

entryman is not required to live upon the land but he must demonstrate that he can irrigate and cultivate it profitably. In addition he must pay for the land at the rate of \$1.25 per acre. Only ten million acres have been patented under this law. Since the early days of the **REPUBLIC** veterans have enjoyed certain privileges in cash bonuses and advantages over the general public in the acquisition of public lands. Thus among other things, they now enjoy first choice of lands opened to entry under the Homestead, Desertland and Small-tract laws. Under the homestead laws, the period of residence on the land and the amount of cultivation required have been reduced, in direct relation to the length of service in the Armed Forces. Allotments were made Indians at first, but in 1934 this policy was stopped and reversed by acquisition of lands for tribal ownership. The general policy has been to differentiate mineral from agricultural or non-agricultural lands and to exclude mineral lands from the operation of the "agricultural" land laws. From 1907 to 1847 Congress experimented with the leasing of lead deposits but in that year, decided instead, in favor of **SALE OF MINERAL LANDS**, in the midwest valuable for lead or other ores. After the California gold rush, the Congress enacted general legislation governing mineral lands whereby the discoverer of the deposit became entitled to it. He was authorized to receive a patent for the lands upon payment of \$2.50 (placer claims) or \$5.00 (lode claims) per acre. A special law was enacted for the sale of coal lands. These laws are still in force except as to the leasable minerals. . . . Under several laws in

effect today and under certain specified conditions, the mineral and surface rights of the public lands can be separated and the surface rights disposed of under the "agricultural" land laws. An ill-fated attempt was made to introduce trees on the plains through the granting of lands to those who would plant and protect them. The TIMBER CULTURE ACT however, failed of its purpose and was repealed in 1891. Special laws relating to particular types of land include the TIMBER AND STONE ACT, governing negotiated sale of lands valuable for timber or stone and unfit for cultivation and the SMALL TRACTS ACT, permitting lease and sale of tracts of five acres or less which are valuable for recreational, home, or business site purposes.

NATIONAL PARKS AND MONUMENTS. Although reservations of land were made in early years for public purposes, such as for military posts, the first great reservation was created in 1872 by the establishment of YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK. Later legislation was made authorizing the reservation of NATIONAL MONUMENTS and other areas of historic or scientific interest. Coordination of the areas into a unified NATIONAL PARK system was insured by the formation of the National PARK SERVICE (Department of Interior) in 1916.

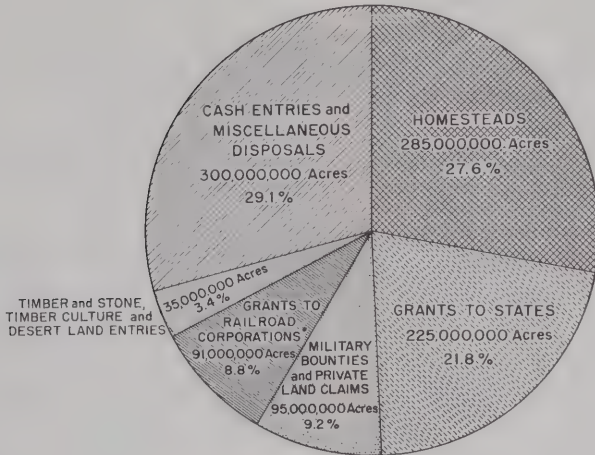
FOREST LANDS. Conservation of Federal timber lands and of upland watershed areas was begun in 1891 with legislation authorizing the creation of public-domain FOREST RESERVES. Management of the forest reserves was assigned in 1905 to the newly-established FOREST SERVICE

(Department of Agriculture). The Department of Interior also manages large timber holdings, notably the O & C LANDS of western Oregon, the Indian forests, and the forests on the unreserved public domain. The Indian lands have been managed on a sustained-yield basis for many years.

TAYLOR ACT LANDS. A large gap in Federal land management was closed in 1934 with the passage of the Taylor Grazing Act. This act provided for the management of the unreserved public domain except for unreserved lands in Alaska. The LAND CLASSIFICATION provision of this act, as amended, authorized the Secretary of Interior to classify the unreserved lands as to their suitability. This closed the era of indiscriminate disposal of the public domain and has permitted the institution of procedures to provide for the orderly disposition of the unreserved public domain either by disposal to private owners or for management by the appropriate land management agency, Federal or local. The Taylor Grazing Act also provided for the establishment of GRAZING DISTRICTS to foster stability to the dependent livestock industry and conservation of the range. The Department of the Interior formed the GRAZING SERVICE to administer these grazing districts, while the General Land Office was responsible for other features of the Taylor Act.

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT. To achieve unity of management of the unreserved public domain, the General Land Office and the Grazing Service were abolished in 1946 and their functions and personnel were assigned to the Bureau of Land Management, a new agency in the Depart-

APPROXIMATE AREA OF THE PUBLIC DOMAIN DISPOSED OF UNDER THE PUBLIC-LAND LAWS

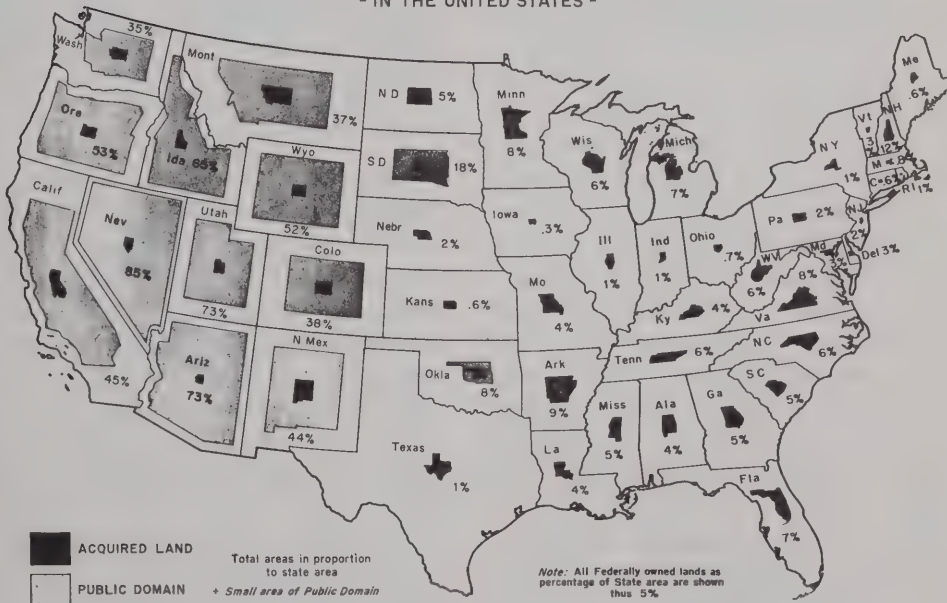


* Exclusive of reverted area

TOTAL DISPOSALS 1,031,000,000 ACRES

75306
Chart BLM-W-LR-1

TOTAL PRESENT AREA OF FEDERALLY OWNED LAND - IN THE UNITED STATES -



75304
Chart BLM-W-LR-31

ment of the Interior. Mining laws were inadequate, particularly in certain classes of minerals, including coal and petroleum. To provide orderly prospecting, the opportunity for conservation measures and an adequate return to the Government among other reasons, the Congress passed the MINERAL LEASING ACT of 1920. Under this ACT, the Government leased to private enterprise its public-domain deposits of oil, gas, phosphate, sodium, coal, potassium and sulphur. Operations under the Act are administered jointly by the Bureau of Land Management and the Geological Survey. Since 1947 leasing of all types of minerals in most "acquired" lands have also been assigned to these agencies. The Bureau of Indian Affairs and the Geological Survey supervise the leasing of Indian mineral lands.

RAILROAD LAND GRANTS. The railroad grants were at first put up for sale to individuals but the railroads, particularly the Union Pacific, wished to dispose of the land in large blocks so companies were formed to purchase the land in large blocks and then dispose of it in smaller pieces. The Wyoming Central Land and Improvement Company was incorporated in Laramie City in the 80s and purchased a large block of land in Albany and Carbon Counties. This land was sold in various sized pieces and a large part of it passed into private ownership; but some tracts of railroad lands located within twenty miles each side of the original railroad location are still leased.

THE PUBLIC DOMAIN TODAY. Under the disposal policies of the Government approximately one billion acres of public domain in the States,

and less than a half million acres in Alaska have been transferred to private owners and local governments. The method of disposition has been roughly as follows:

	Millions of Acres
Homesteads.....	285
Grants to States.....	225
Military bounties and private land claims.....	95
Grants to railroad corporations.....	91
Other disposals, chiefly cash sales.....	335

There remains in Federal ownership today, about 412 million acres of public domain in the states and 365 million acres in Alaska. The status of the present public domain is about as follows:

	IN THE STATES of Acres Millions	IN ALASKA of Acres Millions
National Forests.....	139	21
Grazing Districts.....	140	...
Unreserved (outside grazing districts).....	36	270
Indian Reservations.....	56	3
National Defense.....	13	32
National Parks and Monuments.....	12	7
Other Reservations.....	16	32

More than 95% of the present public domain outside of Alaska is located in the eleven western States. The bulk of the lands are rough, mountainous and arid or semi-arid. Little is suitable for cultivation but it is important in American economy for its uses in grazing, timber production, watershed protection, wildlife protection, water supplies, mineral production, power development, recreation and military uses, among others. Land management is maintained on a multiple-use and sustained yield basis. The public domain in Alaska is, by and large, un-

developed but holds great promise for the not-too distant future.

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CHAPTER 7

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CHAPTER VIII

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Roads and Freighting

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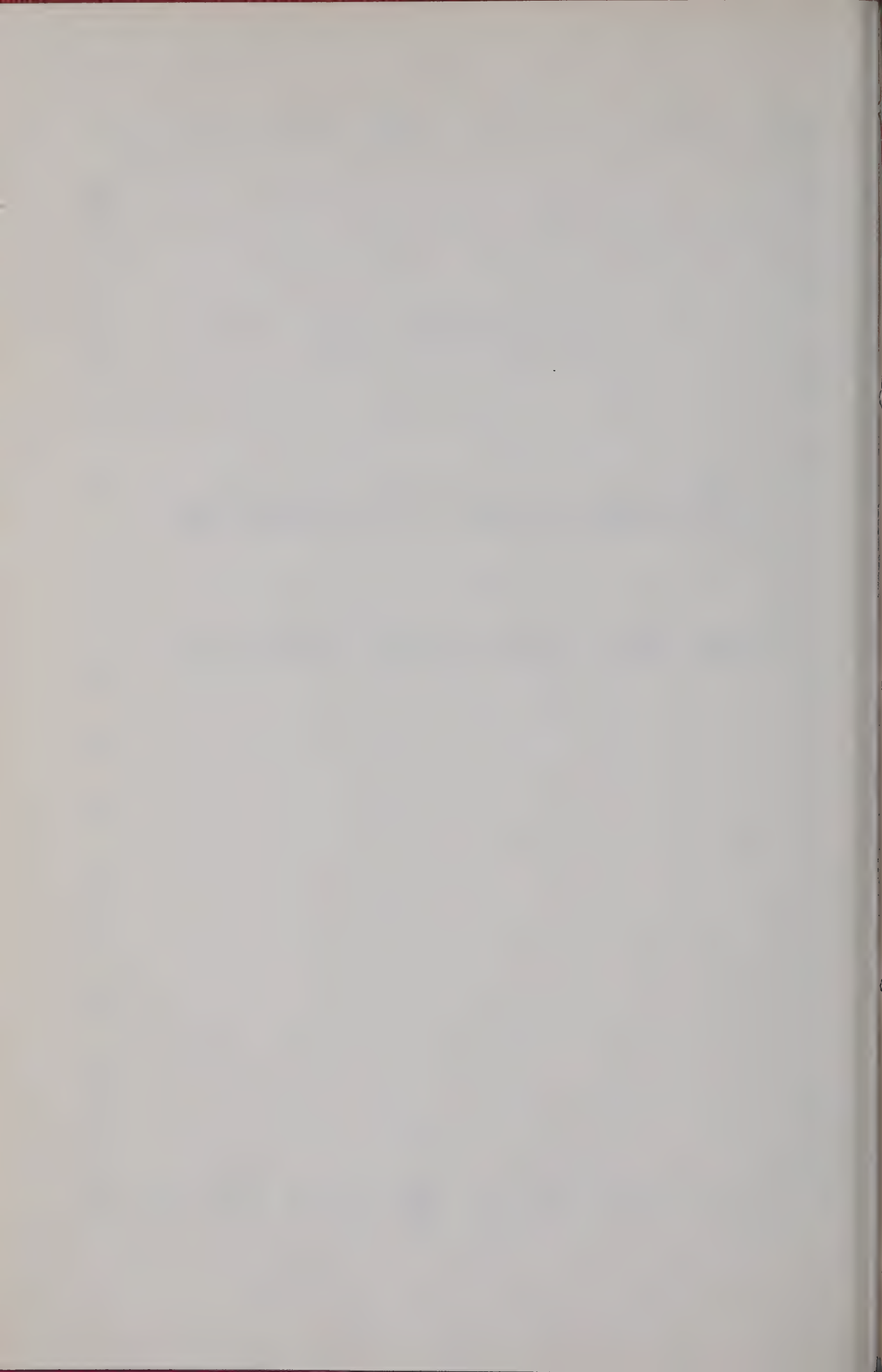
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CHAPTER VIII

ROADS AND FREIGHTING ON THE LARAMIE PLAINS

By A. S. "Bud" Gillespie

TRANSPORTATION is one item in which there has been more improvement than in almost any other endeavor of man.

Before the white man trod the ground of this continent the native Indians had to have some form of transportation, in order to hunt wild game for food. In those days the Indians had to depend upon their own feet and legs for transportation and hence the name "Shank's Mare" is still used for this method of transportation. That method was not adequate but had to suffice until white men discovered the continent and brought new ideas of transportation from other lands. These white men saw at once the need of more transportation and commenced to import horses to use, both for transportation via horse back and for the draft work on pulling loads and working the land. The Spaniards brought many horses to Mexico and soon numbers of them escaped from the caravans and scattered through the plains and arroyas of the southwest which made up the unlimited public domain. The Indians were not slow to learn of the advantages of having a horse to carry them. They caught the wild horses and took horses from the white settlers. They found the horses useful in moving their camps to new hunting grounds and as they had no wheeled vehicles they used poles to

make a sled-like travois which was tied to the horse on each side by a leather circingle. The load was lashed to these poles and although they could not travel very fast, they could move a larger amount of material in a given time.

The effectiveness of a tribe in the war game was greatly increased when their warriors were mounted.

During all of this time the white men were improving their means of transportation, first by the adaptation of the wheel and the wagon. The large roomy box of the wagon would hold more than a ton of supplies, or about twelve people. Then "U" shaped bows were put on the wagon box, four or five over the top of the box. These bows were threaded through steel loops on the outside of the box. A canvas top was fitted over these bows and the fitted wagon was aptly called a "prairie schooner".

Such a wagon was equipped for a home on the range while the pioneer families traveled toward the horizon of the frontiers. The whole family could go along to the frontier and the transportation was safe except for the danger of attack by the Indians.

People began to think of faster methods of transportation and immediately thought of lighter vehicles and the result was the buggy, drawn by a team of speedy light horses. The beds of

these buggies were first supported by a leather shackle which carried it free from the running gears. Later, steel springs replaced the shackles and rubber tires on the wheels increased the comfort of traveling.

Before the horse drawn buggies came into existence, the railroads began to plan how to monopolize transportation and prepare themselves to haul freight back and forth across the continent. Much of their early freight consisted of cattle from the great open ranges.

In 1867 locomotives were in use at Omaha and by the next year the rails were pushed forward at feverish speed to connect with the Southern Pacific at Promontory Point, Utah, in 1869. Immediately after the rails were hooked up, the road was opened for transportation from coast to coast. Since that time the automobile came into the picture and put a nation on wheels. More recently man has conquered the air and now flies like an eagle.

Freighting at one time was one of the largest businesses in the west. It developed just prior to and concurrently with the railroads. In the west the forts had to be supplied by freight wagons and this freighting business led to the discovery of the range livestock industry. The mining camps, not on the railroad line, were supplied by freight wagons. The largest mining camp supplied by freight wagon and mail coaches was located at Deadwood, South Dakota. At one time that part of the country used a vast amount of supplies, such as groceries, dry goods, grain, and mining machinery, which were loaded at Cheyenne

and hauled hundreds of miles to Deadwood.

Another center supplied by freight wagons, was Fort Fetterman where many government soldiers were stationed. The freight wagons were kept busy from the time the roads dried off in the spring until autumn, when the first snows came, bringing sufficient supplies to last through the winter. These outfits loaded up at Rock Creek and soon there were a number of settlers along the route to Fort Fetterman.

Such a freight outfit would have about sixteen to eighteen yoke of oxen hitched to one wagon. There would be about four wagons hooked in a string behind the first wagon. Those trail wagons had short tongues in them. In the end of the tongue was a huge clevis attached to a gooseneck, as the freighters called it. This was a long half-round rod with a "U" shape to it, which was bolted onto the end of the tongue. There was some space between the end of the wood of the tongue and the bend of the "U" shaped plate of steel which left a place for the clevis bolt to go through. The freight wagons had a steel plate, measuring about 8 by 10 inches, bolted onto the back of the rear axle. It had an arm welded onto it and that arm extended back parallel with the "reach" for about 18 inches. This arm was about 1¼ inches in diameter. The hook on the following wagon tongue was slipped over the arm and the plate protected the lead wagon from the wear of the tongue of the following wagon. This arrangement would keep the wagons at a proper distance apart. A chain in the shape of the letter Y

was used to pull the lead wagon. There were three ends to the chain; the longer end was extended ahead to hitch the spans of horses or oxen to. One of the other loose ends of the chain was hooked on a hook on the front axle out on the skein near the front wheel. Each wagon was hooked to the one ahead by a separate chain. The other chain was fastened on the opposite side of the tongue on the other skein. The long end of the chain gave sufficient space for the number of spans of horses, mules, or oxen needed to pull the load.

When a wagon stuck in the mud it would be moved out by dropping some links on the chain to give about a foot of slack. The power of the teams and the weight of the moving wagons which had crossed the bad place would jerk the stuck wagon from the mud hole and the wagon train would move on.

The wheel team or yoke of oxen was hitched onto the tongue of the lead wagon and other leading teams or yokes were connected by two ended chains. The team or yoke of oxen was hitched two abreast and close to the team ahead, leaving just enough room for a man to pass between them. The number of teams used depended upon conditions and the need for "ox power". The "bull whackers" would tell with pride how many teams or yokes of oxen were in their freight string. As many as twenty-four teams or yokes were hitched to one string of wagons. According to old time "bull whackers", the leaders sometimes would get to traveling so fast that the "swing" teams in center of string would be lifted from the ground by their heads when crossing a ravine.

These freight wagons were too heavily loaded to depend on brakes when going down steep hills, so the freighter would put a rough lock on one wheel of as many wagons as they figured they needed to keep the wagon string in strict control. A rough lock was in the shape of a sled runner, and about three feet long. These locks were put ahead of the wheels and the wagon wheels pulled up on them. They were a little wider than a wagon tire. There were two brackets or uprights which extended above the felloes on the wheel, and there was a hole in each pair to put a bolt across from one to the other. These two pair were about a foot apart. The head end of the runner had a chain welded in it. The chain was fastened to the bed of the wagon, just behind the front wheel, by means of a lever hook. All of the load that the wheel was supporting would thus rest on the rough lock, and the wheel could not turn. In dry weather the rough locks were effective, but were not so useful when the ground was covered with snow. The bull whackers did most of their driving on foot and were very skillful with their long lash or whip. Strings of mules or horses were driven by a jerk line, a single line extending through a ring on the side of bridle above the blind onto the bridle of the left lead horse. It took a skilled person to drive with a jerk line, for the skinner who usually rode the left wheel horse, would have to teach the horses or mules the meaning of "gee" and "haw". A slight pull on the jerk line and a hollered "gee" would turn the horse to the right and similarly a few slight jerks on the jerk line and a hollered "haw" would tell the lead horse to turn to the

left. The author knows of only one old "jerk line" driver who is still with us. He is Grant Harnden of Laramie.

After Fort Laramie and Fort Halleck were abandoned, not much freighting was done. Those who had work stock on their hands had to depend upon getting construction jobs. The oil companies employed freight teams which were driven with jerk line to haul oil from producing wells to where they were drilling new wells, to furnish fuel for power drilling.

Out of Laramie the first big freighting job was that of hauling supplies to the mining town of Keystone. That town was first settled by thirteen brides and grooms and the population increased by thirteen babies in the first year. There was more excitement than gold up there. Another freighting job was the hauling of machinery to the Rambler Mine. There were a number of other mining projects throughout the neighboring country, all of which were supplied by freight wagons. Among these were the famous Ferris-Haggerty mine near Encampment, and the Michigan, Strong and McKinley mines in the Laramie Mountains.

Probably one of the most enduring and interesting freighting jobs in these parts was that of delivering the enormous stone blocks used in the Ames Monument.

The various roads in Albany County are shown on the accompanying map and these roads were laid out for transporting groceries, various supplies and hay from shipping points to point of consumption. Some of the leading roads were:

1. Fort Laramie to Fort Halleck.

To haul army goods and to fur-

nish quick transport for soldiers who were patrolling to give settlers protection from the Indians. This road came through the Halleck Canyons, crossed a small fork of sparkling cold water called the south fork of Blue Grass Creek; thence almost due west to a pass in the Blue Grass Ridge, and southwest directly towards Elk Mountain, fording the Big Laramie River at a spot at south end of where Wheatland Dam is now located. A little further west it crossed Miser Creek and on a line to Rock Creek crossing, and then on to Fort Halleck over a route closely paralleling the present dirt road from Arlington to Elk Mountain.

RANCHERS AND HUNTERS. In the early days it was quite a common occurrence for a ranchman to make an agreement with sportsmen to furnish board, lodging and a horse to use in hunting game. In return the sportsmen were to furnish the ranch with fresh game meat. The writer's father, Sam Gillespie, made such an agreement in the early 1890s with an Englishman named Chambers. That agreement included a provision that after the hunting season for antelope was over, Gillespie was to take Chambers on a bear hunt. They made preparations and set off early one morning for Halleck Canyon. They arrived about noon and prepared a campfire dinner. Soon after dinner they started down the No. 2 Halleck Canyon in search of bear. They had not gone very far from camp when they saw a bear coming down a ledge of rock which extended from the top of the south side of the canyon down to the bottom. Gil-

lespie told Chambers to stay where he was and he would run down through the brush to where the ledge of rock reached the bottom of the canyon. About the time Gillespie reached his chosen destination on the "firing line", Chambers fired and shouted, "I have killed the bear". The bear tumbled from the ledge of rock and rolled down the steep side wall of the canyon. Gillespie let the hammer down on his gun, swung it around on his shoulder and started back toward Chambers. About that time he heard a crackling in the brush and was surprised to see the bear break from the brush and come directly toward him on the run. Gillespie jumped behind a cottonwood tree and let the bear go by without even kicking him in the belly. Chambers had not hit the bear when he fired and the bear had jumped and fallen, rolling to the bottom of the canyon and from there had taken off in the opposite direction, running right into Gillespie, who was so startled that he did not fire at him.

Rock Creek was a difficult stream to ford for it was deep and swift during the spring and early summer and the location of the ford must be exactly known. In the winter time forming ice and sharp edges made the crossing increasingly difficult.

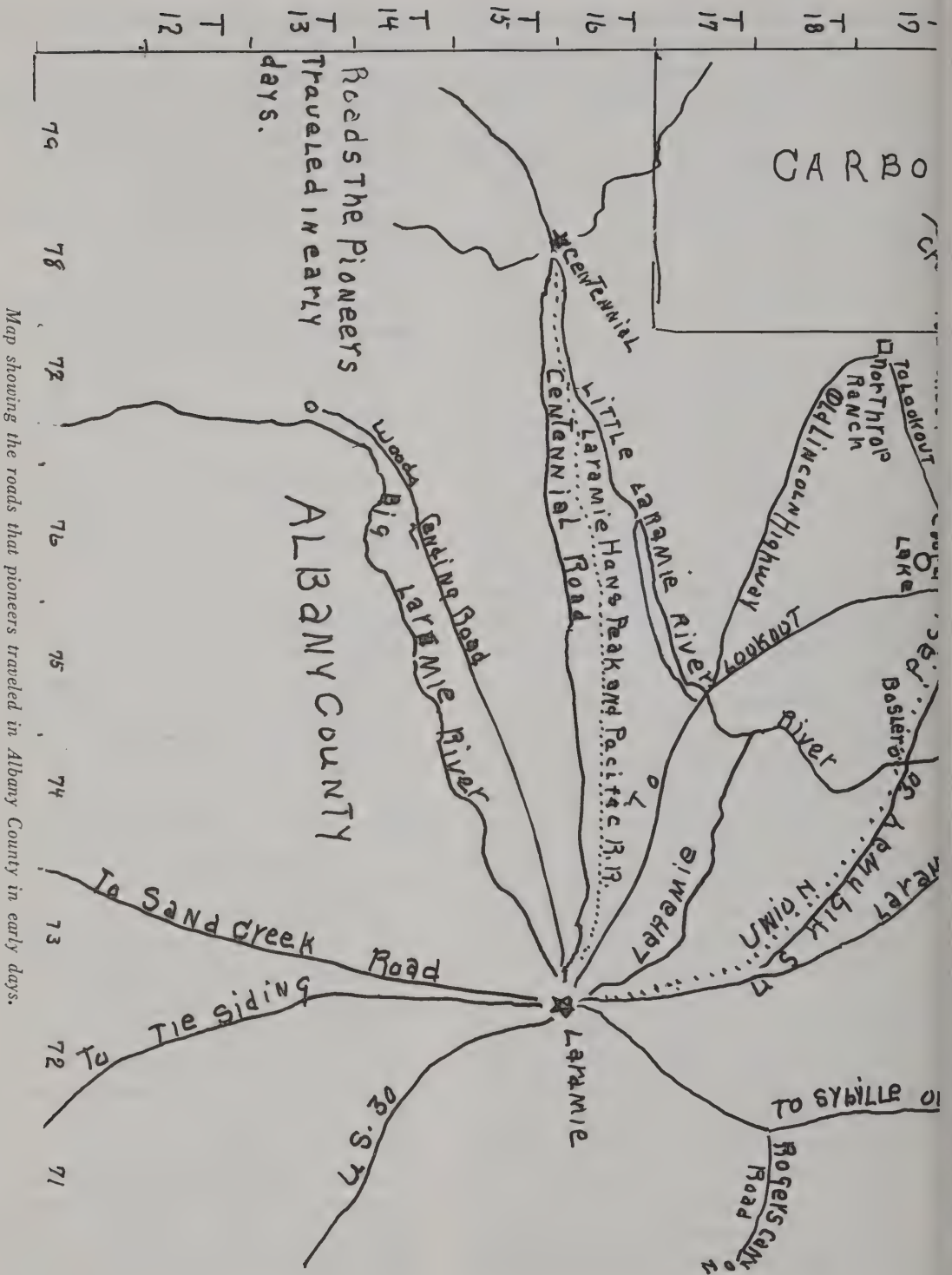
The Fort Fetterman and Rock Creek road was an old one which was heavily used. Today large numbers of parallel ruts, sometimes an eighth of a mile wide, testify to its heavy usage, and when one rut wore down too deep they pulled out alongside and made a new trail. In the mountains the road bed was on rock and never wore down. This Fort Fetterman and Rock Creek road was used until the

C. & S. Railroad was completed in 1887. However, the road was used for mail delivery from Rock Creek to La Bonte for several years. The road can be used today by making a few detours around washouts and rock ledges.

There are several road ranches along that road and they were named according to the distance they are from Rock Creek. Starting with Six Mile, there were several ranch stations named Seven Mile, Twenty Mile, Twenty-two Mile, Thirty Mile, and Forty Mile where the road passed out of Albany County and proceeded down the La Bonte Creek to Fort Fetterman.

Another well known and heavily traveled road was known as the Denver and Salt Lake Road and was used mostly by emigrants. It came into Wyoming at Virginia Dale and then passed northward through the hills. It crossed the Big Laramie River close to the present Hutton ranch and grove. The Little Laramie river crossing was near the old Mandel ranch. Then the road skirted the foothills crossing Cooper Creek and on to Rock Creek Crossing, and around the foothills to the Medicine Bow crossing and on in the same direction until it struck the Union Pacific near Fort Steele. Where this road crossed the Big Laramie there is a big fill and then the sagebrush grown ruts become dim in places, but reappear across the country near the lower Seven Mile Lake, and hence across the Big Hollow. The trail crosses the Snowy Range Highway sixteen miles from Laramie and the route of the trail is marked by cement markers.

There was a wagon road that followed the Union Pacific Railroad



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through the greater part of the county. It was not used much for the many curves in the railroad made the road long in distance and difficult to follow. That road was made by the construction teams during the time the railroad was built. Local people used the road some for travel and when out picking up coal. When a large lump of coal would roll down in the tender the fireman would roll it off rather than break it up, as they were too busy shovelling coal to stop and break up the large lumps. Ranchmen would haul home lots of the replaced ties, which were good enough for posts and sheds.

There were many interesting roads in the north country for there were many settlers who lived there and who came to Laramie for their supplies. At that time Wheatland did not exist and there was no road over which a team of horses could pull a load up a hill. A north-south road crossed the Laramie River at the McGill bridge, built by the county. It was about four or five miles up the river from the McGill ranch and about three miles north of the Two Bar (Lookout) Shearing Pens.

The road up to Woods Landing was an old timer. It was used mostly by the "tie hacks". There were many crews of men cutting ties above Woods Landing and hauling them in there so they would be ready to shove into the river during the high water and they would float down the river to Laramie to the "tie boom", where they would be removed from the water.

Another important road leading out of Laramie was the one that went up the Little Laramie River into the Centennial Valley, where many people were starting to raise cattle and build

up their ranch homes. There was also a road that intersected the road that crossed the Little Laramie River at the Sprague Ranch. This is the present Sprague Lane road. It continued in a northwesterly direction to Cooper Hill and passed several newly started ranches. At Cooper Hill there was a minor mining boom going on, with much prospecting for copper and gold.

A road leading out of Laramie to the northeast led past the Spur, passed over the King Hill and down into the Sybille valleys. That was a mail route as were several of the other roads mentioned. In the Sybille locality there were three post offices, namely those at Grant, Sybille, and Moore.

There was a road that reached out into the Sand Creek country which served several ranchers in that area who came to Laramie for their supplies. In the Sand Creek region was the so-called North Park road which went from Fort Collins to Tie Siding and thence along the Boulder Ridge to Sand Creek, past Steamboat Lake and Red Mountain over to the Big Laramie River and thence to North Park. The Lindsey place at the foot of Boulder Ridge and the Lundquist ranch on Sand Creek were old time road ranches on this Fort Collins-Walden road which were used for overnight stops.

The road out of Laramie to the south went to Tie Siding, Dale Creek and vicinity and served many settlers located on the little streams such as Dale Creek.

The road that led east from Laramie went up through Telephone Canyon and on over to Cheyenne. Today one often hears the term Happy Jack,

and sometimes this name is applied to the canyon. Suffice to say that Happy Jack hauled wood into Laramie by this road and later the telephone line followed that route.

There was a road that came up the main Sybille and crossed the divide between Plumbago Canyon and the Sybille Springs, leading out across the plains to the Gillespie ranch at Ione Lake. It crossed the Laramie River and intersected a road that S. W. Gillespie made to Rock Creek, when he hauled baled hay there in early days, to sell. That road was the crookedest one across the plains. When making a road in the winter time the freighter had to follow the high spots where the wind swept the ground free of snow. This road was used a great deal by the roundup wagons.

Another road came up through the hills over the tunnel between the Laramie River and the Blue Grass, and crossed the Laramie River and went on a little to the southwest to Rock Creek. There was also a road that reached from the Blue Grass corrals to the Sybille Springs. That was mostly a roundup wagon road but there were a few settlers who lived on the Blue Grass and in Halleck Canyon, who came to Laramie over this route. After they left the Sybille Springs road they came to a cross-road that came into the Fort Fetterman and Laramie road about eighteen miles north of Laramie.

Another road came in from the Garrett and Owen section of the country and passed the McGill ranch running into the road from McGill's ranch to Rock Creek. This road was used by the mail carrier who carried mail to Owen and later to Garrett. Much

baled hay was hauled from the McGill ranch to Rock Creek when McGill first settled there. Round-up wagons used that road also. There was a road that left Lookout Station and went on north and intersected with the road above at the McGill ranch. There was also a road that connected the Gillespie ranch with Lookout.

Another road led west from Lookout and then southwest. One branch went to the 7L Ranch on Rock Creek and the other branch went to Rock Creek Crossing. This road was used as a mail route.

A road led northeast from Rock Creek out across the Sand Creek divide and on to Duck Creek. It branched out to the different ranches on Duck Creek and over to Ashley Creek, Antelope Basin, Davidson Flats, Lee Mountain, Sturgeon Creek and the North Laramie River.

After you crossed Pine Ridge going north on the Fort Fetterman road you came to a right hand fork at a sign board that led over into Antelope Basin at the west end. You passed through Willow gulch. From that road there was a left hand road that extended down to the Garrett ranch.

Going north on the Fort Fetterman road you would come to another sign board on your left, which directed you to the 49 Ranch on Sheep Creek. Following that road would lead you over into Bates Hole.

There was another road that came out of the Owen section of the country which followed the upper extremity of Duck Creek to its head and then passed over the divide and followed down Sand Creek and intersected the Fort Fetterman road at Seven Mile.

Another road intercepted the road

that went from the Fort Fetterman road to Antelope Basin. That road extended in a westerly direction along the north side of Pine Ridge, passed Indian Spring and on to Mud Springs, thence on west following the south rim of the Little Medicine into Medicine Bow.

There is a road that leaves the crossing on Sheep Creek and extends in a southeasterly direction passing Badger Lake and on to Mud Springs, intersecting the Fort Fetterman road north of Seven Mile. One branch of it continued to Boswell Springs and another to Seven Mile Springs. That road was used almost exclusively by the roundup wagons.

Pinto Springs could be approached from three different directions by the roundup wagons. One way came in from the south end and the other from the west; the third one came up Pinto Creek from the north Laramie.

There was also an old time road that went out to the Little Laramie, passed the Sprague ranch, and kept north and a little west to Old Lookout Station. It cut across the horse-shoe curve between Lookout and Harper, where it crossed the track and continued to Rock Creek.

There is little trace of the Indian trails at the present time. The livestock had the habit of following the trails that led them by the shortest route to water or grass.

The author knows of one trail that was very likely used by the Indians. He has always known it as "horse trail". This trail led up through the Sybille hills. It passed through or above the headwaters of the Sybille, Bear Creek and then passed the head of Long Canyon and thence out onto

the Laramie Plains. That was the natural gateway to and from the Plains. It was likely used by the buffalo in the fall and early part of the winter when they left the Laramie Plains to go to lower country where there was plenty of feed, shelter, and running water. In the spring they no doubt had the same inclination, as cattle showed later, to go west to the Plains and continue westward over these well grassed plains. The author knows of three places that are marked by a pile of rocks. These places are about one hundred and fifty yards apart. No doubt the Indians piled up these rocks for some purpose. Perhaps they indicated the boundary line between tribes, or possibly they indicated the limits of a hunting ground. The rock piles seem to have been there many years. The rock on the ground has been there so long that the first layer has eroded and has been almost covered with soil. The rocks which were used, vary from the size of one's fist to twice that size. One of these series of rock piles reach down the divide over what is now the tunnel leading through the mountains from the Laramie River to the Blue Grass. The second string of rock piles lead from a point near Coal Bank Creek toward where the tank farm is located east of Rock River. The third one is located up in the area of the old E. L. Dixon ranch on Cooper Creek. The rock in it are about the size of a man's head. The Indians likely followed the buffalo and left the Laramie Plains in the fall, returning in the spring. There is only one tepee village that the author knows of, that indicates that the Indians lived on the Laramie Plains in the winter time. That village is on

Harper Creek on the east side and about straight east of the present Harper Station on the railroad. No doubt the Indians killed ducks and geese with their bows and arrows. After Ione Lake went dry and the ground was bare, it was not difficult to find

arrow heads in the bed not far from the shorelines.

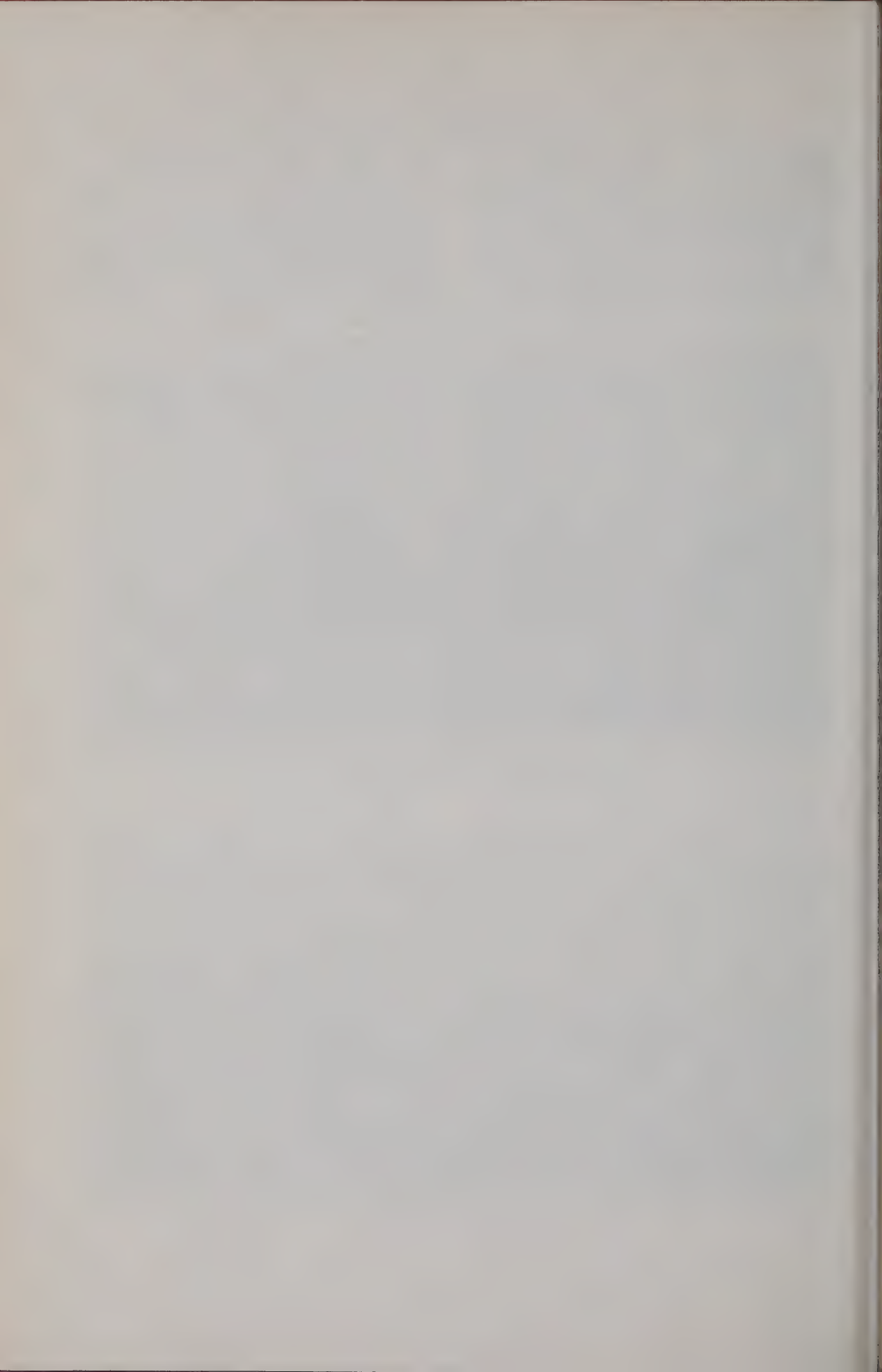
Thus a network of roads cover the Laramie Plains and a great number of the early roads are still in use. These are shown clearly on the map accompanying this chapter.



Grant Harnden, one of the last jerk-line drivers and his jerk-line team at the Eades homestead in 1919. Photo by courtesy of Mrs. Ruby G. Eades.



First ox-team to leave Rawlins for Buffalo in 1869. Photo by courtesy Kleber Hadsell and Bert Miller.



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CHAPTER IX





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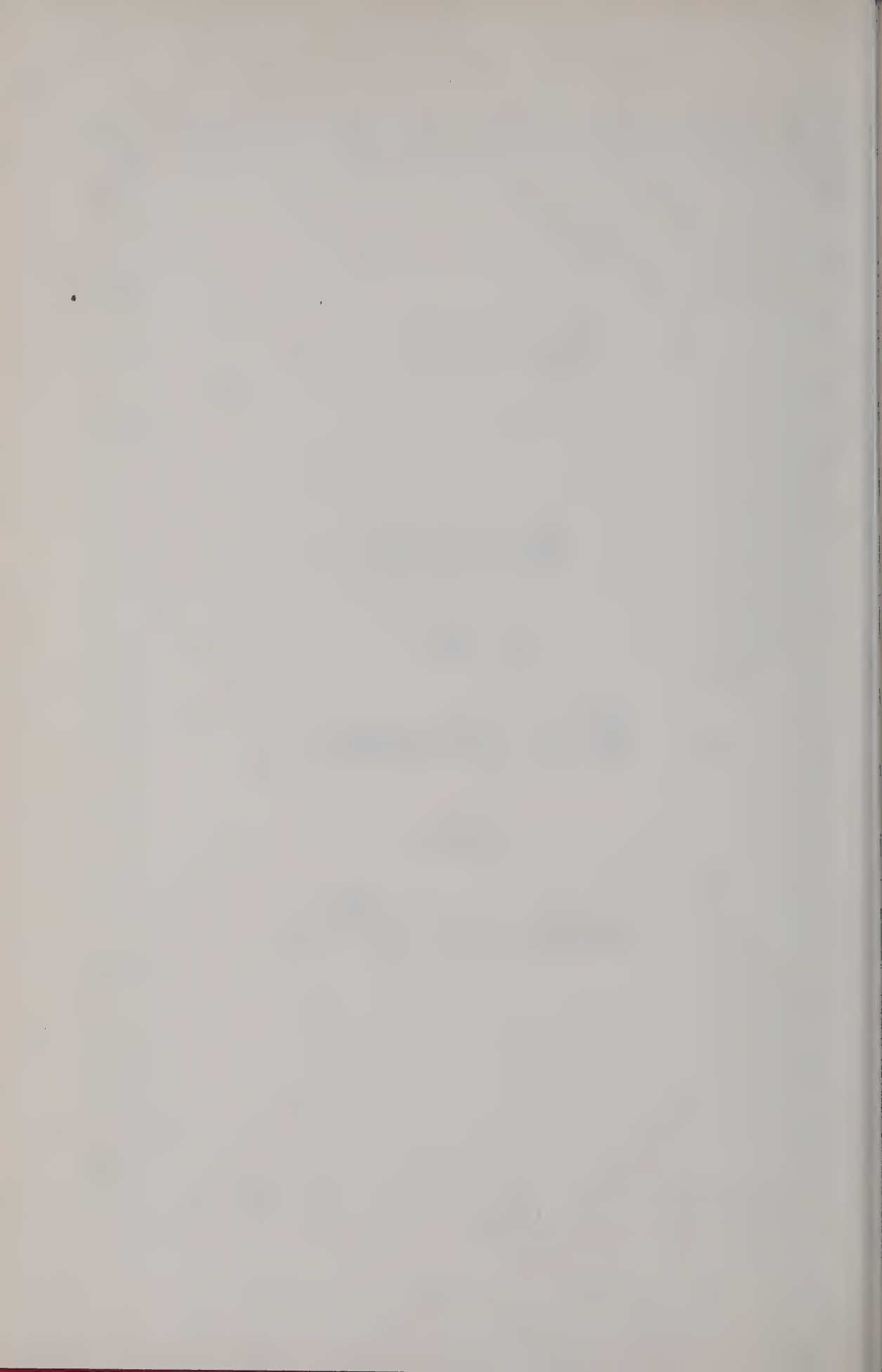
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CHAPTER 9

RANCHES ON THE BIG LARAMIE ABOVE LARAMIE CITY

By R. H. "Bob" Burns

ON THE 1886 MAP of Albany County, prepared by Billy Owen, the first ranch above Woods Landing is that of a man named Garvey, located on Section 26-13-77. The writer has found no further reference to this man.

At the present time the first place above Woods Landing is that owned by the widow of Fred Hansen. She is the postmistress of the present post office called Jelm, which has been moved downstream from the original site of Jelm or Cummins City.

James Pollock

The next place upstream is the James Pollock place, located on Sections 23 and 24 Township 13, Range 77. James Pollock came from Wisconsin and went to Keystone and did assessment work there. He then went to shearing sheep. He was a Civil War veteran and had a pension. He first built a road ranch on the Fort Collins-Tie Siding-Walden State route in the '80s. Later, in the '90s, he had a place on Beaver Creek now called Boswell Creek. His place was sold to Angus Sutherland, who sold it to C. P. Thompson. Later the State of Wyoming purchased a strip along the river for fishing purposes and the rest of the land went to Mr. Embree of the Mountain Meadow Ranch (Old Jake Lund Place) below Woods Landing. This ranch was not a good livestock set-up because of the small amount of hay cut and the poorer qual-

ity of the pasture compared with other places lower down. The Pollock brand listed in the 1916 Brandbook was an interesting one consisting of a pair of ice tongs on right ribs of cattle and right shoulder of horses.

Elton Mansfield

The next place going up the river was that of Elton Mansfield, a brother of Oliver Mansfield, ranchman on the Big Laramie below the Riverside ranch. Not much has been found concerning this ranch except its location.

Frank Smith - Cummins City or Jelm

Next we come to the Frank Smith place at the location of the early mining center of Jelm or Cummins City. The Owen map of 1886 gives the location of Cummins, now Jelm, as Section 35-13-77 and the Bellamy map of 1908 gives this same location for the Frank Smith ranch. The writer is indebted to the historical file of the U. S. Forest Service (courtesy L. Coughlin) for the following information on Frank Smith:

"Frank Smith was born in northern Missouri in 1856 and came to Wyoming in 1875. He camped next to the river for a week near Laramie and then went on to Salt Lake and spent the winter there. He went to Deadwood, South Dakota to the mining camp there and missed the Custer Massacre by a few days. The Indians were endeavoring to get a party, but were attacked by Custer and the Smith party pulled



James Pollock Ranch near Red Mountain. Freight teams on way to Walden, Colo. Taken 1885 by S. M. Hartwell & Son, Laramie. Photo by courtesy of Walter Smith.



Pollock Family at Red Mountain Ranch. Late 1890s. 1. Jim Pollock; 2. Mrs. Jim Pollock; 3. Maude Pollock (Smith); 4. Jimmy Pollock. Photo by courtesy Walter Smith.



Pollock Family and Friends. 1. Jimmy Howell; 2. Ed Skinner; 3. Sarah Montgomery; 4. Robert Pollock; 5. Maude Pollock (Smith); 6. Jimmy Pollock; 7. Mrs. Jim Pollock; 8. Bert Duvall; 9. Billy Howell; 10. Mary Howell and girl Edna Stone; 11. Mrs. Bill Howell; 12. Art Howell.



Barn at Pollock Ranch on Beaver Creek, now Boswell Creek, about 1904. 1. Jim Pollock; 2. Maude Pollock (Smith); 3. Otto King; 4. Jimmy Howell; 5. Mrs. Jim Pollock; 6. Ed Skinner; 7. Sam Nelson on buggy tongue.

out and returned to Laramie in the fall of 1876. He bought the ranch at Gleneyre in 1880 and lived on it since that time."

The writer had an interesting conference with Frank Smith in 1944 and he gave the following information:

"Yelton, a tie contractor, had a place 20 miles above Jelm or 16 miles above Boswells. I traded Yelton for the place. Hill, a young lawyer, was in partnership with me and we had a quarrel and I quit the place and went down the river. I homesteaded on my present place in 1886. Tom Walden, a road agent, settled on the site of the Boswell ranch. A Frenchman named Bovee was trapping on the East Beaver. He disappeared and a body was identified later as his by the teeth. The supposition was that Walden killed him but it was never proven. Walden built up the place and later sold it to Boswell. Judd Hantz, a tie chopper, lived there. Cummins was sent up from Denver by Smith and Hantz to look over the country and prospect for rare metals. Cummins hired miners and kept books for the mining company. Barnum was a saw mill man from Wisconsin who came out and paid \$30,000 for a mine which had been 'salted' with gold nuggets. The name Cummins city was later (1894) changed to Jelm. The tie man Smith and Jelm got out ties in that country about 1867. A fire burned over the country. I cut a dead tree on the river which had the name E. J. Jelm carved on a limb."

The Forest Service historical file gives some further interesting information concerning early day history of the area:

"The tie drive started a fire in the sage brush on Jelm in 1878. Fires on

Douglas Creek were started by Charley Hutton about 1872 to get his Texas steers out of the timber country. The first irrigation ditch was the Pioneer built by Crout, a contractor in the '80s with help of P. G. Murphy—that redoubtable Irish veteran of the Civil War who lived just below Woods Landing. The first store was started by Harwood and Sam Woods at Jelm in the '80s. Harwood was a young lawyer from Missouri who ran the store. He went on to Montana after staying here a short time."

Frank Smith died in Laramie January 22, 1945 and some interesting items occur in his obituary.—When a young man he was employed by the late John Cummins, who staked out Cummins city more than 60 years ago, built a hotel and sold stock to the "suckers". Smith had no part in the promotional scheme.

In 1941 the late John Charles Thompson wrote an article after an interview with Frank Smith at his ranch home.

"But just across the river from the little flat and the flanking bench on which Cummins City was born, briefly flourished and decayed, abides a living relic, a very virile one, who was present in its accouchment, participated in its lusty growth, saw it falter, wither, fade and disappear. He is 86-year-old Frank Smith who probably sits a horse straighter, can ride further in a day and come home comparatively fresh at dusk than any other of his age in this state, or for that matter, all elsewhere. A remarkable man, Frank Smith, one with whom it is a delight to converse regarding things as they were when Wyoming was much younger and correspondingly less staid. Jelm mountain's cone has been the axis of his



*Cummins City or Jelm. 1904. Frank Smith ranch in foreground, McMullen cabin directly back of Smith ranch, site of Cummins City postoffice. Stamp mill and Elton Mansfield building in background. House on hill built by miners and moved by Charley Oviatt.
Identifications by Jim Hardman.*



*Traveling Preacher (name unknown) who held Sunday School at Jelm about 1900.
Photo by courtesy Walter Smith.*

operations during 66 years. He has 'lived' every hour of the period and at four-score and six still is not overlooking any bets. Memories crowd upon him as he gazes across the river at where Cummins City was. He lives alone, this lively octogenarian, in a big two-story house of adz-hewn logs, with corners so cunningly adorned with dovetailed joints that they will be holding when the intervening sections of the sturdy timbers crumble. The Swedish lumber jack who shaped those logs with only axe and adz as tools was an artist with a dash of genius in his work. He doubtless would have regarded timber craftsmanship of the standard of the present as deplorable butchery of sound wood. There is no blight upon the title to the land on which the big house rests or on the additional 10,000 acres which Frank Smith has knit together into a ranch which he validly may regard with pride. On this domain and the adjacent forest reserve he runs sheep."

Smith rode on the Laramie plains for some of the early cow outfits operating there and became thoroughly familiar with the topography of the region. In 1879 he caught the gold fever again and went to the White River region of Colorado with a Swede as a partner. The Swede was drowned and Smith took the back trail alone. He arrived at the Milk River agency a few days before the agent Meeker was murdered by the Utes. He was advised by that agent to remain until he could go with a wagon train to Rawlins.

Cummins City Blooms

In 1881 Smith became associated with John Cummins. This white whiskered confidence man, who looked more like

a preacher or a son of the soil than a slicker, was inflating the Cummins City boom. He employed the robust young Smith to help him build. Fortified with a large envelope, which was represented as being stuffed with valuable papers, Cummins obtained capital from Laramieites and embarked upon developing the Copper King lode mine. Soon there reared at the Copper King, located up a gulch somewhat less than a mile from the river, perhaps the largest water-wheel ever fabricated in Wyoming, while on the flat beside the river there arose undoubtedly the largest hotel ever built in a Wyoming boom camp. It was a two-story frame structure of 40 or more rooms. Wreckage of the water wheel may be seen today, but no vestige of the hotel remains. This water wheel which turned by water from the gulch was the power plant of the Copper King. Cummins creditors moved in on the hotel after Cummins City became an obvious boomer, tore it down and moved the material to Laramie and there salvaged something by using it in the construction of buildings.

For a brief time Cummins City flourished like the proverbial green bay tree. Mining claims were staked out all over the scenery—on the flat and the successive benches beyond, up on the flanks of Jelm mountain, down the canyon toward Woods Landing, up the other canyon toward Boswell's and over to the eastward of Jelm's mighty bulk. Companies were organized, stocks flowed from the printing presses and were peddled to persons who expected to get rich quick. Nobody did—whatever was invested in Cummins City mining property became a permanent investment forthwith. At the

height of Cummins City's career a population of 200 was claimed for the camp, a townsite was laid out with lots and streets and a mining district was organized. That's why the land has been blighted ever since. Mining law superseded other public land laws, balking perfection of title under the latter. There are said to be folk today still paying taxes on Cummins City lots their forebears bought 60 years ago. Frank Smith recollects that the 200 population claim was inflated about 150 per cent. At no time did the actual residents of the city exceed 50. Around 30 structures were erected. These included three stamp mills for the treatment of ore, a church, and a very substantial jail. Rust-eaten metal still identifies the site of at least one of the mills. This is located up a gulch that comes down to the river at Smith's ranch. Further up this gulch is the Copper King.

Cummins City Dies

When it was apparent that the metaliferous resources of the district were nil (a proposition some do not admit today) Cummins City wilted almost as rapidly as it had bloomed. Inhabitants left without taking the trouble to move their household possessions and for years crockery might be observed on cabin shelves, furniture was just as it had been left when its owners departed, and even blankets and quilts were still on beds. In the end the inroads of ranchers in need of cut timbers leveled the buildings. Perhaps some of those old household belongings, notably stoves, may be found in ranch homes of the region today. The Cummins' and Doctor Thomas lingered on for several years after the camp was deserted by others, living in the empty

big hotel. Then the creditors wrecked the structure and they too, moved on.

Meanwhile Frank Smith had established himself on a homestead just beyond the limits of the blighted ground and with this as a nucleus he built up his ranch holdings. The Copper King came into his possession—still is his. He saw Cummins City come, be, and cease to be, the while tending to his own knitting until he accumulated the comfortable competency which is the security of his old age. He is, as previously remarked, an extremely interesting chap to converse with. The name of his ranch by the way is "Liars' Paradise."

Such is the interesting story of the boom town of Cummins City now called Jelm.

The Boswell Ranch

The Owen map of 1886 lists the Boswell ranch as the Garlett ranch and located it on Section 14-12-79. This ranch according to Oscar Sodergreen was owned by Speck, Reusmer and Baldwin who moved to North Park. Portions of small places belonging to Jud Hance, Bliler, Decker and others were included in the Boswell ranch. Tom Walden built the Boswell Ranch house about 1873. N. K. Boswell was born in New Hampshire November 4, 1836, according to Bartlet's History. He was one of 12 children—6 boys and 6 girls. At 17 years of age he went to Michigan and afterwards to Wisconsin to engage in the lumber business. He left in 1857 for his health and went to Colorado and engaged in the mining and lumber business for 7 years. In 1867 he came to Cheyenne and ran a drug store from 1868-70. He started ranching and was the first sheriff of Albany County, receiving his commis-



Feed Stable at Jelms: Laramie-Walden Stage 1904. 1. Charlie Shark, stage driver; 2. Bob Pollock; 3. C. J. Oviatt homestead; 4. Shroeder Hotel; 5. Unknown; 6. Unknown.
Photo by courtesy Walter Smith.



Boswell Road Ranch about 1904. 1. Lydia Plaga; 2. Mattie Steetle; 3. Minnie B. Oviatt; 4. Clarence Oviatt; 5. Martha Oviatt; 6. Billy Howell; 7. Chas. J. Oviatt; 8. Leonard Howell; 9. Walter Howell; 10. Art Howell; 11. Bob Pollock; 12. Edith Lundquist; 13. Ruth Lindsey; 14. Jimmy Howell; 15. Artie Mansfield; 16. Everett Lundquist; 17. Meta Plaga; 18. Unknown; 19. Unknown; 20. Unknown; 21. Frank Stone; 22. Mrs. Billy Howell; 23. Unknown; 24. Unknown; 25. Unknown.
Photo by courtesy Walter Smith.



Boswell Ranch in 1894. Photo by courtesy Mrs. W. W. Doyle and Leonard Helzer.



N. K. Boswell at his ranch. 1913. Photo courtesy of Jim Hardman

sion in 1869. He was married to Martha Salsbury in Wisconsin, who died in 1896 leaving a daughter, Minnie, later Mrs. Oviatt. N. K. Boswell was one of the famous peace officers of the west. His home in Laramie, now the Wesley Club, was one of the buildings moved into Laramie from Fort Sanders in early days. The Boswell ranch in recent years has been owned by Olson brothers.

The next ranch is the Grace Creek Ranch originally settled by Cap Hance and owned later by Bill Mansfield and George Pister. This ranch has been in the Hohnholz family for many years.

The lower Gleneyre Ranch is now owned by Charles Wagnel and has been owned at various times by the Dawson Tie Camp, Emory Brown, Joe Smith, Coe & Carter, O. P. Yelton and Dan Johnson.

John Hohnholz

John Hohnholz was born in Cheyenne and around 1892 began ranching on Shell Creek, Section 24-13-76, on the northwest portion of Bull Mountain. He sold out that place and purchased the Grace Creek Ranch, Section 35-12-77, in 1917. The owners of the Grace Creek Ranch in order were Jack S. Fordyce, E. H. Hall, John O. Martin, Wm. Mansfield, Chas. D. Martin and just previous to John Hohnholz, the Grace Creek Ranch Co. (Frank Marriot).

Prices received for livestock over the years as reported by Mrs. Hohnholz showed a range of \$4 to \$12 cwt., cows \$2 to \$10 cwt., work horses \$75 each and riding horses \$50 a head. Mr. Hohnholz was badly crippled by an accident while hauling timber when the load ran over him.

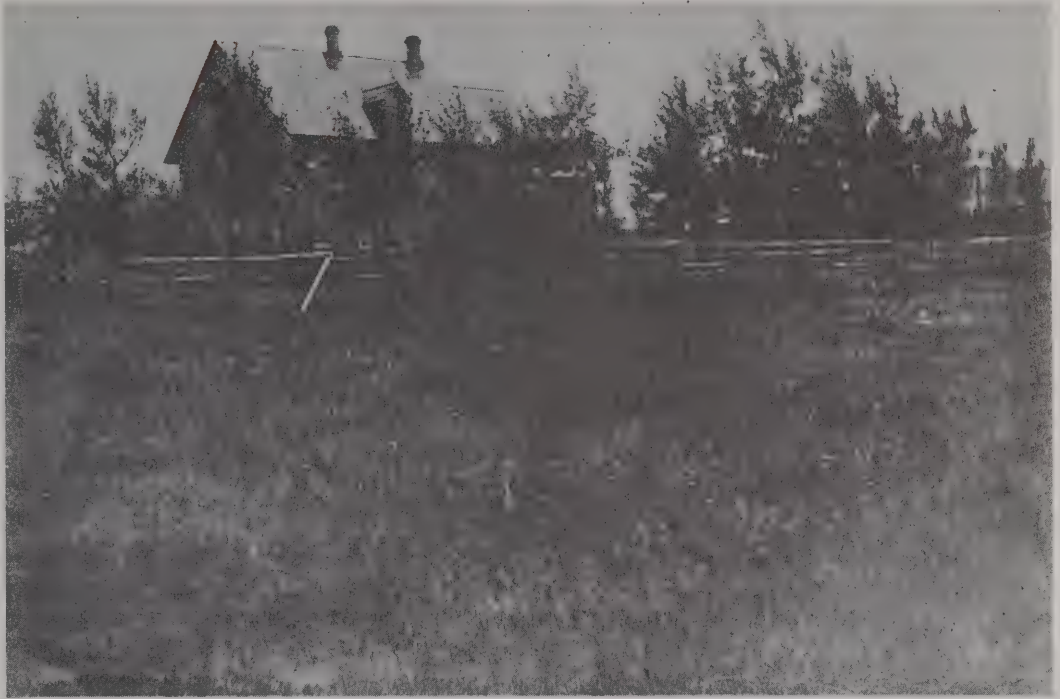
Priscilla Ranch

Above the lower Gleneyre Ranch are some other ranches. One of the early day ranches had the intriguing name of Priscilla Ranch owned by A. Dev. Baldwin. The writer as a youngster along about 1907 remembers an incident connected with this ranch. In common with many other ranchers of that time, Mr. Baldwin purchased one of the thoroughbred Norman stud horses at a price of \$2,000. The grain-fed, pampered stallion came on out to the high country, was unloaded at Laramie, and led out to the ranch. By the time he had arrived at the Flag Ranch, 9 miles from Laramie, he was in a lather and ready to call it a day. This high-priced horse had been at the ranch only a few weeks when he developed colic, a dreaded and invariably fatal illness for horses in those days, and died.

The writer, through the courtesy of Mrs. Fannie Johnson looked through a collection of papers of Judge Groesbeck recently and among these found a letterhead of the Priscilla Ranch dated February 25, 1905. This letter concerned the collection of a payment on a telephone company named the Jelm Mountain Telephone Company in which each rancher was to put up \$100. The company was organized in Chicago and had a local man in Laramie as their treasurer and Judge Groesbeck handled some of the collections.

Diamond Tail Ranch

The Diamond Tail Ranch is one of the old time ranches which you come to when you come down to the Big Laramie River going south from Sand Creek Pass. The original owners, according to Wallis Link were the Mar-



Shell Creek Ranch of John Hohnholz. Photo by courtesy of Mrs. John Hohnholz.



Grace Creek Ranch of John Hohnholz. Photo by courtesy of Mrs. John Hohnholz.



First Hereford Bull purchased by Grace Creek Ranch. Photo by courtesy of Mrs. John Hohnholz.



Grace Creek Ranch and horses in winter scene. Photo by courtesy of Mrs. John Hohnholz.

tin brothers, Kelly and Oscar. The Martin brothers were born in Sweden and when they came to the west they started in the tie business on Jimmy Creek just south of Sand Creek Pass. Then they went into the cattle business. Oscar and Kelly Martin were both bachelors. Kelly later married an aunt of Billy Ferguson. The present Bar Lazy F ranch is located on Section 3-10-76 (location of buildings) and consists of 2,687 acres of grazing land and 533 acres of meadow. Subsequent owners up to the present time are Windham, Bill Sherwood, A. D. V. Baldwin, Colorado Investment and Realty Company - 1913, Charlie Owen, Jim Vanderwork and the present owner, A. Benzinger.

This ranch was the scene of an early hunting tragedy which has a mute reminder in a large concrete slab at the Laramie Cemetery. A full account of the accident is given in the Laramie Daily Boomerang for September 15, 1887 which states that George Vincent Hamilton Gordon late of Oriel College, Oxford, second son of General E. H. Gordon was killed September 4, 1887 when he was mistaken for an antelope in the bright sunshine reflected off his clothes in the sage brush country. The concrete slab covering the grave has the inscription of the names given above.

Tatham Ranch

Another interesting ranch on the upper Big Laramie is the Tatham ranch owned today by Richard Leake. The Tatham brothers, William and Harry came to Wyoming in 1878 and worked in the rolling mills. Later Bill Tatham ran the stockyards and Harry Tatham was on the ranch. The ranching operation started about 1897. The original

homestead entry on the Tatham ranch was in the name of Wm. C. "Tex" Allen in 1880 and covered portions of Sections 17 and 18-T11-R76.

In 1912 the Tatham Bros., Bill and Harry, sold out to Tom Tatham, a son of Harry, who in turn sold out to Dr. R. M. Leake in 1929. The Tatham brothers started out with 250 Oregon heifers—wild as the hills—which were loaded at Huntington, Oregon. They used Hereford bulls. Another son of Harry, Ralph went to the ranch with his parents when six years old. He later purchased his own ranch in the vicinity and spent the rest of his life there. He contracted the flu during World War I and never fully recovered and was in poor health for many years prior to his death in 1945.

Woods Landing

Woods Landing is named for Sam Woods who had several saw mills and used to float logs down the Big Laramie river and take them out of the water near the present Woods Landing where he had a large saw mill.

Gus Burg Ranch

Gus Burg had a saw mill at Woods Landing and also had a ranch now owned by Mrs. Ole Erickson. Oscar Sodergreen told the writer that Gus Burg and Lee Kerfoot trailed 1,000 sheep from Missouri to Wyoming about 1877. Gus Burg took 400 of these, while Kerfoot took the remaining 600 to his ranch on Spring Creek in the Sand Creek area. The Owen map made in 1886 locates the Burg place on Section 2-13-77.

P. G. Murphy—An Interesting Irishman

P. G. Murphy was a veteran of the Civil War who settled on the Big Laramie River just below Woods Landing



Woods Landing House that Sam Woods built. 1. Tommy Porter; 2. Frank McDonald; 3. Alex Knox; 4. Chas. Short; 5. Susie Porter; 6. Maude Pollock; 7. Sylvia Porter Hardigan; 8. Mrs. Lou Porter; 9. Mrs. Jim Pollock; 10. Eddie Langhoff; 11. Mrs. Mary Dixon; 12. Johnny Porter; 13. Bob Pollock; 14. Jimmy Pollock; 15. Chas Oviatt; 16. Cash Webber; 17. Ed Skinner; 18. Otto Skinner. Identifications by Mrs. Ollie Mansfield Secrest, Laramie. Photo by courtesy Walter Smith.



Tatham Brothers Ranch. From Houghton Pen & Ink Sketch. Photo courtesy Tom Tatham.

on Section 36-14-77. He was an Irish character with all of the wit and vitriolic temper of that splendid race. About 1900 P. G. was working on a dam in the river when his son-in-law, Tim McCarthy, was dynamiting fish. A stick of the unexploded dynamite floated downstream instead of sinking as most of them did. It gave P. G. a royal welcome when it reached his dam. He was madder than a hatter at that d — — d son-in-law and took him to town to the law to teach the brash young man a lesson. Imagine his surprise when the lawyers got through with him. Instead of the son-in-law being fined and put in the "brig", P. G. himself was fined for dynamiting fish. He was a widower and had only a half section of land. He had a crooked wheel on his wagon and a single gray horse which was always underfed. When asked why he did not feed more and drive slower he retorted, "Begorry and begads, tis not the speed, but he is starving on the road." When P. G. went to town he always brought back \$5 worth of flour and \$25 worth of whiskey. He raised a few spuds and once caught a nine-pound trout on a set line. One time one of his friends (??) saw P. G. stretched out "dead to the world" on the bed and reported in town that P. G. was as "dead as a mackeral." Imagine the choice cuss words and Irish brogue which resulted when the coroner on his way out to the ranch to pick up the corpse met a very much alive P. G. coming into town after his little siesta.

P. G. raised some very nice vegetables and used to sell these from door to door in Laramie. At that time Mrs. Ivinson lived in an apartment over her husband's back on Second Street where

Woolworth's store is today. She called down to P. G. and asked him what special things he had in vegetables for that day. In his best Irish brogue P. G. said that he had some very nice carrots, spinach, radishes and turnips. And as a parting shot he said, "And M'am I have rutabagas as big as yore thigh." Rumor has it that the rest of the load of vegetables were purchased then and there.

Jake Lund

Or Mountain Meadow Ranch

This ranch, according to Oscar Sodergreen was settled by Jake Lund who came here about 1880. Lund planted the first and possibly the only apple orchard in the Laramie valley. The apple orchard is today the only one in southern Albany county and likely the only one at this high elevation. It survives only because of the protection afforded by the many trees and willows along the river. He had a couple of sections and ran a dairy herd and made butter. The ranch is located on Section 1-13-77 and in recent years has been known as the Mountain Meadow ranch. It is now owned by Mr. Embree of New York. Oscar Hammond told the writer that Jake Lund and his father, Charlie Hammond sailed out of Hamburg for several years and came to Laramie together. The Lunds sold the ranch in 1916 and moved to a lower elevation at Berthoud where Mr. Lund died in 1922. Mrs. Lund moved back to the Ivinson Home in Laramie and died here in 1945. The ranch was sold first to Mr. Montgomery, father of Baby Peggy of movie fame, and was kept for a vacation spot for a few years. And then it was sold to the present owner, Mr. Embree.



*Jacob Lund's House on the Big Laramie about 27 miles from Laramie. August 1899.
Wyo. AES Negative No. 2712.*



*Oscar and Augusta Sodergreen holding grand-
daughter Gussie Decker. Photo by Svenson.
Courtesy Walter Smith.*

Jake Lund had an interesting brand, the ox-bow, which was used on the left side of cattle.

Jake Johnson Ranch

The Johnson brothers, Jacob and Alex, went into the ranching business on the Big Laramie River just above the Sodergreen ranch about 1884. A son and grandson, Wesley, and Everett Johnson, now live on the original ranch which is located on Section 31-14-76.

Oscar Sodergreen

Another famous ranch on the Big Laramie River dating back to the early days is the Sodergreen Ranch. In recent years this ranch has been a part of the enlarged Riverside called the Tarkio Ranch. But now it is known by its original name since it was sold by Mr. Schmidt. The Sodergreen ranch is located on Section 32-14-76 on the Billy Owen map of 1886. Oscar Sodergreen was born in Pennsylvania in 1853 and came to Wyoming in 1871. He lived in Wyoming for 76 years and died here in 1947. He homesteaded the original ranch site in 1872 and gradually added to his holdings until he had more than 6,000 acres in 1936 when he sold the ranch. He and his wife were renowned as hosts and, in common with other Swedish people, were famous cooks. Oscar loved to hunt and fish and recalled to the writer that he took the first wagons into North Park to hunt elk in the 70s. Another time in that same decade he took a group of nimrods to the Platte river and caught many big fish. He said that he remembered one that weighed six pounds over the scale. The city of Laramie obtains part of its water supply from Sodergreen Lake which was named for Oscar Sodergreen. The Sodergreen brand was a quarter circle

over the figure 50. Oscar Sodergreen lived to a ripe old age of 94 and had seen the Laramie Plains develop from the time when buffalo, elk and mountain sheep ranged the plains until the modern beef-makers—the sleek Herefords and Angus—grow fat on Wyoming grass.

Balch & Bacon's Riverside Ranch

In pioneer days many men from distant Boston came to Wyoming's Laramie Plains to seek a fortune based on the free grass of the western range. These representatives of the culture of the Cabots and the Lodges transplanted some of their mannerisms to the growing culture of these Laramie Plains from whence it was woven into the frontier life of Wyoming.

Among the Bostonians who came here in the 70s were Messrs. Balch and Bacon who had been boyhood chums. Henry Balch, educated at Roxbury Latin School in Massachusetts, developed bronchial trouble and came west in 1876 on the advice of his physician. His boyhood friend, Dan Bacon, followed him a year later. The pair of dudes worked at Bob Homer's ranch helping him to put up hay. They later bought land on the Big Laramie River from Tom Alsop and obtained the block and dewlap brand from Hutton and Metcalfe. The home ranch is called the Riverside Ranch and is located some 20 miles southwest of Laramie on Section 36-14-76.

The partnership was organized into the Riverside Livestock Company and in 1885 its officers were Dan C. Bacon, president; John W. Donnellan, vice-president; and J. A. Winkler Jr., secretary-treasurer. Dan Bacon took over the management of the Laramie Plains ranches of the company. Balch was



Oscar Sodergreen Ranch on Big Laramie River. Photo by courtesy Susan Sodergreen Chamberlain.



Fishing Trip in Centennial Valley in 1888. Left to right: Oscar Sodergreen, Mrs. Sodergreen, Cora (Decker), Sonny, and Mrs. Florence Kennedy Travis. Photo by courtesy Susan Sodergreen Chamberlain.

interested in ranches in Montana and was in the banking business in Laramie City and Salt Lake City.

In 1885 they had 5,093 head of wethers which were valued at \$3 a head. In 1889 they sold 60,000 pounds of wool in Boston for 12 cents a pound. Wool prices were quite low as compared with the present, and the so-called Panic of 1893 cut the wool price in half. However, the value per head of cattle gives some interesting sidelights on popularity of horses and cattle. J. A. Winkler was a trained accountant and kept a fine set of books with six month inventories.

In the 80s and 90s many high priced stallions were brought to Wyoming by the Riverside Company. A Cleveland Bay stallion named Splendour was put down at \$2,000 in 1888 and declined to \$1,000 in 1892. A Shire stallion by the name of Great Heart was carried at a figure of \$1,000 which indicated that harness horses like Splendour were valued higher than draft horses like Great Heart. A Thoroughbred stallion named Invader was valued at \$150. In 1886 some so-called thoroughbred Durhams (Shorthorns) were listed at \$75 each and an Angus bull at \$500, a figure not so far off from the present day prices of "Doddie" bulls. However, in 1891 ten head of Hereford bulls were inventoried at \$60 a head.

Values of Lands, Improvements and Sheep

Land values in 1892 were around \$1.50 an acre for railroad grazing lands, while other lands were listed at \$5 to \$10 an acre and two smaller ranches were bought at \$10 an acre. The total value of ranch improvements on ranches from the Big Laramie River to Lookout station was around \$18,000 in

1892 and the same figure was given in 1898. This same year ewes were listed at \$3.50 each, lambs at \$2 and rams at \$10. In 1902 they had a few registered ewes which were valued at \$20 each. In 1903 the Company evidently took a flier as they listed 93 Angora goats at \$4 each, 40 kids at \$2 and 350 pounds of mohair at 20 cents a pound. They evidently found along with other ranchers that Angora goats do not acclimate favorably at a high altitude with high winds.

The Riverside Company bought out a number of small ranches both on the Big Laramie river and in the Rock Creek country. The Charley Northrup place on Cooper Creek was purchased in 1898 together with the sheep on the place at that time. The Caldwell and Gardinier place on the Big Laramie River, consisting of 5,200 acres, was purchased in 1900.

The headquarters of the sheep operations of the Riverside Company were centered at the Charley Northrup place about three and one-half miles east of the Dixon (Fanny Hansell Johnson) place. The late Al Mountford told the writer how much he enjoyed the coffee and cake which Mrs. Northrup used to serve him when he stopped there while carrying the mail to Morgan. The Northrup place was located on Section 7-18-76. An item in the Laramie Boomerang May 10, 1904 has a peculiar ring as a shearing time episode. The item states that sheep shearers go on strike and the Kearns gang quit the job because the Riverside Company at the Lookout shearing pens refused to pay 8 cents a head for shearing sheep. The shearers claimed that the sheep were very dirty and that 9 cents a head was being paid for shearing at

Fort Steele, Medicine Bow and Rawlins. Some 8,000 sheep were to be sheared at the shearing pens some 8 miles from Lookout. (Note: Evidently Northrup place RHB.)

The operations of the Riverside Livestock Company (Balch & Bacon) or-

ganized at Laramie, Wyoming on July 10, 1886 are well shown in the following excerpts from their Semi-Annual Reports (July 1) on Assets and Liabilities (Riverside Livestock Company Ledger, courtesy M. Corthell).

RIVERSIDE LIVESTOCK COMPANY

Organized July 10, 1886

Daniel C. Bacon, President

John H. Donnellan, Vice-President

J. A. Winkler, Jr., Secretary-Treasurer

Year	Wool To:	Sales* Price	Clip Weight	No. Sheep†	Fleece Weights	No. Cattle	Value per Cattle	Head Sheep	Profit**
1887	?	17c	75,000	6550-W	11.45	997	\$25	\$2.75	\$16,828.30
1888	DG&C	10c	65,000	7170-W	9.07	1409	25	2.75	20,906.98
1889	?	12c	60,000	5093-W	11.78	1582	25	3.00	19,243.54
1890	DG	14c	58,297	5000-W	11.66	1444	20	3.00	17,112.49
1891	DG	14½c	74,000	7000-W	10.57	1424	20	3.50	22,878.33
1892	HD&Co.	12c	73,816	6900-W	10.70	1734	20	3.50	26,572.79
1893	HD&Co.	8c	79,430	6150-W	12.92	1647	20	3.75	26,810.02
1894	HD&Co.	5½c	86,238	6172-S	13.97	1683	20	2.00	10,309.28
1895	HD&Co.	5c	103,658	8000-S	12.96	2041	20	2.00	18,862.04
1896	HD&Co.	5c	72,089	9000-S	8.01	2000	20	2.50	26,028.90
1897	HD&Co.	6½c	90,040	8150-S	11.05	2202	20	2.75	31,080.93
1898	HD&Co.	12c	80,120	8927-S	8.98	2355	30	3.50	88,848.89
1899	HD&Co.	12c	86,855	10200-E	8.52	2175	30	3.50	92,329.33
1900	HD&Co.	15c	95,288	11600-E	8.21	1950	30	3.50	110,170.57
1901	HD&Co.	10c	91,000	10000-E	9.10	2150	30	3.00	93,089.18
1902	.....	.....	.....	14400-S	.....	2450	30	3.00	109,196.39
1903	.....	.....	.....	9395-E	.....	2525	25	2.50	91,432.13

*Wool sales DG&C—Dewey Gould & Combs, Boston

DG—Dewey Gould, Boston

HD&Co.—Hallowell, Donald and Company, Boston.

†No. Sheep—W, Wethers; S, Sheep, sex undesignated; E, ewes.

**Profit is the difference between total assets and total liabilities.

In the panic of 1893 prices dropped for what the rancher had to sell and prices remained the same for the items he had to buy and the inevitable price-cost squeeze developed.

James S. Brisbin in 1881 wrote a book entitled "The Beef Bonanza or How to Get Rich on the Plains." He mentioned in particular the Clark and Willard sheep ranch some 18 miles

south from Laramie. This outfit he said had 3,000 sheep and was established in 1879. It had done exceptionally well and the ranch was worth \$12,000 in three years. Oscar Soder-



Riverside Ranch from air showing Big Laramie River Valley. Buildings in background are on Hans Olsen place now owned by Ralph Holland. Photo by courtesy Chas. Thompson.



Caldwell & Gardinier Ranch. 1889 Edition Laramie Boomerang. Photo by courtesy Albany County Historical Museum.

green told the writer that Clark, Willard and Herbert Kennedy came out from Boston. Evidently Kennedy bought the others out and he in turn sold to Balch and Bacon. Herbert Kennedy went back to Boston to live. His brother, Leslie Kennedy, had a ranch at Sheep Mountain now under the water of Lake Hattie.

LeRoy Lane

The LeRoy Lane was named for Al LeRoy who had a ranch located on Section 29-14-75 which is now owned by Oda Mason. The LeRoy Lane and LeRoy bridge are well known landmarks. C. R. LeRoy, a brother of Al, had a hardware store in Laramie. The ranch was sold to the Riverside Land and Livestock Co. in 1897 and at that time consisted of one section.

Caldwell & Gardenier Ranches

I. P. Caldwell was an attorney in Laramie and Gardenier a dentist who on the side had two small ranches on the Big Laramie River. Billy Owen's map shows the home ranch on Section 28-14-75 and the lower ranch on Section 11-14-75. The upper ranch is now a part of the Oda Mason ranch. The Caldwell and Gardenier ranches were purchased by the Riverside Livestock Company in 1900. Their books show the 5,200 acres were purchased for \$17,500 or \$3.37 an acre. The late Mary Bellamy told the writer that the Caldwells moved to Denver and the children are still in Colorado. Mrs. Jennie Caldwell died in 1944. The Caldwells built the large English-style house on Tenth Street now owned by Sam Knight.

Oliver Mansfield Ranch

The Oliver Mansfield ranch was located on the Big Laramie River between the Caldwell home ranch and

the Johnny Fischer ranch. It was located on Section 20-14-75. This was a small place and he ran a few milk cows on it. Mrs. John Goetz who is owner of the Goetz or Pretzel Ranch on Sand Creek is a daughter of Oliver Mansfield. This ranch was also sold out and the ruins of the buildings can be seen on the left hand side going south on LeRoy Lane before coming to the Big Laramie River. The Mansfields moved to Colorado and the second Mrs. Mansfield died in Denver in 1945 and her husband in 1922. Sarah Jane Mansfield was buried in Laramie in 1912.

John A. Fischer Ranch

According to Oscar Sodergreen, John A. Fischer had a ranch across the road from the Mansfield ranch and lived in town in 1873 when Oscar came to the country. He had a building at First and Ivinson below the Kuster house and the building is still known by that name. The ranch according to Billy Owen's map in 1886 was located on Section 21-14-75. Jim Atkinson told the writer that Fischer had a sheep ranch below the LeRoy bridge and Jim worked for him in 1884 and then worked for J. W. Collins on Five Mile before going to Rock River and the north country in 1886.

Hans Olson Ranch

The Hans Olson ranch on the Big Laramie River was located on Section 4-13-76. Oscar Olson who lives in Laramie and Ted Olson, former editor of the Laramie Republican and now with the OWI in Washington, are sons of Hans Olson. Hans Olson was buried in Laramie in 1912. His brand was the 1/3 on the left side of cattle. This ranch is now owned by Ralph Holland.



*Caldwell Residence, now S. H. Knight residence. 1889 Edition Laramie Boomerang.
Photo by courtesy Albany County Historical Museum.*



Charley Hutton's Heart Ranch. Photo by courtesy L. C. Abbott.

Con Hammond Ranch

Con Hammond worked as a carpenter in the car shops of the Union Pacific and commuted to his little ranch on the Big Laramie River. The buildings were located on Section 3-13-76. J. W. Chaha is now on this place.

Pahlow Lane

After leaving the Seven Mile Lake behind when traveling westward from Laramie on the Woods Landing road, you come to the Pahlow Lane which runs almost straight west to Lake Hattie. This lane was named for Robert Pahlow who came to Laramie in 1881 from Brandenburg Province in Germany. He worked at the Laramie Rolling Mills from 1881 to the fall of 1892 when he engaged in the ranching business. He raised cattle and horses and hauled hay and wood to Laramie in the winter months. His ranch buildings, now owned by William Spiegelberg, stand on Section 30-15-74. He married Wilhelmina Melcher in Germany and they had four children: Mamie (now Mrs. Oda Mason), Alice (now Mrs. Vigo Jensen of Ogden, Utah, Otto and Paul (deceased 1924).

The first summer after moving to the ranch he would drive to town with a horse and sulky, be on the job at the rolling mills at 5 a. m., help put out nine "heads" of iron and return home to the ranch. At that time his wages were \$2.25 a day which helped to feed the family whose only other income came from three milk cows and 28 hens. He and a neighbor started to build a ditch with the intake at the Wesley Johnson place north of Jelm Mountain with one team of work horses and the job took over three years to finish. This enabled him to raise some alfalfa, but the shortage of

water was always a problem. Robert Pahlow's brand was an inverted V over a figure 3.

John Strom

The John Strom ranch at Sheep Mountain, now owned by Norman Strom, was first settled by Jason Baily who lived there in 1879. He sold it in 1883 and homesteaded in Centennial valley where he lived the rest of his life. John Strom took up a homestead and eventually built up the ranch which today is the largest sheep ranch in Albany County. The homestead was located on Section 14-15-77. In the early days John Strom ran cattle and in 1918 he changed over to sheep. He died in 1942 and his son, Norman Strom, now has the ranch.

The Masons

Frank Mason came from Iowa in the 80s and had a ranch on Sand Creek now owned by Bill Hunziker. His sons, Oda and Osa, had land holdings here. Oda now owns a ranch on the Big Laramie including the old LeRoy and Caldwell places, along with other land. He and his son-in-law, Jack Dinwiddie, have a fine herd of registered Herefords and Oda has been active and has held many offices in the Wyoming Stockgrowers Association. Osa invested in city property.

The Heart or Hutton Ranch

Charles H. Hutton was born in Canada in 1832 and lived there until he was about 11 years old when his folks moved to New York state. He came to Laramie as a freighter before the railroad came through. Charley Hutton was probably one of the earliest, if not the earliest, stockman on the Laramie Plains, for in 1868 he was furnishing meat under contract to Fort Sanders. About 1864 Hutton and Met-



Con Hammond Ranch. Photo by courtesy Oscar Hammond.



Heart or Hutton Ranch: Old Blacksmith Shop.



John Strom Ranch at Sheep Mountain. Photo by courtesy Richard Strom and Norman Strom.



Robert de H. Homer. Wayle & Barber, Photographers, Laramie. Homer and Burns Collection.



Mrs. Robert de H. Homer. Marceau Studio, 624 Fifth Ave., New York. Homer and Burns Collection.

calfe squatted on the east side of the Big Laramie River near the stage crossing. This stage crossing was one of the three larger river crossings on the Laramie Plains, namely those at the Big Laramie, the Little Laramie and Rock Creek. Hutton, along with Tom Alsop, worked for Ed Creighton on grading contracts for the railroad of the new Union Pacific railroad. After the completion of these contracts in 1868 he entered the cattle and sheep business along with Creighton and Alsop and located on the present site of the Hutton or Heart Ranch.

The name of the Heart Ranch has created a lot of discussion as no one seemed to know how the ranch obtained this name. The writer recently found a clue to the name which evidently was the name of the brand. The heart brand was recorded in the Albany County Book of Marks and Brands on May 17, 1873 for all livestock by Ora Haley. He sold this brand to Sudduth and Montgomery in June 1879 and they took the brand out of Wyoming. The Wyoming Brand Book for 1899 lists the heart brand for Ora Haley for left thigh of horses and left side of cattle. That same year the heart brand for sheep was owned by Felix Atkinson. Evidently Ora Haley picked up the heart brand again as at this time he had a ranch on Rock Creek which was known as the Heart Ranch. He was in partnership with Charley Hutton in early days and this may be the origin of the name Heart Ranch applied to the Hutton Ranch on the east side of the river.

Charley Hutton was connected with many business enterprises. He leased and owned ranches throughout the Laramie Plains and surrounding areas,

but his headquarters were always on the Heart Ranch or at Fort Sanders where he spent his declining years. He brought in Texas steers in the early days and also brought in blooded cattle and sheep from Iowa. The early day settlers on Sand Creek, 20 miles south of Laramie City, wrote of the trouble they had in keeping Charley Hutton's big Texas steers off of their meadows. And Willis Rankin in his reminiscences speaks of six steers belonging to Charley Hutton which were ranging in a practically wild state in the North Fork area. These steers had strayed from the Fort Sanders range several years before and were big, wild and fast and it was almost impossible to round them up. Charley Hutton went into the horse business and this phase of his many enterprises was centered in the so-called Hutton horse ranch on the upper Big Laramie River. This horse ranch was located on the site of the Tatham ranch now owned by Dick Leake. Here Hutton raised high class draft and riding horses. Some of this stock was the foundation of the famous Sprague horses of later years.

Hutton Reminiscences

Some interesting reminiscences of Charley Hutton are given by Mrs. M. C. Brown in the Wyoming Historical Department Quarterly Bulletin:

"I recall our first visit to the Hutton and Alsop ranches. It was at the time of the summer round-up, and such a sight! Mr. Edward Creighton of Omaha was one of our party. It was through him that Mr. Hutton started cattle raising. Mr. Hutton was a peculiar man but a most sincere and interesting one. He came from Iowa before the railroad was built. He was employed in the building of the West-

ern Union telegraph line. He was not a good business man. I shall never forget his merry laugh and twinkling blue eyes or his splendid philosophy of life."

One of Organizers of Stock Graziers Association

Charley Hutton was a progressive stockman and was one of the organizers of the Wyoming Stock Graziers' Association in 1871. He was in the tie and timber business in 1871. Jesse Van Buskirk, an old-time cowpuncher and rancher, gave the writer considerable information concerning Charley Hutton. He had the block and dewlap brand and mark and owned a meat market in partnership with Metcalfe in 1873. Later he took in Marsh as a partner in his meat market. This was the old Pacific market which remained in business under various owners for around half a century. Marsh was a clerk in the railroad office. They bought the 7L ranch and cattle from a party at Rock Creek and Jesse gathered beef for his outfit until he quit riding in 1880. M. B. Sprague of the Little Laramie bought 600 horses from Charley Hutton. Hutton and Metcalfe sold the livestock, block brand and dewlap mark to Balch and Bacon and after this time Hutton did not have many cattle but ran many horses. He lived at the home ranch (Heart or Hutton) for some seven or eight years and then moved to Fort Sanders in 1882 or 1883. The Hutton or Heart Ranch sold for \$100,000 in 1885.

Newspaper Items on Hutton Ranch

Some items from the Laramie Daily Sentinel in 1871 and 1876 are useful in showing the enterprises which Charley Hutton engaged in.

May 19, 1870: A fine stallion and a

lot of blooded bulls were received by Hutton & Co. by rail. May 23, 1870: Hutton & Co. consisting of Charles Hutton and Ora Haley dissolved by mutual consent. October 29, 1870: Messrs. Chas. Hutton and Thos. Alsop will, in a few days, start shipping about 3,000 head of choice mountain-fed cattle which are intended for the Chicago and New York markets. January 13, 1871: Messrs. Hutton and Alsop shipped four carloads of fat cattle east yesterday here. They were fat too, though taken right off the plains in mid-winter. October 29, 1870: Messrs. Creighton & Hutton are loading at North Platte about 4,000 head of cattle which they purchased in Colorado for the Chicago market. March 28, 1871: Seven horses were stolen at North Platte one day last week from Mr. Hutton and other parties by the Indians. Two Indians have been captured, who, if not the guilty parties, are to be held as hostages. May 11, 1871: Charley Hutton has a drive of logs containing several million feet in the Big Laramie River, which he will commence running in a few days, as there is now a good stage of water in the river. (Note by RHB: Ralph May vouches for the authenticity of the story that irrigation on the Little Laramie began when tie jams dammed up the water and flooded the meadows. The ranchers noted the increase in growth of the grasses and started making dams and ditches to irrigate their native hay meadows.)

May 13, 1876: Metcalfe and Hutton have been stretching their consciences to accommodate their customers with something to eat, and they don't reciprocate by stepping forward and paying according to agreement. They now

feel that forbearance has ceased to be a virtue and if the delinquents don't come and pay forthwith they will proceed to collect their just dues by law. **THIS MEANS BUSINESS.** May 20, 1876: Metcalfe and Hutton are putting in a new front on the Pacific Market. Such things show enterprise and an increasing business. (Note by RHB: The name Pacific Market stuck through the years and a few years ago the Pacific Market was owned by Bill Graham.)

The buildings at the present Heart or Hutton Ranch are typical of the old-time ranch buildings. The blacksmith shop dates back to Overland stage days as does the long building now used as a bunk house. During one of the old-time ranch tours held each summer the visitors were delighted to see an old heating stove in the bunk house which came from Fort Sanders and was likely brought over by Charley Hutton. The long frame and log building is very like the early day stage and fort buildings. The hump-backed wooden bridge across the Big Laramie River has been used many years but was recently declared unsafe and has been torn down. It was just north of the site of the old stage crossing.

Charley Hutton died at Fort Sanders in 1899 and is buried in the Laramie cemetery. He was a fine representative of the early day livestock industry and played a very important part in many enterprises of the early days on the Laramie Plains. He was always ready for a new enterprise and his carefree philosophy is well-illustrated by his classic remark to a friend, "Thank God that's paid" after paying off an old note by making out a new one.

LeRoy Grant

LeRoy Grant had a place west of the Tie Plant when Steve Frazer came in 1889. According to Al Konold, LeRoy Grant was in partnership with Morgan Knadler in running the Windsor Barn in 1885. At that time he had a ranch on the river and Mrs. Grant gave music lessons. Grant was a nice, easy-going man who was well liked by everyone. He was one of the building commission whose names are inscribed on the cornerstone of Old Main on the University of Wyoming campus. The house on the Grant ranch southwest of the tie plant is a landmark as its big square frame and white paint are seen for many miles in each direction. It was the last of the early day ranches above Laramie City.

Ed Hartman

Another landmark for many years was the slaughter house which was west and a little north of the Tie Plant. It was run for many years by the late Ed Hartman who organized the Pacific Market Company in 1895. Ed Hartman was also a partner in various cattle and ranch companies. He died in 1919 at the age of 51 years.

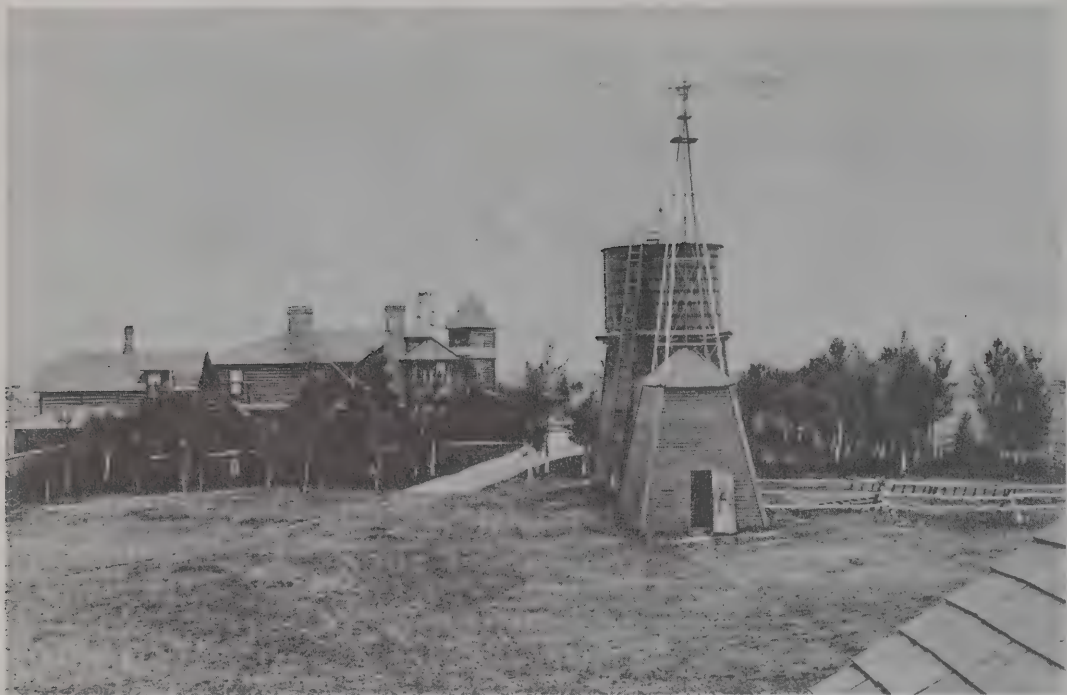
Ranches on the Tributaries of the Big Laramie Above Laramie City

Probably the most famous of these ranches is the Flag Ranch of Bob Homer which is located some nine miles south of Laramie at the confluence of Willow Creek and Lone Tree Creek, sometimes called Five Mile.

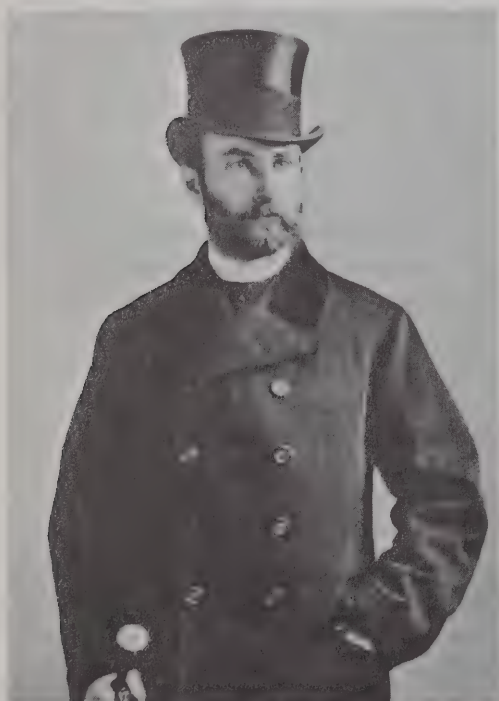
Flag Ranch of Bob Homer

The Flag Ranch named for the brand used on livestock is one of the pioneer ranches of the Laramie Plains and its history is that of its owner, Bob Homer.

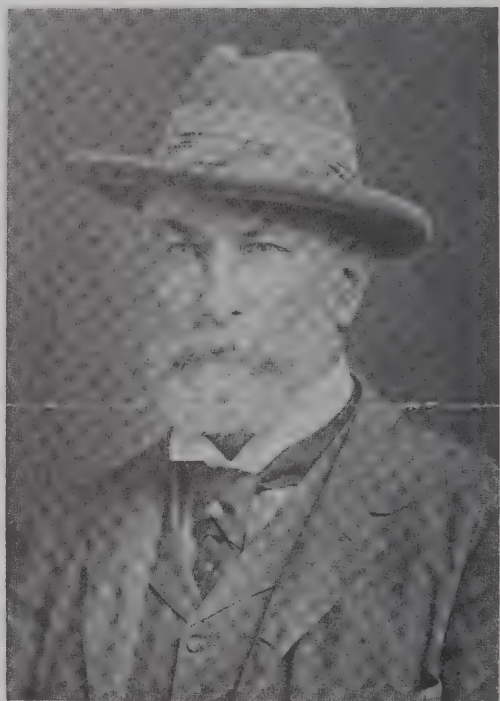
It was a fortunate incident in Omaha in 1871 that resulted in Bob Homer



Homer Castle and Grounds. Rogers Studio, Laramie. 1907. Homer and Burns Collection.



Bob Homer as a Young Man. Homer and Burns Collection.



Robert H. Homer. Men of Wyoming by Peterson. Homer and Burns Collection.

taking the advice of a friend to visit Laramie while on his way to California. Bob Homer stepped from the train at Laramie to take a look around and liked it so well he never did take up residence in California. Bob Homer was born in Boston, Massachusetts in 1849 and was a member of one of the oldest families in that area founded in 1672 by one Captain John Homer who had a prosperous shipping business to India and other trade centers of the rich and mysterious Far East.

After Homer's return from California he decided to throw his lot in the western country. As related above a chance stop-over at Laramie City convinced him that this was the part of the west for him. A chum of his, Frank Sargent, was also intrigued with the west and their interest was kindled by contact with Dr. H. Latham, Union Pacific surgeon at Laramie, who was highly enthusiastic in his praise of the Laramie Plains as a prospective livestock country. Bob Homer went back to Boston and had little trouble in getting his friend, Frank Sargent, to come back to Wyoming with him. They arrived in Laramie City in August, 1871 and made immediate arrangements to start their ranching business. Bob Homer stated in his testimony in a water case trial that he leased the Lake Ranch (an old stage station) at the tip of the Boulder Ridge in 1871.

Frank Sargent states that he arrived in Laramie City in August, 1871 and immediately started to build corrals and improvements. He states in a letter (Corthell Collection — University Archives): "I was informed by residents of the place and parties interested in livestock that no sheds or hay were needed; notwithstanding their advice I

purchased 50 tons of hay located about ten miles from my ranch. My sheep, about 2,000 in number, were to arrive by cars the 1st of September. I erected a comfortable log house for myself and men, a stable for horses and a corral 240 feet square. My sheep arrived in good shape from Iowa with a loss of only 10-10.5 percent. About October 13 snow commenced to fall, and the storm raged unabated for four days without intermission, and a high wind drifted the snow. Other storms followed and it was impossible to take care of the sheep or get feed to them. The storms continued until the middle of April and the sheep perished from starvation. I was thoroughly disgusted with the business and the country, but finally made up my mind to try again. I then purchased a fine ranch which would cut 200 tons of hay and purchased 1,000 ewes and built a fine set of corrals and sheds. I also purchased Cotswold rams and saved an increase of 60 percent. The first spring the sheep sheared 4½ pounds of wool apiece and the wool brought 30 cents a pound."

The financial account of Mr. Sargent's venture is interesting. He states that his initial investment in sheep amounted to \$6,000. Permanent improvements \$3,300 and the running expenses for a year totaled \$1,930. His returns amounted to \$2,700 for wool and \$1,200 for lambs, a total of \$3,900. He adds interest at the rate of 6 percent on the \$9,300 investment to the running expense and comes out with a profit of \$1,412 for the first year with no payment on principal.

The late Oscar Sodergreen told the writer that Frank Sargent had quite a reputation as a foot racer and once



*Mr. and Mrs. Homer in front of Big House at the Flag Ranch. 1907.
Homer and Burns Collection.*



Mr. Homer and bear killed on hunting trip in North Park.

won a foot race from Charles Matthey easily for a side bet of \$200. The brand of Sargent and Homer was an SH. The writer as a youngster used the horse brand to burn marks on the logs in the blacksmith shop and they are there today.

Bob Homer Purchases a Ranch

Bob Homer mentions purchasing the place of George and Charles Brown in June, 1872, and this ranch is undoubtedly the one mentioned by Frank Sargent. This place is the site of the present Flag Ranch buildings located on the NW $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 12-14-74. Bob Homer held a squatter's right on a place on Sand Creek in the 1870s and later moved his log house down to the present Flag Ranch where it served for many years as the blacksmith shop. He made a filing on September 2, 1882 on the SE $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 12-14-74 covering 77.46 acres.

Daily Duties at Flag Ranch

The daily routine of ranch life on the Sargent and Homer ranch in the 70s is graphically described in the book "Bucking the Sagebrush" by Charles Steedman. Charley Steedman came to Laramie City from Boston in 1876. He signed a contract with Sargent & Homer to work for his board and room for a year while learning the ranching business. The daily routine of ranch duties was somewhat different from what the young Boston boy had pictured as the life of a cowboy. Here is his description of his experiences:

"There were two or three sheepherders, besides our bosses." Steedman had a chum with him named Balch, who was no relative of the Laramie banker, H. G. Balch as far as the writer can find out. Steedman continues, "We worked in teams and in

the summer put up hay and hauled fence rails and firewood from the mountains. In the spring we had sheep to shear and dip while in the winter we baled hay and hauled it to Tie Siding where it was sold to the tie contractors at a good figure. The routine of work was unchanged for months. One crew baled hay and did the chores for a week, while the other hauled hay, and so turn about. Breakfast was eaten at 4:30 a. m. in order to make the round trip of 25 to 30 miles a day, as the road led up a heavy grade."

Bob Homer told the writer of his first business in Wyoming, that of cutting the prairie grass and hauling it to Fort Sanders, two miles south of Laramie, where the army would buy it at a good price. Homer and his partner Sargent worked as a pair. Homer did the mowing, raking and preparing of meals, while his partner hauled the hay to Fort Sanders and turn about.

Sargent mentions that his first purchase of sheep amounted to 2,100 head which were all lost in the hard winter of 1871-72. The next year another 1,000 head of ewes were purchased. In 1873, 2,000 head of sheep were sheared; in 1875 the tally was 2,272 and in subsequent years until 1881 the tally of sheared sheep ran 2,467, 3,013, 3,681, 4,662, 4,268, and 4,691. The old cash books of Sargent & Homer relate some interesting facts about their business and this information has been made available from the Corthell Collection in the University Archives. Sheep herders received "grub" and \$30 a month. Saddle horses brought \$50. Oats at \$1.50 a cwt. Ewes sold at \$3.50 each and "blooded" rams from \$10 to \$30 each. During the years Sargent &

Homer purchased many "blooded" rams in the East and brought them out west where they were added to their flock and sold to the other ranchers of the Laramie Plains. The standby in "blooded" rams were the Merinos from New England and a few mutton rams, chiefly the Cotswolds from the mid-west. It is interesting to note that the Cotswold rams sold for \$10 at the Sargent & Homer ranch while the Merinos brought \$30. One item states that Ludwig Wurl was paid \$10.50 for potatoes and butter which he furnished to a sheep camp during the summer of 1880. Another interesting transaction was credit of 4 cents a pound extended to Billy Trollope, a herder, for a deer he had killed and dressed. The Trollope family lived in a house which used to stand to the east of the Anderson shed some three miles south of the home ranch. Steers sold at three for \$100.

The operations of Sargent & Homer were carried on at the home ranch, at the Antelope shed and at Spring Creek, located respectively 10 miles and 28 miles south of the home ranch. The Spring Creek location was where Mr. Homer erected his first log cabin mentioned earlier. Their wethers weighed 115 pounds in 1886 and brought 4 cents a pound. Shearing cost 9 cents a head. Wool brought 24 cents at the ranch in 1880 and 26 cents in 1883.

Purchase of Additional Ranches

Eventually Bob Homer bought up a number of smaller places. Each of these places has a little history all of its own, so let's see how they fit into the picture.

Rice and Lindsey Ranches

The Rice and Lindsey places were located on Lone Tree Creek at the foot

of Boulder Ridge. Pap Rice hauled timber and built the Antelope shed and camp for Sargent & Homer in 1880. The Rice spring flowed a small stream into Lone Tree Creek and the Rice place was located southeast of the spring on Section 3-13-74. Al Konold told the writer of stopping at the Rice place when he was working for Sargent & Homer and picking up letters from Adelia Rice which he mailed for her at Red Buttes. Bob Homer always had a liking for the Rice place and the good hay from the Rice meadows was always hauled down the seven miles to the home ranch where it was stored in the large hay mows of the barns there. The writer remembers well that haying job for it was nice to pitch hay and load up the hay wagon with sweet smelling hay, and then rest and sleep on the load during the trip of seven miles to the home ranch. Then came a strenuous time "mowing back" the hay into the large hay mows of the barns at the home ranch.

John Lindsey came to Wyoming in 1874 and worked in a saw mill near Tie Siding. Later he filed on land near another large spring east of the Rice place. He married Myra Simpson, a daughter of W. A. Simpson, in 1883. He operated a road ranch on the Fort Collins-Tie Siding-Walden stage route. The Lindsey place was located on Section 2-13-74. Today a part of the shed stands, but the house is gone. The large spring still flows a considerable stream of water into Sportsmen's Lake. Several years ago the writer remembers going through the deserted Lindsey house and getting quite a kick out of reading the old newspapers and their patent medicine ads. These news-



Dining Room at Big House.



*Christmas Tree in corner of Drawing Room at Big House at Flag Ranch.
Homer and Burns Collection.*



Group in front of Big House at the Flag Ranch. Left to right: back row, Ethel Brown Mearns, Unknown, Mrs. Homer, Judge Brown, Adelaide Brown Coburn, Mrs. Brown, Unknown. Front row, Unknown, Unknown, Susan Brown and Louis Newfoundland dog. Identifications by Will Goodale and R. H. Burns. Homer and Burns Collection.



A group of friends of Bob and Belle Homer at the front porch of the Big House, Flag Ranch. Bob Homer is sitting in front of the group while Belle Homer is at the extreme right of the back row wearing the white dress and black hat. Homer and Burns Collection.

papers were used as wall paper.

W. A. Simpson

The Simpson place on Sportsmen's Lake is one of the oldest in this area. W. A. Simpson came to Wyoming in 1876 from New Hampshire and bought a ranch site on Sportsmen's Lake. Boswell and Dana had a ranch on this lake in 1871 and it is presumed that this is the one which Simpson purchased. Mr. Simpson died a year later while working on the construction of the Boswell ranch house. The land record shows a filing and a sale later to Boswell in 1901 and he in turn sold the place to Bob Homer in 1902. Evidently Boswell & Dana had a squatter's right which was a common procedure in early days. The Simpson place was located on the red bluff above the large spring of excellent drinking water which runs out from underneath the red hill south of Sportsmen's Lake. The writer remembers this spring for as a youngster he used to stop here for a long remembered refreshing drink of cold spring water while on his assignment of riding some 22 miles of fence around the Big Pasture. There was a sheep corral on top of the red hill above the spring and today one can see signs of the corral there. The Simpson place was located on Section 2-13-74.

After Mr. Simpson's death, Mrs. Simpson ran the place for a few years before selling it to her son-in-law, John Lindsey, who in turn sold it to Boswell. Some of the Simpson family live in Laramie at the present time. Laura Simpson had a terrific responsibility in raising her family of six and running the raw new homestead which her husband had just settled on prior to his death. She carried on and her un-

daunted spirit is typical of the pioneer women of the west.

Al Konold

The Konold place was filed on by Al Konold in 1889 and sold to Bob Homer in 1894. It was located at the Konold spring and was taken up under the Carey Act. The land filing shows it to be located on Section 34-14-74. This spring, located about a mile southeast of Hutton Lake is surrounded by a bog and the writer remembers of several horses who have lost their lives in this quagmire including Rodney, an eastern race horse who survived a train wreck at Red Buttes and was used by the writer as a rake horse for several years.

George Poole

George Poole was a blacksmith who came to Laramie from Iowa and his shop was located at the corner of Second and Custer where the Ford Garage was located prior to the Holliday building fire in 1948. Anna Poole filed on land in the Big Pasture of Bob Homer under the Carey Act and took out ditches to irrigate. Today one can still see the wire grass growing out on the prairie which had seeded down back in the 90s when the ditches were dug and used for irrigation. The Poole house was moved from Section 26-14-74 to the home ranch and was used for many years as a bunk house. Recently it has been remodeled to serve as the foreman's residence.

Livinston Ranches

Over in the Red Buttes area were several smaller places which are today part of the Flag Ranch. Dan Livinston Sr. had a ranch at Tie Siding and his son, Dan Jr., had a place just southwest of Red Buttes about a mile. He was foreman for Bob Homer in the late 80s. He died at 37 years of age

and the ranch eventually passed to Mr. Walla and then to the present owners.

Gilmore and Soule Ranch

Close to the Livinston place and to its right, about two miles southwest of Red Buttes is a large cattle shed which is all that is left of the Gilmore and Soule ranch. The buildings were located on Section 20-14-73. James Gilmore was a close friend and neighbor of J. F. Soule in Cambridge, Massachusetts and a brother of the late Frank Gilmore, the "Red Buttes Kid." The ranch was sold to Bob Homer around the turn of the century and James Gilmore moved to Cheyenne where he ran a paper and paint store for several years. J. F. Soule accepted employment with the newly founded University of Wyoming where he was a member of the first faculty and served the University many years until his retirement. In 1948 the late Frank Gilmore wrote to Laramie from Worcester, Massachusetts where he resided. He recalled a flock of memories and later the writer had a delightful correspondence with him and was able to put Frank in correspondence with some of the old-timers still living and answer his questions about others who had passed on. Frank Gilmore stated that the ranch at Red Buttes was bought from a man from New Hampshire named Simpson. Land records show that J. B. Simpson obtained a patent on this land in September, 1883 and transferred the land by warranty deed to J. M. Gilmore and J. F. Soule in November, 1884. Frank Gilmore passed away in January, 1952 after a courageous life. His last five years were spent in a wheel chair and he never complained.

J. F. Soule—First Football Coach at Wyoming U.

J. F. Soule, a partner in the ranch enterprise was one of the first football coaches and players (in those days the coaches played when needed), as well as Professor of Greek and Latin. In later years he was Secretary of the Faculty and the first Dean of the College of Liberal Arts. He was a very close friend of Bob Homer and each summer took his family on a trip by buggy or wagon. As a boy the writer remembers the Soule family getting ready and leaving the Flag Ranch on these summer trips including some to Yellowstone Park. Gilmore and Soule raised cattle of mixed breeding and also had a few riding horses and polo ponies. The ranch was sold to Bob Homer around 1900 and the house was moved over to the Flag Ranch headquarters and was the residence of Otto Burns for many years until the Flag Ranch was sold in 1932. Of course the writer has many memories of this as his home and when Ralph Klink remodeled it a few years ago he showed the writer some large "pottie" marbles which had been found in the partitions. Guess how they got there?! He asked if the writer remembered them and the answer was a definite yes. When the Big House at the Flag Ranch was burned in November, 1933, the Gilmore (Burns) house was remodeled into a modern home by the owner, Ralph Klink. Since that time it has been sold to the Pitchfork Ranch and by quite a coincidence the general manager of that old ranch, among the oldest in Texas, is also a Burns, but no relation of Otto Burns and the writer.

McGibbon Ranch

Another ranch which is now a part



The Homer Castle at Flag Ranch 1907. Homer and Burns Collection.



Stacking hay at Flag Ranch in 1907. Homer and Burns Collection.

of the Flag Ranch is the McGibbon ranch, the headquarters of which were located on Section 28-14-73 about three miles south of Red Buttes on Willow Creek.

James McGibbon came to Laramie in 1868 and followed his trade as a machinist in the railroad shops. He had learned his trade in Scotland. He bought the Willow Creek Ranch from Henry B. Rumsey in 1885. Rumsey ran the Thornburg Hotel in Laramie and ran the ranch as a side line in the 70s. McGibbon started in the sheep business in 1883 and also raised cattle. The ranch was incorporated as the Willow Creek Ranch Company with the brand (three blocks) on the left ribs of cattle, on the right and left ribs of sheep and on the left hip of horses. The McGibbon reservoir on Willow Creek is one of the oldest of the private reservoirs in the county and is not only a source of water for an alfalfa field below, but also a home for fish and ducks which furnish sportsmen with angling and shooting. In recent years the late Fred Klink Sr. built a fine stockyard at Red Buttes on the old spur railroad line that originally went out to the old plaster of paris mill which operated at Red Buttes some forty years ago. Records of the McGibbon ranch show that wool was sold for four cents a pound presumably in 1893. The McGibbons also had the old J. W. Collins ranch on Five Mile or Lone Tree Creek on the west side of Boulder Ridge and it now serves as the south headquarters of the Flag Ranch.

J. W. Collins Ranch

The late Mary Susan Costin furnished the writer with information concerning her father, J. W. Collins,

who came from Atkinson, Kansas in 1868. The family lived in Laramie where Collins was interested in many enterprises. He ran a livery stable and hardware store and built his first house in 1874—a long log affair located where the Safeway store now stands. Later he built another log house at Second and Custer where the Conoco station is now located. The ranch was located on Section 26-13-74 and the west side of the Boulder Ridge on Five Mile or Lone Tree Creek and is now known as the Five Mile Ranch.

At one time Collins had a herd of 2,000 Angora goats but they were not adapted to the country and soon went semi-wild and furnished much sport for the cowpunchers who hunted them with rifle and pistol. He broke a team of Angora billies to harness and this team was quite an attraction. Collins also raised horses and Jersey cattle. The original ranch house was built of logs cut and laid vertically instead of horizontally. He had a livery stable where the Smith Furniture warehouse is now at the corner of Second and Garfield.

The Pioneer Canal was started by J. W. Collins and at one time was called the Collins ditch. The first survey did not have enough drop to carry water.

Collins was in on many ventures. In May, 1878 he had a notice in the Laramie Sentinel that he was starting a stage line to the Centennial mining district with tri-weekly service. The same paper in May, 1871 mentioned that Collins had purchased the blacksmith shop on Front Street and, "will do all kinds of work in his line with neatness and dispatch, including wood work on wagons, plows, &c." This shop was

the hang-out of the humorist Bill Nye among others.

His ranch on Five Mile was patented in 1889 and conveyed to the Willow Creek Land and Livestock Company (James McGibbon and Associates) in 1902. It remained as a part of the McGibbon holdings and was conveyed to Fred Klink of the Flag Ranch in recent years, and Ralph Klink sold it recently to the Pitchfork Ranch Co.

Sheep Trailing from Oregon to Laramie

Now that we have finished the description of the ranches which were included in the Flag Ranch let us continue with the "goings-on" at the ranch.

Mr. Hartman K. Evans joined the firm in 1882 and in the next few years sheep were trailed from Oregon and California to Wyoming. Mr. Evans kept a detailed diary on the sheep trailing operation in 1883 from La Grande, Oregon to Laramie City. Three bands of Merino wethers totaling around ten thousand head left Oregon in May and furnished their own transportation to Laramie City where they arrived in good shape in September. The undertaking was a profitable one for the loss was small. The sheep were purchased for \$1.50 a head and sold for \$3.00 a head. The original statements from Pendleton, Oregon merchants covering merchandise purchased for this trailing operation have been furnished by the Western History and University Archives Department of the University of Wyoming. Board and room for principals and trail herders amounted to \$9.00 a day for about a week or ten days while getting the trail operation under way. Hardware and stoves amounted to \$37.00. Wag-

ons, springs and bows totaled \$121.00. Saddles, harness and wagon sheets totaled \$174.00. Food and supplies amounted to \$300.00. All of the bills and also the sheep account were handled through one firm. The total of \$25,000 was made up of \$23,512 for sheep and the balance for supplies. It is interesting to note that Bob Homer had 42 cents coming back out of \$25,000 when he returned a pistol and cart-ridges for a credit of \$5.20. The Oregon wethers were taken on to Missouri to be fed. Some entries in the Cash Book for November, 1883 states that \$5,000 was borrowed to take care of the expense of feeding sheep in Missouri and some were sold locally at 4 cents a pound or \$4.60 a head.

Early Ranch Appraisal

Mr. John B. Thomas made a report to Mr. Thomas Sturgis of Cheyenne concerning the ranch property of Sargent and Homer and it is such an interesting report that I am giving it in its entirety by courtesy of the Western History and University Archives Department.

Letterpress from John B. Thomas—
November 10, 1881.

Mr. Thomas Sturgis,
Cheyenne

Dear Sir:

In accordance with your request. I proceeded to investigate the ranch property of Messrs. Sargent and Homer and beg to submit to you my report thereon. The Home Ranche is at the junction of Willow and Five Mile Creeks, four miles (about) from Red Buttes Station on the U.P.R.R. and eight from Laramie City. At this are stables, sheds and corrals for five hundred sheep, good houses, windmill



Oregon Cattle on Flag Ranch meadows in 1907. Homer and Burns Collection.



Oregon Cattle on Flag Ranch meadows in 1907. Different group. Homer and Burns Collection.

supplying the best of water, complete dipping arrangements and all the appurtenances usually found on a sheep ranche of the best class. This ranche consists of 480 acres to which there is a Government title and 640 acres of U.P.R.R. land leased from the railroad. The land is all under fence well built, and is mostly meadow land altho occupied for buck pastures and other inclosures on the poorer portions. There is also a pasture well enclosed of an estimated area of 3,000 acres partially railroad land and Government land. The amount of hay cut this year on the Home Ranche Mr. Homer assures me was nearly 300 tons and in good years, with contemplated irrigation I have no doubt 400 tons could be cut within the inclosures. There is always a market for hay at Fort Sanders four miles distant and in the neighboring tie camps, at a varying price which nets from two to fifteen dollars per ton in the stack. (Note by RHB: This information agrees closely with what Bob Homer told the writer and with the information in the book "Bucking the Sagebrush" by Steedman.)

This Ranche is also considered one of the supply depots for rams and a good trade is already established which no doubt could be increased to have a profit of \$3,000 or more each year. I would estimate the value of this Ranche at \$20,000 and the work teams, wagons, hay press and farm machinery at \$25,000.

Five or six miles in a direction nearly south is a winter station, known I think as the Rice Ranche. Here are two good houses, stable, shed for 3,000 sheep and about 600 acres under fence,

a portion of which is meadow land, on which has been cut from 40 to 50 tons of good hay sufficient to carry a flock thru any ordinary winter. This land has been taken up by Messrs. S. & H. under the U. S. Desert Land Act. With the title to this place perfected I should estimate its value at \$3,000. Four or five miles in a direction south of west is situated the Ranche known as the Antelope Ranche, on Antelope Creek. This consists of log cabin and sheds for 3,000 sheep, with ample corral room and good snow fences, and a short distance below is a meadow well fenced which produced this year 25 tons of hay and will improve. This Ranche and meadow I estimate the value to be with title to meadow perfected, \$3,000. The meadow land has been filed upon by Messrs S. & H. under the U. S. Timber Culture Act.

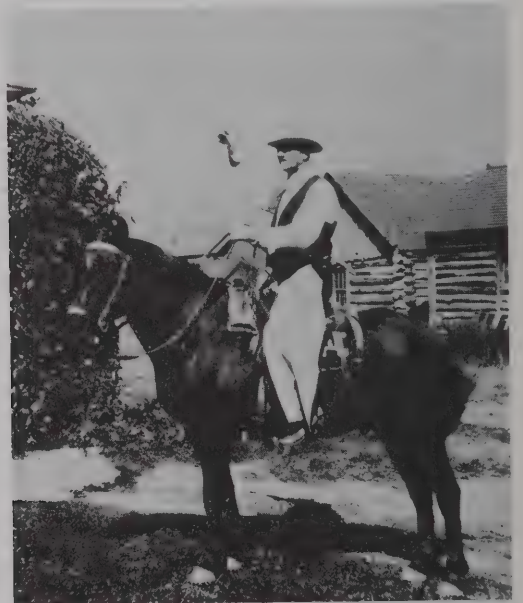
Within a radius of 12 miles south are four summer camps, each having a good cabin and corral room for 3,000 sheep, to which there are no titles except the right of possession which is respected in most cases in this country. Owing to the inclemency of the weather I did not visit these camps but my general knowledge of the cost of improving such places would estimate their value to be \$2,500. The flocks now on the different ranches number about 9,200 sheep, 4,500 ewes and the balance wethers and rams. The Sargent & Homer flock has been quite celebrated hereabout for several years, as being an extra good class of sheep. The value of sheep varies according to the season. At the present writing I should consider them well worth \$3.50 a head making a total valuation of the sheep of \$32,200.



Blacksmith Shop at Flag Ranch. Mr. Homer's original homestead cabin.



Otto L. Burns on "Blaze" 1896.



Otto Burns on "Bumpas" at Flag Ranch in 1920.



Otto Burns on "John" as an escort to President Taft.



Otto Burns, Mgr. Flag Ranch on "John," his favorite cutting horse. 1915.



Otto Burns on "Brownie" and Margaret Burns Page, his granddaughter, on "Silver" at Three Bar Ranch, August, 1940.

This makes a total valuation as follows:

Home Ranche.....	\$20,000
Teams, wagons &c.....	2,500
Rice Ranche	
(Title perfected).....	3,000
Antelope Ranche	
(Title perfected).....	3,000
4 summer camps.....	2,500
9,200 sheep (3½).....	32,200
	\$63,200

There is also on the Ranche a flock of 200 Merino Rams, but as these are being sold from as occasion offers I shall place no valuation upon them. (Note by RHB: Here are a few typical ram sales from the S & H Cash Book—October 20, 1881 sold to L. D. Kennedy 20 bucks "Imp" Merino @ \$20. December 18, 1880, sold to Oscar Rogers, 2 Merino bucks @ \$25.)

The property as a whole I consider well worth the total amount named to anybody desiring a sheep ranche in this Territory, as, from its location, nearness to the Rail Road, good markets for hay, wethers and bucks, etc., etc.

Hoping this report may be entirely satisfactory and assuring you of my readiness to answer any inquiries not covered herein, I remain

Very Respectfully Yours,
John B. Thomas"

Some typical prices obtained in 1880 are of interest in connection with the above appraisal report by Mr. Thomas. The following prices or cash income figures are taken from the S & H Cash Book:

October 11, 1880—John Webb for 4 steers @ \$28.75.

October 14, 1880—A. Konold for a horse, \$35.00.

October 19, 1880—Sold to W. D. Currier 8 bucks @ \$25.

October 19, 1880—Sold to Marsh & Hutton 907 wethers @ \$3.45.

October 23, 1880—Delivered to L. Kennedy 826 ewes @ \$2.50.

November 24, 1880—Sold and Delivered to Wm. Lawrence 20 imported bucks @ \$25.00.

November 27, 1880—Sold to Thees, Grove & Jones 16 head cattle @ \$27.00.

December 18, 1880—Sold to Oscar Rogers 30 longwool bucks @ \$10.

Evidently the longwool bucks, probably Cotswolds, were not as popular as the finer wooled Merinos as they brought less than half the amount paid for the fine wools.

Reminiscences

The late Jesse Van Buskirk told the writer that Sargent & Homer bought their first bunch of sheep from Charlie Hutton and that he baled hay on the home ranch on Five Mile about 1879-80. He further stated that Jack Bid-dick was there at that time. Mr. Hutton bought hay in the stack, baled it and hauled it to Red Buttes where he shipped it to Fort Collins and sold it for \$20 a ton—a very good price.

The late Mrs. Mary Bellamy told the writer that Frank Sargent, Homer's partner, married and returned to Boston to live.

The late Al Konold told the writer that he worked for Sargent & Homer in 1880 and his headquarters were at the Antelope Camp. He had the job of herding 3,000 wethers and remembered that they sheared seven pounds of wool. He mentioned visiting the Hardman ranch which was near his camp. At that time Fred Collins was foreman for Sargent & Homer. Konold came



Bob Homer and his first car, a Hudson, in front of the Big House.



D. Burns riding "Red Bird" on Pitchfork Ranch in Texas. Now owner of Flag Ranch.



*Group of mounted escorts for President Taft.
1. Unknown; 2. Unknown; 3. Unknown; 4. Otto Burns; 5. John Ernest; 6. N. K. Boswell; 7. Axel Palmer; 8. Unknown; 9. Unknown. Homer and Burns Collection.*

from Canada with Donald McDonald and Angus Cameron on May 4, 1880. The Scotch contingent went to work for Rumsey while Al went with Sargent & Homer. Al spoke of helping cut hay west of the Anderson field for Sargent & Homer and at that time Billy Trollope herded sheep there and lived there with his family. (Note by RHB: As a youngster I remember seeing the remains of a dwelling house just east of the Anderson shed some three or four miles south of the Flag Ranch headquarters.) The late Wallis Link told the writer that Fred Collins and Billy Trollope herded sheep for Sargent & Homer and had a cabin on the hill above the Billy Rice place on Spring Creek.

Sargent & Homer Becomes Red Buttes Land & Livestock Co.

In 1888 the partnership of Sargent, Homer & Evans was dissolved and the Red Buttes Land & Livestock Company was incorporated. Messrs. Sargent and Evans left the partnership and both returned to the east. The land records show that Francis W. Sargent conveyed land to Robert H. Homer and Hartman K. Evans on June 28, 1883. A news item in the Laramie Boomerang for May 30, 1889 stated that H. K. Evans sold his flock of 6000 sheep near Red Buttes to W. D. Currier of Lookout and George Fisher of Omaha.

Bob Homer Marries

Bob Homer in 1889 married Belle Stuart, a member of an old New England family. For their honeymoon they traveled through Europe and brought back many priceless items including furniture and furnishings which adorned their castle-like home nine miles south of Laramie. The

writer has some of the items which were given him by the Homer family and the outstanding items are the Damascus music stand with its intricate and beautiful inlay work and a set of fine porcelain dishes with the H initial and the flag design.

The Big House of the Homers

The twenty-one room log house was built in 1892 by Buckskin John Moyer, an artist with the axe. Statements from the W. H. Holliday Co., who furnished materials for the finishing of the so-called Big House, are dated from December, 1891 to May, 1892 indicating the time when the house was finished. Among the twenty-one rooms were servants' quarters, large dining room, living room, billiard room, master bedroom and guest rooms, among which might be mentioned the blue, yellow and tower rooms. The writer has a large colored photo of the Big House made by Rogers, the Laramie photographer in 1915. This house was the birthplace of the writer so naturally he has a soft place in his heart for the Big house and was very distressed to see this landmark go up in smoke in November, 1933. It was a loss not only to the owner and those of us who had many memories of the Big House but also to the entire Laramie Plains. For there was no other house in the country which had such an expansive interior with such distinctive architecture, and which had been the scene of so many delightful gatherings. The writer remembers vividly the gala house parties at the Big House when typical Homer hospitality was extended to their friends from Laramie and elsewhere during the period from Thanksgiving to Christmas. Bob Homer was a man of cultured background

who had friends in every walk of life. His business dealings were above reproach and his puritan thrift and careful business management assured the success of any undertaking he was connected with from ranching to banking. Incidentally he was a founder and director of the Laramie National Bank 1874-1893, President of the Wyoming National Bank of Laramie 1893-95 and President of the Albany County National Bank from 1900 to his retirement. He was also a member of the Wyoming Territorial Legislature in 1877-78 and 1883.

Outbuildings at the Homer Ranch

The old blacksmith shop with its enormous logs was Mr. Homer's original homestead cabin which he erected on Spring Creek below the present Billy Rice place. This building was moved down to the Homer Ranch in the early days and has stood there now for some seventy-five years and is still in a good state of preservation.

The large barns, particularly the Big Barn, were built about the same time as the Big House and show the same skillful log work. The Big Barn has an enormous hay mow which holds some twenty tons of hay and well the writer remembers the fine times he had as a youngster sliding down the piles of fragrant hay in the big mow. These pleasant times were interspersed with the usual kid accidents one time when a slide in the hay ended up with a pierced foot when a tine of a pitchfork ran through my foot between the toes and another time when a fall of some thirty feet from the eaves of the barn fortunately resulted in no broken bones, but in a badly shaken up and scared kid. Many other times a speedy slide down the hay ended up straddling

a log in the opening in the floor through which hay was pushed down to the hay mangers below. Such are the escapades of youth and we all live through them.

The carriage house still stands and the yellow buggy and the monogrammed harness are still at the ranch. This carriage was quite a sight with its four horses and the folding seats with entrance from both the back and front. It was used a great deal before the time when the Homers bought the first of their many Hudson cars from Bill Goodale around 1910.

The little saddle and harness room attached to the Red Barn on the east side was aromatic with the sweat and leather smell. This wee room was the site of many rainy day sessions during the haying season when the hired hands swapped yarns and applied copious amounts of English saddle soap and neatsfoot oil to harness and saddles.

As mentioned previously, the bunk house, now remodeled into the foreman's residence, was a neat log building built by George Poole and moved down to the home ranch in 1893. This bunk house had living quarters in one end and an extensive kitchen and galley in the other. The writer remembers well the series of cooks who ruled the kitchen with an iron hand but who without exception had culinary talents and a keen pride in their work and quarters. But woe unto those who procrastinated and did not get to meals on time. They usually went without or accepted a handout with keen regret at their shortcomings and usually saw to it that they were not late the next time. Or if they were late, they had legitimate excuses such



Looking from Drawing Room into the Dining Room at Big House.



Picnic at Sam Collins Ranch on Lone Tree (Five Mile) Creek, July 4, 1908: 8. Billy Rice; 9. Mrs. Otto Burns; 16. R. H. "Bob" Burns; 17. Otto Burns; 18. "Nellie"; 19. "Bess"; 26. Martie Durand Geisler. Courtesy Edith Lundquist Wurl and Adelaide B. Burns (Mrs. Otto Burns).

as a breakdown, an escaped saddle horse, or one of numerous other things which happen and delay one's schedule. All of these old time cooks are gone today but their memory lingers on among those of us who ate their chow and enjoyed their quirks and nonetheless distinctive personalities and abilities. Here's to the ranch cooks—a talented group in food preparation—who got along fine for a period of months and then succumbed to their innate liking for alcoholic beverages which they unfortunately were not able to control.

Sunday dinners were an event at the bunk house with an abundance of well roasted beef and the gravy bursting with juices, which gave a never equalled covering for a heap of fluffy potatoes. The final coup was a large soup bowl filled to the brim with "pure-quill" ice cream made of thick cream taken in thick rinds from the top of the cream pans setting in the milk house and accompanied by homemade cake with thick creamy chocolate frosting. And my mouth still waters when I think of those thick slices of homemade bread covered with homemade butter. Of course the youngster (guess who?) was not averse to sneaking into the milk house and helping the skimming process by running his finger along the rim and covering it with luscious rich covering of cream "rind" which kinda tasted good. Gosh that makes me feel homesick for the old days at the Flag Ranch. And to think that modern science and machinery with its cream separators have taken a lot of our old time fun from us when the milk pans set in long rows in the milk house and each one had a covering of thick cream.

Hunting Trips

In the 1880s the Homers and their friends took many hunting and camping trips into the neighboring mountain parks. The writer's father, Otto Burns, who was general manager for Bob Homer from 1892 until Mr. Homer's death in 1927, told me many times of the enjoyable trips when he drove them over to Elk Park in the North Park country.

Bob Homer Liked and Raised Good Horses

Like many other early ranchers Bob Homer admired good horses and scoured the country to buy the best looking horses in addition to using the many good ones he raised in the big pasture. Many old timers remember the fine team Bob Homer used to drive on the yellow buggy. This team was bought from Mrs. Towle who had the place on the Little Laramie now owned by Frank Croonberg. The writer remembers a beautiful sorrel horse who ranged in the big pasture for many years. He was not broken to ride or drive but was just let run after the advent of gasoline buggies. The writer wanted the hide of this sorrel horse when the horses were sold, but they were taken out of the country and he did not get the hide. Years afterward he saw a mate to this sorrel hide at the Denver Stock Show and bought it from the Jonas Co. who had the exhibit at the stock show. He still has this sorrel horsehide which makes a wonderful car robe in the winter time.

Bob Homer Sportsman and His Trophies

The floors and walls of the billiard and living rooms at the Big House were well decorated with game heads and rugs. The prize trophies were an



Three Pioneers meet on a Laramie Street. Left to right: W. H. Holliday, N. K. Boswell and R. H. Homer. In front of Kleeman's Candy Store and D. P. Smith Grocery where Midwest Cafe and Woolworth store now located.



A livestock man's office. Location unknown. Homer and Burns Collection.



Some "Dandies" of the '90s in Laramie. Left to right, standing: Comly, Dawson, Kendell, Smith, and Hanks. Sitting: Chase, Hutchison, Maynard, and Schalk. Identifications by Adelaide Burns.

enormous buffalo grizzly bear skin which Mr. Homer bagged in Alberta, Canada and a pair of enormous and symmetrical elk horns, natives of Wyoming. The game heads including elk, deer, mountain sheep and mountain goat were donated to Gray's Gables and are still there. The buffalo grizzly bear skin was also at Gray's Gables and is now at the Horton cabin. It was enormous and measured around ten feet in length. The writer has Mr. Homer's "Teddy Roosevelt" 1893 Model Winchester in .30-.40 caliber which killed all of his game and since that time has been used extensively by the writer and his family. Both son and son-in-law have found it a reliable game getter. Dad Burns' old 86 Winchester in .40-.82 caliber has gone to its rest but its modern counterpart, the 50th Anniversary Model 71 Winchester lever action in .348 caliber now holds a prominent place in the Burns gun case.

Otto Burns, Manager of Flag Ranch

In 1892 the writer's father, Otto Burns, came to the Flag Ranch and managed the property for Bob Homer until the latter's death in 1927. Otto Burns and Bob Homer were close personal friends as well as business companions and both were extremely well thought of by all their acquaintances. Today the writer is often accosted on the street by friends of his Dad who ask him, "Aren't you Otto Burns' son? I surely miss him for he was one of the finest men I ever knew." Of course, I'm inclined to agree with them.

Otto Burns used to go to Oregon and Utah to purchase cattle for Bob Homer and has told the writer of many trips by stage and horseback. He mentioned in particular one trip when the stage

driver was taken critically ill and he took over the six-in-hand for the balance of the trip to Shaniko, Oregon. These Oregon cattle were good in body type as they were improved by the use of Shorthorn or so-called Durham bulls which were taken to Oregon in the early migration in the 40s and 60s. They did exceptionally well on the meadow pastures of the Flag Ranch and after a couple of years on pasture and hay in the winter reached the weight of some 12-13 hundredweight, a desirable weight for grass fat steers which were marketed in Omaha.

Old Telegraph Line Stubs In Flag Ranch Meadow

The old telegraph line put up in the early 60s by Ed Creighton was gradually superseded by newer lines and the original telegraph poles or posts were cut down or rotted off. Otto Burns discovered one of the last of the well preserved stubs in the meadow about a mile east of the Flag Ranch. The late Grace Raymond Hebard was much interested in the stub as a memento of early day communication and had Dad Burns bring it to town. It is now in the Hebard Collection at the Archives Department of the University.

Big Grove Still Stands

Although the Big House was burned to the ground in 1933 and was never rebuilt, the large grove of trees which surrounded the house still stands and is quite a landmark. This grove of trees is a monument to the patience and perseverance of Bob and Belle Homer who kept at the job of planting some one hundred young trees each year for many years until the grove was established for mortality was high in transplanted trees. These trees

came mostly from the Big Laramie River near Hutton Grove.

Homer Ranch Contained 20,000 Acres

The holdings of Bob Homer were gradually increased until he had some 20,000 acres of land, deeded and leased. In the early days he ran cattle on the open range on the Black Hills, but with the establishment of the Pole Mountain Military Reservation he discontinued grazing there and ran his cattle on his own land.

The Big Pasture

The big pasture was fenced with a buck fence in the 90s which had long panels spanned by twenty-four foot poles. In later years when only sixteen foot poles were available these fences were a nightmare to fence riders such as the writer. The twenty-four foot poles became sway-backed and were very difficult to repair. They could not be replaced except by putting a shorter sixteen foot pole across the valley of the sway-backed pole. The big pasture was some twenty-two miles around as the writer well remembers for he was the fence rider for some years as a youngster. It was quite a chore to ride this fence three times a week and make the necessary repairs to the poles and bucks which were beginning to show their age. The twenty-two mile ride was a good half day ride and when there were repairs to be made the half day became an eight to ten hour job. The upper part of the big pasture took in Antelope Creek, site of one of Sargent & Homer's sheep sheds in the 80s. This area was well named for up to 1908 a good sized herd of antelope grazed in this area. At that time the last of the antelope succumbed to hunters and the

herd never re-established itself. About 1947 antelope were introduced into this area again and have thrived in their old haunts. At the present time a goodly sized herd of antelope makes its home in the big pasture. The old buck fence around the big pasture gasped its last some fifteen years ago and was replaced by treated posts and wire. Today only a few rotted pieces of wood remain to show the location of the old buck fence.

Early Day Entries in S. & H. Cash Book

The following entries from the Cash Book and Journal of Sargent & Homer indicate the nature of the ranching business of early days and there was a surprising amount of trading each and every day. Here are some interesting entries showing details of livestock deals and human dealings:

April 29, 1879. John Biddick 28 lbs. beef @ 8c and 10 lbs. butter @ 20c. Jack Biddick sheared sheep on contract and worked on the ranch. Later he settled on the Big Laramie near Two Rivers where his daughter, Mary Ethel Biddick, still carries on the ranching business.

May 23, 1879. Hired T. Outerbridge as herder @ \$30 a month.

Aug. 13, 1879. Sold Scott Lilly one horse called "Badger" @ \$60.

Aug. 18, 1879. Sold Sand Creek Ranch to C. Hutton @ \$4750. (This was Bob Homer's original claim and the blacksmith shop at the Flag Ranch was built on this claim and later moved.)

Sept. 3, 1879. Paid for one saddle \$43.25.

Oct. 12, 1879. Sold 22 head of cattle to Marsh & Hutton @ \$25.

Nov. 1, 1879. Sold to H. B. Rumsey 1000 ewes @ \$3.50 and 32 rams @ \$30. (Rumsey lived in Laramie but owned livestock as well as being manager of the Railroad Hotel in town. He had sheep on the McGibbon ranch called the Lake ranch in those days. The book "Bonanza of the Plains" by Brisbin speaks of Rumsey running sheep with 650 ewes on the Laramie Plains and his returns amount to 46½% on an investment of \$8000. Rumsey's land was located in Section 29-14-73.)

Nov. 20, 1879. Sold 7 Merino rams to Hall & Smith @ \$10 per head. Sold 1 thoroughbred Merino ram to Jesse Knight @ \$25. (Evidently the former were ordinary range rams while the latter one had some blue-blood from Vermont in his veins.)

Dec. 16, 1879. Sold 5 Cotswold rams to Oscar Rogers @ \$10. (So coarse wooled rams were brought out from Iowa and raised by Sargent & Homer and put up for sale and brought a lower price than the Merino rams.)

Dec. 21, 1879. Sold 5 thoroughbred Merino rams to Ed Farrell on eight month's time @ \$25. (Ed Farrell had the ranch on the Little Laramie now owned by George Forbes and formerly owned by the Wallis brothers. He ran sheep on Mill Creek and on over the ridge to Cooper Creek in the early days. Evidently the ranchers were their own bankers at times and carried a charge account for a few months with no interest charge. However, others, particularly the early bankers, charged 1% per month which was the accepted bank rate. One of the early lawyers summed up his thoughts about exorbitant interest rates in this plea to the jury while defending a client against a bank suit.

Here lies old one per cent,
The more he made the less he
spent.

The more he made the more he
wanted,
Oh, God!!! His soul must be
haunted.

May 15, 1880. Hired Alfred Konold as a herder @ \$30 a month. (Recently that grand old man, now passed on, told the writer this exact date when he went to work for Bob Homer and his accurate memory was confirmed to the day by this cash book entry.)

June 3, 1880. One pair of blankets to Alfred Konold @ \$4.

June 5, 1880. Dipped Konold's sheep numbering 2015 head and on June 9th moved him to Antelope.

June 15, 1880. Alfred Konold. Gun, & c. and 25 cartridges \$27. (Al Konold told the writer that they had a great time shooting game, including wolves, coyotes and antelope.)

June 18, 1880. H. Burns 6¾ lbs. bacon 80c; 1 pt. whiskey, 75c; 11½ lbs. mutton 90c. (This old-countryman was no relative of the writer but he did have a good Scotch-Irish taste.)

July 9, 1880. Purchased from Kennedy Estate 1470 wethers @ \$2.25. (Herbert Kennedy had a sheep ranch on the Big Laramie which Dan Bacon eventually bought and put it with the Riverside Land & Livestock Co.—Balch & Bacon.)

Aug. 18, 1880. Hired Joe Miller as cook at \$30 a month.

Sept. 27, 1880. Sold L. Kennedy 15 bucks @ \$23. (Leslie Kennedy had a ranch which is now submerged under Lake Hattie.)

Oct. 19, 1880. Sold to W. D. Currier 8 bucks @ \$25. (W. D. Currier was a pioneer sheepman on Rock Creek.)



*Pitchfork Chuck Wagon at High Noon in Texas.
Pitchfork Ranch in Texas founded in '70s. Now own Flag Ranch.*



Part of Registered Hereford Cow herd at Pitchfork Ranch in Texas.

Oct. 23, 1880. Dipped Alfred's flock of wethers numbering 2801 head. (This was the bunch which Alfred Konold was herding.)

Oct. 26, 1880. Delivered to Marsh & Hutton 907 wethers @ \$3.45 a head and 17 wethers @ \$3 a head.

Dec. 18, 1880. Sold to Mrs. Richardson 3 coarse-wool bucks. Cash \$5, note for \$50 @ 12% \$162. (Mrs. Richardson had a ranch in the hills east of Laramie. Evidently S & H carried some customers free of interest and charged others the going rate of 1% per month.)

June 4, 1881. Paid to H. Haas for mowing machine \$90. (This was probably one of the first mowing machines on the Laramie Plains. Although S & H sold hay to Fort Sanders in the early 70s, hay was not put up in large quantities until around 1880.)

June 7, 1881. Paid for work team \$100.

June 29, 1881. To John Lindsey for poles \$50. (John Lindsey had a place at the tip of Boulder Ridge. He got out many of the poles used on the miles of buck fences on the Flag Ranch.)

Oct. 13, 1881. Sold to Leigh Kerfoot 369 California ewes @ \$3.25. (Leigh or Lee Kerfoot had a ranch on Spring Creek just below the present Bill Rice place. Sargent & Homer trailed sheep from both Oregon and California.)

Oct. 13, 1881. For dipping 2556 head of sheep @ 5c a head.

Oct. 15, 1881. Sold to Mrs. L. M. Simpson 30 imported Merino rams @ \$22 and 600 California ewes @ \$3 a head. Received note 12 mos. @ 12½%. (Mrs. Simpson, wife of W. A. Simpson, had a ranch on Sportsman's Lake.)

Oct. 18, 1881. Sold H. B. Rumsey

1429 wethers \$3.12½ a head. Cash \$1,000. Note 9 mos. 12% for \$1,500 and note for 12 mos. 12% for \$1,937.50.

Oct. 28, 1881. To W. W. Babcock for finishing fence at Rice place \$40.70. (The Rice place was on Five Mile just west of the Lindsey place.)

Dec. 12, 1881. Alfred Konold, check for wages \$155.50. (In January, 1950, Al Konold, a grand old man of eighty-nine winters told the writer that he began working for the Union Pacific Railroad Co. the day after leaving the Sargent & Homer ranch and worked for over fifty years until he retired several years ago.)

Dec. 25, 1881. Dennis Fee, wages \$25. (Denny Fee later had a ranch near James Lake which is now owned by Holly Hunt.)

Dec. 3, 1883. Rand and Steedman, 28 head of horses to pasture to June 20th @ \$1 a head a month.

The total amount of money handled by Sargent, Homer and Evans for the period from January 1, 1886 to February 3, 1888 when the partnership was dissolved amounted to some seventy-three thousand dollars.

Some of the earliest shearing and wool sale records in Wyoming and the west are those of Sargent, Homer, and Evans.

Let us first take a look at the shearing tallies:

Year	No. Shear-ers	High	Low	Avg.
1875	9	68	20	36
1878	9	78	5	41
1879	14	71	9	33

It is interesting to note that the bosses—Sargent and Homer—tried their hand at shearing two different days in 1878 and sheared from one to four sheep apiece per day.

Here are some interesting figures on the wool crop of Sargent, Homer and

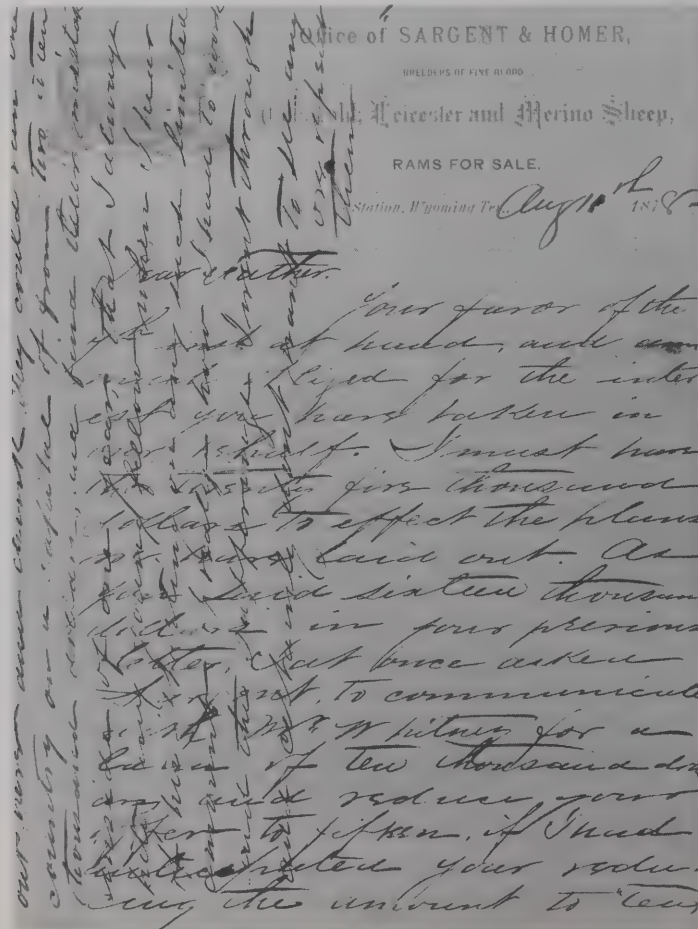
Evans—pioneer sheepmen of the Laramie Plains.

Year	No. Sheep Shorn	Net Weight of Clip	Sell. Pr. Per Lb. \$	Avg. Fleece Wt.	Wool Income	
					Gross \$	Per Head \$
1873	2,000	9,000	0.30	4.50	2,700.00	1.35
1875	2,272	....	....	....	....	....
1876	2,467	12,079	....	4.90	....	....
1877	3,013	15,280	0.2663	5.07	4,069.06	1.35
1878	3,681	21,205	....	5.76	....	....
1879	4,662	27,809	....	5.97	....	....
1880	4,268	22,723	0.2411	5.32	5,478.52	1.28
1882	....	27,595	....	....	....	....
1883	....	21,427	0.2611	....	5,594.59	....

In 1878 Bob Homer wrote a letter to his father asking for a loan of \$25,000 in order to buy some cattle from the trail herds. It gives such a

fine picture of the optimism of that day that it is reproduced here in the original handwriting.

Letter from R. H. Homer to his father dated August 11, 1878.



RANCHES
OFFICE OF SARGENT & HOMER
BREEDERS OF FINE BLOOD
LEICESTER AND MERINO SHEEP
RAMS FOR SALE

Should of course ask
H. to write for our ad-
vanced amount. There are
a good many cattle on
the trail, but lots of
buyers around here,
~~ready~~ ~~buyers~~ ~~buyers~~, ready
to effect a purchase as
soon as they arrive.

Mr. Ryan, of Ryan & Long,
passed through here a
few days ago, for Kansas,
he has thirteen thousand
on the road from Oregon.

Mr. Crow purchased two
thousand ~~of~~ ~~by~~ going to the
country at the time he
purchased & found he
could contract cheaper



Office of SARGENT & HOMER,

BREEDERS OF FINE BLOOD

Wool, Old, Leicester and Merino Sheep,

RAMS FOR SALE.

Red Butte Station, Wyoming Ter.,

187

and save all risk, than
by driving alone. Last
year he drove, & found
the loss on trail consider-
able. Ryan & Long have
been in this business eight
years, understand the
business thoroughly, and
always purchase the best
cattle at the lowest rates,
for the reason that
they are responsible, good
men, and buy so many.

If I purchase shall refer
up the road, or take a
wagon & send off im-
mediately to any one & see
the cattle before anyone
knows of it. Mr. R. has gone
to Kansas, to get the milk

of the whole ⁴ unbusinesslike, possible. Last year winter his entire drive took him a man, at our Springs, as he passed the spring with his herd. I went over to him to drop me a line on his return, & if he has not sold the entire outfit, shall probably go with him up the road & look them over. There are other herds on the road, but none as good as his. Mr. Haley, a neighbor of mine has a drive of two thousand, on the trail; says Ryan's are the best, and advises me to look them over, before they arrive. Taylor, has three



Office of SARGENT & HOMER,

ATTORNEYS AT LAW

of the City of Cheyenne and Laramie, Wyo.

RAMS FOR SALE.

See By the System, Wyoming Terr.

187

herds on the trail, sold on the other day to a Cheyenne party, to arrive. The man has never seen them, but bought them on representation. The country is full of buyers & great excitement over the herds. Next year they will be so high that it will be useless to attempt anything of the kind. The Cheyennes have not got wind of this yet since my object of visiting them before they arrive. I propose if possible to purchase a herd of one thousand brood cattle with calves by their sides, and think this can be accom-

pleased, for twenty five dollars
per head, although I hear
there are as many thirty; this
is very cheap and large
profits can be obtained
from the above figures.
I shall offer twenty dollars
cash, but am willing to
pay twenty five. A stock
usually numbers two thou-
sand head. A cow herd
one thousand cows beside
calves. By purchasing an
entire herd you can save
buy cheaper than by pur-
chasing eight hundred
and leaving the man two
hundred with his man
power to continue the
trip. I therefore want
to feel sure of twenty

Office of SARGENT & HOMER.

BREEDERS OF THE BLOOD

Colts, Old, Heister and Merino Sheep,

RAMS FOR SALE.

Red Butte Station, Wyoming Ter.,

18.

five thousand dollars
so if I get a bargain I am
prepared to make negotiations.
Many drovers object
to break the herd, and
will wait until they get
a purchaser. If I do not
need the whole amount
of course I shall not
draw for it, as I do not
want to pay interest on
what I do not use, but,
before I go up the road,
I must have it so arranged
that the twenty five thou-
sand dollars will be
yours coming if necessary.
Do not place any money
to my credit, until I can
write, as I don't want

NCHES ON BIG LARAMIE ABOVE LARAMIE CITY

interest to begin until I
drew.

G. B. Post Cashier of N.Y.
Nat Bank wants to purchase
5000 Yearling, Crimson Pie-
tation four & five thousand
good cattle, Price of
Brown Pie & Chicago
a full herd, best of
N.Y. a full herd, I saw
the largest cattle man
in the Territory, is on the
look out; already owns
wants two thousand head
Yard & Casey, already owns
seventeen thousand, is de-
sirous of effecting a pur-
chase. His brother, late
from Pennsylvania, visited
me the other day with
his wife and asked for



Office of SARGENT & HOMER,

BREEDERS OF FINE BLOOD

of Colonial, Leicester and Merino Sheep.

RAMS FOR SALE.

187

187

all the information pos-
sible in this line, as we
are going into the present
year. These owners
of thirteen thousand head
is looking out for more,
was here the other day.
L. O. L. M. is prepared
to purchase a herd, also
Trade from Texas, Col-
porter from Iowa, & several
too many to mention. As
we are in sheep, no one
has any idea of our pro-
posed purchase, and
being popular and pret-
ty well posted on prices,
they confide to us when
they see the would not
do not mention it.

To any one, until we have
bought, not even to Mr
Balch, or Briggs, as neither
of their sons, have their
quota and intend to
buy more as soon as
they get down with their
herds, & if they had any
idea we were going
into the business would
be sure to purchase a
certain lot that I have
my eye on.

It is in fact as cheap
for us to run four fifteen
hundred to two thousand
head as it is ^{for us to run from} for
you to run four
thousand head with our ranches
Carroll & Hunter
besides the more we put
on the range the less liable



Office of SARGENT & HOMER,

Colonial, Leicester and Merino Sheep,

RAMS FOR SALE.

Red Balle Station, Wyoming Terr.,

18.

we are to be molested by
others. If you can not
advance the additional
five thousand telegraph
me on receipt of this
and will pump the train
and see what I can do
with my friends.

Excuse this letter as it
is written in great haste.
Please answer at once
as I am liable to make
a break as soon as your
reply is received.

All the above men-
tioned is strictly confiden-
tial.

Yrs in haste

Robert A. Homer

P.S.

The boy you write about

proposes to put in \$2000
 can do nothing with
 that amount; he may
 possibly buy a few Texas
 cattle which I would not
 have at any figure. The
 same principle is applied
 all wish cattle, as it is
 in sheep, that it costs
 no more to raise a good
 grade than it does a
 poor one, and the profits
 are about five times as
 great in the long run. —
 \$2000 here would just
 about put up a cabin or
 so. It is perfect folly for
 one to attempt the business
 on any such amount and
 invariably results by one
 getting disgusted and selling
 before the expiration of ten
 years. I have seen so many



Ranch Buildings and Flock of Sheep at Wm. Wurl Ranch on Sand Creek.
 Photo by courtesy Wm. and Edith Wurl.

Bob Homer ran the ranch as a partnership until 1888 when it was incorporated as the Red Buttes Land and Livestock Company. The ranch ran under his name and as the Flag Ranch from its brand. After Mr. Homer's death in 1927 his heirs split up the ranch and sold the upper part of some 10,000 acres to John Goetz. The lower part including the ranch headquarters was sold twice and eventually passed to the ownership of the Klinks—Fred Sr., Fred Jr. and then Ralph—who recently sold it to the Pitchfork Ranch Company, pioneer ranch of Texas.

Appreciation of Bob Homer

John Clay, the canny Scotsman who managed the Swan Company, a large cattle outfit on the Laramie Plains, and who also had a large livestock commission firm, penned the following appreciation of Bob Homer when he learned of his friend's death:

"I write of a man whose honor was as bright as the most brilliant star, who in his quiet way was liberal in his charities, who had a keen sense of humor, always kindly. In his business dealings, just, conservative in his methods, lovable on the ranch, in the bank, or on the Rialto of Chicago where we often foregathered. He had the spirit of a Puritan. He had great mentality, was human, modest, careful of his resources, withstanding the financial gales of the west. Most of his friends have gone before him, a few left to mourn his departure. Rest in peace."

Sand Creek

This creek is well known as a fisherman's site and is also noted for the rock formations such as Chimney Rock and the Animal Trap which are strik-

ing sand rock formations eroded by wind and rain.

Andrew Johnson Ranch on Running Water

At the headwaters of Sand Creek on a tributary Running Water Creek is the ranch of Andrew Johnson. There were several Andrew Johnsons in the early days and two of them lived on ranches in the Sand Creek area. So at first they were differentiated between by giving them the name of the creek on which their ranches were located so there was Running Water Johnson and Antelope Johnson. At other times one was called Skimmilk Johnson and the other Buttermilk Johnson presumably from the prevalence of these products of the ever-faithful family milk cow. Butter and cream were worth a considerable amount of money and were easily transported and sold. In the early days the grocery stores accepted butter and cream in kind for the other products the rancher must buy.

The Running Water Ranch was located on Section 4 or 6-12-74 and in recent years has been known as the Clark and the Holcombe ranch after the owners. It was a part of the upper half of the Flag Ranch which was sold to Ludlow & McCarthy when the Klink properties were divided and sold.

Andrew "Running Water" Johnson was born in Denmark in 1850 and came to Wyoming in 1876 where he spent some time in the vicinity of Rawlins. He went back to Denmark and returned later with relatives and Miss Mary Christensen who later became his wife. He was first employed as a fireman on the UPRR and later he worked in the Laramie shops of the

railroad. In 1886 he started ranching and for twenty years operated his ranch on Running Water just east and south of Chimney Rock. Later he purchased the Diamond Peak Ranch just over the Colorado-Wyoming line after selling the Running Water place to J. A. Winkler. He retired about 1916 and resided in Laramie where he died in 1932. His son, James Johnson has ranches in the Little Laramie area and his grandson, Gene Gelatt to whom the writer is indebted for this information, has a ranch on Pahlow Lane.

Andrew "Antelope" Johnson

Andrew "Antelope" Johnson came from Denmark along with Mads Wolbol who had a ranch in the Centennial valley. Johnson settled first on a ranch at the mouth of North Fork in the Centennial Valley where he put in miles of double post and rail fence, some of which still stand. The ranch is now owned by William Hecht. Johnson had homestead patents on the land in the Centennial valley dated in 1878. He went over to Antelope Creek in the Boulder Ridge country and settled there on Section 28-13-74. The ranch is now owned by a son, Arthur Johnson.

Wurl Ranch

Near the headwaters of Sand Creek and above Chimney Rock is the ranch of August Wurl, formerly a part of the Flag Ranch and now included in the holdings of Ludlow & McCarthy. This ranch is located on Section 26-12-75. August Wurl was born September 17, 1859 and came to Wyoming in 1880. He obtained the land from the original squatter, Mr. Oliver, who came in 1875. Wurl made a filing on the land in 1883 and had previously built the buildings and fences about 1880. Wurl raised

Hereford cattle and his initials A-W formed his brand.

George Rentoul

George Rentoul was a silk salesman in the East and took the Keely cure at his small place near Sand Creek Pass. He was born in 1823 and came to Wyoming in 1892 and left the state in 1910. He was a widower and came here from New York where he had made seventy trips across the ocean in his younger years buying silk for the A. T. Stewart Department Store in New York City. His widowed sister, Mrs. Dunbar, came out from New York and kept house for him until she died in 1908. The ranch buildings were located on Section 10-11-75 and were built in 1892. Edith Lundquist Wurl, to whom the writer is indebted for this information, said that when she and her husband were on their honeymoon in New York in 1910 they saw Rentoul and he showed them a dock where he had landed just sixty years before.

Nick Lundquist

Edith Lundquist (Mrs. William Wurl) has furnished the writer with information concerning her father Nick Lundquist who was born in Sweden in 1839 and came to the United States and helped rebuild Chicago after the great fire. He came to Wyoming from Waukegan, Illinois with August Trabing in 1881. Lundquist made a homestead filing on Sand Creek in 1881 and the following year he was married in Illinois and the couple returned to Wyoming and settled on the ranch. They were over-run with Texas steers belonging to Charley Hutton because the meadows were not yet fenced and it was necessary to run the steers off of them every day. Nick Lundquist fol-



Wm. Wurl Ranch House. Photo courtesy Wm. and Edith Wurl.



Group at Wm. Wurl Ranch on Sand Creek. Left to right: August Wurl, Mrs. August Wurl, William Wurl and Fred Koch (brother-in-law). 1908. Photo courtesy Wm. and Edith Wurl.



*Andrew Johnson Running Water Ranch.
Photo courtesy Eugene Gelatt.*



*Cattle on Running Water Ranch near Sand
Creek Pass. Photo by courtesy Eugene Gelatt.*



Jim Rentoul. Photo by courtesy Edith Wurl.

lowed his trade of carpentering and built many houses and barns for various ranchers. About 1890 he built a house but the school district needed it and bought it for a school house. So in 1891 he started his own home. The ranch was located half-way between Tie Siding and the Big Laramie River—a distance of sixteen miles—and hence the freighters on their way to North Park stayed all night at the ranch. These freighters had six and eight horse teams and there were often seventy to eighty horses in the Lundquist barn overnight. Lundquist was on the school board for many years. He built the Kerfoot, J. W. Collins, and Homer barns. The fine buck fences which he built showed perfect mortise joints and were standing along the Tie Siding-North Park Road until a few years ago and remnants of them can still be seen. His brand the Wooden Shoe is well known and the ranch now owned by Oscar Marsh is known as the Wooden Shoe Ranch.

Payne or Swastika Ranch

West of Chimney Rock is the so-called Payne or Swastika Ranch. According to the late Oscar Sodergreen this ranch was built up by George Hutton and the buildings are located on Section 20-12-75. The Paynes came up from Texas with horses and cattle. Don Payne Sr. and later his son were on the ranch. They named the place Windhurst Ranch, whether in pride or derision the writer has not been able to find out. After Payne left, Bill and Harry Tatham owned the ranch and then Otto Gramm and Neal Roach. In recent years the ranch has been owned by Clark, Flag Ranch (Klink), Hirsig and the present owners are Ludlow and McCarthy.

Billy Rice Ranch

Just west of the Wooden Shoe or Lundquist ranch is a large spring, one of the largest in the vicinity, which gives rise to Spring Creek. This is the site of the Billy Rice Ranch located on Section 26-13-75. Billy Rice worked in the Union Pacific shops in the early days and then spent some time in Honolulu. Later he returned and married Annie Brown, daughter of Jackson Brown, and settled on the ranch.

Jackson Brown was a pioneer of Laramie, being wagonmaster at Fort Sanders. His original town house is still known as the Brown house and is located on South Eighth Street. His original cabin was where the city park (Undine Park) is now located. In fact he presented the land to the city of Laramie for the park. The writer has some poignant memories of the Brown house. As a timid country lad he came to town in 1908 to go to school and was he homesick. He longed for the ranch, but Dad Burns did not always come to town every weekend and take him home. So the writer would haunt the old Star Barn and the Brown residence looking for a ride to the Flag Ranch nine miles south of Laramie. Perseverance often won out for the "homesick hitch rider" and he would catch a ride with Billy Rice who always stopped at the Brown residence or with some other rancher from the Sand Creek area who put up his team at the Star Barn. Once the writer could not find a ride anywhere and determined to "hoof" it out to the Flag Ranch. It was a long walk for a youngster and when he arrived Mother gave him a scolding and some of the



*Lundquist Ranch. Pen and ink sketch of Houghton. Wooden Shoe Ranch.
Photo by courtesy Edith Lundquist Wurl.*



Fred Collins Ranch showing meadow in foreground. June 1900.

finest roast beef and brown gravy that any mortal ever tasted.

In later years the writer enjoyed many close games of horse shoes with Billy Rice prior to his death in 1934. He branded with an arrow pointed down on the left hip of cattle and horses.

Lee Kerfoot

Below the Rice Place on Spring Creek is the site of one of the very early ranches, that of Lee Kerfoot. The late Oscar Sodergreen told the writer that Kerfoot and Gus Burg trailed 1,000 sheep to Wyoming from Missouri about 1877. Kerfoot took 600 of these sheep and Burg 400. Kerfoot's boy was lost in a storm when he drifted away, and his body was found the next summer by Broncho Sam, a negro cow-puncher working for Charlie Hutton. The Kerfoot barn is still standing some two or three miles north of the Bill Rice buildings. Lee Kerfoot left this part of the country and went to Bates Hole which is north of Medicine Bow and Shirley Basin in the 1890s.

Ferman Burleigh settled near Steamboat Rock a few miles west of the Billy Rice place. He came west first in 1880 and then went back east. He returned in 1903. Burleigh raised potatoes and chickens and eggs which he stamped as fresh eggs with his name and date they were layed and they remained fresh eggs even though he did not come to town for a month or two. Mr. Burleigh died in Laramie. The place is now owned by Joe Ludlow.

John Goetz Ranch

The late John Goetz Jr. told the writer about his father, John Goetz, who was born in 1850, came to Wyoming in 1876, and left for California

about 1910. He was a baker by trade and followed that business for five years. He was then in the sheep business with John Fischer and John Prah. Later he started in the ranch business at Bull Mountain which he sold about 1892 and moved to his Sand Creek Ranch which is located just below the Lundquist or Wooden Shoe Ranch. The Goetz buildings are on Section 24-13-75. The late Al Konold told of W. W. Doyle filing on land on Sand Creek below the Nick Lundquist ranch about 1884 and below this William Konold filed. Both places were sold to John Goetz. Konold built the first ditch out of Sand Creek about 1884. Mrs. John Goetz carries on the ranching operations since her husband's death in 1945. She was raised on the ranch of her father, Oliver Mansfield, on the Big Laramie River.

James Hardman

Below the Goetz ranch is the site of one of the early day ranches, that of James Hardman, who was one of the first to build up a sizeable ranch from a homestead. The writer is indebted to Jim Hardman, his son, for information concerning his father's operations.

James Hardman came to Wyoming in 1877 and settled on a homestead in Section 2-13-75. He sold out to the Eaton Ditch Company in 1906. He used to lease pasture for herds of cattle on their way to market from the North Park country. These cattle stopped at the ranch for one or two days and nights and their owners paid three to four cents a head for the privilege. Hardman was born in England in 1837, one of a family of thirteen children. Because of the financial stress of those days he went to work at the age of eleven and worked at



*James Hardman, 1837-1921.
Photo by courtesy Jim Hardman.*



Fred Collins Ranch from hill. June 1900.

the wool mills to help support the family. Here he learned the trade of weaving and making wool goods. For several years he attended night school while working in the mills, and this was his only formal schooling. A few years after learning how to make woolen goods he became a woolen mill machinist which actually gave him two trades. For some time prior to the time he left England he was employed as a machinist installing machinery for woolen mills.

In 1864 he came to the United States at the age of twenty and brought with him his wife Sarah and one child, Sarah Jane, aged one year. He lived in New York and New Jersey for seven years and during part of this time experienced the depression following the Civil War. He said that jobs were nearly impossible to get, for awhile he walked from town to town carrying a few hand tools and working on any small job he could find. His family stayed in their home and he would send them any sum of money he could earn. He experienced some bitter times during the latter years in New York State and accumulated a little money and a larger family, William D., born in 1865, Emma, born in 1867 and died in 1868, and Edwin, born in 1869.

In 1871 he joined the Greeley Colony and came to Greeley, Colorado and there secured a tract of land on the South Platte River which became his ranch. He lived in the Greeley Colony for six years doing fairly well on his land during the first three years and owning a small bunch of cattle. In 1874 grasshoppers cleaned out that part of the country and nearly wrecked his business along with that of many others. Those depending entirely on

crop production were in a bad way, but some like James Hardman had a few cattle which helped them immensely. During the next three years he recuperated from his losses and in 1877 he sold his place near Greeley along with his cattle and came to the Laramie Plains. In speaking of the plague of grasshoppers he said it was like a huge black cloud covering the sun and making it twilight and the noise of the millions of vibrating wings made a loud humming noise. The hoppers settled in a mass covering everything and within a few hours not a leaf was left and even parts of the stalks were devoured. In 1871 at Greeley a daughter, Annie, was born making a family of four living children.

Hardman took up a homestead on Sand Creek about eighteen miles southwest of Laramie and bought a few head of cattle. Later he alternated working for the railroad in Laramie and at his ranch. By working at both places he was able to build up a nice little ranch with a small herd of cattle. When he first settled on the homestead there were a few other homesteaders and squatters scattered along some of the creeks and rivers. The large outfits had headquarters and the country in general was an open unfenced range. There was a wonderful cover of grass and plenty of water and an abundance of wild game for meat. Jim Hardman says his father used to say he had seen the grass across the plains so high that it would wave in the breeze like an irrigated meadow. In the summer of 1884 he sold 90 tons of hay. Hardman's first wife died in 1882.

In 1896 and 1898 some fresh-broke saddle horses were sold for \$40 to \$45

a head. In 1896 and for several years thereafter hired men were paid \$25 to \$30 per month and board. Like most of the English settlers, James Hardman appreciated good livestock and he soon built up good herds of cattle and horses. He used Hereford and Short-horn bulls in his cattle herds and he graded up his range mares by the use of Shire stallions. The beef herds trailing from North Park to be loaded on the cars at Laramie were fed hay bought from Hardman at \$6 to \$8 a ton. Much of the hay was bought by Monte Blevins, William Marr, the Mallons and G. W. Linger, all of whom were early day operators in North Park.

In 1906 he sold the ranch and bought some property in Laramie where he spent his later years and died in 1921. A son, Jim, and a daughter, Alice H. Smith, by his second wife, still reside in Laramie. He was a fine example of one who built up a successful livestock enterprise from a homestead.

Hoge Ranch

The writer is indebted to Owen Hoge, a son, and to Oda Mason for information on the Hoge Ranch and its owner, J. Hoge. James Morgan Hoge was born in Pennsylvania in 1853 and died in St. John, Kansas in 1928. He moved to Laramie in 1890 and lived at first to the Heart or Hutton ranch as a stockholder of the Laramie Plains Land and Cattle Company. The fences of the Heart Ranch enclosed about 15,000 acres of land extending from Fort Sanders to the mouth of Sand Creek. They ran about 2,000 head of cattle. The outfit folded up in 1900 and Hoge took over the upper half consisting of 6,000 acres and built a house at Creighton Lake. The ranch

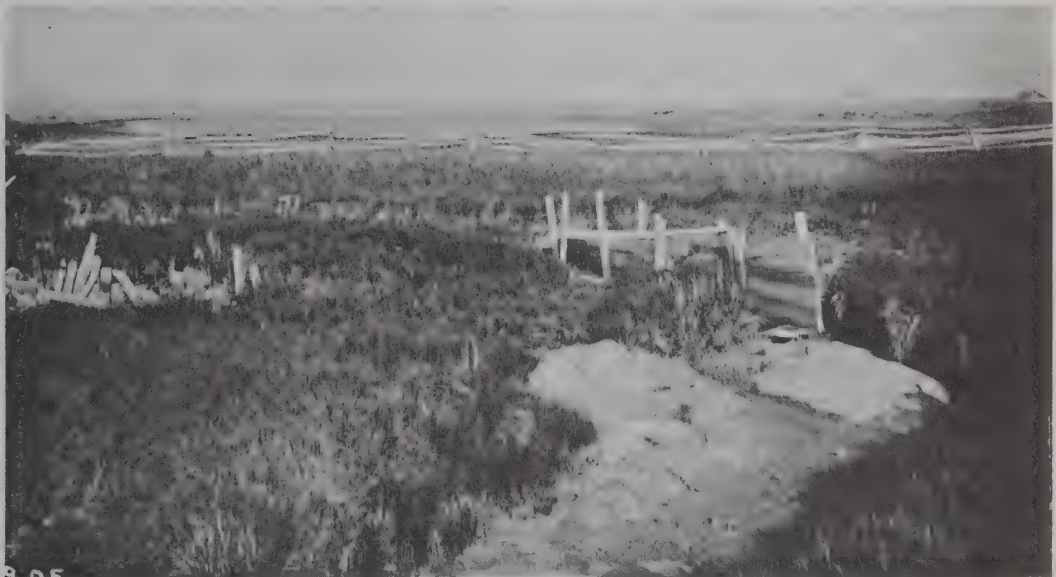
produced around 1,000 tons of hay on the upper half. This part ran around 1,000 cattle. The cattle were shipped in from Idaho by Jack Conner, and Hoge purchased them from him at \$30 a head.

The detailed history of the Hoge or Bar Eleven Ranch is given by Owen Hoge in a recent letter to the writer.

"Early in 1893 the Laramie Land and Cattle Company went out of business; the personal property was liquidated and the land divided. My father, James M. Hoge took over personally the upper half—some 6,000 acres which took in a stretch of the Laramie River, all of the Sand Creek bottoms, a mile or so of Antelope Creek (usually dry) and the Hutton Lakes. During that and the following year he built a new set of improvements at the lakes. Logs for the house were furnished by Harn-den Brothers and the walls were laid by Nick Lundquist, an expert at that trade. The barn was rebuilt from a former commissary building at Fort Sanders. This ranch was known henceforth as the Hoge ranch and occasionally as the Bar Eleven. The brand had formerly been run on the Sweetwater; my father had it recorded in Albany County and used it until he sold out in 1909. It was purchased with the cattle by Ed Hartman—or the Pacific Market Co. and is now the principal brand used by Holly Hunt in the James Lake area. The Hoge ranch was not stocked so raising and selling hay was the main business. Hay was sold by the load or stack, by the bale or carload. With no school to attend during the winters, I was available for driving the team on the horse-power baler; also to pilot loads of bales to Red Buttes, where cars were loaded



*J. W. Collins' Five Mile Ranch with Angora Goats in corral. Early 1890s.
Photo by Mrs. Susan Costin and Jack Costin.*



Jim Hodge's Ranch on Creighton Lake.

for shipment, usually to Fort D. A. Russell at Cheyenne. Somehow the hay business never seemed very profitable. The ranch also wintered cattle for other ranchers who were short of hay. That afforded me an occasional chance to play cowboy, either for hire or for free, and get a little valuable experience. My favorite among this class of customers was Dan Livingston of Red Buttes. He was a first rate cowhand and believed in doing things as they should be done. Yet he could point out a kid's mistakes without making him feel picked on. A large customer was Ora Haley. His outfit wintered cattle on the ranch on several occasions. Haley's range foreman at that time was Ben Lantz, another native of Greene County, Pa. Lantz was a frequent visitor, and with his bride spent the winter of 1898-99 with us feeding a bunch of steers. I recall that as a hard winter, the first and only one when we used a sled for feeding. It was the Haley outfit which suffered a heavy loss in the spring of another year when a bunch of steers broke through a fence during a terrific blizzard and drifted out on to the thin ice of Lake Hutton. The water was shallow at that point. But the mud was deep under it and a lot of steers did not get out. The ranch became a popular overnight stop for trail herds from North Park. That, of course, was before North Park had railroad service. My father was always a farmer at heart—the word farmer being used in the old sense as opposed to ranchman. In the 90s there was some public opinion adverse to the growing of vegetables or grain and they said 'this was not a farming country'. Despite that, father insisted on trying a

small area of some crop each year. As I recall, his first success was with turnips. They grew marvelously and were deliciously crisp and sweet. He joined E. J. Bell in demonstrating that Wyoming could beat the world growing oats. He harvested hay from a small patch of alfalfa. He grew and marketed several crops of potatoes that were outstanding for size and quality. There was no threshing machine in those parts until after 1900. Mart Barth, a homesteader on the Pioneer Canal, brought in a horsepower separator. It had to be fed by hand at the front end and the straw had to be shoved away from the rear. But it got out grain. After a few years the ranch was stocked in part by the purchase of a bunch of Idaho cows. The price was \$30 a head at the Laramie stockyards. The deal was financed by Jack Conner and the interest rate was 12 per cent. It probably was from that shipment that one cow was left unintentionally in the stockyards. To go for one cow was a boy's job. I was the boy. My strategy seems to have been to get that unfortunate cow into high gear and go through Laramie so fast she would look only straight ahead—and go that way. It worked until we got to the intersection of Grand Avenue and First Street. There the cow developed a strategy of her own, which was to find refuge from her tormentor (me). All doors on the Johnson hotel corner were closed. But she found one open across the street—into a saloon. She went in. The bartender and two or three customers came out. They seemed more disposed to argue with me than with the cow. But finally by taunts and threats and some judicious shoving, the men got her out.



*James Hardman Ranch on Sand Creek. Pen and ink sketch by Houghton.
Photo by courtesy Jim Hardman.*



Axel Palmer and his horse-breaking cart. Photo by courtesy Axel Palmer.

I didn't go in to estimate the damage. Our next port of call was '311' (the red light district). A board fence shut off a small yard from the sidewalk. But the gate was open and in we went. The madam and a couple of 'girls' appeared said 'shoo' to the cow and a lot of things to me. It was quite a lecture on the proper treatment of dumb animals. I was just a green country boy but I sensed that was no place for a cow or for me. We didn't linger long although what got us on our way I don't remember. There was a stable and corral at the corner of Garfield and First, probably for dray horses. There the cow and I mutually agreed to part company. Next day my father sent two good hands for the cow. To my chagrin they brought her home without trouble. During the previous two summers I had taken time off to work through haying. That didn't leave much time for school. Besides my sister was old enough for school but hardly old enough to ride four miles horseback to attend Hutton Grove School. So in the fall of 1899 my father moved the family to Laramie. Times had been 'hard' since 1892, but were getting a little better. A few years later he felt he could give some time to public affairs, got into politics in a small way, and was three times elected to the state legislature, serving in the sessions of 1903, 1905 and 1907. I was interested in your reference in one story about the antelope in the Flag pasture. And delighted to read that they had not only survived but had increased. We had watched those antelope, too, from across the lane. And had mourned as the number slowly but steadily decreased during the years before and after 1900. There wasn't

much game law in those days; neither was there a migratory bird act. The decimation of your antelope was bad. But it did not compare with the tragedy of the wanton slaughter of ducks during the spring flights. Living at Hutton Lakes we watched that year after year. Mail deliveries and telephones were introduced along the Big Laramie River during the first decade of the Twentieth Century. But there was still risk in ranching. In the early summer of 1908 a bunch of unbroken horses of the Bar Eleven brand were turned loose in some open country near the east end of Boulder Ridge. That fall they were not to be found. Much later a rumor reached us that a couple of strangers had been seen fogging such a bunch down the road well across the Colorado line. If so, not all the horse thieves had been hanged. Late in 1907 my father bought some sheep, a couple of bands. After shearing the next spring, ewes and lambs were divided into three bands, with Mexican herders under a Mexican camp tender and taken to the Red Mountain flats. That had not been sheep range and I can understand why it was not a unanimously popular move. But there was no Bureau of Land Management then and the range was 'free'. In the spring of 1909 my father sold the ranch to a subsidiary company of a projected new railroad, the Denver, Laramie and Northwestern. The purchasers had plans for development and colonization, but those plans did not come to fruition and the property has changed hands several times since. I don't know the present ownership of any of the lands included in the Heart Ranch of sixty years ago."



*John Goetz Ranch. Pen and ink sketch by Houghton.
Photo by courtesy Mrs. John Goetz.*



Oxford Horse Ranch about 1898 (Whitehouse & Palmer). Photo by courtesy Axel Palmer.

Such is the account of the Hoge Ranch given by the son of the owner. Today the Heart Ranch or Hutton Ranch is owned by Henry Bath and leased by Cole Abbot, while the Hoge Ranch is a part of the John Goetz holdings.

Willow Creek

Willow Creek from the days of the early day stage lines was a well known spot and the site of the Willow Station was close to Willow Creek and the grove of willow trees is still visible to the north of Tie Siding—North Park road. This Willow Station cut a lot of hay for Fort Sanders in the 60s. Mike Carroll, who came to the Laramie Plains by ox team in 1866, states in the Willow Creek Land and Livestock Company vs. Red Buttes Land and Livestock Company water case, that he cut hay on Willow Creek in 1867.

Willow Creek heads just above the old copper mine south of Tie Siding and one of the first settlers on its headwaters was Casper Schores. On a tributary of Willow Creek was the ranch of Andy Pistor who held a patent on lands in Section 34-13-73 filed March 4, 1910. His ranch was sold to John Goetz and was later sold to Bud Maxwell. John Kock made a filing on Willow Creek in December, 1898, on a portion of Section 14-13-73 and later sold to Arthur Kingman in 1918. Henry Sage filed on land in Section 24-13-73 on Willow Creek in 1891 and this land was leased by Leon Frazer in 1914 and is now a part of his holdings. The Maxwell ranch now owned by Bud Maxwell is on Willow Creek in part but will be described in the Tie Siding area. Further down Willow Creek is the well known McGibbon ranch incorporated as the Willow Creek Land

and Livestock Company which is a part of the Flag Ranch today and was described under that property. Just below the McGibbon ranch is the ranch settled by Dan Livingston which was owned by A. K. Walla for several years. The next ranch was that of Gilmore and Soule which was sold to Bob Homer.

The mouth of Willow Creek where it joins with Lone Tree Creek to make up Five Mile Creek is just in front of the Flag Ranch buildings. The name Five Mile Creek was presumably five miles from this junction to its mouth where it empties into the Big Laramie River. Lone Tree Creek, sometimes incorrectly called Five Mile Creek heads on the Boulder Ridge and is named for a lone pine tree on its banks some ten miles south of the Flag Ranch and about a mile south of the old Tie Siding-North Park road.

Van Buskirk Ranch

The next ranch below the Flag Ranch and the lowest place on Five Mile Creek is the Van Buskirk place now owned by the Monolith Ranch. In his testimony in his water case against the Red Buttes Land & Livestock Company James P. Van Buskirk states that he had lived in Albany County continuously since 1873 and had a ranch since 1881. He states that his father, Peter W. Van Buskirk bought land from the Wyoming Central Land & Improvement Company (Railroad Lots 5-8, Township 15, Range 74) in 1899. He located on Section 25-15-74 in September, 1880 and the ditches were built in 1883. James Van Buskirk sold to Knight in 1918 and he in turn sold to the present owners, the Monolith Ranch.

Harney Creek

No important streams flow from the Laramie mountains westward into the Laramie Plains, but groups of systems of springs are found at intervals of a few miles, including the City Springs, Soldier Springs, Simpson Springs, Whitehouse Springs (Fish Hatchery) and others.

The Simpson and Whitehouse Springs make up a large part of the intermittent flow of Harney Creek, little of which ever reaches the Big Laramie River.

Simpson Springs

The Simpson Springs about seven miles from Laramie were originally the property of Mrs. Cairn M. Simpson and this ranch contained about 1800 acres in 1901. The meadow comprised about 100 acres irrigated by the many springs that are located in the ten acres close to and surrounding the house. In 1901 the tenant, Mr. Marble, raised fields of oats, wheat, barley and potatoes which he used for home consumption in connection with his dairy business. Several fish ponds raised good trout but it was not a commercial industry. There is a vary large grove of trees near the ranch buildings which can be seen for some distance.

Bill Goode resided on this place for some years and in the 1916 Brandbook one finds the name of A. M. Goode with four brands—the snail, the figure 7, 3E and HT for horses and cattle. Bill Goode was a confederate veteran and often told the story of the battle of Bull Run and he said, "You should have seen those d—d Yankees run." He used to dig up pitch pine posts and peddle them in Laramie for kindling and stove wood. He lost the place in the 1920s and it was then owned by

Davis and Thomas for a few years and then passed to the Monolith Portland Midwest Company who still own it.

Oxford Horse Ranch

The most famous ranch on a tributary of Harney Creek is the Whitehouse and Stokes ranch known in the early days as the Oxford Horse Ranch. It is located in the large grove of trees just over the hill and east of Red Buttes on the Fort Collins Highway (U. S. 287).

This ranch located on Section 16-14-74 was settled first by Peter Johnson. The late Oscar Sodergreen told the writer that Peter Johnson was on the ranch at Red Buttes when he first came to the country in 1873. Johnson later sold the ranch to A. W. Whitehouse and moved to Ogden. Jack Costin told the writer that a son of Peter Johnson was registered as an old timer in the 1942 Jubilee celebration at Laramie. This son attended the University around 1900. Jesse Van Buskirk told the writer that he along with James Van Buskirk and Henry Balch stopped at the Peter Johnson ranch on the way to Diamond Peak in the early days. The late John Smart told the writer that Peter Johnson was at Red Buttes when he was riding the range in 1886. Peter Johnson lived for a short time on Mill Creek on the Little Laramie before moving to Ogden.

The ranch was sold to Whitehouse and Stokes in the late 1880s. Messrs. Whitehouse and Stokes were Englishmen who loved good horses and a good time and their ranch was the headquarters for the horse races and hunting parties which were a main attraction for the Englishmen of neighboring ranches. Axel Palmer, who spent several years at the Oxford Horse

Ranch, first as a "horse-puncher" and later as a partner, says that the Englishmen loved their sports and each ranch had some particular attraction.

The Whitehouse & Stokes Ranch was called the Oxford Horse Ranch and boasted a half-mile race track, a pack of fifty-four hounds, and carried around 3,000 Thoroughbred horses on the 16,000 acres. The name may have commemorated the Alma Mater of these Englishmen. The large horse barn—still in good shape—is typical of the early-day horse barns built by the English ranchmen. It was built in 1887 and the iron-grilled box stalls can still be seen in their original condition on the west side of the barn, although the east side has been cleared out. The large hay mow can be reached at the back with a drive-in from the hill into which the barn is built.

The English had many hunts and races. Two of these are still spoken of today. Dr. Whitehouse purchased a famous race horse from England called Fireball and paid \$1500 for him. He matched this horse with another famous racer for a side bet of \$1500. The money was in gold pieces and was kept in a buckboard by the side of the race track. The Whitehouse horse, Fireball, lost the race. The late Steve Frazer told the writer that he saw the race and described it as follows:

"The race track ran east and west and was located about where the present Jubilee race track is. When Fireball came to where the track runs along the road, he flew the track and ran almost to Red Buttes before his jockey got him stopped. The jockey brought him back but the race was lost and Whitehouse 'lost his shirt'."

Stokes was a partner of Whitehouse

for a few years and then sold his interest to his partner and eventually Axel Palmer acquired an interest in the ranch. Axel Palmer came to the ranch in the 80s and hired out and his first job was to keep the relief horses ready when a hunt was in progress. Scent hounds were used at first and sight hounds (gray hounds) unleashed later when the quarry was in sight. Coyotes, wolves and antelope furnished the quarry. The writer remembers very well the large metal kettle which was used to cook the meat for these hounds. It was brought to the Flag Ranch and was used for many years to scald pigs in.

Dr. Whitehouse was involved in a tragic hunting accident in 1887 when he accidentally shot George V. H. Gordon, a young Englishman, who was dressed in tan hunting clothes and was mistaken for an antelope. The story of this tragic accident was told at the beginning of this chapter under the Diamond Tail Ranch.

Another interesting pastime of the English "sports" was to play pool and fill the pockets half-full with \$20 gold pieces which were played for in a jackpot.

Dr. Whitehouse was a graduate veterinarian from the Ontario Agricultural College in Canada. He was a distinguished visiting lecturer at the first Agricultural Short Course at the University of Wyoming where he gave a lecture on the Double Entry System of Livestock Accounts on March 8, 1904. Dr. Whitehouse was on the veterinary faculty of the Colorado A. & M. College at Fort Collins from 1912 to 1922 and then returned to Glasgow, Scotland where he was principal of the Glasgow Veterinary College. The



John Goetz Ranch as it is today.



Some of the boys play cards on a horse blanket. Whitehouse & Palmer Ranch in early 1900s. Left to right: Axel Palmer, Unknown, Unknown, Gus Palmer. Photo by courtesy Axel Palmer.

writer stopped in to see Dr. Whitehouse in Glasgow in 1931, but unfortunately he was out of town. Dr. Whitehouse died in Glasgow in 1944. Mrs. Whitehouse was an artist and writer. Axel Palmer has a drawing she made of the famous Oxford Ranch horses rearing up on their hind legs while hitched to the breaking cart which Axel used for many years. Bob Burns as a youngster had many a harrowing ride in that old breaking cart with divided seat and rear entrance with Axel Palmer holding the lines and wearing his famous dogskin coat.

Whitehouse and Palmer sold out to Talmadge and Buntin. At one time about 1910 the ranch was the home of a purebred Hampshire Sheep outfit owned by Buntin and McLay. The ranch was later sold to Mr. Leazenby and then passed to Mr. Shewmake of Greeley. In 1948 Mr. Shewmake sold it to the present owner, Otto Lembcke of Medicine Bow.

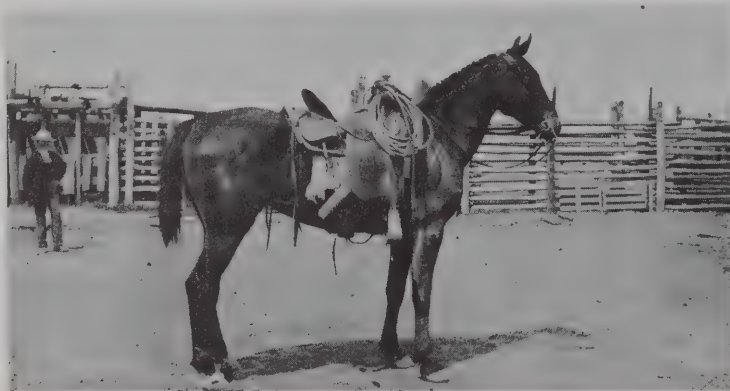
Chapter 9

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS AND SOURCES

The writer is indebted to many old timers for information and in particular Wallis Link, Tom Tatham, Frank Smith, Oscar Sodergreen, Axel Palmer, C. P. Thompson, Louise Alsop Pedersen and Owen Hoge. The illustrations have individual credit lines.



*Dr. and Mrs. A. W. Whitehouse.
Jukes Studio, Laramie, about 1900.
Photo by courtesy Axel Palmer.*



"Busy Bee" Riding Horse raised by A. W. Whitehouse in 1890s. Photo by courtesy Axel Palmer.

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CHAPTER X

Ranches

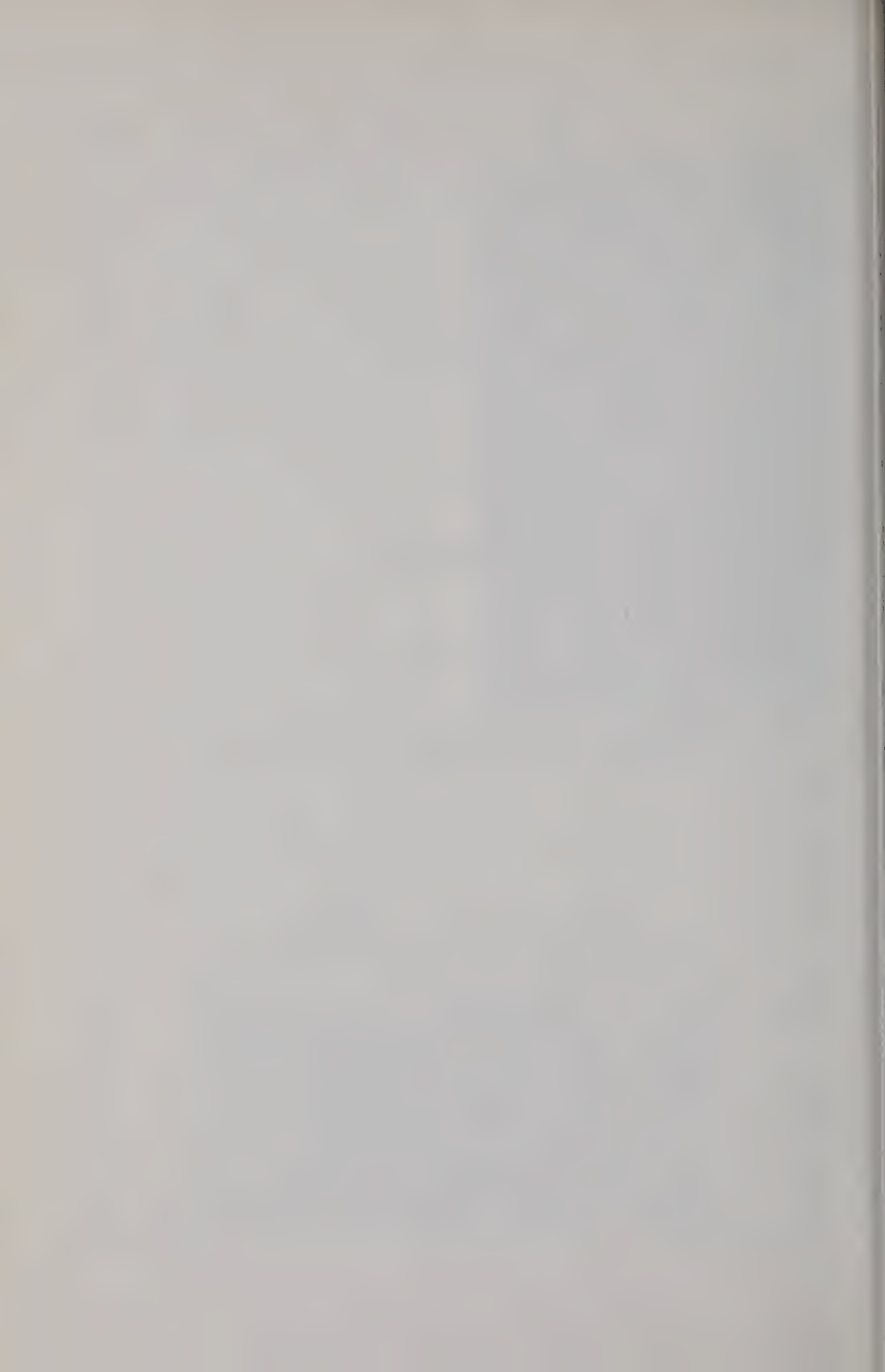
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Laramie City





CHAPTER 10

RANCHES ON THE BIG LARAMIE RIVER BELOW LARAMIE CITY

By A. S. "Bud" Gillespie and
and R. H. "Bob" Burns

IN THE EARLY DAYS there were a number of small places just north of Laramie City. Tom Trewartha had a place on the river just north of the present stockyards. He sold it to Wm. Wheeler and today it is a gravel pit.

Aunt Mary Earhart

Just north of the Diamond Horseshoe is an old stone house which is the old Earhart Place. Ollie Wallis tells the writer many things about Aunt Mary, as she was fondly called by all citizens of Laramie. The writer, as a youngster in short pants, also remembers seeing Aunt Mary at an advanced age, briskly walking down the street like a person many years her junior. Aunt Mary came to Laramie about 1868 and built the house where the Thees Paint Shop used to be located. Many will remember this little white house just south of the Holliday warehouse on Third and Garfield, which went up in smoke with the other buildings in the block in the Holliday fire a few years ago. Aunt Mary lived in a tent in the street while the house was being built. She had a daughter, Dora, who married Jack Martin, a partner of Noah Wallis. Aunt Mary lived on a small place north of town and raised horses which were branded with a "double S". She also raised chickens and served meals. All of the boys from

town used to go to her place for a good "handout" on their way to Jim Williams' place where they rode horses. The late Susan Collins Costin told the writer about Aunt Mary peddling milk. She had a wagon and a huge milk can, from which she dipped milk as ordered by customers by means of a long-handled dipper—hardly a modern sanitary procedure, but all seemed to thrive on the milk from Aunt Mary's dairy herd. The buildings were located on a school section which Aunt Mary leased, namely Section 16, Township 16, Range 73, and this location is shown on Billy Owen's map of 1886. Aunt Mary died in Laramie in 1921 at the age of 93, and is buried in Green Hill cemetery. Any person who was known as Aunt Mary by the entire city certainly had a likeable personality and the writer has never heard a critical word spoken by anyone concerning Catherine Earhart, whose real name was never commonly known for she was Aunt Mary to everyone!

The next place down the river was that of **Mike Coughlin**, who later sold it to Paul Pascoe and moved out to the Little Laramie. Paul Pascoe had it for some time and in late years it has been known as the Smith place, and is now used for a gravel pit for the most part, although a small number of livestock

have been run on it through the years by different owners.

The next place was the original claim of **Noah Wallis**, who kept it for a while and then it has been included in the land south of the Maynard or Fisher ranch.

Charley Houston had a little place in the corner of the Joe Fisher place.

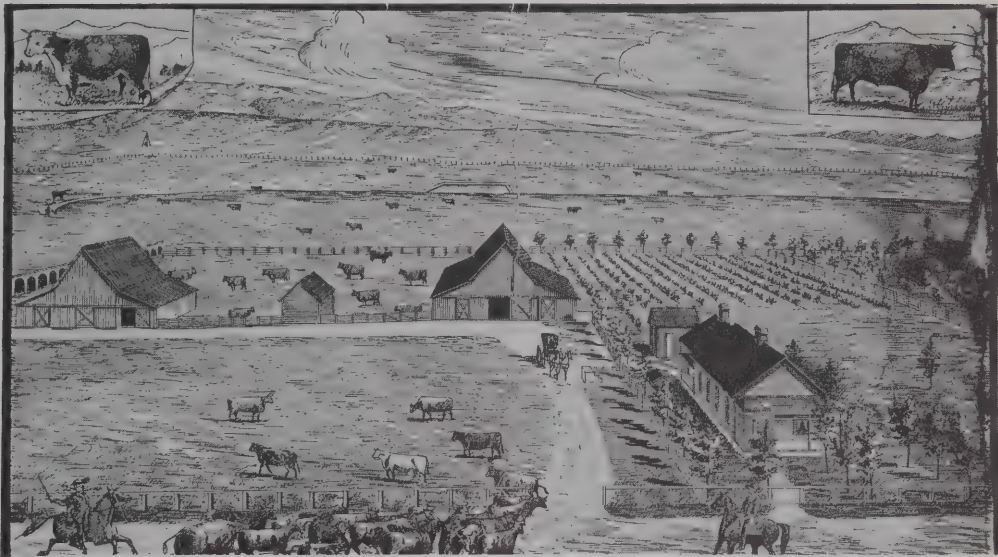
All of these places were on the east bank of the Big Laramie River. There were a number of places on the west bank of the river. **Charley Hutton** had land holdings in several places and had a place on the west bank of the river, where the P.F.E. Ice Plant is today. Next to it was the **Salsbury** place, owned later by "Cash" Webber and presently by the Ed McCue Dairy. **Charley Trabing** of Trabing Brothers had the place which in later years became the Stockyard Farm. **August Ludwig George** had a place he bought from August Trabing in 1892. He ran a dairy there and raised prodigious crops of potatoes, wheat, oats, and barley. His son, Charley George, told the writer of helping his father as a boy and mentioned in particular raking hay with wooden rakes which had been cut with a scythe on the Donnellan field which lies north of the lane going west from the Stockyards bridge, and is now a part of the Stockyard farm. The Ludwig Georges raised a family of five boys and three girls, Charley, Herman, William, Frank, Louie, and Mattie, Mrs. O. A. Krueger of Portland, and Mrs. J. R. Mole of Laramie. Herman George bought the Welch place, which is now owned by Phil Koontz. The Ludwig George place was quite a landmark in west Laramie from the time that August Trabing had it. It was lo-

cated by a grove of large trees which still stand. Today it is part of the Corthell holdings.

The farthest place north, on the west side of the river, was that of the **Ryan Brothers**, Dennis and Barry. Dennis was born in Boston in 1860 and came to Laramie in 1875 and worked in the Rolling Mills. With his brother Barry he ran a ranch three miles north of Laramie. This ranch harvested 365 tons of hay in 1917. Dennis worked at the rolling mills continuously until it burned down November 9, 1910. Dennis was county commissioner and played a leading part in routing the Lincoln Highway through Telephone Canyon. He also built the Snowy Range and Woods Creek Canyon roads. He was also a member of the city council and played a leading part in the improvement of the city cemetery, including the planting of trees and the initiation of the Perpetual Care agreements. Barry Ryan, his brother, was born in 1868 in Boston and came to Laramie in 1876. He also worked continuously in the rolling mill until it burned down. The Ryan Brothers went to Cripple Creek and drilled water wells and ran water wagons for five years after the Rolling Mill burned down. They returned to Laramie and took over the ranch. Barry Ryan died in 1936 after being an invalid for twelve years, and Dennis Ryan also died in 1936. Helen Ryan, a sister, furnished the writer with much information about her brothers and their ranch and also gave him some interesting material concerning the early day Cowboy Balls. She served as cashier for the Gem City Grocery Company for many years.



*Bloomfield Ranch. Joseph J. Fisher, Prop. Laramie Boomerang 1889.
Courtesy of Albany County Historical Museum.*



*Chas. J. George Ranch. Laramie Boomerang 1889.
Courtesy of Albany County Historical Museum.*



*Laramie Rivers Company Ranch at Wyoming Station.
Courtesy Midwest Review, March 1926.*

Ranches East of the Big Laramie River

Fisher-Maynard Ranch. This ranch, located just north of Howell Station on the Big Laramie River, is better known as the Maynard Ranch. J. J. Fisher was boss roller at the old rolling mills and a great fancier of race horses. He raised horses at this ranch, which later passed into the hands of Harry Maynard. Wallis Link told the writer that Valentine Spindler was the original settler on this ranch. He sold it to Tom Abbott, who in turn sold it to Joe Fisher named above. Harry Maynard came to Wyoming in 1884 and engaged in the mining and ranching business in the Ferris district until 1888. He held various county offices in Albany County from 1892 to 1917. The Joe Fisher ranch was known as the Bloomfield Ranch. This ranch is located on Sections 4 and 5, Township 16, Range 73. The ranch is now owned by the Lloyd Brothers.

The Fitch Ranch, leased by the Lloyd family for many years, is one of the ranches which has been in the same family for many years. E. E. Fitch, Laramie Realtor and County Commissioner, tells the writer that the ranch was settled in the 70s by his father who was the first school superintendent in Laramie. The family lived there in the 80s and up to 1895 and since that time the ranch has been leased out. The ranch house was the Surgeon's quarters at Fort Sanders, which was torn down after Fort Sanders was abandoned and moved to the ranch about 1883. Sheep were purchased from an Oregon Trail herd in the 80s and later cattle and horses were raised. Some very good horses were sold to Mr. Stickney. They were grade percherons. In common with many

other ranches, the Fitch ranch purchased a pedigreed Percheron stallion from the importers in Iowa for around \$2,000.00. The ranch buildings are shown on the Owen map (1886) as on Section 24, Township 17, Range 74. The brand is a tuning fork on the left ribs of cattle and the left shoulder of horses. A British publication gives the origin of the name Fytch, a variant of Fitch is supposed to be corrupted from Fitz meaning "son". There was a family called Fytche in Essex, owning the manor of Canfield in the 16th century. William Fitch lived in Norfolk in the 13th century.

Von Powell Ranch. As one goes west from Howell Station, one hits the old railroad grade which runs to Bosler by a water grade. About three miles west of Howell one sees a well built barn which is all that is left of the Baron von Powell holdings. This is not an old ranch but was taken up during the time the irrigation system for the Laramie Rivers Company was put in. The 1916 Brand Book (Wyoming) lists Eberhard von Powell of Laramie for the brand VP Left Thigh of cattle and left thigh of horses. Mrs. B. C. Daly tells the writer that the Dalys were close friends of the von Powells and often visited them at the ranch. Baron von Powell purchased the old Elkhorn Barn, which used to stand on the southeast corner from the Post Office and now used by the Tatham Service Station. He took the lumber from this Elkhorn barn and built the barn at the ranch and this is the building which is standing there today.

The Vine or Mann Ranch. When going out on the Lincoln Highway north of the Diamond Horseshoe one

sees an old building a little over a mile to the east and just under the bluff. The high pitched roofed building is the remains of one of the early ranches. The late Steve Frazer told the writer that Jim Vine had a ranch about four miles northeast of town. This ranch was known as the Cyrus Mann ranch. At one time Jim Vine owned the brick house out by the city springs. Jim Vine was a pioneer of Laramie. He was born on the Isle of Man in 1836 and came overland to Laramie in 1867. He was employed to build the officers' quarters at old Fort Sanders and later became a prominent citizen of Laramie City where he owned a furniture store. He served on the city council and as County Commissioner. Later he sold his furniture business to W. H. Holliday and J. W. Striker and engaged in the real estate business. He died in 1907. Mrs. Mary Bellamy told the writer that the Vine residence was later the Chauncey Root house just north of the Post Office, which was torn down and this location is now occupied by the bus station. The writer remembers this house very well and when the Root Opera House was torn down the metal opera chairs were taken by Chauncey Root to his home and were piled on the front porch for some time and then the house was torn down and the chairs dispersed. One of the Root Opera House chairs is in the Hebard room at the University Library. Oliver Wallis and the late Jesse van Buskirk have furnished the writer with information about "Windy Jim" Williams who lived on the Vine place for a number of years. Oliver Wallis tells the writer that Windy Jim was very fond of boys and a bunch of the town kids were often at his ranch

riding horses. He had good horses of draft stock on native which he crossed with running horses raised by Joe Fisher on the neighboring ranch. He was an old time cowpuncher who worked for Charley Hutton in the early days and loved to ride and work with horses. He also loved boys and they reciprocated by being at his ranch in force to "fool around" with his horses.

The **Oasis Ranch** is one of the old ranches of the county. The Billy Owen map of 1886 shows it as the property of T. D. Abbott and it was located on Section 11-17-74. Abbott had a bookstore and news stand in the Post Office building in Laramie in 1871. The late Wallis Link told the writer that Tom Abbott built a log mansion on top of the hill back of the Maynard Ranch and they often wondered why he built it there. Ora Haley bought the place and after he sold out on the Little Laramie, he came over to the Oasis Ranch and also had the place at Two Rivers or Old Wyoming Station. The Laramie Daily Boomerang for April 3, 1899 speaks of the cut-off of the Union Pacific Railroad, cutting through Mr. Haley's big ranch west of Laramie for twelve to fifteen miles, leaving the ranch buildings four miles from the new main line. The Oasis Ranch is now part of the holdings of the Lloyd Brothers.

The Biddick Ranch

Jack Biddick came to Wyoming from England in 1873. He worked for Robert Homer and Charley Hutton. He was a good sheep shearer and took shearing contracts. His name appears on the 1876 and 1877 shearing tallies of Sargent and Homer, when he made a very good tally averaging 46 per day

for nine days in 1876, and 46 per day for eight days in 1877. In the 80s Jack Biddick took a flier in the sheep business in the Rock Creek vicinity but his partner made the money. Jack came back and settled on the Big Laramie, where the present ranch is located on Section 4-17-74. He liked Shorthorn cattle of his native England and started with high grade Shorthorns which are still maintained on the ranch by his daughter, Ethel Biddick. His brand, Ace of Clubs, on both hips is a distinctive brand. In recent years Miss Biddick has added the old Two Rivers property at Old Wyoming Station to her property. The Biddick Shorthorn cattle have always been market toppers and the Chicago Daily Drovers Journal of December 8, 1953 speaks highly of the Biddick Shorthorn enterprise which extends over half a century. They know good cattle, pick good bulls and raise the best of beef steers from this old time English breed.

The Two Rivers Ranch At Old Wyoming Station

In the early days Wyoming Station, some 18 miles northwest of Laramie, was an important shipping center. All of the freight for the Little Laramie, Centennial and Keystone areas was delivered at this station. The old depot at Wyoming Station was torn down a few years ago and the scraps of plaster from the building can be seen in the borrow pit to the east of the road. The lumber from this old building was used in building the barn at the Laycock place west of Laramie.

The present county road running west from Howell Station, eight miles north of Laramie on U. S. Highway 30, runs up on the old railroad grade about

a mile west of Howell and stays on this grade to Two Rivers and on to Bosler where the old grade again takes off at Lookout and goes out to old Rock Creek Station, another leading shipping point and one of the leading livestock shipping centers and freight delivery offices of the early days.

The writer's father has told him many times of his early day freighting experiences from Wyoming Station. Otto Burns worked for the Willan Company in the 80s, and his job as a teamster took in both light hauling (tallyho) and freighting. He hauled supplies from Wyoming Station to the Willan ranches up the river and later helped haul the heavy mining machinery to the Sartoris mines at Keystone. The trail used on the 1951 Old Time Ranch tour traversed this old trail across the bench back of Two Rivers over to the Sprague Ranch at the north end of the Sprague Lane.

In 1871, Don Cameron (Laramie Daily Sentinel May 11, 1871, Page 3), so long known as Yard Master at Laramie, quit railroading and established himself in the dairy business at Wyoming Station, where he expects to manufacture about fifty pounds of nice ranch butter per day through the summer season. In the same paper it states that about a dozen new ranches have been established on the Big Laramie River between Laramie and Wyoming Station in the spring of 1871. The Sentinel for November 20, 1871 contains an estray notice by Donald Cameron which reads as follows: "Taken up by subscriber at his ranch at Wyoming, in the County of Albany, one brown Texas steer, 3 years old, branded "JI" on the right hip, and one spotted Texas steer, 3 years old, brand indistinguish-

able. The owner is requested to come forward, prove property, pay charges, and take them away—"The Sentinel for May 29, 1872 lists an advertisement by C. H. Bussard, storekeeper who . . . has another lot of the celebrated Don Cameron ranch butter, and again on July 9, 1872 the same paper lists the celebrated Wyoming Ranch Butter at Goodintent Grocery House, C. H. Bussard, Proprietor.

This is the last mention made of Don Cameron and his dairy at Wyoming, but another item mentions that he was evidently in partnership with Messrs. Luther Fillmore and Charley Hutton.

On July 23, 1872 Luther Fillmore resigned as the second Superintendent of a Division of the UPRR from 1869. His health had broken during the Civil War and the family doctors recommended that he come to a higher elevation, from his home in New York State. Sidney Dillon, an old friend of Luther Fillmore's became president of the UPRR and asked Fillmore to help him. He set up the ranch at Wyoming Station in 1872 and evidently Don Cameron ran the dairy part of the ranch. Luther Fillmore ran the ranch for several years, and on May 13, 1876 the Sentinel mentioned that he had all of the stock of horses for sale—The undersigned wishing to dispose of his entire stock of horses, offers them cheap for cash. Saddle ponies from \$30.00 to \$80.00. Team horses broke to harness from \$150.00 to \$300.00 per span. Unbroken \$50.00 per head. Apply at my ranch at Wyoming Station either by letter or in person—L. Fillmore.

A daughter, Nancy Fillmore Brown (Mrs. M. C. Brown) writes in the Wyo. Hist. Bull. (1:3: 14) that cold winters

affected her father's health and he was forced to go to the more congenial climate of California. The late Oscar Sodergreen told the writer that Fillmore had a ranch at Old Wyoming Station and lived there when he came to the country in 1873. L. Fillmore died in California in 1905.

From the horse sale advertisement one could infer that L. Fillmore sold out about 1876 and went to California. The next owner of Two Rivers was Ora Haley who had his headquarters there for several years and ran a dairy there in addition to his many other holdings scattered from Laramie City to the Bear River in Colorado. Billy Owen testified in the Little Laramie Water Case that he remembered the Haley Ranch very well. It was upstream several miles from the Bath Ranch—about four or five miles. He was there in 1872 in the summer and until late in the fall, herding cattle for Ora Haley. He went out on horseback and drove a number of cattle out to the ranch; seventy-five to one hundred head, and thinks that these were the first cattle taken by Mr. Haley to the ranch. This particular Haley Ranch, his first one in the Laramie area, was the old Rand Briggs and Steedman place, later owned by the Willan ranch and now a part of the Dalles place. Several of those who testified in the Laramie River Water case stated that the Rand Briggs and Steedman place was just north of the Farrell place (now the Wallis or Forbes ranch). Ora Haley sold this ranch to Rand & Steedman in 1876, according to land records (Sec. 9 T. 18 R. 76). Chas. J. Steedman, one of the partners in this early ranching enterprise, has written an interesting book entitled "Bucking the

Sage Brush," which gives some interesting items about their ranching and cattle trailing operations, including a quaint statement by Bill Nye who drew up the partnership papers and with his usual levity stated that all that was needed was some cattle to become cattle barons, as the partnership had all of the prairie at its disposal! Cattle were bought for a "song" near Pendleton, Oregon—Cows with calves at their side \$9 - \$10. Yearlings \$5 - \$7. 2-year-olds \$8 - \$10, and 3-year-olds \$14 - \$16. Several hundred head were purchased from about 30 owners. The group traveled by horseback some 3,000 miles in buying the cattle, averaging about 25 miles a day for 120 days. The trail herd averaged about 10 - 15 miles a day. The cost of trailing the cattle to Laramie amounted to \$2.70 a head and this operation gave some cheap cattle to the firm. They priced sheep at \$1.00 to \$1.50 a head in Oregon, but did not purchase any. This operation took place in 1878 and in 1882 the partnership dissolved when the land was sold to the Willan outfit.

In June 1880 Ora Haley moved his herd of cattle from the Laramie Plains to the Bear River and established his headquarters near the Government camp on Lay Creek. A. J. Gregory was in charge. The range brand was 11 Two Bar. He had ranches near Rock River, and cow camps at various places such as the old JO Ranch on Cow Creek between Rawlins and Baggs. Around 1902 Ora Haley had extensive holdings of some 50,000 acres in Wyoming and 2500 acres in Colorado. He had holdings in Arizona and elsewhere with other partners. The Laramie Daily Boomerang of April 3, 1899 mentions the dissolution of the

Haley holdings with some 7000 head of cattle going from Wyoming to the Colorado ranges and the balance being sold to Wyoming ranchmen. The cut-off of the UPRR will pass through Mr. Haley's big ranch west of Laramie for some twelve to fifteen miles, leaving the ranch buildings four miles from the new main line. Mr. Haley's big steer is now eating corn at Omaha and is getting bigger and bigger. This steer is a native of Colorado, matured in Wyoming; is six years old and now weighs 3300 pounds. John Hart of Rawlins told the writer that Ora Haley had headquarters on the Snake River, where the Norman Winder ranch is now located. John Hart was night wrangler for Haley when he (Hart) first came to the country. One day when we were following the chuck wagon Mr. Haley was along in a buggy, and when Hart spoke of a brook instead of a creek he spoke up, "I have not heard of a creek called a brook since I left New England, you must come from that part of the country."

The Red Ranch was located on the Laramie River just east of Hutton Station which was on the main line of the Union Pacific Railroad, before the cut-off was made between Laramie and Lookout in 1900. This cut-off made a "bee-line" through the hill while the old original line followed a "water grade" along the course of the River to Old Wyoming Station, some five miles west of the present Wyoming Station. The old Red Ranch was about 15 miles north and west of Laramie, and was a sheep ranch settled by Laurence and McGibbon. The name was acquired through the color of the buildings. In the earlier days, Rawlins Red, a natural red powder,

was mined near Rawlins and formed the color of many home-mixed red paints which decorated the ranch buildings of the Laramie Plains. The ranch buildings of the Red Ranch were located on Section 35, Township 18, Range 74 West, according to Ralph McGibbon, while the Owen Map of Albany County, made in 1886, shows the Laurence and McGibbon ranch on Section 10 - 18 - 74. The house, barn, and corrals were painted a dull red. Laurence and McGibbon settled on another ranch (as described on the Owen Map) and this ranch is known today as the GHOST RANCH and is now owned by "Farmer" Schmidl who has done a considerable amount of farming there. It is situated about one-half mile east of Bosler Station. The history of the Ghost Ranch is associated with several tragedies and not a little humor. The first tragedy occurred there about 1880. Five men drove out there from Laramie to do a little duck hunting. The distance was about 18 miles. These men made their camp along the river not far from where the ranch buildings are now located. It was in March, the most dangerous month, when sudden two- or three-day blizzards are apt to come up. At that time one of these sudden blizzards descended and the hunters were caught without sufficient shelter and food. They had a tent but it had no flaps on the bottom to keep out the blowing snow. All of the unfortunate hunters perished. They had no stove so were cooking over a fire in the open. Little wood could be found for the fire and the intense cold and driving snow made it impossible to keep warm. Their horses froze in their tracks, tied to the wagon. A re-

cent owner of the Ghost Ranch met a tragic fate during World War I in the prohibition era, when he was shot by a rum runner. Just prior to this time the ranch was the headquarters of the Talmadge and Buntin outfit and was used for a demonstration farm during the time when the colonization was in progress in the Bosler territory.

The Cooper Lake Ranch was settled by C. P. Arnold, by a homestead entry, in about 1884. Ora Haley went into partnership with Mr. Arnold and they developed a nice ranch there, beginning an irrigation system about 1884. They had some seven hundred acres in native hay meadows. Ora Haley bought Mr. Arnold's interests and continued to operate the ranch with his other ranches until 1908. The second tragedy occurred while the writer's (A. S. Gillespie) parents, Mr. and Mrs. S. W. Gillespie lived on the ranch in 1883. In June of that year the usual flood waters were rolling and tumbling down the river channel and overflowing the banks and adjacent land. A young man by the name of Henry Pickett, aged about 20 years, started to go over to Hutton Station after the mail. He had to swim the river on a little mare. When the mare was about half way across the river she turned up-stream. Henry attempted to straighten her to her original course across the river, but the pulling on the bridle rein upset her equilibrium and she rolled over and dumped the rider off. Mr. S. W. Gillespie saw the accident and ran downstream, jerking off his clothes as he ran. He swam out into the river to save the boy and saw his head bob up just once, and just beyond his reach, but so close his fingers touched the boy's hair. Had the

boy come up again he would have been saved for Mr. Gillespie was an excellent swimmer but the murky and swirling water hid the boy's body and he did not come up to the surface again. Mr. James McGibbon sold the Ghost Ranch to Ora Haley prior to 1886. At that time Mr. Haley constructed the Oasis Ditch and soon made a good hay ranch out of the Ghost Ranch. He operated it until 1908. At that time the Talmadge and Buntin, real estate dealers from Nashville, Tennessee, took over all of the Haley property on the Laramie River to be sold and colonized. The late Mr. I. N. Jennings of Indiana bought the Ghost Ranch and operated it for many years, and his family owned it until recently, when Farmer Schmidl purchased it. The Cooper Lake Ranch was located on Section 22 T. 19, R. 74, and was one of the best ranches in the country. For some unproven reason it was a splendid winter location. The weather was worse on either the north or south side than it was in that strip running east and west through the ranch location.

There was another ranch known as the **Douglas Willan, Sartoris Cooper Lake Ranch**. It was located on the Laramie River below Ora Haley's Cooper Lake Ranch, on Section 20, T. 19 R. 74 & 75. The ranch consisted of all the land in the northeastern corner of the Township which reached from the Union Pacific Railroad to the Boughton Ranch. That ranch was used for sheep, cattle, and horses. No hay land was developed in connection with it, but there was a large shed which could be used for sheep and cattle and there was a dipping vat for sheep. When that ranch started

operations, stockmen did not pay too much attention to raising hay. There was one pasture on the ranch which was known as the "Bog Hole Pasture." There were about forty acres of bog holes in that pasture, which engulfed many cattle. These bog holes were of the consistency of a large bowl of thin mush and were a fatal trap for livestock who started through and sank to their death.

Eli Peterson of Douglas worked on various of the Willan ranches and tells some interesting stories of his experiences. He told the junior writer (RHB) that he spent a winter looking after the Cooper Lake Ranch and spoke of the luxurious rugs on the floor of the log house and the distinctive furnishing typical of many of the English ranch houses. Mrs. John Hill has kindly loaned the junior writer an old prospectus of the Willan Company, published in 1885. In this booklet is a detailed appraisal description of the various ranches and the Cooper Lake Ranch is described as follows: "The fencing on this ranch is entirely new; three strands of barbed wire are strung to very large pitch pine posts, extending 16 miles and costs \$190.00 per mile. The lands enclosed are sections 1, 12, and 13, Township 19, Range 73, and Sections 5-9, 15-22, 27-29 of Township 19, Range 74. There is no finer "River Front" in the Territory than that at Cooper Lake Ranch. Upon this river bottom and adjacent to it there are about 2,000 acres of as fine hay land as can be found anywhere; worth \$30.00 per acre." A detailed appraisal list is given of the building, and the building used for dining room, kitchen and bunk house, as well as storeroom, measured 52 by 16 feet and was valued

at \$250.00. Corrals, stable, and winter sheep sheds and dipping apparatus, 40x15 feet, completed the buildings and the livestock consisted of 205 cows @ \$65.00; 90 2-year-old heifers and steers @ \$35.00; 100 yearlings unbranded @ \$28.00; and 1 Hereford half-breed bull @ \$150.00. The balance of the livestock consisted of 35 young calves @ \$18.00; 7 hogs @ \$10.00; 7 work horses @ \$125.00; 5 mules @ \$150.00 and 24 saddle horses @ \$75.00.

A detailed listing of ranch implements is given including wagons, plow, mattocks, axes, hay forks, shovels, harness, and forge and tools.

Between the Ghost Ranch and the Haley-Arnold Ranch, the corner of the Boughton Ranch extends across to the west side of the river. The Boughton Ranch is the largest hay ranch in that section of the country. It used to cut 2,000 tons of hay and probably still does. It was started by an Englishman named E. S. R. BOUGHTON, who developed the ranch from a sage brush flat. He built a dam across the Laramie River and dug out a very large ditch for those days, which measured 10 feet wide on the bottom and three to four feet deep. This ditch had a capacity of some 83 second-feet of water and its water right covers 5284 acres. Boughton did not operate the ranch for many years. He started his irrigation system in 1884 and when the ranch was developed he sold out to John Whitaker who continued to improve it to its high state of production. The winter of 1899 was one of the worst in the memory of old timers of that locality. A continuous blizzard started on the 19th of January and lasted through to the first day of April. Even with the hay available, John

Whitaker Jr. lost five hundred head of cattle that winter. The next fall he sold his cattle to Nat Baker of Lusk, who bought the hay and fed the cattle there during the winter. The next spring John Whitaker Jr. sold the ranch to the Iron Mountain Ranch Company, owned by John C. Coble and Frank C. Bosler. These men operated the ranch for five or six years and then Mr. Coble sold his interest to Mr. Bosler. The Whitaker brand was an (FT) for the cattle. Coble and Bosler used the brands E and Z. Mr. Bosler, about 1906, bought all of the holdings of the Marsh and Cooper (7L Ranch) and Frank Harrison holdings on Rock Creek, and organized the Diamond Cattle Company. After the death of Mr. Bosler the Boughton, Whitaker or Coble Ranch passed into the hands of Mrs. Frank C. Bosler in 1917. She sold it to the Wallis Brothers in 1939 and Miller and Wallis are the present owners. The acreage of the BOUGHTON Ranch was around 45,000 acres.

The next ranch down the River was that of **A. G. Dunn**, who came to Laramie in the early part of 1870, along with his wife. They resided in Laramie for a number of years, but maintained a squatter's claim on Section 17 - 20 - 74. There he maintained headquarters for a horse ranch and the Dunn boys were on the place most of the time, but they kept a couple of bronco busters on the place the year around. Judge A. G. Dunn and his wife did not move to the ranch to live until 1886. They lived at that location on the west side of the river until 1888, when they moved to the east side of the river where they put up improvements on the east line of Section 19 - 20 - 74. The Dunns pur-

chased their first bunch of horses from J. W. Collins who had a ranch on Five-Mile Creek (Lone-Tree) on the west slope of Boulder Ridge. The Dunn horse brand, a bar over an H on the left thigh, was well known as he had a large herd of horses which ranged from Boulder Ridge to the rim of Bates Hole. Judge Dunn at one time owned a very fine imported Percheron stallion named "Collabar". The late E. J. Bell bought the Dunn horses about 1895. Dunn went into the cattle business (Brand DUN). In 1898 they ran a band of sheep for one year. The destructive winter of 1899 discouraged them in the sheep business but they continued in the cattle business. In the spring of 1905 the livestock and real estate was purchased from the Dunns by the senior writer's father, the late S. W. Gillespie.

The S. W. Gillespie ranch joined the Dunn ranch down the river and to the north. The original 160-acre homestead was on the shore line of the famous Lake Ione. Many traditions and stories abound concerning this lake. Some old timers claimed it had no bottom and others claimed it contained sea serpents. It had an area of around 1300 acres and was some 4 miles in circumference. The water in Lake Ione gradually receded and it finally dried up and S. W. Gillespie planted grain in it and raised some 5000 bushels of oats in a season. It was one of the largest farming enterprises in the county at that time. Oats certainly thrived in that rich black soil. The oats weighed 45 pounds to the bushel. Now that land produces hay. The Gillespie homestead was located on Section 10, Township 20, N. Range 74W. The Gillespies added to

their 160 acre homestead until the ranch covered some 25,000 acres of deeded land. The first addition was the Dunn Ranch, then land from the Toltec Livestock Company; then the A. F. Shultz holdings and the tract from the Crescent Holding Company, as well as numerous stock grazing homesteads. S. W. Gillespie killed the last buffalo on the Laramie Plains in the summer of 1881, just west of Plumbago Canyon. Mr. Gillespie had charge of a bunch of the Lawrence & McGibbon sheep during one winter about 1886. The herder left the buildings and corrals just northwest of Ione Lake and went over some ridges with his sheep. There was about a foot of loose snow on the ground. A wind came up which blew hard enough and with a cold sting sufficient to drive any livestock ahead of it. Ione Lake was full of water and covered with a coat of ice which was slick as glass. Four men, including the writer's father and Mr. James McGibbon, went to the relief of the herder. They fought those sheep for three days and nights trying to keep them away from the icy lake but were unsuccessful and when the storm was over the sheep were scattered over practically all of the lake. After the storm only 250 sheep were alive out of a band of 2500 head. The old timers who settled these ranches were not thinking of themselves when they started to make a ranch and home, beginning with a homestead and no money. They began with nothing and a lifetime's effort was necessary to get together a good ranch. It took energy, perseverance, and hard work, and they certainly appreciated a dollar gained the hard way, and knew how to obtain the most out of every dollar



Ghost Ranch once owned by Ora Haley. Headquarters Talmadge and Buntin. (Colonization Scheme). Courtesy Mr. Henry Swan and Agnes Wright Spring.



Old Gillespie Home at Lookout. Mrs. Maggie Gillespie, Buster, Maggie, Mabel. 1908. Courtesy Mrs. Ruby Gillespie Eades.

spent. On this particular ranch a ditch had to be built seven miles long through hills where "cuts" some fifteen feet deep had to be constructed. Then the Laramie River had to be dammed to raise the water so it would flow into these ditches. A ditch on each side of the river was started and eventually finished. No dirt moving devices other than a horse-drawn scraper and plow were used and the plow required four to six horses. The writer's father, S. W. Gillespie was walking across his yard one day in the latter part of March, when he noticed a large bunch of range cattle walking around the thawing ice on Ione Lake, trying to sip enough water

for a drink. Presently he looked back at them again and they had disappeared from sight. When he investigated he found that the ice had broken through and all of that big bunch of cattle had drowned. The Gillespie ranch was primarily a cattle ranch, except for two disastrous ventures into sheep when hard winters killed two-thirds of the woolly animals.

S. W. Gillespie died in 1907 and Mrs. Gillespie in 1945. After her death the ranch was sold to the Schmale Brothers of Medicine Bow, who still own the place.

The writers are indebted to Ruby Eades for the following reminiscences of her mother:

MY EARLY DAY RANCH EXPERIENCES

By Mrs. Maggie W. Gillespie (Mrs. S. W. Gillespie)

When I came to Wyoming in 1883, this state was run almost entirely by large stockmen—most of the state was open tracts of land. I sometimes think if we had left our land and water in God's hand the state would be better off. At that time my husband had his little 160 acres homestead fenced. We only had one cow but the year before he bought, with his brother Joe Gillespie, 30 head of Oregon mares. People used all the public land without cost, that they wanted. Little homesteaders began drifting in. One could file then on a homestead of 160. A pre-emption claim of 160—timber claim of 160. No one could own by filing more than one section of 640 acres; part of a desert claim could be taken to raise the number of acres to 640 or the whole 640 could be filed as a desert claim provided water could be put on every 40 acres. Not often

could that be done as water was so scarce.

Along in the 1890s, small ranchers got so numerous the big stockmen objected to them. We were too poor to ship in stock and the big stockmen would never sell a cow to us. The first summer I was here a section boss at old Rock Creek left the country. He had three milch cows. Our nearest neighbor, Judge A. G. Dunn, found these three cows for sale. He took two; we took one of them and believe me, we never owned a cow that was more appreciated. All stock of the large companies ran on open range no matter how bad the storms. These poor animals were not fed. They would drift around buildings to get away from wind and stay there until many starved to death. I, being a "tenderfoot" would cry and beg to have them fed. My husband would



*Gillespie cattle grazing on bed of Ione Lake. 1920.
Courtesy of A. S. Gillespie.*



*Moving Ute Indians to Utah about 1908.
Courtesy of Thos. B. Dodge.*

look sorry and say we could not feed so many thousand of the rich men's cattle. After a few years these large companies near me were the Swan Sand and Cattle Company, Douglas-Willan-John McGill Cattle Companies. About this time a wealthy Englishman, named Boughton, came to our neighborhood. He spent much money getting land, fencing and ditching it, and made a valuable ranch right out on the prairie. He sold to John and Dougald Whitaker. While they were there they put up eighteen hundred tons of hay. The Whitakers sold this ranch to Coble and Bosler. At the present time it is owned by Mrs. Frank Bosler and Eastern people. All the above people had cattle. It is still a very fine hay ranch except the past few years of drought the hay crop has been short, as it has through most of Wyoming from 1930 to 1936.

I now own several miles of the fence put in by Douglas Willan Sartorius Co. that must be at least 60 years old. It is pretty good yet. The posts were made from large pitch pine logs. Some that rotted off at the ground had to be replaced. Those days we did not need ditches as our snow was so deep every winter that all meadows were flooded from Centennial to where the Laramie River goes into the hills. Man could not let well enough alone so all who were able and many who were not able, began ditching in order to irrigate to raise hay. In the early days we mowed hay all along the river where it was best for about seven miles. It was all made from the river overflow. In 1889 so many ditches had been taken out we had to join the procession so we began ditching on both sides of the river. Those ditches are seven miles

long. We put one herd of both horses and cattle into those ditches; by that I mean we sold all our stock to use the money to make the ditches, except a few head of horses for ranch work and eight head of cows. We had to start all over again in the stock business but occasionally some little ranchers got tired of the country and we could buy a few head from them. As I said before, the large companies would not let the small ranchers have stock they owned. There were large cattle roundups then. Ah! but those cowboys were fine, generous obliging and real citizens in every way. One laughable thing about most of the cowboys was this: they did not want to do anything but ride wild horses. This riding after stock began in April and lasted to the middle of November. When their work was finished they went to the towns, stayed until they spent all their money, then they went from one ranch to another visiting until they felt they had been at one place long enough, then go to another. If they got to the place they started from before work began, they started around again. This was called "riding the grub line". When the spring and fall cattle roundups came along the boys always gave us a quarter of beef—and it was the very best. One summer I remember they gave us four quarters—think of it! One whole cow. We did all we could for them; let them use our corrals. I gave many of them all the milk they could drink, also eggs. This seemed so little to the big things they did for us. Once I remember about 25 cowboys were sitting around the walls in my kitchen and my tiny little girl, Maggie Jr., was selling Larkin soap to get a pre-

mium. She took her basket to each boy. When she got to a witty Irishman "Razor Bill" Irvine, he said "Maggie, look how clean my hands are. Do you think I need any soap?" She looked at his face for quite a while then said "I tink you need some shaving toap". My sweet little Maggie is dead but I believe Mr. Irvine is a banker in Wheatland. His brand was a razor, hence the nickname of Razor Bill.

The spring of 1884 my husband and I, with our first son, moved to his homestead at Ione Lake. The first guests to spend the night with us came in a large wagon were two men; one was LeRoy Grant, the State Treasurer. I did not learn the other man's name. I was quite excited as we only had two beds. My sister-in-law, Miss Margaret Gillespie, who came West with us in 1883 had one bed. My husband, S. W. Gillespie, and I had the other so I was distressed about entertaining them. When my husband came I said, "Where in the world can those men sleep?" He said, "Sleep? Why they probably have their beds along." I stared a long time at him to see if he had gone insane. He said, "Now don't get excited, people carry their beds with them in Wyoming." Upstairs where these men had to sleep was a fine camp bed, some of the blankets cost thirty and forty dollars per pair, so my husband took the straps off and rolled it out and told Mr. Grant to put his quilts on it and they could sleep in it. They had to pass through my kitchen and when they came through the little man had a neat roll tied with straps under his arm. Mr. Grant, as I said to my husband "man like" had all his quilts on one arm with all

corners of the quilts dragging on the floor. About 10 a. m. I went upstairs to roll the bed belonging to Dick Huson when "lo and behold," two of those fine blankets were gone. Margaret and I could not do anything because neither of us could ride and the only way we had to travel was horseback. In a short while Mr. McGibbon, our nearest and best neighbor came. I told him our trouble and I said I know Mr. Grant did not take them because he had all his quilts on his arm where I could see them. He had a big laugh and said, "No, he did not steal the blankets. He is a fine man and is our State Treasurer, but he said he would go to the telegraph office and send a message to Mr. Grant; which he did at once. The message was half an hour late. Man nor blankets were never found. Mr. Grant told Mr. McGibbon that he found the fellow walking along the road and felt sorry for him and let him ride. I still remember one joke Mr. Grant told about the wild and wooly West. One night while on his trip he stopped at a stage station. He had to open his camp bed and sleep in it in the saloon. He said he was very tired so was nearly asleep and one of the men went to him and said, "Wake up, stranger, and take a drink." He said, "Leave me alone! I do not want your whiskey." The saloon keeper pulled his gun out and said, "You will drink this just the same." Mr. Grant said he pretended to be even more awkward than he really was, so he managed to pour the whiskey beside him in his bed. I do not think I would remember so many little instances if I had not been a "tender-foot." Everything was so different from my dear sunny southland. Well,

I believe Wyoming has all the United States beaten for sunshine now.

When we settled at Ione Lake the report was it was so deep it had no bottom. We moved to our homestead in 1884. In 1892, Ione Lake was dried up except a puddle in the center. As long as we did not irrigate and the Laramie River was so extremely high every year, this lake was fed from the river. There was great quantities of water in it. As soon as the water began to recede, the water went through a little natural ditch back into the river but there was enough water left to make quite a lake until 1892. The soil was very rich so we sowed five acres of oats to experiment. They grew so high they hid the tallest men. In 1894, we put in nearly a hundred acres in oats, wheat, and barley. We ordered three hundred pounds of black oats from Denver. We kept them separate from the others, threshed them and we made three hundred and three sacks from those three sacks. Nearly all our oats weighed 48 pounds per bushel, except a few of the best weighed 52 pounds per bushel. That sounds fishy but I can furnish several witnesses that it is true. Another fishy story is this: We started out along the river to get wild goose eggs to set under hens. We found two nests in low trees where the geese were setting on the eggs. We took them home, put them under hens and all hatched and all lived to be grown. One year we had six that lived to be grown. They visited the cow roundup camps, ate out of the boys hands and played hosts in fine shape. Drs. Finrock and McCollum got some of our wild geese. Dr. McCollum got tired taking care of them and I expect his

neighbors got tired of their music early in the morning so the last I know about them they were kept confined in the city park here. . . .

In the fall of 1895 one afternoon someone knocked at our back door. When I opened it there stood a very light complexioned man and a very large swarthy tall dark man. The light one was Mr. W. S. Ingham, who was librarian here soon after the Carnegie Library opened. He was a very estimable, pleasant man, and was foreman for John and Dougald Whitaker, who lived ten miles south of our ranch. When they left they rode down to Ione Lake, which was practically dry, and they rode through our cattle, which was all right until we found out that the dark man was Tom Horn. When my husband learned it was Tom Horn, he saw Mr. Ingham and asked him what he meant by taking Horn into his house when he was away six miles working on a ditch. Mr. Ingham was very profuse in his apologies and begged us to believe he did not know who he was at the time. We believed him and often entertained him after this incident.

Tom Horn made his headquarters at the Whitaker's ranch a great deal of his time during the years he murdered Mr. Powell, Mr. Lewis and Willie Nichols. Everyone who knows much about Wyoming knows he was hanged for killing the boy, Willie Nichols, in 1901. Willie was shot in 1901. Tom Horn practiced his marksmanship by shooting vegetable cans from cowboys heads. He never shot a boy so one can readily see he was a good shot. Horn said he got \$500.00 each for the men he murdered. He was asked how he collected his money. He said he



General View of McGill's Ranch, August 24, 1899. Courtesy of Archives and Western History Department, University of Wyoming Library.



Residence of Ora Haley. Present American Legion Home. Laramie Boomerang 1889. Courtesy of Albany County Historical Museum.

always laid the men he killed on their backs and put a small stone under their heads. . . .

The Gillespie ranch used the brand G on the right side, and the same on the right shoulder of horses up until the time the horse brand was sold to the Toltec Livestock Company in 1898. After the Dunn Ranch and livestock were purchased the Gillespie's used their H brand on the left hip of horses, the same as the Dunns had.

The Gillespie Ranch was a cattle ranch exclusively after it was started up to the time it was sold in 1947, except for two ventures in sheep. One of these was when Lawrence and McGibbon had their large loss of sheep and the other was when the writer's (ASG) father went into sheep again in 1898. He went into sheep just in time to get caught in the renowned winter of 1899 when a storm struck in all its fury and wiped out a third of the sheep which just about wound up that venture.

Dick Huston filed on a homestead in the NW $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 10 - 20 - 74 in 1884. He had a small bunch of cattle which he kept close around his place and in the winter he had some hay which he cut along the bottoms of the Laramie River, which were overflowed during the flood season when the snows melted in the mountains. He lived a rather dreary life. His house was a dug-out in the side of a hill. The roof was made of plain boards covered with dirt and there was a dirt floor. The snow had to be shoveled out the morning after each storm, and that was a difficult job as the door swung in and when opened the snow tumbled in. He obtained title to the land after five years of residence and

sold the 160 acres to the Swan Land and Cattle Company. About 1932 the writer's (ASG) mother obtained 80 acres of this tract in a trade with the Swan Company, and the land passed in the deal to the Schmale Brothers. The other 80 acres were purchased by the Sybille Corporation from the Swan Company.

The next land filings looking towards a sheep enterprise were made by **Wellowby** and **Billings**. Each of these men had a homestead in Section 24 - 21 - 74. These men struggled along for a few years trying to raise sheep, but were cleaned out by one of the hard winters. Not so many years ago piles of bones could be seen, mute reminders of the disaster which befell these sheep ranchers. They made their land filings about 1884 and sold out to the Swan Company around 1889 and left that part of the country a discouraged pair of men.

The next ranch is the famous **Kite Ranch** which was settled by people who had the courage, endurance and ability to make a go of it. Mr. and Mrs. John McGill settled on this ranch and spent their lifetime there. The name of the ranch came from the brand which was shaped like a kite. John McGill filed on a piece of land in Section 24-22-74 in 1875. He bought land which was in the railroad grant and increased his acreage up to 25 hundred acres. A large part of this land was bottom land and its development called for the construction of ditches and a dam across the Laramie River. Mr. McGill understood this rather staggering job and carried it through to completion with great determination. In the course of time he built up a ranch which cut about 350 tons of hay

and it is said that his book count of cattle on the free open range amounted to 4000 head. In the early days those cattle ran at large throughout the year, and the book count was cut down by losses and thievery. These losses did not discourage Mr. McGill. He gathered the cattle which remained and put them on the meadows and took care of them during the winters, and the feeding of hay to these remaining cattle during the winter paid out nicely. During the panic of 1893, Mr. McGill came to Laramie and bought 2,000 yearling ewes for 90 cents a head. He did **not** have to run these sheep long until the prices for wool and lambs advanced and he found his enterprise going strong. He bought additional ranches such as the Vail, Mertz, Roe and Cramer and took up leases and purchased some of the State lands on streams and water holes, a common practice in those days. He worked out a plan where he controlled about two square Townships of land which would run about 1800 head of cattle, three to four thousand head of sheep, and about two hundred and fifty head of horses.

Builds Fine Ranch Home. In 1901 Mr. McGill built one of the best houses in Albany County at that time, which was quite modern with steam heat, hot and cold water and a bath room. It was made of stone, was plastered throughout and contained fourteen rooms. Mr. McGill was born in Scotland in 1846 and passed away at Laramie in 1918. He came to Wyoming in 1869 and was married to Helen Patrick Owens in 1875. There are six children by two marriages. Two daughters, Helen Yarbrough and Margaret Irvine still live in Laramie, and

two sons, Tom and John, own ranches, the former in the Sybille-Wheatland area and the latter on the Little Laramie River. The Kite Ranch was owned by the Toltec Livestock Company, Cameron Brothers, McGill Estate, Frances Parks, James Morton, and the present owner is Frank Boyd.

The next ranch journeying down the Big Laramie River from the Kite was the one owned by Mr. and Mrs. **Tyler Dodge**. They squatted on Section 34-23-73 in 1893 and the original filing on the land was made in 1899. Mr. Dodge engaged in the cattle business during all of the years they were on the ranch. He faced the same difficult problem of constructing a dam across the Laramie River and after several attempts he was successful. These old timers had to learn by bitter experience and hard work, unassisted by modern finance and machinery.

Dams Hard to Construct. The constructed dam would suffer damage by spring high waters and ice jams. Often ice floes two feet thick and several hundred feet long would float down the river and strike the dam with terrific force, which would shake the ground near the dam.

A Gold Strike. The Dodges experienced great excitement when gold was found on their place and along the river above their place. A number of prospectors and some of their families moved out and the enthusiasm to "strike it rich" mounted to great heights. They put in sluice boxes and "panned for gold" but found the gold so fine it was difficult to save. It took several months of hard and painstaking work to get enough of the gold to fill a vest pocket, but the boom was on and Dodge's ranch became **Dodge**

City. Mr. Dodge was born in Saginaw, Michigan in 1850 and passed away in 1936. He married Elizabeth Belville in 1872 in Nebraska. They had two children, Thomas B. and Nora. Mr. Dodge had a son William A. by a former marriage. He branded his cattle **S** on the right side. He sold his ranch to his grandson, George W.

Dodge in 1929 and he is the present owner.

CHAPTER 10

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS AND SOURCES

The writers wish to acknowledge information from the following people: Oliver Wallis, Herbert J. King, Helen Ryan, E. E. Fitch and Mrs. B. C. Daly.



Some of McGill's Sheep. August 24, 1899. Courtesy of Archives and Western History Department, University of Wyoming Library.

CHAPTER XI

*Ranches
on the
Little
Laramie River*

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CHAPTER 11

RANCHES ON THE LITTLE LARAMIE RIVER

By R. H. "Bob" Burns
The Centennial Valley

The Centennial Valley might well be divided into the ranches on the North Fork, for those on the Middle Fork and those on the South Fork, all branches of the Little Laramie River. The Owen map of 1886 gives the following names of ranches from headwaters to "mouth" on the different forks of the Little Laramie River. **North Fork**—Wilkins, Bickford, Wolbol, Garrett and Christensen. **Middle Fork**—Tom Bird and Dole Brothers. **South Fork**—Nothing but cabins for timber camp.

Buckeye Ranch

Probably the best known among the older ranches of the Centennial Valley is the Buckeye Ranch owned, in the early days, by the Dole Brothers who operated under the name of the Albany Land and Cattle Company. The late Oscar Sodergreen spoke of visiting the Bussard or Buckeye Ranch about 1875 and at that time it was owned by Bussard and Ivinson. Charles Bussard operated extensive tie cutting camps in the early days and ran "tie drives" down both the Big Laramie and Little Laramie Rivers. Edward or "Evergreen" Ivinson was a prominent banker in Laramie and had an interest in the ranch. About 1880 the Dole Brothers came out from Ohio and purchased the ranch and they were the first ones to make extensive

water developments on the ranch, taking out water claims and constructing many ditches. David Dole ran the ranch and his brother, Tom Dole, lived in town and kept books for the Buckeye and other ranches. The name Buckeye was taken from the nickname of the Dole Brothers' home state, Ohio. The Buckeye Ditch was taken out in 1878 and during the next 6-8 years many claims for ditches and desert claims were filed. Mr. D. F. Crout testifying in the Little Laramie River water case stated that in 1880 he took out a ditch on the Buckeye or Bussard Ranch and put up over 100 tons of hay and could have put up a lot more. He helped cut ties on Ward's Gulch which flows into the Little Laramie and these ties were floated down the river to Wyoming Station (Old Wyoming or present Two Rivers, some seventeen miles northwest of Laramie). Sherman Markle, who testified in the water case, stated that he worked for Bussard in the early 80s. He put up a lot of hay between the South and Middle Forks. Bussard went in there about the same time as we (Markles) did in 1875.

Jesse van Buskirk told the writer that Charley Hutton had an option to buy the Buckeye Ranch and Mrs. Hutton sold this option after Charley's death. Jesse lived there a couple of

years, about 1897. Dwight Smith (later a grocer and the father of Gene Smith Sr.), Charlie Harris and Earl Harris bought the Buckeye about 1900. The ranch was owned by John Connors for several years, and is now owned by Joe Glenn.

The Buckeye Ranch buildings with the large barns and small bunk house are an interesting example of the early day ranch architecture. The hay meadows are among the best in the Centennial Valley.

An interesting prospectus of the Albany Land and Cattle Company, which was published in Omaha in 1884, has been loaned to the writer by Mrs. John A. Hill. The Trustees of this Company were David B. Dole, Thomas D. B. Dole, John W. Donnellan, Robert Marsh and Stephen W. Downey. The ranch and range location was given as in Albany and Carbon Counties, Wyoming Territory. The prospectus gives the advantages of the livestock business in Wyoming Territory. It states that "title has been secured to 3,040 acres of rich bottom lands, which are watered by the Little Laramie River, a never-failing stream with a front of over ten miles. From this stream over twenty miles of ditches have been constructed, forming a thorough system of irrigation, enjoyed by no other property in the vicinity. . . . All of the ranches are well equipped with dwellings, barns, sheds, corrals, tool-houses, blacksmith and carpenter shops, quarters for employees, agricultural implements and all appliances needed in a large stock business. The livestock embraces 3,636 head of fine American cattle, for five years pedigreed by blooded Short Horn and Hereford bulls. These cattle are far superior to

Texas stock and at three years of age weigh 1,300 pounds, over 200 pounds more than the latter. In the fall of 1883 the cattle netted \$68.29 on an average at the range, which equalled \$75.00 in Chicago. There are also 68 head of saddle horses, 71 fine American brood mares, and one Kentucky Whip stallion. The mares are American crossed by Kentucky Whip, and all of these horses will meet with a ready sale at home, at good figures. The total value of the stock is nearly one hundred and forty thousand dollars, and of the ranch, lands, fencing, grazing rights and water rights and all improvements the same amount making the total value of all the property two hundred eighty thousand dollars. Taxes are lower than in the States, and the country is absolutely safe, as full protection to life and property are given as in the Eastern States. The amount of capital stock of said company shall be five hundred thousand dollars. The number of shares of which the capital stock of same company shall consist, shall be five thousand shares of one hundred dollars each. The term of existence of said Company shall be forty-nine years. The number of trustees of said Company shall be five." The prospectus contains a Constitution and set of by-laws.

The Hecht Ranch

Rye (Reinhold) Hecht came to the Centennial Valley in the early 80s and settled on a ranch located on Section 6-15-77. Ed Baily stated to the writer that the last ranch at the mouth of the North Fork was owned by Andrew Johnson, who later settled on Antelope Creek in the Boulder Ridge country south of Laramie (His son, Arthur Johnson, still lives on the home place.)



Wolbol Ranch on North Fork. Pin and ink sketch by Houghton. By courtesy of Mrs. Davidson and Albany County Historical Museum.



Group of cowboys on front porch of Gresley-Logan-Robbins ranch. By courtesy of late John Robbins, Sr.

Johnson put in miles of double post and rail fence. This place is now owned by Wm. Hecht, a son of Rye Hecht. The Rye Hecht place is just across the creek south of the present Buckeye School and Bartley Creek. The old buildings are a half mile south. Old Jack Bartley started the place where Rye Hecht later located. Rye Hecht and Jack Bartley originally freighted together from Cheyenne to Deadwood for Charley Hecht. The Hechts came from Ohio. Wm. Hecht, a son of Rye Hecht, now has the Bartley place and lives there.

The Wilkins Ranch

The North Fork had many ranches dating from early days. Starting near the head of the Fork the first ranch was the Wilkins place, which Owen located on Section 10-15-78. The Markles had the Wilkins ranch from 1875-1884, according to Ollie Wallis, and then Wilkins bought it. It is the first place south of the city of Centennial and later was known as the Engen place. The Wallis Livestock Company bought the cattle and hay about 1887 and Ollie Wallis went up there to feed the cattle.

Bickford Ranch

The next place on the North Fork was the Bickford Ranch, which Owen located on Section 10-15-79. Homer and Fred Bickford were engineers on the railroad and lived in town but had the small place near Centennial. The Bickford place, according to the late Ed Baily, is now divided and part is in the Engen Ranch and part in the Baily ranch.

Wolbol (Rhinesmith) Ranch

Mads Wolbol had a ranch on Section 14-15-78. The desert entry on the ranch was made in 1878 and the final

certificate issued in 1883. Mads Wolbol came to America in 1871 from Denmark and came direct to Omaha. He remained there some time and then came to Laramie and worked for the Union Pacific Railroad for three years. According to Jesse van Buskirk, Mads Wolbol lived for a short time just south of Homer's fence and the location in later years was known as the Anderson shed. He built up a fine ranch which later became the Rhinesmith ranch (Mrs. Rhinesmith was a Wolbol girl, as are Mrs. Davidson and Mrs. Engen). The Wolbol place was divided among the three daughters and today is owned by Jack Dinwiddie and Frank Luthy.

The Garrett place was located in 1886 by Owen as on Section 23-15-78 on the North Fork. The writer has no information on the owner of this place but evidently it was just a claim and the owner did not stay there long.

Christensen Ranch

The S. P. Christensen Ranch, according to Ollie Wallis, is located due west of the Wolbol Ranch and the buildings are about 1½ to 2 miles distant. The Owen map in 1886 located the Christensen Ranch on Section 22 - 15 - 78. Mrs. C. P. Christensen testified in the Little Laramie River Water Case that they lived in the Centennial Valley from 1877 to 1901. Ed Baily stated that the original Christensen place was where the town site of Platinum City was later located. The first registered Hereford bulls were brought into the Centennial Valley about 1890 by Tom Bird and he sold some to Christensen and some to Wolbol.

The Bird (Geddes) Ranch

The Tom Bird place is one of the

older ones in the valley and is now owned by Allan Geddes. It is a beautiful place nestled back in the thick trees along the Middle Ford and made an ideal location for one of the first Silver Fox ranches in the country, which helped the owner to "weather" the financial storm of the 30s. Now the cattle are carrying the fur business which in recent years has been abandoned because of the low prices of fur when foreign furs were dumped on the American market.

A number of small settlers "jumped" land in the Buckeye ranch in the late 80s and early 90s. Some trouble ensued as is always the case, and George Bird, a brother of Tom, was shot and killed while bringing out timber by a certain McDowell, who had an unsavory reputation. Ed Baily told the writer that McDowell was an expert rifleman and had a "killer's" record in Colorado before coming here. He shot George Bird and his hired man as they were unloading logs, about 1887-8. He was sentenced to 8 years in the Penitentiary but was pardoned after serving 5 years.

Tom Bird grew up in New York but was born in Canada in 1846. He came to Colorado as a lad of 16 and mined for four years. In 1869 he came to Wyoming and worked on ranches around Laramie, and was foreman for Judson & Sutphin. In 1881-3 he settled permanently in the Centennial valley and lived there the rest of his life. He was killed at Albany when the coupling pole on a load of logs broke and the timber hit him and rolled over him. The Birds, Tom, William, George, and Sarah, made many desert claims and constructed many ditches following the "lead" of

the Dole Brothers at the Buckeye.

Ed Hicks & Merrihew Places Now Campbell Ranch

Ed Hicks was one of the first settlers on the south fork of the Little Laramie and obtained land from the Reinhold F. Hecht Estate in Section 1-14-78. He ran a dirt moving business on the side and did not expand much in the livestock business. He sold out in 1913 to Walter G. Decker who in turn sold to Horace W. Campbell about 1918. Mr. Campbell passed away and his son and wife are the present owners. Included in the Campbell holding was the Merrihew place. Lysander Merrihew purchased his place in Section 2-14-78 from Edward Hicks about 1911 and developed some excellent fish rearing ponds in addition to a fine vegetable garden. He deeded a portion of his place to the State Game and Fish Commission in 1949 for a fish rearing pond.

Joe McNealy Ranch

Joseph McNealy obtained a patent from Uncle Sam in 1908 for a portion of Section 11-14-78 on the south fork of the Little Laramie. He raised cattle and horses on a small scale and his side line was carrying mail from the Centennial Valley to Laramie. His place is close to the present station of Albany on the Laramie-Hahn's Peak railroad. McNealy's brand was a figure ONE with a BAR underneath it which was placed on the right hip of cattle and horses. He also used the brand E-4 on the left side of cattle and left hip of horses. J. H. McNealy sold out to Bill Sowers who in turn sold all of his holdings including the McNealy, Boggs, Davidson and Nixon ranches to Patterson Brothers of Castle Rock, Nebraska who are the present owners.

**The Gresley-Robbins-Logan Ranch
Host to the First Dude—Clement Bengough**

Some 25 miles west of Laramie, at the north edge of Sheep Mountain, is a ranch now known as the Sanders 91 Ranch. This ranch has a colorful history dating back to the 70s, including the locale of the "First Dude", Clement Bengough.

First Settled by Brown Brothers

The original settlers of the ranch were brothers, George and Josh Brown. They took up the land in the early 70s, if not a few years before. Jesse van Buskirk told the writer that he recalled that the Brown Brothers were on this ranch when he came to the county in 1873, and Mr. Lovell, a pioneer resident of Laramie, said that the Browns were the only ranchers in the Centennial Valley when he came to Laramie in 1872.

The Brown Brothers sold the ranch to Mr. Kirsten, a native of Illinois, who remained in Wyoming for only a couple of years. Kirsten leased the ranch to a Mr. Marble for a time and then sold it to two Englishmen, Neil Egerton Gresley and John George Clinton Robbins. The land entries were always made later than the original squatter's rights, but the entries for Joshua M. Brown were made in 1879; while those of N. E. Gresley were made in 1889 and one desert entry for George R. Brown was made in 1883. Jno. C. Robbins made several entries in 1888-1889 and C. G. Logan made a homestead entry in 1902.

The Gresley-Robbins Ranch

The writer was personally acquainted with John Robbins, having met him in the Rio Grande Valley of New Mexico, where John Robbins Jr. was in the Author's classes in Agriculture for re-

turned World War I veterans. In 1937 Mr. and Mrs. John Robbins Sr. returned to Laramie for a visit to see his old haunts. The writer and his father, Otto Burns, accompanied the Robbins on a tour of John's early day haunts. That trip will ever linger in my memory for the reminiscences of my close friend, John Robbins, and my dear Dad, Otto Burns, were a delight to hear. I shall never forget their enthusiastic response to the unlocking of many memories from their sub-conscious minds brought forth by the stimulation of the scenes of their early manhood, when the Laramie Plains were indeed pioneer country.

John Robbins

John George Clinton Robbins, (he told me that his folks had many debts to pay fond relatives when they gave him that series of given names, so common in early English families), came to Wyoming as a rampaging youth and he delighted to tell of his wonderful times and his dislike of hum-drum every day chores, which he left to his more matter-of-fact partner, Gresley. The photo shows John Robbins as a youth with the typical English garb of that day. In 1937 he pointed out to us the ivy on the end of the Bengough cabin near Morgan, which he had brought over from England as a lad in the 80s and after these fifty odd years it was flourishing and covering the end of the Bengough cabin.

Old Elk Horn Trophy

He was overjoyed at seeing a pair of elk horns (quite weathered with age) on the gable of the Bengough cabin and related with glee how he was with "Ben" when the elk bearing these antlers was shot way back in the 80s. He had just finished a new house in



Original house at Gresley-Robbins-Logan Ranch.



John Robbins, Sr., as a young man just over from England in the 1880s. By courtesy late John Robbins, Sr.



John Robbins Sr. and Crawford Logan who bought his share in ranch. By courtesy of late John Robbins, Sr.



Barn at Dole Brothers Buckeye Ranch.



Some of the hands and the hounds at Gresley-Logan-Robbins ranch. By courtesy of the late John Robbins, Sr.



Present ranch home at Gresley-Robbins-Logan Ranch, built by Logan. By courtesy of late Wm. Irvine who owned the ranch in 1927.



Ranch of Mrs. J. D. Baily and Son. Courtesy of late Ed Baily.



Old Bunk House and Office used by the Dole Brothers (Albany Land and Cattle Co.) at Buckeye Ranch. Note neatly dovetailed logs in bunk house and office.

rustic style in Texas, and made arrangements to take the elk head back with him where he would polish up the horns, oil them and place the head at the end of his living room with its high vaulted ceiling. So we placed the elk horns on the front fender of his car and when we arrived at the present Sanders place (then owned by Bill Irvine) he looked up some old elk horns there, to find a piece to repair a broken brow tine on the old-time elk horns. Later he wrote from Longview, Texas, that the elk horns were all "dressed up" and looking down from the end of his living room.

English Lived "A Life of Riley"

John Robbins has told the writer many incidents of his life on the Laramie Plains and they illustrate vividly the "life of Riley" that some of the Englishmen of those days had together. These stories "dovetail" perfectly with those told the writer of his own father, Otto Burns, who drove the Tallyho for the Willan Company, to transport many visitors to the Willan Ranch and then to the Whitehouse and Homer ranches for week-long parties, horse races, coyote coursing with hounds, etc. Our good friend, Axel Palmer, has also told me of his experiences on these "good times" when his job was to take care of the horses and the hounds and "mayhap" an Englishman or two occasionally.

Robbins Never Opened a Gate

John Robbins loved a good horse and spent most of his time riding around the country and visiting his friends and hunting. He always rode good jumping horses, and told the writer that although there were not many fences in those days, he never stopped to open a gate but had a horse

that could jump the fences.

A Tragic Hunting Accident

In 1887 John Robbins made a historic ride of some 70 odd miles to Laramie and return without stopping to report the accidental fatal shooting of a young Englishman, George Vincent Hamilton Gordon, late of Oriel College, Oxford, second son of General E. H. Gordon, R. E., who was taken for an antelope because of his khaki colored hunting clothes. This young man, whose tragic death occurred when he was twenty-two years old, is buried in the Laramie Cemetery. The accident took place on the Martin Brothers Ranch, the present Diamond Tail Ranch on the Big Laramie River, a few miles south of Sand Creek Pass.

Last Buffalo Hunt

During his visit to Laramie in 1937, Mr. Robbins told of one of the last buffalo hunts in Wyoming, in which he took part. The group of sportsmen, including Robbins, W. Woodruffe, Jack Hill, Frank Kelly and Bill Hopkins, roped and captured two Buffalo on the Red Desert, a three-year-old and a nine-year-old cow. Unfortunately both animals died. Robbins intended to exhibit the Buffalo at the World's Fair in Chicago. (See Laramie Boomerang Nov. 5, 1890 for story corroborating Mr. Robbins' reminiscences.)

Hounds Break Up a Partnership

The Gresley-Robbins partnership became the Gresley-Logan partnership very suddenly around 1892. Gresley and Robbins shared the only dwelling on the place, a small cabin which is still standing there today. Mr. Robbins had two hounds which he allowed to sleep with him because they kept him warm. To make it easy for the hounds to come and go from his room,



Closeup of original house at Gresley-Robbins-Logan Ranch. John Robbin's dogs came out through the window to left of door.



Group of cowboys at Gresley-Robbins-Logan Ranch in 1880s. By courtesy of late John Robbins, Sr.

Mr. Robbins refused to fix the broken window which was their favorite thoroughfare. Mr. Gresley, who was a prim little gentleman, repeatedly complained about unkempt bachelor's beds, broken windows and hounds in the house, and when his "gripes" went unheeded he vowed, and let it be known to all, that he would get a new partner. Feeling that partners with money were too rare to worry about, Mr. Robbins thought little about the threat and went away on one of his frequent horseback trips. He was no little surprised to return and find that Mr. Gresley had made arrangements for Mr. Logan, a friend of his and also of Bengough's, to become his new partner and had a check ready to pay off Mr. Robbins for his share in the partnership. Shortly after the partnership was dissolved, John Robbins heard about the wonders of the Green Rio Grande Valley in New Mexico and left Wyoming and settled near Las Cruces, about 40 miles north of El Paso. He was living there when the writer met him in 1922. Later he joined his son at Longview, Texas, and lived there until his death.

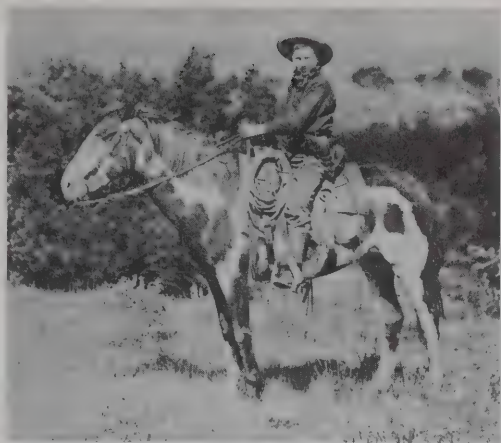
Excerpts from a letter from John C. Robbins, Jr., to the writer, dated February 25, 1948 will be of interest. "Longview, Texas—After seven days of illness Dad passed away at 6:30 A. M. February 19th. To the very last he talked of Wyoming and of these pictures, and in fact, wanted me to try to get someone to write the story of his life in that area. We even thought of buying a dictaphone, but it is just one of those things that was overlooked.—The local newspaper, the Longview News, edited by Carl Estes, would like permission to run the story that ap-

peared in the November 1945 issue of the Westerner. I wonder if you could get the plates as well as permission from the Westerner for the newspaper to run the story? I have heard of you through Dad, off and on since I attended your classes at New Mexico A. & M. I know Dad thought a lot of you and appreciated your showing him around Laramie when he was there several years ago." The writer obtained pictures and permission for publication but never heard whether the Longview News published the article.

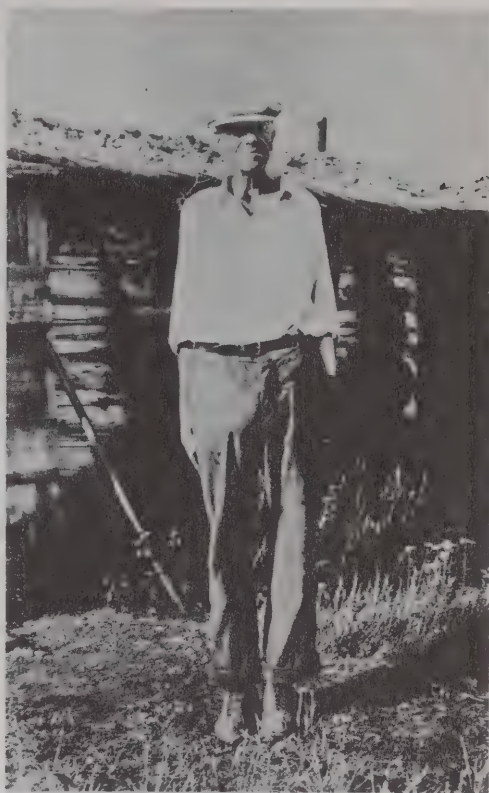
The First Dude

While Gresley and Robbins were partners they inaugurated the first Dude business, but they preferred to refer to the dudes as "learners." Knowing of the popular appeal of stories of western ranching in their native England, the two men solicited customers among Englishmen who wished to come to the American West to learn the cattle business. The "learners" paid the ranch owners \$500.00 a year or so for the privilege, and also put in long hours of labor in performing the tasks essential to good ranch management.

One of the first "learners" on the Gresley-Robbins ranch was Clement S. "Ben" Bengough, a remittance man from a prosperous and titled English family, who had a very good education. "Ben" came to Wyoming around 1886 and spent a year or so on the Gresley-Robbins ranch, and then took up the relinquishment of another Englishman, Pete Hammersley, near Morgan. Here "Ben" remained for the rest of his life where he lived the life of a recluse most of the time, content to be with his fine library and large amount of mail and watch his fine big steers



Young Cowboy Jimmy Allen, stepson of Mac Hantz. 1885. By courtesy of late John Robbins, Sr.



C. S. Bengough in front of his cabin. By courtesy of Fannie Gillespie Johnson.



C. S. Bengough and friend Fred Frick in front of Bengough cabin.

wax fat on the good meadows and high pastures of that area. Many interesting stories are told concerning "Ben".

Scholarly

He was very well educated and did a great amount of reading. Al Mountford, a close friend who carried the mail to Morgan, told the writer that he often had twenty-five pounds of letters and magazines for Ben. Ben was a Latin scholar and often wrote entire letters in Latin to his sisters in England and Johannesburg, South Africa. Once he gave Al a check to cash. When Al presented it to the banker, A. C. Jones (a close friend of "Ben") he exclaimed that it was good—but that it was written in LATIN!

Pulled Bear from Tree

Once some miners treed a bear near Ben's hermitage and called upon him to help them pull the beast out of the tree. Ben was delighted with the sport, but his fearlessness resulted in some painful and deep scratches, for he pulled the bear out of the tree down on top of himself. He then decided that it would be good fun to box the bear, the miners, examining his wounds and his shredded packet, called off the proposed match!

A Remittance Man

Ben received regular remittances from England, but would never go back to claim a \$300,000 estate left him by an uncle. What surprised the writer was Ben's dislike for comforts for one raised in his environment. His cabin was a small, low-ceilinged, dirt-roofed structure, which plainly showed the effects of many years of "batching" in the heavy coat of sooty grease which covered the roof sills.

Primitive Log Cabin

This primitive dirt-roofed cabin, was indeed a far cry from the splendor of his ancestral home in England, the spacious castle-like home known as "The Ridge" Wooton-under Edge in faraway England. The cabin still stands in the meadow just about one and a half miles southeast of the Johnson-Hansell ranch which is on the main oil road from Quealy Dome to McFadden close to where it crosses Cooper Creek. The buildings and barns on the place are located on the NW¼ of Section 28-18-77. They were built by Andy Hixon about 1880, who made the original filing. However "Ben" made a filing on some of these lands in 1895 and the patent was filed in 1914.

Loved Sports

A tall, lean, athletic man, Ben loved sports. Al Mountford related to the writer that Ben used to love to play "catch" and would insist that Al throw the ball as hard as possible. Ben thrived on the sport but Al came out with a sore arm and a bruised "paddy".

Ben's Wolf Hounds

Another of Ben's eccentricities was the keeping of 11 Siberian wolf hounds, some of which cost him as much as \$125.00 each. They were kept in a pen and were so vicious that he was afraid of them himself and never turned his back on them for fear they would kill him. He used to take the hounds out and run coyotes with them and apparently caught quite a few for at one time he gave Mountford some 150 pelts to sell in Laramie. This was not profitable, however, for the dogs ate up the profit. Ben used to cook Scotch oats, bread and dog food together to give his hounds a mulligan sans meat, supplemented occasionally by a few rabbits.



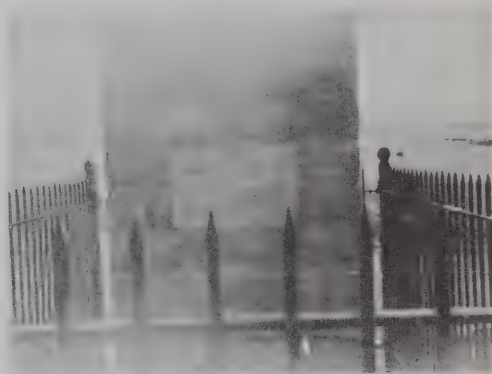
*"The Ridge" Wooten-under-Edge. Ancestral home of C. S. Bengough.
By courtesy of Fanny Gillespie Johnson.*



Cabin of C. S. Bengough, Sept. 28, 1952.



*"Martha" Bengough's saddle mare, 1916. By
courtesy of Fanny Gillespie Johnson.*



*Clement S. Bengough's grave. Died Nov. 19,
1934. Sept. 28, 1952.*

His Horses and Big Steers

In keeping with his sportsman's blood, Ben liked good horses and generally had one or two "hot-blooded" horses around. According to Mrs. Fannie Johnson, who took care of him in his later years, peculiar as it may seem, he was cruel at times to his favorite riding mare. Mrs. Johnson (nee Fannie Gillespie) told the writer that Ben liked big steers and always had some over-sized bovines around. When she first moved to the Hansell ranch near Ben's domicile, he had a cow and steer which he kept until they were six years old. When he shipped them to Omaha, Valhalla of large bovines in those days, the steer weighed 1975 pounds and the cow 1500 pounds. Their fattening feed had been composed largely of the nutritious short grasses of the Laramie Plains.

Ben's Bets

Like many another old-timer, Ben would bet his "all" on any estimate of value, weight, or usefulness of any favorite animal. Ben had a pet steer which he thought would weigh a ton. He bet the "hands" on the 7L Ranch owned by Marsh and Cooper, a dozen Stetson hats and a jug of whiskey, on his belief. He drove the steer to the railroad at Rock River and there the scales showed the weight of the steer to be 1910 pounds, according to Al Mountford. The cowboys had agreed to allow a shrinkage of 80 to 90 pounds on the trail to Rock River, so Ben won his bet. He had Stetson hats to "burn" and offered one to every friend who dropped in for some time to come. The jug of whiskey did not last so long!

During his last years Ben became embittered toward the town of Laramie and for some eighteen years re-

fused to come near it; to him Laramie was the outpost of civilization.

Once Ben asked Al Mountford to take him up to Firebox Lake on a fishing expedition. Ben had not fished much and needed instruction both in fishing and how to get to Firebox Lake. They went up on horseback from Morgan and Ben caught a large fish and insisted on giving Al a ten dollar bill for his trouble.

The Wyoming Brand Book for 1916 lists Ben's brand as a wolf's head placed on the left ribs of cattle and left shoulder of horses.

Ben's Lonely Grave

Ben died in 1934 and by his wish was buried on the hillside overlooking his ranch home from the east. Today one can see his grave surrounded by an iron picket fence and the grave stone bears an interesting inscription which reads as follows:

Clement S. Bengough
19 Nov. 1934

"This is the verse you grave for me.
Here he lies where he longed to be.
Home is the sailor, home from sea,
And the hunter home from the hill."

R. L. S.

This epitaph is the second verse of Robert Louis Stevenson's poem "Requiem". Ben's cabin lies just west of his grave and is rapidly disintegrating.

Baily Ranch in Centennial Valley

Jason Baily, who was born in Anamosa, Iowa in 1849, came to Wyoming in 1873. He worked at Diamond Peak getting out ties for the Railroad and then at the Union Pacific Shops in Laramie. In 1879 he purchased a ranch near Sheep Mountain from Mr. Caldwell and raised horses and cattle. This ranch is now a part of the Strom



Fillmore, Wyoming, said to be the smallest "depot" in the world. Geo. Wright built the little house for mail bags. The box was later placed there for freight. The horse, "Nat," was a dandy cutting horse and could turn on a "dime"... By courtesy of Mrs. Agnes Wright Spring.



James M. May Ranch on Little Laramie River. Drawn by Merritt D. Houghton. By courtesy of Mrs. George Stevens.

Ranch. He sold this place in 1883 and took one of the first homesteads in the Centennial valley. This is the place owned in recent years by his son, Ed Baily, prominent citizen and former sheriff, who died of injuries suffered when thrown from a horse in April 1949. Mrs. Louisa Baily, Ed's mother, was a real pioneer who was born in Illinois in 1858 and was married to Jason Baily in 1877. Jason Baily died in 1894 and his wife and son carried on the ranch operations. Jason Baily ran around 200 to 500 head of cattle. He obtained "blooded" horses from J. J. Fisher who had a horse ranch a few miles north of Laramie on what has been known for many years as the Maynard Ranch. Jason Baily made a homestead entry on the SE $\frac{1}{4}$ Section 11-15-78 in 1883 and the final certificate was granted in 1890. This ranch has always been ranked among the best stock and dairy ranches in this part of the State. The Republican, in its Industrial Edition of December 1901, writes in glowing terms of the ranch. "At an altitude of 8,000 feet, this ranch has grown fine garden products and this year has produced five tons of good potatoes and nearly three tons of rutabagas from less than two acres of ground. At present the dairy department handles the product from 25-30 cows. The stream whose timber belt is shown in the engraving, is the purest of mountain water, in whose rapids and eddies are great numbers of the finest brook trout. The grandeur of the mountain scenery and the beauty of one of the most interesting valleys or parks of this altitude, its business advantages and its rural homes make this place a study for the artist, the tourist, the invalid or the

home-seeker." Just a few years ago the writer visited Ed Baily and his vivacious mother, a grand old lady of 90, and it is interesting to note that after these many years one of the principal industries of the place is its dairy herd. A few years ago Mrs. Baily ran a little ice cream nook in Centennial and there you could stop and enjoy some real country type ice cream, and listen to her recall with pleasure her latest fishing trip where she had landed a few of the beauties of the brook which were mentioned in the article above, written half a century ago.

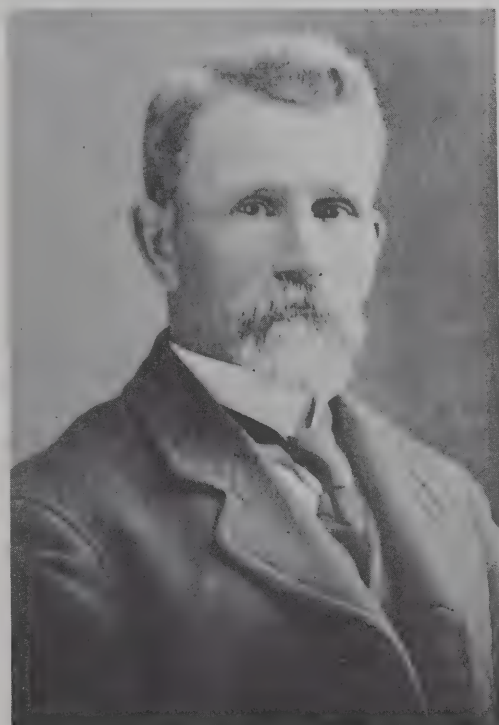
The Baily ranch is located to the left of the Highway going to Centennial, just below the crossing of the North Fork. Mrs. Louisa Baily told of many exciting experiences in the "land-jumping 80s" when a bad man named McDowell terrorized all but the hardest of the residents and later received a term in prison for killing George Bird. Mrs. Baily once ran him off of their ranch with her old army musket when he came to the ranch with a load of logs. Mrs. Baily lived to a ripe and active old age and died recently at the age of 93, a true representative of the pioneer women who helped to settle the west.

The Fillmore or Wright Ranch

Luther Fillmore's health broke during the Civil War and the family doctors, Dr. Reeves and Dr. Jackson (Mark Twain's doctor in *Innocents Abroad*) recommended that he come to a higher elevation. Sidney Dillon, an old friend of Luther Fillmore from Scranton, Pa., became President of the Union Pacific Railroad and asked Luther to come to Wyoming. He was the first Superintendent of the Wyoming Division, beginning in 1869, and



*House at the Geo. Wright Ranch, Fillmore, after second story was built in the spring of 1912.
By courtesy of Mrs. Agnes Wright Spring.*



John Reid. Scotch rail maker and Laramie Plains Rancher. By courtesy of J. M. Marble.



James M. May. 1879. By courtesy of Mrs. George Stevens.

also engaged in the ranching business with J. J. Albright, an old friend. He lived at Wyoming Station (now Two Rivers) some 17 miles northwest of Laramie in the 70s, and the late Oscar Sodergreen said that the Fillmores lived there when he came to the country in 1873. The Laramie Daily Sentinel for May 13, 1876 carried the following notice signed by Luther Fillmore "Horses for Sale—The undersigned wishing to dispose of his entire stock of horses offers them cheap for cash. Saddle ponies from \$30.00 to \$60.00. Team horses broke to harness from \$150.00 to \$300.00 per span. Unbroken \$50.00 per head. Apply at my ranch at Wyoming Station, either by letter or in person".

The Laramie Daily Sentinel of Nov. 14, 1870 states "J. Millard Fillmore, returned from his trip East last evening bringing his fair bride with him. Our citizens will join with us in extending to them a cordial welcome in their western home." Millard Fillmore was a son of Luther Fillmore and is the one who lived at the Fillmore Ranch later owned by John Wright, who settled on the Little Laramie in 1903, just 12 miles from the Old Overland Trail which his father crossed with an ox team on his way to California in 1861.

Gordon Wright engaged in cattle, horse and sheep raising. He raised small grains and root crops. He hauled freight to Centennial, Holmes, Rambler and Keystone mines. The original squatter on this land was Theodore Bruback and the first houses and barns were built about 1883. He also ran a stage station and freighted from Laramie to the mines. He tells of one interesting freighting job, according to

Agnes Wright Spring, his daughter. It seems that he had the contract to haul in the winter supplies to the mines and to the timber companies. He took out to the timber company store at Keystone a solid 2,000 pound load of Copenhagen snuff, quite a lot of snuff even for Scandinavian timber workers, who could also handle a lot of liquor. The Wright Ranch is located on Section 2-15-77 and is the present Hein Ranch. The station of Fillmore, on the railroad, was named for Luther Fillmore.

John Wright's daughter, Agnes Wright Spring, later became a noted historian and wrote among other publications the excellent monograph put out by the Wyoming Stock Growers Association called "70 Years Cow Country". Susan Jane Fillmore (Mrs. Luther Fillmore) was the mother of Nancy Brown (Mrs. M. C. Brown) wife of a pioneer lawyer of Laramie.

In 1871 Mr. Luther Fillmore was elected Chairman of the first meeting interested in stock and wool ming interested in stock and wool growing. This meeting was held in Laramie City on the 15th day of April, 1871. Frank Wolcott was elected Secretary and the Committee which drew up the constitution and by-laws was made up of Chas. Hutton, Gov. Campbell, Dr. Latham, Col. Wolcott, and Ora Haley.

May Ranch

This ranch, located just below the Sanders 99 or old Gresley Logan place, is one of the oldest ranches in the area. James May was born in Iowa in 1854. He trailed cattle from Iowa to Wyoming for Hutton and Metcalfe in 1874. He settled on the ranch at the foot of Sheep Mountain in 1879 and lived



"Bunker," purebred Hereford Bull purchased from Wyoming Hereford Ranch by George Wright about 1918. By courtesy of Mrs. Agnes Wright Spring.



The Ranch of John Reid. Pen and ink sketch by Houghton. By courtesy of Melvin Reid.



The Towle Ranch now owned by Frank Croonberg. By courtesy of Frank Croonberg, Jr.

there the rest of his life. He ran between 300 and 400 head of cattle and 150 head of good Percheron horses. Like many other early ranchmen of the Laramie Plains he liked good livestock and brought out some very good horses and cattle. His homestead filing was one of the earliest, being made February 22, 1872 and he made many desert filings in the 80s. All of his sons are in the ranch business today and some of the third generation are now in the livestock business. Mrs. George Stevens (nee May) tells a story about her father starting across the river at dusk with a team and wagon. It was high water time and the horses drowned and Mr. May spent the night in the wagon. The ties floating down the river kept hitting the wagon. During this time the cattle got out of the field and drifted to the east and some of them were never found. Such were the hardships of early day ranching.

Engen Ranch

In discussing the ranches of the Centennial valley one of the pioneer ranches was omitted and is included at this time. This is the present Engen Ranch just south of Centennial. Mrs. Dean, testifying in the Laramie River water case, said that she, with her brother and father, came to the Centennial valley in 1875 and lived there for eight years on their ranch, about half a mile south of where the Station now is. Sherman Markle, a brother, also stated that they resided in the valley from 1875 to 1884, where they were growing hay and raising a few cattle. He worked for Bussard (Buckeye Ranch) in the early 80s and he put up a lot of hay between the Middle and South Forks. Bussard went there about the same time that we did. (Note

by R.H.B.—Bussard was primarily a tie and timber operator who was tied up with Ivinson and through this connection used the Buckeye Ranch for a few years. Bussard also had a store in Laramie). Mr. Wilkins bought the ranch from the Markles and subsequently the ranch was owned by Grow and then finally by Nels Engen, and the present owners. Ollie Wallis told of the Wallis Livestock Company buying the cattle and hay about 1887 and he went up there to take care of the cattle.

McCune Ranch

Alec H. McCune came from Pennsylvania to the Centennial valley in the late 70s, according to the late Ed Baily. Susan Collins Costin told the writer that Alec McCune was a prospector and ran the Billy Waters mine. He had a little place where the Johnson Lumberyard is now, at the south edge of Centennial and his place was partially incorporated in the Engen place. He married a sister of J. W. Collins. He ran a livery and feed stable and store and prepared meals. He made a desert entry on parts of Section 2-15-78 in 1887, and these entries were cancelled in 1890.

Daugherty Ranch

The next place below the Wright Ranch at Fillmore is the Daugherty place, later owned by Emory Bangs and now the summer place of the Wallis Brothers. James Daugherty (1832-1918) obtained a patent on a portion of Section 2 - 15 - 77 in the 80s. The land was in litigation for many years. Daugherty and George Hunt, his partner, came from Nevada according to Frank Smith and Jim King. Jim Daugherty was quite a character around town and many stories are told



Mr. and Mrs. James Daugherty. Jim Daugherty, 1832-1918 and Mrs. Mary Daugherty, 1847-1924. By courtesy of Bert and Martha Wallis.



Mrs. Annie (Jake) Farr gets water from river at Towle Ranch. 1910.

of his propensities around the bar.

Husband Killed and Scalped

His wife, Mary Daugherty, lost her first husband, John Luber, a German who had a band of sheep on Dutton Creek. He was killed, scalped and mutilated by the Indians in the 70s.

Mrs. Fanny Gillespie Johnson recently told the writer about some visitors she had in 1916. They were out at the ranch on Cooper Creek looking over the scenes of their childhood some 40 years before. Steve Frazer brought these visitors out in a rig from his stable. These visitors were named Cassidy and were from around Omaha. Their folks had squatted on the place on Cooper Creek at the stage crossing and mentioned that when they lived there Mrs. Luber came and reported the death of her husband by Indians and their folks had gone up and brought in the badly mutilated body from Dutton Creek and had buried it on the ranch there. Mrs. Johnson knew the location of the grave for many years, but had lost its location in recent years when the oil company had cleared the ground preparatory to drilling in the ranch. John Luber was killed by a roving band of Indians. He was scalped and strips of skin cut from his back after death.

Mr. A. E. Bowman has told the writer about the life of Mrs. Daugherty which she related to him prior to her death in 1924. She came west as a girl with the family of Dr. Frazer who came to Denver and thence to Virginia City, Montana and on to California. Eventually Mrs. Daugherty, who was a nurse, came back to Denver and there met and married John Luber, who was killed by the Indians as related above. She later married Jim Daugherty, and

lived on the ranch just north of the Jim Hardigan place now known as the Wallis summer place, or Bangs place. Both Mr. and Mrs. Daugherty are buried in the Laramie cemetery.

John Olson Ranch

This famous fishing resort and home of fine cattle was started in early days by George Daugherty, a brother of Jim. George ran a livery stable in Laramie and got hold of a ranch in the middle and north forks of the Little Laramie as a place to cut hay and haul it to town to sell and use in his livery stable. Later the ranch passed through several hands and in the early 90s the present owner, John Olson, purchased the place. He came to Wyoming in 1891 and worked on the railroad for two years before he went on the ranch. Through the years the hospitality and fishing on the John Olson place have become famous and the whitefaced cattle raised on the ranch have always been of the best.

Gust Olson Ranch

This is the ranch just where the railroad passes over the Little Laramie River. This ranch dates back to early days and was taken up in the late 70s and early 80s by Fletcher Campbell, who sold it in 1882 to John Deerlove and moved to North Park. A land entry records the transfer of this ranch from Fletcher Campbell and wife to Sarah Deerlove in December, 1881. The Deerloves raised some very fine driving horses which were famous over the country and they also had an excellent garden and sold some garden supplies in town. Mrs. Deerlove died in 1903 and in a few years Mr. Deerlove married a correspondence (love-lorn) wife and sold the ranch and moved to Oregon about 1912. The

ranch was owned by Weir, then Spieckerman, Clark and Olson, and finally Gust Olson bought out the entire interest. This place is noted as a fishing resort and the fine meadows produce a high quality of hay and cattle. Sarah Deerlove claimed relationship to an English Queen but the exact one is not on record. Their fine gray team was the talk of the town when they made their periodic trips to town in the horse and buggy days.

John Reid, British Fortune Seeker

John Reid was representative of the many fortune-seekers from the British Isles who immigrated to the pioneer American West, to introduce livestock of the British type and methods typical of their homeland.

Born in Glasgow, Scotland in 1846, John Reid was a skilled mechanic, and he came to Laramie in 1875 to ply his trade at the Laramie Rolling Mills. He had learned that business thoroughly from the crude material to the finished product. He came to Milwaukee in 1870 and to Laramie in 1875. He assisted in the building and equipping of the Rolling Mill, and for ten years was in charge of the department that finished heavy rails for the western divisions of the Union Pacific system. Aside from the work at the mill, Mr. Reid purchased a small ranch on the Little Laramie about 1884, where he built a beautiful and comfortable home and soon had a successful ranch and stock business. The ranch is located on Section 30-16-76, about twenty miles west of Laramie. Differing from most of the Laramie Plains ranchers, who specialized in raising beef on the famous short-grass ranges, Reid kept a number of milk cows. His herd was made up of the

old British Shorthorn, or so-called "Durham" type, as was the case in many of the early day herds of the Laramie Plains, because the Missourians or other mid-west emigrants en route to the west coast, found their milk cows too sore-footed to continue and left them behind for a bargain price. The type of cattle bred by John Reid can be seen in the picture accompanying this article.

The picture is a pen and ink sketch made by Mr. Houghton, artist, photographer and school teacher, who through his sketches has given us excellent likenesses of ranch improvements and livestock on many early day ranches of the Laramie Plains. While teaching at the Reid Ranch he made the sketch which is reproduced in this article and which shows the ranch improvements and the type of cattle raised.

The Reid ranch includes about 2,000 acres, comprising fenced pastures and meadow lands, according to the Industrial Edition of the Laramie Republican published in 1901. It further states that the hay crop was around 200 tons but more land was being prepared which would add another 150 tons to the annual hay crop. From 1895 to 1899 Mr. Reid served the county faithfully and intelligently as county commissioner, and the voters of the county appreciating his services honored him with a seat in the Fifth and Sixth Legislatures of the State. He, however, preferred the quiet life on the ranch.

John Reid, First Forest Ranger

In addition to ranching, John Reid served as the first U. S. Forest Ranger in the Medicine Bow National Forest around 1908, under Lou Davis, the first Forest Supervisor. Lou Davis

was later a noted Hereford breeder in the Saratoga Valley and John Reid used to buy his Hereford bulls from Davis. The readers will enjoy this "Scotch" story which John Reid used to tell on himself. In Scotland the stoves are set into the wall and are never out in the open as in the United States. When Reid first came to Wyoming he entered a room with a small heating stove sitting in the middle of the room, and not recognizing it for "a hot seat" as it were, he sat on it with startling results.

In 1909 Reid sold his cattle to Robert Homer and his land to E. J. Bell. At the present time the ranch is part of the Arnold holdings recently sold to George Forbes, and the ranch is still known as the Reid place. Pioneer Reid died in Laramie in 1913 and is buried here.

John Reid is one of the many Scotch and English with fine training in mechanics and engineering, who settled in Laramie, plying their trade as skilled workers, and also carried on a ranching enterprise based on the knowledge and love of livestock which is inherent in many residents of the British Isles.

The Towle Ranch

The Towle Ranch, owned more recently by Mr. Clifford Sawyer and Frank Croonberg, is located just below the Reid Ranch on the Little Laramie River. Wm. E. Towle came to the Laramie Plains from Iowa in 1874 and filed on a quarter section of land in Section 30 - 16 - 76. He was born in 1835 and died in Laramie in 1893. He built up a nice ranch which was run by his wife Saphronia A. Towle after his death. The Towles raised some outstanding horses and the

late Steve Frazer told the writer that Bob Homer once commissioned his brother, Charley Frazer, to help him (Bob Homer) select some driving horses at the Towle Ranch. They bought a black and a grey, both geldings. A cowpuncher started to rope the horses to deliver them, but Mrs. Towle would not let him. She obtained some halters, walked into the corral and right up to the horses, who let her put the halters on them without any trouble. They had been "cavorting" around considerably when the others tried to catch them. These were some of the horses which were used on Bob Homer's well-known "yellow rig." John Marble once owned the ranch before Sawyer bought it.

The Coughlin Ranch

This ranch, located just below the Towle Ranch, where the present road to the Rex Dome crosses the Little Laramie River, is one of the earliest settled ranches on the river. Louie Coughlin informed the writer that his father, Mike Coughlin, went to the McCreary Ranch in 1889 as foreman. He bought the ranch from McCreary in 1896 and sold it about 1907. John McCreary was a brother-in-law of Ed Creighton of Omaha and a sub-contractor working on the Overland telegraph line. He had a farm in Iowa and his plan was to raise feeder cattle on the Little Laramie and fatten them out on the Iowa farm. He bought the Maxwell, Clugston and McDonald ranches between the Towle and Farrell ranches. Wm. J. Maxwell (no relation to Wm. H. Maxwell of Tie Siding) filed on land and obtained a patent on SW $\frac{1}{4}$ Sec. 20-16-76 in 1889. He sold out to McCreary in 1891. Howard Clugston and Jenny Clugston had land in Sec.



Left to right: Mrs. Farr (Mrs. Towle's sister), Unknown, Mrs. Towle. 1910.



Group of cowboys at last Roundup between the Rivers.

20-16-76 and sold out to McCreary around 1886. This place adjoined the Farrell place (present Wallis or Forbes place) on the west. Howard Clugston, according to Mary Bellamy, came from Ohio. "He went with Maggie Carroll and as I chummed with Maggie I knew him personally. He had a hobby of using big words—the bigger the better." He left Laramie and went to Los Angeles where he went broke in the panic.

At the present time John McGill owns this ranch which is just by the bridge on the Little Laramie. The old Coughlin barn is quite a landmark.

Farrell or Wallis Brothers Ranch

Edward Farrell was one of the pioneer settlers on the Little Laramie, having gone out in the summer of 1868, when he talked with Mr. Sprague at Fort Sanders and obtained an order to get lumber from Mr. Sprague's mill. This 12 x 16 foot lumber house was built in June, 1868 on Section 16-16-76 on the Little Laramie below the Coughlin Ranch. Edward Farrell made the first filing on S $\frac{1}{2}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 20-16-76 in 1874, but relinquished the claim and later Wm. J. Maxwell filed on it as a Desert claim. Jane Farrell, his wife, filed a Desert claim in 1884 on all of Section 22-16-76 and obtained her final certificate in 1887. Ed Farrell had a milk ranch just north of town close to the present Maynard Ranch. Mr. Farrell lost the place to the bank on a mortgage in 1894 and the bank leased it to the Wallis Livestock Company, in 1895, and later they bought the place. Mr. Farrell was one of the first to run sheep on the Little Laramie. He built a house in town later owned by the

Hartleys. This house is on south Seventh Street. Edward Farrell died in 1915 and is buried in the Laramie cemetery.

The Wallis Brothers, "Ollie and Bert" have carried on the fine traditions of livestock production on the Laramie Plains. Their father, Noah Wallis (usually called Jim Wallis in the early days) was one of the pioneers of the Laramie Plains, coming west from Illinois in 1864. When he left Illinois, he was sent off with a song of high adventure entitled "A four-mule team will soon be seen in Idaho".

While crossing Nebraska, the Sioux Indians went on the war path and all of the travelers were hurried in to Ft. Laramie under escort of soldiers and were held there for two months, until the Indian trouble quieted down. Huge herds of buffalo were encountered, which held up the emigrant trains for hours at a time. Jim Wallis heard of the gold discovery in Montana and went up there but did not find Alder Gulch to his liking. He came back south and travelled through Idaho to Fort Bridger, where he became well acquainted with Jim Bridger. Bridger gave Jim Wallis a tin-type picture of himself and eventually this picture found its way to the Wyoming Historical collection.

Jim Wallis came to Laramie and decided to settle here on the broad grassy plains. He took a squatter's right on the Big Laramie River a few miles north of Laramie City in 1868 and moved to the City Springs in 1870. The place on the river was called the hay field and a Champion mowing machine, one of the first in these parts, was used to cut hay there at an early



*The Old House at the Wallis (Ferrell) Ranch. Now owned by George Forbes. 1951.
Courtesy of Leonard Tripp, Fredonia, N. Y.*



*The group, on the Old Time Ranch Tour at the Wallis Ranch. 1951.
Courtesy of Leonard Tripp, Fredonia, N. Y.*

date. He operated a freighting business until the 80s, and furnished lime for construction purposes. A paper now in the Wallis family (Mattie Wallis) records is dated 1878, and covers a contract to deliver 15 bushels of lime to Fort Sanders, an early military establishment three miles south of Laramie.

In the early days before the opening of coal mines, along the Union Pacific Railroad, the locomotives burned charcoal and Jim Wallis operated a charcoal pit in Brown's Park near the headwaters of Crow Creek on Pole Mountain. This charcoal was hauled by ox teams to Laramie City.

In 1869-70, he bought his first cattle, including several teams of oxen, and started using the Scissor's-Bar brand on the left hip of cattle and left shoulder of horses. This was one of the early brands recorded in Albany County.

Jim Wallis and one of the Jones brothers from Texas, in the winter of 1872, rode after cattle which the Jones Brothers had turned out on the Laramie Plains. The snow was "belly-deep", and an ordinary horse had difficulty getting through the snow. Jim Wallis had two big animals, one mule and a horse named "Charley". The mule stood 17 hands. These two were used on this trip over the plains in the deep snow. One day they rode through the Black Hills and the next day out to Ora Haley's place on the west side of the Little Laramie on the second day (Note by RHB: This is Ora Haley's original place, about four to five miles upstream from the Bath Ranch and was part of the Willan Ranch and was owned originally by

Rand Briggs & Steedman—See book *Bucking the Sagebrush*, by Steedman).

The blizzard of March, 1878 nearly wiped out the cattle when many drifted with the storm and were covered with the snow and suffocated. For safety in going from the house to the corrals, a rope was tied between the buildings to use as a means of keeping one's bearings in the blinding suffocating snow.

Later Wallis bought cattle with the brand, Quarter Circle 71, and in later years this brand was used exclusively. In 1873 Jim Wallis returned east and brought his bride, June Trewartha, back with him, and in May, 1874 they settled on the ranch by the City Springs. They lived there for some time and the four children, Bert, Minnie, Ollie and Martha were born there. The red brick house which still stands near the City Springs (just across the road from the Spring Creek Camp and on the left of the Grey's Gables Road) was built by Jim Wallis in 1880. When he first came to Laramie he ran a water wagon pulled by a team of mules, a black and a buckskin, which were quite distinctive and became well known. The bill of sale for these mules dated Nov. 3, 1868 is framed and hangs on the wall in the home of Martha and Bert Wallis. In those days—pre-pipe line era—water was hauled from the Springs and sold at twenty-five cents a bucket. The kitchen floor of the old red brick house, which is still in use, was made of alternate strips of walnut and maple.

About this time Jim Wallis started a blacksmith shop in partnership with Jack Martin. This shop was located behind the present site of the Converse



A string of cattle on the winter "bread line." 1899-1900. Courtesy of Bert and Mattie Wallis.



The Wallis Ranch Home after a snowstorm. 1901. Courtesy of Oliver and Mattie Wallis.

Building and later became noted as the location of the famous "Forty Liars Club", started by Bill Nye.

In 1874 Jim Wallis plowed up some land along Spring Creek, near the location of the present Spring Creek Camp, and raised a fine crop of grain, of which his new bride was quite proud, as it came up to her shoulders. In 1887 he sold out at the City Springs and built the rock house at Eighth and Garfield Streets, which still serves as the family residence. During all of these years he leased lands for cattle grazing at different places in the country, from Centennial clear to the Laramie Peak country.

Following the panic of 1893 some four-year-old steers from the Duck Creek Ranch (northern Albany County) were trailed to Laramie and sold at the yards here for \$19.00 a head. No weights were taken, for at that time there were few scales and all sales were by the head. He ran a freighting business along with his ranch business until about the turn of the century.

Among his freighting jobs was the transportation of machinery and supplies to the Rambler Mine, near Keystone. Three brothers had come west, Noah or Jim, John, and Dick. John and Dick Wallis both had claims on Pole Creek and in the 90s Dick filed on land near Pole Mountain, near the present Wallis camp ground. These three families are all represented today in Laramie's citizenry and two of the families have been in the livestock business over the years.

As previously mentioned, the Wallis's took over the Farrell Ranch in the early 90s. Jim Wallis took his sons into partnership with him in 1905

and in 1910 the Wallis Livestock Company was incorporated. Since going to the Little Laramie ranch, the meadows have been leveled and contoured and the hay crop has been increased from 250 to over 1,000 tons. Jim Wallis, like other early day cattlemen, had a liking for Shorthorn cattle and bought several bunches of the big red and roan kind. After his death in 1911 his sons, Bert and Ollie, have used only Hereford bulls and these, crossed on the Shorthorn cows, produced a great number of spotted cattle. Gradually the cattle were graded up into practically pure Herefords by the repeated use of Hereford bulls.

About 1905 Jim Wallis got the idea of feeding out calves and as he was quite a gardener, he raised quite a lot of turnips and grain. His experiment with these good Scotch feeds was quite successful and the calves grew rapidly and finished up well. Unfortunately, Blackleg broke out among them and most of them died, as the only protection was the old-type vaccine. He was one of the first to contract hay harvesting, during the late 90s and early 1900s, and obtained around \$1.50 a ton for putting up the hay, which was delivered into town for \$7.00 a ton.

The Wallis Brothers furnished calves for feeding experiments at the University of Wyoming around 1922. In working with this cooperative program they became interested in showing feeder steers at the National Western Stock Show. During ten or more years of competition at Denver they landed in the prize money several times and developed a market for calves which proved themselves in the



Group of early day cattle on feed in winter. Considerable Shorthorn blood. 1898-1902. Courtesy of Oliver and Mattie Wallis.



The Wallis family at the Wallis (Forbes) Ranch. Old Time Ranch Tour, July 1, 1951. Left to right: Martha, Oliver and Bert. Courtesy of Wes Williamson.

feedlots so well, that feeders came out to the Laramie ranch for more. After World War I they took a "beating" on large 2-year-old steers which dropped from \$85.00 to \$45.00, and at this time they shifted to calves and have stayed with this age of cattle ever since.

The Wallis Ranch took out one of the first use permits on the Medicine Bow National Forest and has used this permit for summer range since that time. Their cattle have always been among the best going to market from this area, and their meadows have been among the best hay producers in the Little Laramie valley. In 1915 they bought a ranch adjoining the Forest Reserve which was built up for a summer headquarters to handle the cattle grazing on the forest. Following the passing of the open range more acreage was enclosed by fencing. This land was either purchased or leased from private parties, from the railroad or from the Taylor grazing district.

Recently the Wallis Livestock Company sold its holdings to Mr. George Forbes of the First National Bank in Laramie, and he is continuing with the development of this fine ranch. The Wallis brothers, Bert and Ollie, have retained a little summer place on the Little Laramie just north of the Hardigan Filling Station, on the place known originally as the Bangs Ranch, which is on the location of the Jim Daugherty Ranch mentioned in a previous article.

Large British Ranch Company

An influence in the development of the American West, not often mentioned by historians, is that of the British - financed companies which established great ranches and business en-

terprises in the West, during the last thirty years of the 19th century. The short grass ranges of Wyoming's Laramie Plains are one area of the west which received much help from such companies with their importation of purebred livestock, their crop experiments, their water development and other progressive enterprises which took money and plenty of it.

One of the largest and best known of the English Companies operating on the Laramie Plains was the Douglas Willan Sartoris Company. The main-spring in this company was Jack Douglas Willan, born in Ireland of Scotch parentage. As a young man he migrated to the pioneer west and settled first in Larimer County, Colorado, where he engaged in the cattle business.

About 1877 his business took him to the LaBonte area near Douglas. At once he saw the great possibilities for making money through harvesting the abundant native grasses in the form of beef. He went to England to interest capital there in the project, and found an immediate response from the Sartoris Brothers, Lionel and Leonard. The outcome of this interest was the forming of the Douglas Willan Sartoris & Company, which was incorporated in 1883.

The new company purchased ranches in the La Bonte region, on the Platte River near Douglas and also some of the Rand, Briggs and Steedman property on the Little Laramie River. This latter ranch became the home ranch. The first interest of the Company was the production of "blooded" horses which were sold throughout the west for saddle and harness purposes. In



Some of well known Hereford cattle at home: Wallis LS. Co, 1924-28. Record Stockman Photo by courtesy of Oliver Wallis.



Prize-winning Hereford Steer Calves at Denver. Sold at \$6.60 cwt., averaging 395 pounds. Rocky Mt. Photo Co., photo by courtesy Oliver Wallis.

the east these horses met a ready market for general harness purposes as well as to pull the streetcars of those days. Both Shire draft stallions and thoroughbred stallions were imported and the Willan horses bearing the JJ on the left shoulder became famous throughout the Wyoming range country. Ribbons and medals enough to cover an entire wall were won by "Breton's Pride", one of the outstanding Shire stallions. "Gambretta" and "Lord Arthur" were other noted stallions used by the Company. The Company maintained a livery stable in Laramie, known as the Windsor, and this building was standing until a few years ago. In later years it was known as the Pyramid Garage, and before that time as the Windsor and Winslow Barn. It stood just across the street from the Old Fire Station and the ground is now used as a parking lot.

Purebred Hereford cattle were also raised by the Douglas Willan Sartoris Company. The general manager of the Company, George Morgan Sr. was one of the first men to import Herefords into the western United States. Jabe Smith came from England with one of the first shipments made by the Willan Ranch, as caretaker for these cattle and he remained with the Company and was farm foreman at the home ranch. Jabe Smith proved up on a homestead in the Robert Homer meadow and the buildings can still be seen just north and east of the Flag Ranch headquarters. He sold it to Robert Homer and it has since been a part of the Flag Ranch. The Willan Ranch included the Fleming Ranch (now the Wessels Ranch north of the Bath Brothers Ranch.)

The growing of grain crops also claimed the attention of the Willan Ranch. They experimented with cereal crops and were among the first to prove the potential value of the plains for the production of such crops. They spent thousands of dollars on a "high-line" ditch, still to be seen on the side of Corner Mountain north of the Centennial road. This ditch, taken out of the North Fork at the Nelson Resort (now Rainbow Resort) a few miles north of Centennial, skirted the Corner Mountain and came out on the Willan Flat, now known as the Blackburn Flat. The ditch would never hold on the hillside and a later ditch was taken out lower down on the Little Laramie on the present Hein (Wright) Ranch. This ditch was operated successfully through the years and delivers water to the so-called Blackburn Flat (Old Willan Farm). The Willan Farm has produced some nice crops. Roland Blackburn, a merchant in town, purchased the Willan Farm which later was owned by Pat Hiland, and is now owned by Jim May. The meadows on the Company's holdings were carefully developed and produced prodigious amounts of native hay.

The Douglas Willan Sartoris and Company Ranch had 21,000 acres of deeded land with an investment of approximately two million dollars. The Company spent hundreds of thousands of dollars improving their property.

The home ranch on the Laramie Plains was located about 30 miles west and north of Laramie, and was a magnificent layout with a number of buildings, including a horse barn holding 125 tons of hay and many horses.

There were other horse barns, a buggy barn with stalls for stallions, sheds, bunkhouses, a cook house, carpenter shop, scale house, an office building, and the "Big House". The "Big House" had an enormous recreation room about 30 feet square and two stories high. The huge room was lighted by a skylight and offices and living quarters were arranged on two floors facing on the recreation room.

Parties and balls at the various large ranches were social events then, and the writer's father, Otto Burns, who worked for the Company when he first came to Wyoming in 1888, had the job of driving the Tally-Ho Six-in-Hand to and from Laramie City and the various ranches. In fact they had a taxi service for both passengers and freight from Laramie and Old Wyoming Station.

Among the magnificent parties given in the great recreation room at the Willan Ranch was one given on St. Patrick's Day, 1887, for the ranch employees. Steve Frazer, who had charge of the buggy barns, was given the job of rounding up the girls for the dance, and Otto Burns called for them in the Tally Ho. The Company reportedly spent several hundred dollars on this party and old timers on the Laramie Plains still remember it. Mrs. Mary Bellamy has told the writer of the fine times she had as a girl, accompanying some of her girl friends to these ranch parties. Lizzie Fee,—King, and Esther Alexander, later Mrs. Steve Frazer, attended.

Everyone who ever had anything to do with the Willan outfit remembers it with a kindly feeling and the employees are high in their praise.

The writer's close friend, Eli Peterson of Douglas is one of the few Willan employees now living. He came down for the Old Time Ranch Tour in 1950 but could not make it in 1951 on account of illness. Eli is still very enthusiastic about the treatment the Willan Company gave its employees. He recently gave the writer a picture showing some of the Willan Ranch employees and he identified practically all of these fellows. This picture is reproduced here for the first time and the writer is especially interested in it for his Dad, Otto Burns is there. This picture is one of the first taken of Otto Burns after he came to the west as a boy of 18. He was 21 years of age when this picture was taken.

The Willan Ranch is now in ruins, with only the bunkhouse standing. These ruins are in the meadow of the Markley Ranch about a mile north and west of the Wallis or Forbes Ranch.

The Sartoris Brothers were interested in mining properties as well as the ranches and built the "Ten Stamp" Mill which still stands at Keystone.

A recent article by Atha Richie in "Compressed Air Magazine: Apr. 1955, entitled "Mining Camp Memories", gives some interesting information and a picture of the Stamp Mill at Keystone. Here is what is said: "A Mill that runs no more. This picture of the abandoned stamp mill was taken by the author about ten years ago. The first 10-stamp mill, operated by steam, closed down in 1888. It was enlarged to 20-stamps in 1890 and converted to water power. The mine and mill ran for a short time again, but couldn't be made to pay. In the early days the post office was at Keystone;

now it is at Holmes. The stream, Douglas Creek, had only suckers in it until 1899, when the author's father stocked it with trout. It became a fine fishing stream and summer cottages now stand along its banks".

In 1892, however, the Douglas Willan Sartoris and Company went bankrupt. Lionel Sartoris went to South America and Leonard Sartoris to New Zealand. Jack Douglas Willan, who never married, returned to London where he died in 1898. A brother, Fred Douglas Willan, remained in Laramie where he set up an insurance business. Old timers remember that he had a French wife who violently hated sidewalks and insisted on walking down the center of the street. The writer remembers the old board sidewalks of the early days of Laramie, and how they tripped you up quite often.

Willan Ranch Employees

Eli Peterson furnished the writer with information about the employees of the Willan Ranch in the 1880s. Ed Morgan was cow foreman and was followed by Pete Smart and then Ed Morgan took over the job again. John McFadden was the blacksmith at the home ranch and Gus Peterson (Eli's brother) was blacksmith at the Fleming Ranch. Jabe Smith was foreman at the home ranch and Bill Whittingham was foreman at the Fleming Ranch. Ed Morgan was foreman at the Sprague cow camp. August Olson freighted between Laramie and the ranch and his father ran a shoe store in town. Frank McDonald was another freighter while Bill Bluett and John Pennell were cowpunchers from Texas. Victor Beaumier was foreman

of the Willan farm and raised 50,000 bushels of wheat on 1,000 acres. Lee Morton, the first white child born in Laramie, worked at the Willan ranch as a broncho buster and cowpuncher. The cook at the home ranch was Jim Foster who was related to former Ambassador Foster, who served in China. Fostoria, Ohio is named for his grandfather. Lou Alexander, a brother-in-law of Steve Frazer was a carpenter and was a fine looking chap with an excellent voice. Matt Carruthers was a cowpuncher who worked at all of the Willan ranches. Eli says that he (Eli) was never afraid of work and he found plenty of it as a kid at the Willan Ranch. He was chore boy and milked the cows, filled refrigerators full of ice, chopped and delivered firewood to the big house and other houses and helped where needed. Mr. Turner, an Englishman, was gardener and grew some fine vegetables. Bill Whittingham used to call Jabe Smith the "bloody wart" because he was so small, and the writer remembers Jabe using the term "bloody" whenever he wished to emphasize any point. Bill Childs was foreman of the Platte River Ranch of Willans, east of Douglas. The picture of the "Willan Hands" shows others, some of whom Eli did not mention.

Willan Brochure An Elaborate One

In 1885 the Douglas-Willan-Sartoris Company put out a descriptive pamphlet containing an inventory of all the lands, improvements, livestock, machinery, implements and other property owned by the Company, along with a map showing location of lands, fencing and ditching, with an appraised value on the enclosed schedule. Here



Group of ranchers looking over a steer. Thornt Beggs holding down the steer. Mounted riders, etc., left to right: Dennis Ryan, Ed McNealey, L. L. Laughlin, Bill Dalles, Martin Kisen, Walter Hook and Bill Irvine with back to camera. By courtesy Bert and Martha Wallis.



Millbrook Ranch. Douglas, Willan & Sartoris Co. 1889. Courtesy Albany County Historical Society.

are a few excerpts from this interesting pamphlet, which was loaned to the writer by Mrs. John A. Hill.

"The Millbrook Ranch consists of around eight sections located some 22 miles northwest of Laramie and has extensive improvements consisting of a log shelter shed 350 feet long; a bull stable 18x20; a log slaughter house 17x16; a two-store stable 36x77 with a stable keeper's room; another stable 53x130 with large hay mow; a stallion stable 76x32; a two-story root and vegetable building 28x20; a combined dining room, kitchen and storehouse 48x18; a bunk house (still standing) 30x30, two-stories to accommodate some 75 men, to which is attached a dining room and kitchen 30x18; an ice house (partly standing) 15x50; a building 21x72 divided into three rooms for blacksmith shop, grain house and machinery (partly standing), to which is attached on the south end a dog kennel 44x20; and last and by no means least, the Big house, an elegant structure two stories high, 60 feet front by 50 feet containing eleven large rooms on the first floor, and eight bedrooms on the second floor. The contract price for this house completed is \$7500.00. All improvements are appraised at a total of \$19,870.00 including the Big House."

The Haley and Horn Ranches were smaller properties and in effect were camps. At the Millbrook Ranch they maintained 8 stallions of Norman, Thoroughbred, Lincolnshire and Hambletonian blood, along with some 145 mares, workhorses, and geldings, not to mention six 5-year-old mules. They had some fine cattle, including 15 pedigreed Hereford bulls costing \$500.00 and 102 yearling bulls and 95 cows of Shorthorn breeding. It took nine milch cows to supply the ranch, and they had listed 181 cattle of Hereford and Shorthorn breeding and 25 Shorthorn bulls.

The pamphlet gives a complete inventory of all equipment and livestock, even including bridges across the Little Laramie. The English atmosphere is well illustrated in the following items: Brighton "four-in-hand coach harness; Liverpool coach bits; 5 English saddles and bridles; trotting sulky; cart harness; four-horse Brighton Coach.

The Fleming Ranch of the Willan spread consisted of parts of five sections and was some six miles northeast of the Millbrook Ranch. It is the present Wessels Ranch. The pamphlet gives a detailed inventory of improvements, livestock, land and fences.

The Dutton Creek Ranch of the Willan outfit enclosed partially Sections 1, 2, 11, and 12 in Township 19N Range 76W. This was near their summer horse range and was a delightful place.

The Cooper Lake Ranch is listed as an enclosure of some nineteen sections, in Township 19N Range 74W, which have a long river front and meadow bottom where some 2000 acres produce a fine quality of hay.

The Platte Valley Ranch is located on the North Platte River some three miles below the mouth of the La Bonte and roughly about 12 miles southwest of Douglas. There are about 200 acres of good hay bottom which, without irrigation, cuts about 1¼ tons of hay to the acre.

The Deer Creek Ranch of the Willan-Sartoris Company was located on Deer Creek 35 miles southwest of Fort Fetterman, and 100 miles northwest of Laramie City. As a summer ranch it was supposed to have no superior in the Territory.

Eli and Anna Peterson (Schneider) are typical representatives of a pio-



Douglas, Willan Co. Home Ranch 1887. Courtesy Western History and Archives Department, University of Wyoming and Wyoming Stock Growers Collection.



Bob Burns and Eli Peterson at Old Time Ranch Tour, 1950.



Jack Douglas Willan. April, 1884. Courtesy Mr. and Mrs. Geo. H. Cross of Douglas.

neer family, with a hospitality and philosophy of life that are outstanding. The writer would like to share with the readers a letter and a reply which he received. The letters are self-explanatory. Suffice to say that Eli Peterson and Otto Burns were pals at the Willan Ranch and Eli at once struck a chord of response with the writer, for both of us loved a swell guy, Otto Burns, my Dad.

September 7, 1954.

"Dear Eli and Anna:

Greetings to the finest pair of Swedish people I know and what a joyful place to spend a few hours in. It is real medicine for one who is worn with the cares of the modern world. Such fine food, and such an unbeatable sense of humor and Swedish jest. The world needs more of their kind.

Now I suspect you have an inkling of the two fine people I am talking about. They live on the main street of Douglas and their threshold is always a welcome mat for countless relatives and friends who are intrigued by their personalities, which glisten with the joy of life and the zest for living, even after many winters have left a mark on their physical bodies. Their spirits are as boundless as the great prairies of the west which never fail to thrill all of us without end.

Again I have been privileged to have spent a few hours in their company and have broken the "bread of life" at their table. Now they must come to Laramie and share the festive board with the Burnses. So please make arrangements for a driver and come down (both Eli and Anna) ere the snow flies. I will put them in touch with another Swedish family who have been my friends and overseers since my youth, Axel and Anna Palmer, and their daughter Rena Palmer Lawrence, a schoolmate of mine at the ranch school near Red Buttes.

So come along any time that is convenient to you. The Burns lachstring is dangling and has an awfully long string.

Again my heartfelt thanks for the "bread and spirit of life" so abundantly given at the Peterson-Schneider household.

Sincerely,
Bob Burns."

And here is the answer from Anna Peterson Schneider, dated October 3, 1954:

"Dear Mr. and Mrs. Burns:

I should have written before this to thank you for that wonderful letter you wrote Eli and I. I am afraid we do not deserve it all. The letter is lovely and I shall always keep it. I guess we get it from our parents. I remember when we were in Stockholm, Dad and Mother had "Kalas" and I, though only seven, would be sent to markets for various things. Then too, when we first came to Wyoming friends were few and far between and I knew what it was to be lonely. So we began to treat our friends. Young people gathered on Friday and Saturday at the ranch and this is what I served of an evening. Always had it for Saturday. A gallon crock of Boston baked beans, a ten-pound cheese jar of cold tongue or ham, a steamer full of cup cakes, bread and butter, coffee and pickles. Set it on the cabinet. Everyone helped themselves. So life and living really began then. Mrs. Kohrs was here yesterday trying to plan that trip to Laramie. I would love to come but just for a day. Start early and come home in evening. We have not decided yet. Van and his mother were here last week. Also my niece and namesake and her husband from Corpus Christi and we went out in the country visiting various friends. Dick drove and used his car. I did not intend to write all this, but memories crowded into my thoughts. Again I thank you in Eli and my behalf.

Sincerely,
Anna Schneider."

These letters show some of the hospitality that makes Wyomingites appeal to those from other climes.



Douglas, Willan & Sartoris Co. 1887. Corrals and slaughter house. Courtesy Western History and Archives Department, University of Wyoming, and Wyoming Stock Growers Collection.



Group of ranch hands at Willan Ranch in 1882. Left to right, standing, Otto Burns, "Pretty Dick" Christensen, Jack Price, John Hazen, Chap in Scotch cap unknown; sitting on pole is blacksmith John McFadden and Jim Foster, the best cook in the country. Sitting: Unknown, Newell, unknown, Porky in plug hat, Jabe Smith and Matt Carothers. Courtesy Eli Peterson.

The second illustration shows the Willan or Millbrook Ranch at the heyday of its development and the artist has given a true picture of the excellent types of horses and cattle which the company brought here. These buildings, as mentioned before, are about 30 miles northwest of Laramie and are located on Section 8-16-76.

George Morgan, Sr., General Manager of the Willan Ranch was also connected with the Wyoming Hereford Ranch at Cheyenne and the importations of Herefords were divided between the Cheyenne and Laramie ranches.

The ruins of the ranch buildings and the memories of the name and accomplishments of the Company are all that remain of the dazzling Douglas Willan Sartoris and Company enterprises. However, some of the fine blood persists in the livestock of today in this area and the Company's experiments with crops and water development have served as a basis for later developments. The ruins of the large barns are still to be seen and in the bunk and cook house is the shell of one of the distinctive stoves used in the early days.

Phil Mandel, the Laramie Plains' First Settler

Phil Mandel was undoubtedly the first settler on the Laramie Plains of Wyoming. He was born in Alsace, France in 1834 and left there as a boy of 15, coming to Wyoming as a youth of 20. In 1859 he was in Utah fighting Indians, but existing land records on Section 2-16-76, show that part of this land was settled by Phil Mandel prior to 1860. He made one of the first homestead entries on record for Dakota Territory in 1864

on land on Section 2, located where the stage line crossed the Little Laramie River. According to Morris Corthell this stage station was located on a greaswood knoll south and east of the present Lawrence or Abrams Ranch, some 20 miles west of Laramie.

The 1889-90 Report of the Bureau of Animal Industry has this to say about the cattle industry of Colorado and Wyoming. . . "The news about the oxen going through the winter and coming out in the spring in good flesh spread and . . . "early in the 60s a man named Phillip Mandell (Note by RHB: undoubtedly Phil Mandel), took up a ranch on Lone Tree Creek near the Little Laramie, and concluded to try the experiment. He purchased all the foot-sore worn-out cattle from passing freighters, turned them out on the range, and found that they did remarkably well through the winter; but in the early spring the Indians made a raid upon him and captured almost his entire herd."

Mandel was manager of the Little Laramie Stage Station the entire period when stages were running. Naturally some of the travelers had livestock which were sore footed and sick and which were left behind. The Missourians who made up a large part of the travelers, were always ready to trade horses for mules or milk cows, and vice versa around the trading "gamut". Mandel gradually collected a bunch of cattle in which Shorthorn blood predominated, due to the influence of the milk cow stock belonging to the travelers of the trail.

Mandel had many close calls with the Indians, and his experience while out looking for milk cows was typical



Windsor Stables of Douglas, Willan-Sartoris Co. 1889. Courtesy of Albany County Historical Museum.

Laramie, Wyoming, May 10th, 1889

BILL ☆ OF ☆ SALE
FROM

The Douglas-Willan Sartoris Co.

TO

Mr. George H. Cross

This is to Certify That we have this day sold to _____

for and in consideration of the sum of \$ _____ Dollars)

One yearling stud colt. Vented JJ

Vented JJ on left shoulder. The title to the above stock we Guarantee and Defend.

THE DOUGLAS-WILLAN SARTORIS CO.

Per... [Signature]

Bill of Sale dated May 10, 1887: From Douglas-Willan-Sartoris Co. To George H. Cross. One yearling stud colt. Vented JJ. Courtesy of Edith Cross Morton of Douglas.

of that day. He was armed with a muzzle-loading rifle which would fire only once and then the frontiersmen would have to stop and re-load the gun. The Indians knew how the muzzle-loader worked and would wait until the white man fired, and would then rush in and overpower him before he could reload. This time Phil Mandel had a close call as he did not dare fire with his muzzle-loader and had to bluff the red men away—but luck was with him. The Indians were scared away by a cloud of dust on the northwest horizon which turned out to be a troop of U. S. calvary on their way back from Fort Halleck, near Elk Mountain, to Fort Sanders, just south of Laramie City.

As was the custom with many ranchers in those days, the stage manager cut hay and sold it to the government at Fort Sanders. The prices obtained for the hay were very good—up to \$30.00 a ton being reported.

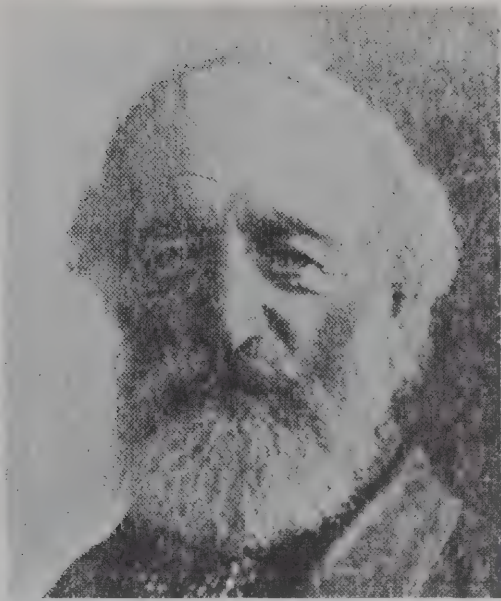
Phil Mandel sold his place on the Little Laramie River to Charley Hecht about 1880 and moved over to a ranch located on Section 10 on "the flats". Jesse van Buskirk told the writer that he and George Post helped put up the hay on Section 10 in 1881 and this was the first time that hay had been cut there. This place on Section 10 is what is today known as the Mandel Ranch and is located on the Mandel Lane almost due north of Millbrook and south of the end of Herrick Lane (Quealy Dome Road). The blacksmithshop which still stands at the ranch is known to have been at the old stage crossing. Many brands burned into its log sides are a mute record of early-day cattlemen and cow pokes who passed that way. The central

building has distinctive swinging doors under an archway which is purportedly an old bar. Be that as it may, it is an interesting piece of architecture which is not found on any other ranch property and the writer would like additional information concerning it. It shows clearly in the picture and just as clearly in the well preserved building at the ranch.

Like other cattle ranchers in the area, Mandel each spring turned his cattle out to graze on the shortgrass range of the Laramie Plains and they came in fat every fall. Marauding Indians and beasts of prey were the main management problems along with horse-trading Missourians which came through and were hard traders, but were somewhat mollified by the rigors of the long trail which forced them to leave their livestock behind with sore feet.

Phil Mandel moved to Laramie about 1912 and made his home with his daughter, Katherine Lasher in the family home at Fifth and Grand, where he died in 1917. The files of the Laramie Sentinel of November 12, 1870 states that Mr. Phillip Mandell of the Little Laramie is going to erect a splendid stone building on his lot at the corner of South "A" and Second Streets. This is one of the most valuable lots in the town and should have a first class store on it. University was Center Street, so this location would be the site of the present Midwest Trunk & Sporting Goods Store at Second and Iverson.

The Mandel Ranch consisted of portions of two sections of deeded land in Township 16N Range 76W. Today the original Mandel Ranch on Section 2 is a part of the William Lawrence



Phillip Mandel, Pioneer.



Mandel Blacksmith Shop. By courtesy Joe Kay.

Ranch, while the so-called Section 10 place is a part of the Gurley Ranch. The Swift Ranch is a part of the old Mandel holding. A patent from the United States was issued to Phillip Mandel on December 29, 1877, on N $\frac{1}{2}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$, Section 9-16-76 and S $\frac{1}{2}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 4-16-76.

Phil Mandel was one of the earliest of the Wyoming and Laramie Plains pioneers. He spent most of his life on these Laramie Plains and lived to see great changes in the livestock economy of these plains, based on the short nutritious native grasses!

The Motley, Webb, Blackburn and Dalles Ranches

The Owen map of 1886 lists the Motley ranch as located on Section 17, T-16, R-76 and this is the location given on the abstract of the ranch which is owned today by Jack Sanderson. It is located about 30 miles west and north of Laramie and is just a little north and west of the Wallis Ranch now owned by George Forbes. The ranch sets back about a quarter of a mile from the road on the west side and the two large log barns are distinctive land marks. The Motley ranch is best known for the teams of elk that Motley used to train and drive. Many stories are told of the wild rides which Motley and his friends took behind the elk teams. Wallis Link told the writer that Motley used to take a hunting party, among whom was Bert Bramel, up to the Freezeout Mountains north of Medicine Bow. They would take a pack train of wagons and a few milk cows with them. When they arrived they would pick up some elk calves a few hours old, put them to suckle on the milk cows and bring them home. These elk calves

were raised on the milk cows and later when they were yearlings they were trained to drive.

The writer had heard the elk team story many times and had seen the picture which is reproduced here. A few weeks ago he went out to the old Motley Ranch and met Jack Sanderson, a swell Scotchman who showed him all around the big barns which were built by Motley around 1884. The large log barns are a marvel of skillful and durable log work and have withstood the ravages of the climate over some 67 years with little deterioration. The log work is excellent and some of the logs are 36 feet long. All are grooved into the vertical corner logs and every second log is tied down through the two below with a large wooden peg. These pegs can still be seen. The north barn has the peculiar style stalls which were used for breaking the elk to harness. The stalls are in perfect shape and at the head of four of the stalls is a narrow pole gate, just wide enough for one to squeeze through, which swings in true pole gate style. This gate was used to get up close to the head of the elk without coming in from behind. Just over the head of each manger is a swinging door, to the outside, which was used to be opened to place something in the manger. There were also hay mow openings above the manger so that hay could be fed from the mow. Evidently green feed or some other type of feed was given from the outside through the swinging doors over the mangers. Each and every log was carefully squared with an axe. Labor was the cheapest item in those days and hence the beautiful log work which is seldom seen nowadays.



The ruins of the Willan Ranch. Ruin of big barn in background and in the foreground are the bunk and cook house and a blacksmith shop in the foreground. 1950. Photo by Burns.



Old Mandel Place on Section 10 out on the flats. Now owned by Gurley. By courtesy Joe Kay.

The picture of Motley and the elk team show Motley and a friend, Orsa D. Ferguson of Eldon, Wyoming, just about to start for a drive. The elk were tied to the fence just to the north of the present North Barn. Recently Jack Sanderson gave the writer the only memento remaining on the ranch dating back to Motley's time. It is a copper branding iron with the entire surname MOTLEY which was used for marking various things and as it is very like the present-day horn brands it may have been used to horn-brand the elk and cattle. Needless to say the writer is greatly indebted to Jack Sanderson as well as to others who gave information concerning Charles D. Motley.

Mrs. Mary Bellamy told the writer that Motley came from Boston and had plenty of money. He was a nephew of John Lathrop Motley, the historian, In 1886, Charles Motley was adjudged insane and his ranch was sold by Henry G. Balch, guardian. He died shortly afterwards. The late Steve Frazer told of an interesting bet between Motley and Tom Alsop as to whether the elk team or a team of horses would get to town first. The result of this interesting race, if it ever took place, is unknown and would make an interesting story.

The late Oscar Sodergreen told an interesting story concerning Motley. It seems that Motley was driving a mixed team of elk and horses across country from the Little Laramie to the Riverside Ranch of Balch and Bacon. This was just after the first ditches were taken out in the 80s, and his team jumped the Pioneer ditch and his buggy stuck in the middle of the ditch. Naturally the driver and buggy

were left there in the ditch and the team and doubletrees went on across the prairie. In those days many foot-races were run and Motley ran such a race with Frank Sargent for a side bet of \$200.00. However, Frank was the peer of the local footracers and won this race along with many others. He was the partner of Robert Homer at the Flag Ranch.

Jack Sanderson showed the writer all that remains of the original buck-board which Motley used. The bottom and one front axle with broken spokes of the wheel are all that are left and are lying in back of the barns, just to the right of the barn in the snapshot which accompanies this article.

The John Webb place was one of the early ranches and in recent years has been owned by Davis and Thomas and now by Jack Markley. John Webb came west with the Chases and Towles in 1873. Mrs. Towle, Chauncey Root (proprietor of the Opera House in Laramie) and Shaw were graduates of Cornell College at Mount Vernon, Ia. When Webb first came he located on the Alsop place where Ralph May is now living. He located on Mill Creek in 1874. Mr. Farrell (original owner of the Wallis ranch) had a bunch of sheep on Mill Creek at that time. Through the courtesy of Louie Coughlin of the Forest Service, the writer has had access to the historical records of the local Forest Service which contains a questionnaire on the Webb Ranch. He mentions the Mandel, Alsop, Sprague and Fillmore as among the first ranches along with that of Farrell.



*The Mandel Ranch on the Little Laramie River. Now Miller Bros. Headquarters.
By courtesy Joe Kay.*



*The famous Motley Elk Team. Used in 1888 between Motley Ranch and Laramie, 22 miles away.
Motley is driving and Orsa D. Ferguson is riding with him. By courtesy of
Albany County Historical Museum, and John Lenihan.*

The Industrial Edition of the Laramie Republican in 1901 contains the following item concerning the Webb place: "The John W. Webb Ranch on Mill Creek is made up of 800 acres mostly meadow, cutting 350 tons of hay and supports 500 head of cattle. In 1875 he took out one of the first water rights and was among the first five ranchers to attempt irrigation on the Little Laramie River drainage. Webb sold out around 1890 and went to California to live, where he died in 1934.

* * *

One often hears of the **Blackburn Flats** but know little of why this name was applied to the large area originally developed by the Douglas Willan Sartoris & Company and known as the Willan Farm. The late Al Konold told the writer that Blackburn ran a water wagon in Laramie in 1881 when he (Al) first came to Laramie. Later Blackburn had a meat market and then a coal business. Around the turn of the century he, in partnership with Augsburg and Herrick, bought the Willan Farm and tried to develop that area but there was never sufficient water and the project was not a success. Now the entire Blackburn Flats are just above the Little Laramie, at the end of Herrick Lane and on the way to Quealy Dome, is a series of deserted ranches. The original Willan Farm still stands by a large grove of trees and is now owned by James May. Financial reverses were too much for Blackburn and he ended up in an asylum.

* * *

The **Dallas Ranch** was one of the bits of the Willan Ranch and is located just north of the Wallis (Forbes)

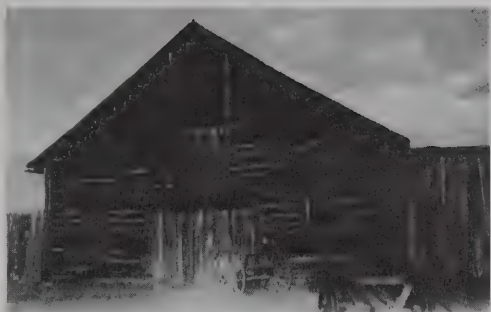
Ranch on the Little Laramie. Joe Dallas drove the stage to Centennial in the early 90s. He took up a piece of government land in the Willan meadows in the early days. The land records show that he obtained a deed from the Milbrook Land and Livestock Company (E. J. Bell and associates) for land in Section 4-16-76, in 1904. Joe Dallas died in 1909 and his grandson, William Dallas, Jr., is the present owner of this ranch.

The Judson or Herrick Ranch The Abrams Place

The Judson Ranch is one of the landmarks of the Little Laramie Valley and is at the right side of the road at the end of the Herrick Lane.

The writer has just come across the original quitclaim deed from Thomas Alsop to the County of Albany, dated February 9, 1881. This covered a strip of land to be used as a public highway. The late Tom Carroll testified in the Little Laramie Water Case that the Sprague Lane was laid out and graded in 1886. The Herrick Lane was laid out at a much later date, in the 1900s.

The large log buildings were built by Judson, a Chicago man who built the log house Palmer now lives in, according to information from Ollie Wallis. This house was built for his young wife and they came out and lived here a couple of years and then returned to Chicago. Black was a relative of Judson by marriage. They formed a company known as the Empire Land and Livestock Company and some of the early day land records show the firm as a partnership of Judson & Fisher, Judson and Black, and Judson, Sutphin & Co. They had a sheep camp on Dutton Creek, just above the Herbert King place which



The Motley Barn used for stabling, gentling, and feeding elk team. Now on Sanderson Ranch. 1951. Photo by Burns.



Left to right: Fred Bath, Phillip Bath and Jack Fee. About 1910. By courtesy Vallie Bath Dunn.



The Judson-Black-Sutphin ranch now owned by Axel Palmer. By courtesy Joe Kay.

was later owned by the Toltec Land & Livestock Company and more recently by Fred Greaser. John H. Sutphin came out from Pennsylvania and his son, Wm. B. Sutphin, lived in Laramie for many years. Mr. Wm. Sutphin worked for the Western Public Service Company during his later years and was a close friend of Robert Homer. The first land titles were dated 1883 and were in the name of Thos. J. Fisher. From 1883 to 1896 the partnerships and the Empire L. & LS. Company names appeared on the land records and the sale of these lands was made to the Augsburgers and L. R. Herrick in 1910 to 1913. Oscar Sodergreen told the writer that Thos. J. Fisher and Robert J. Black stayed only a few years in Laramie. The writer can remember some of the stories told him by the late Bill Sutphin about the experiences with blizzards during the days when the partnership in which his father was interested, had sheep on the Little Laramie. Billy Bird was the foreman for Judson and Fisher and the Bird boys came to the Judson Ranch first and later settled in the Centennial Valley. Later Chris Jensen was foreman. According to the late Elzie Chase, the Judson Fisher Ranch had about 4,000 sheep in 1874. The Laramie Daily Boomerang for June 6, 1889, has an item about Thomas Fisher who came to Laramie in the early days and ran a ranch near Wyoming Station. The place was known as Fisher's Ranch and later as the Hut-ton Ranch. He ran the ranch several years and sold out to come to Laramie. He ran hotels at Green River and then at Cheyenne, where he had financial reverses and at the time the news item was written, was a Pullman

car conductor. The land records show that Thos. J. Fisher obtained a receivers receipt from the U. S. A. for land in Section 4-16-76 in 1883. In 1884 Thos. J. Fisher gave a warranty deed to Judson & Sutphin for this same land. Evidently Mr. Fisher moved from his ranch to Laramie about 1885. Thos. J. Fisher had land around 1880 near the present Two Rivers in Section 18-17-74, which is a part of the present Three Bar Ranch.

During the Old Time Ranch Tour of 1950 Axel Palmer regaled the visitors at his ranch (Judson) with stories of the early days at the Red Buttes Ranch and in Laramie. He told the writer of many escapades which he and his brother Gus had in Laramie when the "wild Swedes" came to town. They rode through doors and up to the bar on horseback and the tolerant proprietors would not collect damages even after police had intervened because it made good "beezeness" for them. Axel recited a poem for the visitors which is typical and the printed word cannot do justice to the inflection of his Swedish voice in reciting the following verse:

The Farmers have come,
The cowpunchers must go.
The Work's getting hard,
And the wages are low!

We can ride a wild broncho,
Or rope a wild cow;
But, be damned if we'll follow
Either the harrow or the plow!

The writer grew up on the Flag Ranch and attended the rural school at Red Buttes along with Rena Palmer Lawrence and many are the memories



*Old Time Ranch Tour visits Judson-Black-Palmer Ranch, July, 1951.
By courtesy Wes Williamson.*



Group picture taken shortly after Alfred Bath was killed while sheriff of Albany County. About 1910. Left to right: Dora, widow of Alfred Bath, Unknown, Ed Wilson, Florence Bath, Anne Bath, Phil Bath, Katie Greaser holding Orval, Mrs. Ed Wilson. Children are Mervin, Harry, and Vallie Bath. By courtesy Vallie Bath Dunn.

of happy school day recreation and delightful Swedish snacks prepared for us kids by Mrs. Palmer—who was a past master in the kitchen along with most all of the other Scandanavian folks of the writer's acquaintance.

The rural school at Red Buttes, long since abandoned, was a busy place along in the years about 1910. The Palmer, Folsom, and Burns kids, along with a few transients at the section houses, including one little colored girl, Ora June who loved pickles and ice cream, made up the pupils at the school. The Red Buttes Ranch was just over the hill and we made it quite often. Axel Palmer delights in telling a story on Kid Burns to the effect that when the teacher sent him home to get on clean overalls which had been soiled in playing in the mud, (it was several miles home) Kid Burns just went out on the prairie and disappeared from sight in an old prospect hole and emerged shortly in tidy clean overalls—the dirty side had been turned inside and the clean side shown to the world.

* * *

The Abrams Place is just around the hill from the Judson place and is now owned by Bill and Rena Lawrence, son-in-law and daughter of the Axel Palmers.

Ludolph Abrams was a Laramie merchant who took over the ranch on a debt from George Mandel in 1887. Abrams was born in Germany in 1841 and came to America in 1857. He worked in New York and Iowa and in 1868 came to Laramie. He married Sophia Bath in 1864 and when they came to Laramie they operated one of the pioneer hotels of the city. The ranch was originally a part of the Phil

Mandel Ranch and according to Phil Mandel, was on the Brown Creek branch of the Little Laramie River and the old station was about a quarter of a mile south and east of the present Abrams (Lawrence) ranch buildings. A daughter of the Abrams, Estelle, married the late Joe King and she died in 1928. The son, D. Carl, graduated from the University of Wyoming and now lives in Seattle. There is some confusion in the record as to whether the Abrams and the Folster ranches are one and the same and testimony in the Laramie River Water Case is contradictory. Chris Jensen owned this ranch and sold it in 1910 to Vallie Bath. Later it was owned by Folster and Chris Greaser.

The Bath Ranches

Many Laramie people know the old Stone House which is just beyond the Alsop Barn (Ralph May place) on the Herrick Lane some 15 miles northwest of Laramie on the Quealy Dome Road.

The writer is indebted to members of the Bath families for most of the information in this article.

Henry Bath was born in Germany in 1833 and came to Laramie in 1868 by ox team to the end of the rails at that time. With his four oxen he brought over a load of lumber from Cheyenne and built the first frame building in the city, known by the imposing name of the New York House. There was an old-fashioned bar in the rear and soon this attraction, along with the good old-fashioned cooking, became quite famous. It is related that as many as 100 men a day sometimes ate at this establishment and Mrs. Katherine Fischer Bath was kept busy cooking for this many men. Chi-

nese cooks were hired but the anti-Chinese labor agitation was at its height and eventually the cooks were chased from town. White cooks were not very satisfactory for they were seldom sober enough to carry out their duties.

Henry Bath, along with others, noted how the fagged work oxen gained weight during the fall and winter months when turned out after the freighting season waned. He was one of the first men to see the future of the livestock business and settled on the Little Laramie where in 1875 he built the stone house which still stands. He made the walls two feet thick for protection from the Indians and the remains of some of the loop holes can still be seen. Fred Bath gave the particulars of these early days to his wife, Vallie G. Bath, and this information has been furnished the writer by the Bath families. His description of these early days is so fine it is being passed along as he related it, and his wife recorded it:

"This (fat oxen in the spring) set the homestead idea agitating in my father (Henry Bath), and he set up a barren appearing ranch in the valley of the Little Laramie. The next spring (1869) he built a pole corral, a log barn, and a log cabin with no floors and with dirt covered roof. The crop of small grain was very small since there was too much water and wet bottom land to till. He was able to get about twenty tons of hay along the river banks and in the sloughs by herding the stock from this land. Father bought a few milk cows from Iowa and about three hundred head of Longhorn Texas cattle trailed all the way from the Lone Star State. The

cattle arrived skin and bone, and with no fences or hay, we lost nearly all of them in the first wintry blizzards which thundered down upon our desolate ranch.

Some of our cattle drifted down to Sidney, Nebraska. Our gentle stock at home seemed to prosper on the good range and feed but our importation of Texas cattle could not stand up under the terrific blizzards. The first years of ranching were bitter and discouraging. There were no conveniences to lessen the hard labor of pioneering on the open range of Wyoming. The fences were built of poles which required a great deal of labor and expense. It was fifteen or twenty miles for some ranchers to haul their timber. The first men of the west had to make their own dams and ditches so they could irrigate their lands from the rivers and creeks. The horses and cattle were turned loose on the ordinarily fenceless range, and the hardy cowpunchers rode for miles to gather in their branded stock. Horses would drift but would eventually return to their own range, while cattle would travel for miles and forget to return. The rancher and cowboy often went hungry while sleeping under his saddle blankets in quest of missing stock.

My knowledge of these first years of ranch life has been obtained from the stories my parents used to tell, but I vividly recall my first exciting adventure in the new west. The most exciting days of Wyoming history, aside from the jubilant rail laying period of 1868, were between 1876 and 1882. In this time there were the fateful Custer Massacre, the bloody Meeker and Thornburg Massacres, the Deadwood mining rush, the rolling

mills in full blast in Laramie, employing thousands of men, other thousands of men on the railroad, all bringing new life to the saloons, dance halls and gambling dens in Laramie."

The present Iverson Avenue used to be called Thornburg Street and the Union Pacific Hotel, which burned in 1917, was at the foot of this street and used to be called the Thornburg Hotel. Thornburg was an army officer who lost his life in the Meeker Massacre.

The difficulty of the early ranchers had with the Indians is told in vivid style by Fred Bath, "The outbreak of the Indians seemed to cause more trouble after the country began settling than at any other time. There were many lives lost and it was dangerous to travel any distance alone. (This recalls the stories which Phil Mandel told about the Indians as related to the writer by Chas. Hopkins). The same year as the Custer Massacre, when Laramie was a gay frontier town, my father received word from another town, Harper Station, that Indians had trailed a bunch of our horses across the railroad track there. Although I was but eight years old, my father sent me to the ranch to warn my older brother. There was no fences or roads then, only a dim trail beaten thin among soapweed and sagebrush. (The writer must mean greasewood for there is little soapweed in the area, but "scads" of greasewood). When the wind whistled in the clumps of sagebrush I jumped with fright, expecting to see a lurking Indian ready to scalp me. I pushed my pony on and arrived at the ranch breathless with excitement. My brother saddled two fresh horses while I recovered my wind, and then we strapped on our

guns and hit the trail. Only two youngsters entrusted by a confident father, to rescue 96 horses from dangerous Indians. When my brother was along, fear miraculously left me, and together we plotted against the redskins in bold tones."

"There were only two of our horses left on the range, and our trail led towards Halleck Canyon and the Nebraska line. All day we two little boys rode, always hopefully and courageously, but no Indians did we see, although our eyes were continually searching every possible cache where they might be lurking. We eventually returned home, after an exciting chase of over a hundred miles on horseback. I was exhausted but would not admit my fatigue to anyone. A few days later, other settlers who had not lost horses, sent two men, my brother Billy was one, to see if they could possibly locate the missing herd. They trailed them to the Red Cloud Agency in Nebraska, but as they were on the Indian reservation, they could not touch the horses. Twenty years later, after much involved delay and red tape, the Government sent my father a check for \$3,000.00 to cover the loss of the 96 head of horses, valued at \$100.00 a head at the time they were stolen.

I may mention here that my brave brother William, who diligently trailed the horse thieves, killed the last buffalo on the Laramie Plains in 1878. It was a huge beast, and the monstrous head was mounted in an old hotel in town for many years." (Bud Gillespie told the writer about the killing of the last buffalo, just west of Plumbago Canyon and said that his father was in the group.)



A sample of the grain grown on the Blackburn farm about 1910. Fred Bath and two children in buggy. By courtesy Vallie Bath Dunn.



Some cattle on the Bath Ranch about 1910. By courtesy Vallie Bath Dunn.



Fred C. Bath and wife, Vallie, in 1908. Photo taken at Poverty Flats Ranch just before moving to Stone Ranch. By courtesy Vallie Bath Dunn.



Church Service at the Stone Ranch. Fred Bath brought Episcopal minister to ranch for services. By courtesy Vallie Bath Dunn.

Horses were an important stock in trade and often one of the last resorts of the stockmen in financial stress. Again let us read some of the "journal" which Fred and Vallie Bath have left us:

"It was in 1894 that we had a hard year financially as far as livestock was concerned. Horses were almost worthless, although there was a slight demand for cattle. We had plenty of feed and range, but our stock netted us nothing in returns. A party of us—my father, my brother Herman, Tom Carroll and myself—decided to try to dispose of our horses in some manner. We looked up all market reports and the conditions of the country, finally concluding that the most feasible thing we could do was to trail our herd of horses down into Arkansas and trade them off for cattle. Arkansas was in a pioneer process too, and we thought they would need horses for settling the country. The people were poor but their cattle were good.

"We rigged up a camp wagon, employed a cook, and rounded up three hundred head of horses. We four started on that long trek ahead, down to Arkansas. The horses were in beautiful condition; It was June and they were wonderfully fat and sleek and absolutely wild. We had a hard time holding them the first week on the trail. Our four brands, H., K., C., and B.—made it extremely difficult to keep the horses together. Most of the time one of us was trailing behind the horses that were lost the night before—often the solitary scout being miles ahead of the rest of the party.

"With all our hard riding, we were a cheerful bunch. After leaving Fort Collins, Colorado, the country was

more settled and we began to run out of feed. The saddle stock began to look run-down and the horses became more quiet and tame. In passing through so many towns between Fort Collins and Denver our herd would walk up and feed under washings on the line, right up to the porches on the houses. Ladies and children would make a great fuss over our beautiful steeds and would pet them—these horses that would actually run when they saw anybody a mile away out on the range.

"We traveled right down the main street of Denver, but in those days it was sparsely settled, and our unusual cavalcade created no stir. At that time the citizens of Denver were, themselves, pioneers. It was hot and dry that summer, with the grass on the plains looking parched and dead. We travelled in hot desert sands, which took all the hope from our vagabonding. No one had yet offered to buy our horses and we were reaching the financial state of being more than temporarily embarrassed. We had no money, and each morning our grub box looked thinner and thinner. Although we were naturally discouraged with the prospects, we kept plodding on with that eternal hope springing warm in our breasts that 'something might be ahead'. We passed through villages that were dismally deserted because of the drought and hard times. We approached Pueblo and our hearts sang again. Two horsemen came by and looked over our herd of horses carefully. They offered us \$20.00 for the prize horse of the bunch. We were poor but still proud of our animals, so refused the trifling offer and moved forward with the hot sun



Wyoming Cowboy football team of 1896. Left to right, back row: Walter Harris, W. S. Ingham, Emory Land, George Trabing and Ned Fitch. Middle row: Harry Houston, Neil Suddith, Sam Wilson, Herbert Brees, Harold Colburn, and Louis Bath. Front row: Ross Moudy, Chas. Kuster, and ——— Yarnell. Photo by courtesy Mrs. Louise Wallis.



The Stone Ranch as it appears today. The Stone house was built in 1875 and walls are around two feet thick. New barn was built in 1912 by Fred Bath. By Courtesy Joe Kay.

and wind. We arrived at Pueblo, a hot, burned up and sandy town. Cactus was everywhere—as high as a horse's back—but otherwise not a green thing flourished. We pitched camp, set our stock loose, crawled under our wagon, and tried to sleep in the merciless beating sun. All the horses went under trees at the river bottom and stood motionless, simply panting with the stifling atmosphere. At dusk we rustled a bite to eat, then took a walk downtown to see the sights of Pueblo. We saw all types of interesting people. Women and children were milking goats everywhere, even in their own front doors. In the main section of town everything seemed to be wide open. It was a lively town, but not for us. People begged us not to go any further into the desert heat. That night while resting on the ground we decided to spare the horses and ourselves any further torture of hot sun and wind, and to return to our old stamping grounds, the Laramie Plains.

"When we awakened the stock was grazing around the wagon. We planned to stay one more day—our grub box was now empty and so were our pockets. I was the only one with wealth, having fifty cents to feed all of us. We realized fully that we must do something immediately about our desperate financial condition. It was not long before the curiosity of the townspeople led their feet to our open air horse show. The children greatly admired the beautiful animals, while their father would mention how they would enjoy having this or that horse. On the spur of the moment we planned to give a little Wild West show to entertain our admiring friends, and to

swell our grub box. We began to advertise that we would give a performance at sundown. The news travelled quickly and when I went downtown to do some advertising myself, I accidentally bumped into the man who had previously offered me \$20.00 for our best horse. My pride was in my empty pocket now, and \$20.00 seemed like a fortune. There were few people carrying that much cash in those days.

"'Boys, here is where we fill up our nose bag for the home trip,' I told my party excitedly. The horse we sold, about the wildest of the herd, and the purchaser said he would like to have it ridden. That evening my brother Herman made one of the prettiest rides I have ever seen. We all rode and sang our cowboy ballads for the audience and took in six dollars and ninety cents—mostly pennies!

"The next morning at dawn we were on our way home. Our hearts were light and our grub box was full. We would arrive in the midst of haying, and we were all eager to get into the fields once more. We would start out early in the morning, graze along until about 10 o'clock, camp until two, through the worst of the afternoon heat, then travel on the road until late at night, when we would camp under the stars and be blissfully asleep as soon as we hit the ground. Everything went along fine until that hot afternoon when we were approaching Fort Collins. The horses were happily feeding on some good range and we were all singing and telling jokes, when suddenly the sun disappeared and a menacing black cloud scudded across the mountain. Herman mounted his horse, just as it began to sprin-



Wyoming Cowboy football team of 1899. Left side, bottom to top: Unknown, Harry Lee, Fred Bath, Ben Bartlett; back row, left to right: Unknown, Unknown, Chas. Ponting, Bill Goodale, Unknown, Unknown. Right side, top to bottom: Unknown, Unknown, Sam Wilson, Cliff Sawyer, Julius Merz, John Lohlein, Unknown, Bert Miller. Middle, left to right: Ross Moudy, Tony Jennings. Photo taken at Fort Collins. Photo by courtesy Vallie Bath Dunn. Identifications by Harry Cordiner.



Tom Alsop, Pioneer Ranchman.
Original oil painting in Archives Department
of UW Library



Mrs. Thomas Alsop.
By courtesy Louise Alsop Pedersen.
Original oil painting in Archives Department
of UW Library.

kle. Another darker cloud passed over the mountain. Herman put on his raincoat and started for the herd. Then, thinking of me, he hastened back to the wagon, got my raincoat and started riding towards me singing cheerfully. When he was about twelve feet from me a blinding bolt of lightning flashed and knocked him from his horse. At the same moment fifteen of our horses went down to the ground in a heap of cringing, burning horse-flesh. Hailstones as large as eggs fell upon us, but we were too paralyzed with the shock to notice anything other than the silent form of Herman stretched beside his favorite horse, now also dead. The cook broke our fearful silence with, 'My God, it's Herman. He's dead!' The cook and Herman had always been pals in true western fashion, and to see him the victim of a moment's catastrophe was more than Bert could bear.

"It seemed as if I fell off my horse onto Herman's neck, and ten thousand memories assailed me the moment I touched his inert form. My mother's baby dead! He lay there still smiling just as he had smiled when he hurried over in the rain to shelter me with a rain coat. Bert, the cook, drove up with the wagon and said, 'Boys, it is hard to stand, but we must do something.' That aroused all of us from the first stupor of our grief, and we drove about a mile to the first ranch house, while I tenderly held my dead brother in my arms. A kind woman met us at the door and advised us to bring the body in and lay it on her bed. Our sympathetic hostess sank to her knees beside the clean bed and prayed for us—then put her dear arms

around my sobbing body and begged me to have faith and courage. That is the symbol upon which the West has been built—faith and courage. (Note by RHB: The Laramie Cemetery record gives the information that Herman Bath was buried there in 1896—killed by lightning while driving horses to Ft. Collins).

"The trip which began so gaily in a comradely round of adventures turned out to be a 'heart-break trail,' the hardest road I have ever ridden. My mother never recovered from the cruel shock, and whatever successes I have had in life have always seemed incomplete because of Herman's mourned absence.

"The next year (about 1898) (Note by RHB: This would be 1897 as checked by the Laramie cemetery records), to forget my sorrow, I worked harder than ever, and on the side to keep me in athletic trim, I played football with the University of Wyoming's team—the Cowboys. My tuition was paid (Athletic Scholarships are not new—Note by RHB) and although I did not have time to attend, I went to classes one day, considered myself a student and played football each evening. The fellows drove out to the ranch for me, and after a hard day in the saddle, I went in to practice touchdowns. At this time there were only about fifty students in the only higher educational institution in the State. One large building comprised the campus. It had the classrooms on the upper floors and the gymnasium in the basement. I played football for three years, during which time we were famous for our victories over Montana, Utah, and Colorado."



The Tom Alsop House and Barn as it is today. By courtesy Joe Kay.



The Old Time Ranch Tour visits the Alsop Ranch, July, 1951. By courtesy Wes Williamson.

The picture of this famous football team shows them in "civies" on one of the steps of Old Main.

"The second year of the Cheyenne Frontier Days I won the bucking contest at Cheyenne, and was acclaimed the champion broncho buster of the world that year."

Continuing with the "Journal" of Fred and Vallie Bath, we find that the people of those days made their own good times and developed their talents for their own entertainment. Let us see what they did.

"After I married, I taught my wife to chord to accompany my fiddle playing and she and I would comprise the dance orchestra which furnished the music for the dances all around the country. The strains of 'The Girl I Left Behind Me' and 'The Irish Washerwoman' kept the feet of the cow-punchers and their lady loves and wives spinning till dawn. We often drove a team twenty or thirty miles to a dance where we played from eight in the evening until daylight the next morning, all for a dollar apiece; and we thought we were well paid for our efforts."

The writer, as a youngster, remembers the country dances on Sand Creek when dancing kept up all through the night and the tired but happy participants went on home in the early dawn, just in time to do the morning chores. My! what fine dance floors those old hay mows had, like the Wurl Ranch barn; they were polished by many tons of hay pushed over the original rough pine floors and were sweet with the aroma of the herbs present in most of our native hays.

The Baths used to have many large family gatherings. Some of the larg-

est of these gatherings were at the Stone Ranch when Fred and Vallie Bath lived there. They always entertained on Thanksgiving Day with a group of as many as 80 friends and relatives. They used to cook a half hog, a quarter of beef, several ducks and chickens, a wash boiler full of spuds, and a dozen each of pies and cakes. There would generally be a rodeo and foot races in the afternoon, then another meal, and perhaps the gathering would end up by dancing all night. Fred Bath used to bring out a minister from town to hold church and Sunday school and one such gathering is shown in the picture which accompanies this article.

Fred Bath and his wife Vallie, who have left us this fine record of the early ranching days on the Laramie Plains, were part of a large family. Fred was one of eight children, many of whom have been intimately connected with the ranching business of these Plains. One brother, William Bath, ranched during his life and died suddenly in the hay field in 1893. Another brother, Phil, spent most of his life ranching on the Little Laramie and his sons and daughters and granddaughters are ranching today. Phil Bath was also active in politics, holding the job of County Commissioner for several years.

Another brother, Lou Bath, ranched for several years. He leased the Sprague Ranch, the Windmill Ranch and the Alsop Ranch at different times. He also played football on the Cowboy team for two or three years, and his son, Bob Bath, who attended the University Law School played football both in High School and at the University.

Henry Bath's brother Frederick came to Laramie in the early days and built the rock brewery which operated for a few years. The old rock building used to stand north and east of the stockyards by the highway, and was torn down several years ago. When standing it afforded a haven for many "bums" of the road.

A brother, Al Bath, had a ranch on the Little Laramie which was originally the Kellogg ranch and the buildings were on the river (Brown Creek Ranch) on the southwest corner of Section 6-16-75. John Kellogg owned this ranch in the early days and the Laramie Daily Sentinel of May 4, 1870 lists the following interesting item, "A horse race occurred this afternoon between John Wright's pony and John Kellogg's sorrel horse, for fifty dollars a side. John's entry won the race by over a hundred feet." Al Bath met a tragic death while sheriff of Albany County. He went out to arrest a desperado from North Park, by the name of Summers. This desperate man shot Al near Woods Landing and the guilty party was never apprehended. Again the writer as a mere boy remembers the tenseness when the posses searching for Summers came through the Flag Ranch back about 1908. They were armed "to the teeth," especially as seen by the eyes of a small boy. Chris Jones, who owned the ranch north of the Stone Ranch now owned by Harry Maddock, in the Laramie Rivers Water Case spoke of going through the Kellogg Ranch when coming to Laramie and spoke of the Phil Bath Ranch as adjoining the Kellogg Ranch.

Merwin Bath, a son of Al, was one of the best broncho riders in the West.

He attended nearly all of the rodeos and went to London with a Wild West show. Several of the Baths appeared in the movie "Ben Hur".

The present Bath Brothers Ranch is on the same section as the Al Bath place and the Bath Brothers, Earl, Alwyn, and Harry, are carrying on the ranching business to the credit of the pioneer Bath ranching family.

Many of the third generation of the Bath family are engaged in the ranching business. Names of the married daughters are found in the ranch owners such as Maddock, Baillie, Widman, Rogers, Greaser, etc. Theodore Bath, a brother of Henry Bath, was also a soldier in the Civil War and came to Laramie in the early 70s. He lived in Laramie and built the row of stone houses on North Sixth Street, known as the Bath Row.

A sister, Sophia, married Ludolph Abrams, a pioneer business man of Laramie who had ranch property and at one time owned the ranch known as the Abrams place near the Judson Ranch, which is now owned by Bill Lawrence. A daughter, Estelle Abrams, married Joe King, noted Rambouillet sheep breeder.

Another sister, Mary Marie, married Charley Kuster, owner of the hotel of that name, and also the owner of a ranch in the Laramie Hills now owned by Robert and Albin Plaga, which is just a mile south of the Martin place some forty-five miles from Laramie on the Wheatland road.

Emma, another sister, married Warren Rogers who built up the ranch on the Little Laramie, now owned by James Johnson. Warren Rogers ranched some and followed his trade as a carpenter some of the time. He

hauled in timber from the Laramie Mountains in the early days and Rogers Canyon just north of the Spur and University Quarry is named for him.

Katherine Bath married William Greaser and the Greaser family has had ranch property through the years, around Morgan and on the Little Laramie and Big Hollow areas.

So the Bath family has and is still playing a vital part in the livestock industry of the Laramie Plains. Since Laramie was born in 1868 this family has been closely associated with the growth and development of the city, and the making of beef from the nutritious short grass of the Laramie Plains.

The Alsop Ranch

Pioneer Tom Alsop knew the value of short-grass range. In Chapter I we have spoken of Tom Alsop as one of the pioneer ranchmen of the Laramie Plains and the West, and have given the story of his ranch on the Big Laramie.

Before coming to Wyoming, Tom Alsop was driving a stage in the pioneer days of Iowa. The dashing, tall, dark-haired driver with his deep blue eyes set many feminine hearts aflutter. Among them was a belle of Des Moines, Mary Bringolf, who later became Mrs. Thomas Alsop. Her people were quite well-to-do and about the time of their marriage in 1871, oil paintings of each were finished by an artist of Des Moines. Recently, a daughter, Mrs. Louise Alsop Pedersen, has donated these oil paintings to the University archives and Western History Division of the University Library.

The new bride, like many others

from the East, did not fully appreciate the wide-open spaces of the Laramie Plains with the lack of trees and verdure—such a contrast to her native State of Iowa. It was quite a change to put her beautiful walnut furniture and Haviland china into the small rooms of a western home, and there were few occasions when she could wear the beautiful gowns in her trousseau. However, she became acquainted with some of the wives of the army officers at Fort Sanders, a couple of miles south of Laramie City, and they travelled back and forth from the ranch to the Fort and the parties soon included some people from town.

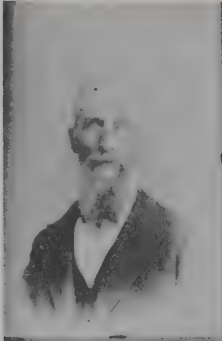
In his ranching operations Tom Alsop was in partnership with Edward Creighton and Charley Hutton until 1872 when he started to operate his own property. He evidently remembered and appreciated the English breeds of cattle which he had worked with as a boy, for he obtained high grade Shorthorns called Durhams in those days. He bought many shipments of high grade livestock from Iowa and other eastern points.

Some quotations from the British book and from the Laramie Sentinel may be of interest:

BRISBIN book "Bonanza of the Plains, page 85—The Firm of Hutton, Alsop and Creighton had around 13,000 sheep. Edward Creighton had ranches in Colorado, Wyoming, and Utah. During the first seven winters he grazed his work oxen. In 1881 he had wintered 8,000 head of cattle and 3,000 head of sheep.

LARAMIE DAILY SENTINEL. Aug. 23, 1870.—We notice the arrival within the past two weeks of about

ALBANY CO. PIONEERS.



N. K. BOSWELL.



EDWARD IVINSON.



JUDGE MELVILLE C. BROWN.

FRANK PRAGER



Albany County Pioneers. N. K. Boswell, Edward Ivinson, Judge Melville C. Brown, Frank Prager, and N. E. Stark. By Courtesy Wyoming Historical Department and Joe Kay.



The Carroll Ranch several years ago. By courtesy Mrs. Tom (Gertrude) Carroll.


3,000 head of sheep consigned to Thomas Alsop Esq., and Creighton and Hutton. These sheep were brought from Iowa by the U. P. Railroad. He has representatives in Iowa buying stock for him.

LARAMIE DAILY SENTINEL. Oct. 31, 1870.—One of Thos. Alsop's herders found a mountain lion in the "Kettle or Lion's Den" at Sand Creek. They could not get the lion out alive so shot it and the skin measured 8 ft. 7 in. from tip to tip. (Note by RHB: This is undoubtedly the Animal Den just west and south of Chimney Rock, some twenty-five miles south of Laramie).

LARAMIE DAILY SENTINEL. Dec. 2, 1870.—Eighteen carloads of fat cattle were loaded yesterday for Chicago by Thos. Alsop.

LARAMIE DAILY SENTINEL. Jan. 13, 1881.—Messrs. Hutton and Alsop shipped four carloads of fat cattle yesterday from here. They were fat too, though taken right up off the Plains in mid-winter.

LARAMIE DAILY SENTINEL. May 31, 1871.—T. Alsop elected Vice-Pres. of Wyoming Stock and Wool Growers Society representing Albany County. He is one of the first set of officers of newly organized Society.

About 1880 he sold his land on the Big Laramie to the Riverside Land and Livestock Company and his cattle and brand,  to Dr. Harris, a pioneer Laramie medic who ran cattle on leased land on the Laramie Plains and had a ranch near Buffalo. The brand was applied to the ranch some 20 miles south of Buffalo and this ranch later became famous as the scene of the fight culminating the Johnson County Invasion in 1892.

The late Ellsworth Chase told the writer that Tom Alsop came over to the Little Laramie to see his father, Charles Chase, and in July 1881 they made a deal in which Chase sold Alsop 1740 acres for \$10.00 an acre. He had a sheep corral on the Little Laramie since 1874 (Sec. 23-17-75). He moved the Chase house back from the Brown Creek branch of the Little Laramie and built a large barn. These buildings still stand and the large barn is one of the typical horse barns of the early days, and had a large water tank in the hay mow to furnish water for men and beasts. This tank was supplied by a windmill. A large grove of cottonwood trees was planted and flourished for many years and then died and their stark forms are still to be seen there today. The family moved to Laramie in 1881 or 1882 and built the house now occupied by the Burris Paint Store. The late Tom Carroll testified at a Water Case, that the Alsop sheep corral was located on NW¼ Section 23-17-75, and is now in the James Johnson Ranch.

Tom Alsop raised fine horses and his brand T was a trademark of the best in cow horse flesh. In the early days he also raised horses for sale to the street car companies who used them for motive power on their cars. His annual horse roundup was an event "between the Rivers" and many a budding cowpuncher got his start at an Alsop roundup.

The favorite ranch of the family was the so-called Horse Ranch in the hills west of Laramie. According to the late Al Mountford this ranch was on North Dutton Creek and was owned in recent years by Ted Irvine. Louise Alsop Pedersen tells of a Scotsman,



*Albany County Pioneers. Samuel Phillips.
By courtesy Wyoming Historical Department
and Joe Kay.*



*Albany County Pioneers. J. W. Harris, who
bought the Alsop brand and cattle in about
1880 and moved all to Johnson County. By
courtesy Wyoming Historical Department
and Joe Kay.*



*Michael Carroll.
By courtesy Mrs. Tom (Gertrude) Carroll.*



*Mrs. Michael Carroll.
By courtesy Mrs. Tom (Gertrude) Carroll*

Symes, who was horse foreman for her father. The saddle horses used to sell at that time for \$125.00 a round, with occasional favorites bringing up to \$700.00.

Bert King tells of a vivid recollection of a great cattle roundup at the Alsop Ranch in 1888 when he first came to Laramie. He went out to the ranch to see some 5,000 head of Texas steers being re-branded there prior to being trailed to Montana. He remembers vividly the fancy "trappings" of the Texas cowpunchers who brought the cattle up from the south. They had full flowered saddles, with silver trimmed saddles, spurs, and bits, and made a sight which Bert says he will never forget. What a shame we have no pictures of such a scene!

The late Governor B. B. Brooks in his Memoirs, makes the following mention of Tom Alsop—"I went up to Wisconsin with my old friend, Tom Alsop, with whom I had boarded in my boyhood days. He went around with me to the farmers in Green County and helped me to pick out 80 yearling heifers, making two carloads. They were shipped to Rock Creek where we branded them with an old "V" shaped iron picked up at the yards. The brand made was the V-V which later became my brand. They were trailed from Rock Creek to my ranch."

Ralph May, the present owner of the Alsop Ranch, some 15 miles from Laramie, told the writer about the beginning of irrigation on the Little Laramie for hay production as he had heard it from Denny Fee, a pioneer in that area. Ties were being floated down the Little Laramie River to Old Wyoming Station and tie-jams occurred on the Alsop Ranch. These tie

jams flooded the meadows and the ranchers noticed that the hay crop on the flooded area was exceptionally good, so they made dams of their own and ditches, to get the water spread over their meadow lands. Ralph further stated that when he first went to the ranch some of the stubbs were still standing from the old corrals which were south and east of the present buildings. The Alsop Ditch No. 2 is now owned by the Baillie Ranch and is one of the oldest ditches on the Little Laramie.

In 1889 Tom Alsop died quite suddenly while driving a sheep buyer to Laramie from his ranch. His family remained in Laramie until the early years of the century when they sold their holdings and moved to Denver, southern Utah, and Oregon.

Thomas Alsop evidently brought a love of fine livestock from the English countryside of his boyhood days and the livestock on his ranches was among the very best. He spared no expense in purchasing purebred sires of the leading breeds. Working with livestock must have been his heritage for it is interesting to trace the family name of Alsop, and note its agricultural connections. Allsop, with its variants Allsopp, and Alsop, is a Derbyshire surname, coming from a place called Alsop-en-le-Dale. The Alsop family is said to have owned the land around this area as far back as Norman times. Thomas Alsop brought his heritage to America and was among the West's first real livestock men. He and his partners, Creighton and Hutton, were probably the first to realize the possibilities of and utilize the short-grass range which is one of the economic and replaceable resources



CHARLES KUSTER.



GEO. HARPER



M. D. HOUGHTON

NOTED ALBANY CO. CITIZENS.

GEO W. FOX



Noted Albany County Citizens. Charles Kuster, Geo. Harper, M. D. Houghton, Geo. W. Fox, Steven Ware and W. O. Owen. By courtesy Wyoming Historical Department and Joe Kay.



The Carroll Ranch recently. By courtesy Mrs. Tom (Gertrude) Carroll.

which form the basis of Wyoming's agricultural industry.

Near the Bath and Alsop ranches were a few other ranches which were developed in early days. To the north were the places of Chris Jones and Jack Fee, now owned by Harry Maddock. The Maddock Ranch was developed by Chris Jones, brother of the late A. C. Jones who was for many years with the First National Bank. Chris Jones came to the Little Laramie around 1880 and purchased the Taylor Ranch which he ran until he left the country around 1909. The Laramie Boomerang of April 17, 1909 lists a public auction sale of the Chris Jones Ranch on the Little Laramie, so this was when Chris sold out. Chris had three boys, Archie, who is with the First National Bank, Harry and Bruce. Chris moved to Rex, Oregon, and ran an orchard there for several years, and died at the home of his daughter, Mrs. Mary Desbrisay in South Pasadena, California in July 1951 at the ripe old age of 97.

The Jack Fee Ranch was a part of the holdings of the Fee family who were in the country when Oscar Sodergreen came in 1873. This ranch was just north of the Chris Jones Ranch. Larry Fee was a deputy sheriff under Brody and received a bullet in his knee in the shooting scrape with the notorious thief, Watkins. There were three of the Fee boys, Jack, Denny and Larry. Jack had a ranch bounded on the west by the Fleming Ranch, by the Sprague Ranch on the north, and by the Alsop Ranch on the south; and was located in Section 28-17-75. Denny Fee had a ranch further west on Section 35-18-77 which is now a part of the Holly

Hunt holdings. Jack Fee was born in Ireland in 1840 and came to Wyoming in 1867. He engaged in cattle and horse raising. He married Elizabeth Delany in 1869 and to this union five children were born, Minnie (McCullough), Kate (Lynott), Elizabeth, John, and William. The first one room cabin was built in 1873 by John Fee, who squatted in 1870 and later filed on the same land. The present owner, Harry Maddock, bought the place in 1949 after it had been in the Fee family for 79 years. Shorthorn cattle were raised along with Morgan and Belgian horses. The original livestock consisted of one team of horses and two cows, brought from Iowa in 1872. The brand was a Bar F. Jack Fee, Jr., died while on a visit to Laramie from Los Angeles in 1953.

Dennis Fee was born in Chicago in 1858 and died in 1935. He came to Wyoming in 1872 and worked as a cowboy on the Sargent and Homer Ranch in the 1880s. He was a bachelor and located a place near James Lake now owned by Holly Hunt. The original squatter on this place was John Daily. Shorthorn cattle were raised and riding horses were sold in 1910 for \$125.00.

Another ranch just east of the Alsop place, across the Sprague Lane, is the Gallagher and Beaumier Ranch now owned by Frank Darcy. Just north of this is the ruins of the Zeigler Ranch. The land records show this name spelled as Siegler or Seigler. The Seiglers lived there about 1910 and sold to Harry Maddock in 1918 and the land is now the property of Mary (Puls) and Gordon Scott.

Warren Rogers married Emma Bath, a daughter of Henry Bath Sr., and built up a ranch on the Little Laramie



Three Bar Ranch. Formerly Pascoe-Coen Place. 1932.



Three Bar Ranch. Bobby Burns on Princie. 1933.

just northeast of the Sprague Lane school, on Section 26-17-75. This is the ranch with the distinctly shaped gambrel-roofed barn. The house burned a few years ago and the Jim Johnsons, who now own the ranch, live near the Sprague school.

The next ranch north is the William Puls Ranch, on Section 26-17-75. This is now owned by Gordon and Mary (Puls) Scott. William Puls bought the place from E. J. Wilson around 1919.

The next place to the northeast of the Puls place was that owned by the Hall Brothers on Section 13 or 14-17-75. In late years this ranch has been known as the Watt Place, and is now a part of the Harris Estate. Bert King, in early days, used to spend some time at the Hall Place.

Fred Bamforth was a blacksmith at the Laramie Rolling Mills. He ran the ranch as a sideline and drove back and forth. Later some buildings were put up on Section 12-16-75. Fred Bamforth was a very jovial man and in common with others of his time, bought up foot-sore trail oxen and fattened them up and sold them for good prices. His brand was KO on left ribs of cattle and left shoulder of horses. His name was applied to the lake in that area which used to be full of water and was one of the best wild fowl areas in the county. For awhile it was a federal refuge. The late Oscar Sodergreen said that Bamforth made more money after a hard winter when he sold over \$700.00 worth of hides. The late Wallis Link said that Bamforth obtained the ranch after the rolling mills burned down, and he started working for the UP shops. Wallis Link used to kid Bamforth when he

met him on the street, about going down to play cribbage with "those bums at the Kuster House" which was quite a gathering place for ranchmen. Fred Bamforth had four daughters, Emma (Mrs. Ed Morgan), Kitty (Mrs. George Morgan), Ella (Mrs. George Knadler), and Mamie (Mrs. Claude Thomas). Fred Knadler is now on the ranch.

The Sprague Ranch

Many Laramie folk know about the Sprague Lane, which according to the testimony of the late Tom Carroll, was laid out and graded in 1886. This lane runs straight north from the junction of the Herrick Lane with the road to Laramie, about 17 miles northwest of Laramie. This ranch is located at the end of the Sprague Lane and the White buildings lying just under the hill can be seen for several miles.

Mordecai B. Sprague was born in New York State in 1815 and came to Laramie in 1867 as Superintendent for Durant & Company, tie contractors.

D. F. Crout testified in the Laramie Rivers Water Case that he worked on the Sprague Ranch herding mares, when he was 14 years old, about 1876. This would indicate that the ranch was operating at that time. The late Alvy Dixon told the writer that Sprague raised some very fine Percheron horses—the best in Wyoming! He had a thousand head of mares and knew each and every one of them. He sold horses at \$125.00 each in those days and imported stallions from France. His breeding mares were not for sale at any price—the real sign of a genuine breeder who would not dispose of his good seedstock. The patent from the U. S. A. to C. B. Sprague covered the NE¼ of Section 28-17-75 was



Three Bar Ranch. December, 1935.



Mr. and Mrs. Otto Burns at Three Bar Ranch, November, 1935.



Otto Burns, Agnes Marion Burns and Bessie Millar at Three Bar Ranch, 1939.

dated Jan. 15, 1883 and filed Feb. 17, 1883. The late Jesse van Buskirk told the writer that M. B. Sprague bought 600 head of horses from Charley Hutton, who had a horse ranch on the Big Laramie near the Colorado line (later Tatham Brothers Ranch). The Sprague horses were famed throughout the Laramie Plains and elsewhere. Along about 1890 the Spragues, M. B. and Jennie, his wife, sold the ranch to Arthur S. W. Whitehouse. Later the ranch was purchased by the Sprague Ranch Company, Inc., consisting of Messrs. Frank O. Harrison, Wm. S. Ingham, and E. Percy Palmer. In 1906 the ranch was sold to Timothy Ross, who eventually lost it. The ranch went into receivership and in 1930 the Chappell Brothers purchased it and later they sold it to the present owners, Miller Brothers.

On the Little Laramie, below the Sprague Ranch, are several ranches which will be considered as one comes to them going downstream.

The first ranch is the **Laughlin Place**, later owned by Stickney and then by Yarborough and then by the present owners, Jim and Leonard Johnson. Then comes a pioneer ranch the **Carroll Ranch**, and another pioneer ranch, the **Pascoe Ranch**, later owned by Coen and now owned by the **Burns** family, and known as the **Three Bar Ranch** from the brand. That brings one to Two Rivers where the Big and Little Laramie Rivers come together, and this was the site of the **Haley Headquarters Ranch** in early days after Haley sold his original place on the Little Laramie further upstream to Rand, Briggs and Steedman.

The Laughlin, Stickney Ranch

Just south of the Carroll Ranch is

the ranch which was built up by Dan Stickney on Section 30-17-74 and owned by Buck Yarborough, and the present owners James and Leonard Johnson. Dan Stickney came to Laramie from Canada and married Mrs. Bramel who had money loaned out on ranches. They took over the ranch and built the large barn which now stands. He brought over some pedigreed draft horses. The owner of the place previously was L. L. Laughlin who also raised some fine horses. Dan Stickney had a meat market in town at the site of the present Gamble Store.

The Carroll Ranch

This ranch is one of the early day ranches on the Little Laramie. Mike Carroll testified in the Little Laramie Water Case that he moved to the Little Laramie on Sept. 5, 1866 and previous to that time had lived on the Fort Sanders Ranch where he was Master of Transportation. Axel Palmer told the writer that Mike Carroll, Wm. Maxwell, and Peter Johnson came to the Laramie Plains by ox team in 1866. Tessy (Theresa) Carroll testified in the Water Case that her father, Mike Carroll, settled on the Little Laramie in 1872 to cut hay for his teams. The family did not move to the ranch until 1889. He cut hay here and hauled it to town for his teams as he was in the contracting and teaming business. The Downey Day Books (courtesy of Morris Corthell) gives the years 1871 for the original land records for Mike Carroll, with further entries in 1879 up to 1888. This ranch is now under the management of the third generation of Carrolls, Gertrude Carroll (Mrs. Tom Carroll) and her sons, Frank and Howard. It is prob-



*Otto Burns, decked out for Old Timer's Jubilee
July, 1940.*



*Bob Burns and Eleanor on Brownie at Ranch.
Fall, 1942.*



*Three Bar Ranch. Formerly Pascoe-Coen Place.
1933.*



Three Bar Cattle on feed. December 25, 1953.



*Hall Bros. Ranch House from front in summer
of 1897. Hall children Cora, Charlie, Maude
and Sarah. By courtesy Sarah (Sadie
Hall) Erickson.*

ably the oldest ranch on the Laramie Plains under continuous management of the same family.

The Pascoe, Coen or Three Bar Ranch

This ranch is located two miles south of Two Rivers and is the last place on the lower reaches of the Little Laramie (main stream and south branch known as Brown Creek). This ranch was started in 1879 by Paul Pascoe who came from England with a short stop in Nebraska where he ran the stockyards at Nebraska City in 1873. The grasshoppers ate all of the grass and floods cleaned out the stockyards. He came to a mine near Centennial in 1876 and was a partner of Stratton, who later left Wyoming and "struck it rich" at Cripple Creek. He went on the ranch in 1879 and worked during the winters at the meat market in Laramie run by Bob Marsh. He had Galloway cattle which he obtained from B. B. Brooks, and also had some Percheron horses.

Frank King came to Laramie in the fall of 1884 and worked with Paul Pascoe during that winter. In the spring of 1885 he trailed sheep for Charley Pascoe from Oregon to Fremont, Nebraska. He went into partnership with Paul Pascoe in the fall of 1885. In the fall of 1887 Bert King came to Laramie and he tells the writer of arriving at Wyoming Station on the train which was supposed to get there at 7:30, which he assumed was in the morning. It was in the darkest evening he had seen and he stumbled to the ranch, some two miles from the Station. He herded sheep for the first years and tells of being given little food by "Scotch" Mrs. Pascoe and going to the Mike Carroll Ranch adjoining, where Mrs. Carroll saw to it that he had

plenty of food. Oscar Sodergreen told the writer of a story on Mrs. Pascoe. When selling eggs she delivered only 11 eggs for a dozen when one happened to be a "double-yolked" one. In 1907 Paul Pascoe sold his ranch to Jim Coen and in 1932 Otto Burns obtained this ranch, and it is still in the Burns family, with Tom and Margaret (Burns) Page leasing it at the present time.

Paul Pascoe was limited in his operations on his section of bottom or hay land on the Little Laramie River and did not have sufficient grazing land. He wished to expand so in 1896 he bought 10,000 acres of land from the Union Pacific Railroad at \$3 an acre, which gave him sufficient range for his livestock. He raised both sheep and cattle and was quite proud of his black cattle. He used for a brand the letter P with a bar beneath it and placed the brand on the left side of cattle, the back of sheep and the right shoulder of horses. In 1919 Paul Pascoe sold his land to the late V. M. Woolf for \$6 an acre. Mr. Woolf in turn sold it and later the late James Weightman leased the property for some years. Later Al Barrett leased the place for three years. This Pascoe land is in Township 18 and range 73 and extends from the old Laramie-Fort Fetterman road on the west to the Iron Mountain ranch on the east. On the north it bordered the Wallis & Miller property and on the south the King Brothers outfit now owned by Frank Bosler. After his death in 1926 the ranch was leased out and eventually passed to John Bell, the present owner.

Billy Owen's map of 1886 shows the Hall place on the Little Laramie River on Section 24-17-75 just above the Pas-



*Barn and toolshed on Hall Bros. Ranch about 1900. Ruth, Herbert, and Hattie Hall.
By courtesy Sarah (Sadie Hall) Erickson.*



*Tom and Margaret (Burns) Page. Their children are fourth generation of Burns family
on Laramie Plains ranches.*

coe Ranch. Steven Hall came to Wyoming in the late 70s or early 80s and settled on the river near the old trees. About 1893 they bought land next to them, where there was a meadow and old buildings. Then Mrs. Hall took up a homestead which was the family home about 1894. At this place they had a good well. Before that they used river water which was very bad, and in the summer the river would go dry and it was necessary to scoop out holes in the sand to get any water. Albert Hall and Charles Hall, sons of Steven Hall, were the ones who owned the ranch known as the Hall Brothers place. Albert Hall married and raised a family of six children: Charlie, Cora Creasman (half-sister) later Mrs. Richard Johnson, Sarah (Erickson), Maude (Stafford), Ruth (S. C. Jones), and Hattie (Rowland). Charles Hall never married. Mrs. Albert Hall's brother-in-law was B. J. Pierce, the first Baptist minister in Laramie and the Supervisor of the Wyoming Institute, predecessor of Wyoming University.

Albert and Charlie Hall ran cattle until about 1900. Then they went into sheep and each had a band of around 4,000 head. These sheep were pastured on Four Mile and at the Hall Springs Camp. They only had sheep

for a few years and then went back into the cattle business. They milked some 20 to 25 head of cows and hauled the milk to the Haley Creamery at Old Wyoming Station. Later Albert began making butter and cheese which he sold in Laramie. They had the first reservoir on the Little Laramie and the first water right was sufficient to water the meadow for a month even when the river was very low.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS AND SOURCES

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CHAPTER XII

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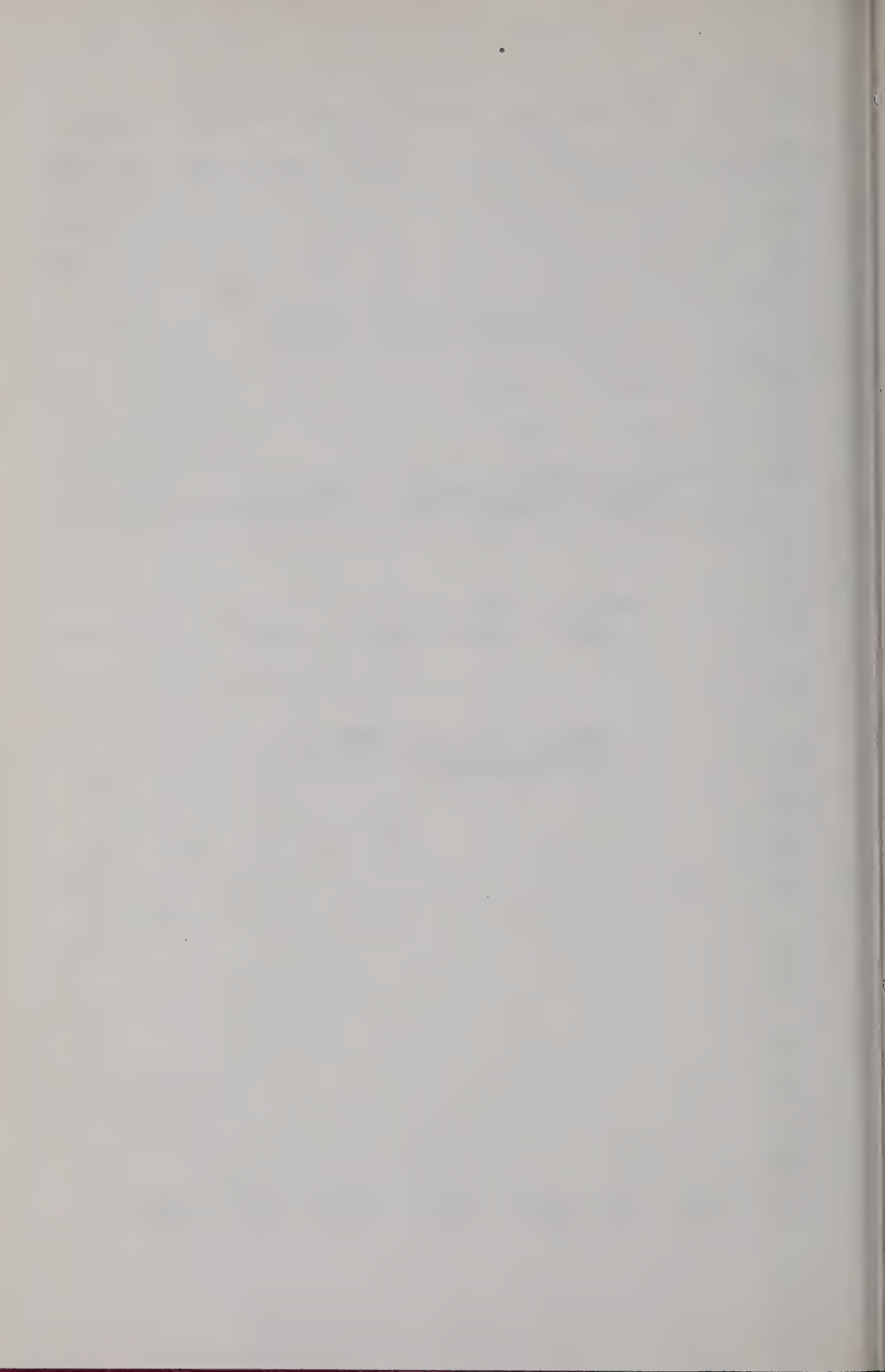
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CHAPTER 12



THE RANCHES AROUND TIE SIDING AND VIRGINIA DALE

By R. H. "Bob" Burns

THE DEVELOPMENT of this area was closely tied up with building of the Union Pacific Railroad, particularly with the harvesting of ties and timbers for the railroad. A great number of timber men came into the country and took tie contracts for the railroad. Among these were many names that became familiar to the Laramie Plains in later years, as they settled on ranches and entered business in Laramie. Some of these tie and timber operators were the Holliday brothers, Bill Maxwell, Williams, Shelton, Davis, Cash Webber and others. The oldest families in the area who are still carrying on with their ranching operations are the Maxwells and Williams families.

Maxwell Ranch

Albert "Bud" Maxwell has given the writer the information on the Maxwell operations. His father, William H. Maxwell, was born in Nova Scotia in 1849 and came to Sherman in 1870. He worked at a saw mill for six years and then started ranching on Fish Creek in Colorado. He freighted for three years from Medicine Bow to Buffalo with ox teams. In 1879 he came to Tie Siding and bought a store. He ran the store for sixteen years, dealing also in ties and lumber. He was also interested in cattle for most of this time. He married Agnes Williams (a sister of W. R. Williams) of Nova Scotia in 1874 and to them were born five children: Fred L. of Livermore, Eva L., Emily (deceased), Ida (deceased), and Albert C. "Bud". The

ranch buildings are located on Section 19-13-72 on a location made originally by Charley Herbertz, and obtained from the Wyoming Central Improvement Company. The house and barn, located just west of Hermosa Station and east of the Tie Siding Store (Shoemaker), were built in 1880 and the fences were started in the same year. The original squatter on this railroad section was M. N. Grant, in 1879. Charles Herbertz had the place in 1880 for a short time and then Wm. H. Maxwell took over in 1881. Wm. Maxwell built a slaughter house on the ranch when the Union Pacific Railroad came through, and put up some of the meat which was available at the Tie Siding Store. The cattle were brought up from Mexico about 1900 and others were obtained locally. Sheep were brought from Mud Springs in 1903-04. Hereford bulls were used. Steers brought \$3.90 cwt. in 1907 and \$38.00 cwt. in 1951. Bulls brought from \$50.00 a head in 1903 to \$700.00 a head in 1949. Cows sold from \$1.50 to \$2.00 cwt. in 1903 and \$24.00 cwt. in 1951. Ewes were worth \$2.90 a head in 1903 and bucks were worth \$12.00 a head in 1903. Meat was sold at seven cents a pound by the side in 1900 from the slaughter house at the ranch. From 1892 to 1900 a dairy was run and in 1900 the average monthly income amounted to \$450.00 from the sale of milk and cream shipped from the railroad station half a mile away. Livestock brands were the  LRC LSH and later the "governor" 

LRC LSH. Sheep were branded with an open ended can with an ○ on back for ewes and a ○○ on back for wethers. This sheep brand was an easy and effective one to use.

Williams Ranch

W. R. Williams came to Wyoming from Nova Scotia in 1867. He returned to Nova Scotia in 1872 and married Margaret Keys. They arrived at Sherman along with his two sisters on May 10, 1872. He engaged in the lumber business with W. H. Holliday for several years and later engaged in stock raising. He owned valuable lands near Tie Siding and Fort Collins, Colorado. His ranch was on Dale creek, about three miles from the Colorado line, and his post office was at Dale Creek. He bought out several small ranches nearby and obtained some railroad land. His Ranch was on Dale Creek on Section 5-12-71 and is close to the present road from Tie Siding directly to the Ames Monument. Old Dick, as he was called, had seven children, Arthur, Chester, Harry, Earl, Hattie, Rachel and Stella. Will Barton, the writer's uncle, worked for Dick Williams in 1898 and at that time he owned 500 head of Angus and Galloway cattle. His summer range used to be on the Blackhills (Laramie Mountains), up from Red Buttes. He was one of the first to have black cattle in Wyoming, and Chet Williams still has Angus cattle. At the present time Richard Williams, a grandson of W. R. Williams lives on the old place, while Chester lives further south, about 3½ miles southeast of the turn-off at the crest of the hill where the Highway goes over the hill South of Tie Siding.

W. R. Williams obtained a number

of water rights. In 1874 he obtained 1.12 second feet to irrigate 79 acres; other water rights were taken out in June of 1874, May 1879, and in the spring of 1889. All of these totaled 1.26 second feet to irrigate 89 acres of land on which to raise hay for his livestock. Since 1898 the number of cattle has vastly increased. Each fall Dick Williams would start up to northern Albany County to purchase lambs to take to his farm near Fort Collins for fattening. Williams' brand was XX on the left side of cattle and left shoulder of horses. Mrs. Williams had a brand, a quarter of a circle over the figure 25 on the left side of cattle, and the right shoulder of horses. Williams had a sideline which consisted of running a threshing machine each fall. It was a small machine and he used a two-horse tread power to run it. He could thresh on the average, 500 bushels of grain per day. Dan Rechar was his separator man. W. R. Williams was buried February 28, 1906 and Mrs. Williams was buried August 11, 1943.

The Ames Monument

This famous monument is located in the Tie Siding area and hence will be described here. One of the best accounts of Ames monument is written by C. G. Counant for his History of Wyoming. This account was published in the Annals of Wyoming in 1925. It was written about 1903, and excerpts are given here:

Oliver and Oakes Ames were the two men who led the work in the construction of the Union Pacific Railroad. Oakes Ames was a manufacturer of agricultural Implements in Massachusetts years before the breaking out of the Civil War. He had associated with him his brother,



Ranch of Wm. Maxwell, Tie Siding. Pen and Ink Sketch by Houghton. By courtesy Laramie Republican 1901 Industrial Edition and Bert Wallis.



*The Chester Williams Ranch on Dale Creek.
Dec. 31, 1950. Photo by R. H. Burns.*



*Ames Monument on the Lincoln Highway. By
courtesy of Ludwig Photo Enterprises, Laramie.*

Oliver, and the two secured large contracts from the Government for picks, shovels, and swords. These brothers extended their trade to the Pacific Coast at the time gold was first discovered in California, and their goods were in demand in the mining camps of that new state, as well as Nevada, Utah, Montana, Idaho and other mining territories. This far western trade naturally brought up the question of transportation to these enterprising captains of industry. They also had made the acquaintance of the alert, bold western traders and had become interested in the future development of the mountain states. These were the days of the ox-trains and other slow methods of transportation. They had direct management of the affairs of the company and it was their enterprise, money, and integrity which finally carried through the gigantic undertaking. Oliver was president pro tem of the Union Pacific from 1866 to 1868 and was formally elected president in March, 1868, and continued as such until March, 1871. Political demagogues assailed the character of these brothers, charging them with the using of money to control legislation, etc. Oakes Ames, being a member of Congress from 1862 to 1873, a director of the Union Pacific Company and also a director in the Credit Mobilier of America, and the contractor in furnishing supplies for the railroad company was the ablest man connected with the road, and the chief fury of assault fell upon him. There was a congressional investigation in 1873 and while this was going on he made a notable speech in the House of Representatives in vindication of himself, in which he gave a complete history of his efforts in connection with the construction of the Union Pacific road and of the formation of the Credit Mobilier. In closing he said: "I shall accept the mandate of the House, whatever it may be, appealing with unflinching confidence to the impartial verdict of history for the vindication which it has proposed to deny me here." Political prejudice had been worked up to the highest degree and consequently reason and justice had no part in Congress. He

was censured by the House of Representatives. Shortly after this investigation he died.

The Union Pacific Railroad Company in 1881 commenced the erection of the monument in honor of its builders. The structure is a geometrical pyramid 60 feet square on the ground and 60 feet high with an oval cap surmounting the whole. The material used is gray granite with chisled edges and of a quality capable of a high degree of polish and which when complete, shows gray, black and red surfaces. The granite came from a half mile west of the monument from a formation known at the time as "Reed's Rock"; the superior quality of the material having been pointed out years before by Dr. Silas Reed, the first surveyor-general of Wyoming, hence the name. In the center on the east side, 39 feet from the bottom is a medallion of Oliver Ames, and at the same height on the west side is one of Oakes Ames. These medallions were chisled out of Quincy granite in Massachusetts. On the north side, facing the railroad, in letters one foot high and three-quarters of an inch deep is the following inscription:

IN MEMORY OF
OAKES AND OLIVER AMES

The contractors who built the monument were Norcross Brothers of Worcester, Mass., and A. L. Sutherland, who for years was prominent in politics and a member of the Wyoming legislature was the foreman on the work. With some interruption the work of construction continued during the two years of 1881 and 1882. The handsome medallions were made in Boston from designs of architects there. From 25 to 50 men were employed on

the ground in cutting and placing in position the immense blocks of granite, each weighing many tons. It stands on a knoll some 600 feet from the old railroad tracks, commanding a view of the Rocky Mountains for a hundred or more miles. When the railroad was moved at the beginning of the century the monument was left some miles away from the main line. The present highway at the point where the Tree Growing from Solid Granite is located, is on the old railroad grade which at a point a mile west of the tree turns west through a visible cut and goes toward the Ames Monument, while the Highway swerves to the northwest.

The uppermost scene of activity on Dale Creek was the community dipping vat. About 1907 all stockmen using the range dipped their cattle regularly for mange. If some one ranchman did not have a dipping vat all the ranchers in a community would go together and build one and all who participated in the building had equal rights to its use. A large number of cattle could be dipped cheaper on a per head basis, for one "charge" of dip would take care of many more cattle than one rancher had, and would be wasted if he had only his own herd to dip. The recommended dip was mostly crude oil and politics entered into the picture for some government officials were interested in the wells producing this crude oil. Dale Creek runs in a general southerly direction and empties into the Cache de la Poudre near La Porte, Colorado.

Ray Malody Place

Ray Malody had the place at the source of Dale Creek. He homestead-

ed in 1920 on Section 14-14-72 and still owns this section.

Ole Sanden Place

Ole Sanden came as a boy from Sweden and had no one to come to. He drifted from New York to Chicago and then out west. The Union Pacific Railroad was building at that time and he came out and worked on the railroad and liked the country along upper Dale Creek and settled there in 1867. He gradually acquired up to three sections of land. The 1908 map by Bellamy shows Ole Sanden's buildings as located on Section 10-14-72. Ole Sanden gave an annual party in July and made fruit soup, a Scandinavian favorite, made of sego and fruit such as chopped prunes, apples and raisins. Neighbors like the Malodys and others, prepared the rest of the meal. Some thirty to thirty-five people were invited from all walks of life, from Banker Edward Ivinson down to the sheepherder from the Warren Company camp nearby. The three Olson brothers, John, Gus, and Charley, as well as Axel Palmer were regular guests. Ole Sanden was a person who seldom used swear words or tobacco, but did take an occasional drink of hard liquor. He was an idealist and a perfect gentleman, who regarded all women as perfect, regardless of their deportment. Ole Sanden often told the story of his experience with some surly Sioux Indians who came to see him one time and he could not get them to say anything. Finally he told them to take all of the milk cows for meat. The chief grunted a command and the two braves disappeared and after a time came back carrying a buffalo calf. The chief then became all

smiles and said, "You offer us White Man Beef, we wish you to have Red Man Beef." Thus Ole's patience and courage overcame an awkward situation which might have ended tragically for a lone white man, but he was cagey enough to gain the chief's confidence and respect by offering all he had in milk cows to furnish meat. Ole's health failed after he reached the ripe old age of 86 and he died in 1937 and is buried in the Laramie cemetery. Malody and Welch first acquired his land in 1919 and held it until 1937, when Mrs. Archie Britton of Buford bought it. She sold it to Frank Peru in 1941 and Dick Williams has it now.

Charles Brown Place

Charles Brown was the next operator below Ole Sanden. He did not live on Dale Creek but his land reached over to Dale Creek. A man named O'Neil bought the Charles Brown land and he sold to Chester Williams, the present owner. Most of the settlers on Dale Creek in the early days raised commercial cattle and horses, which gave them a surer income for when cattle were low horses were apt to be higher in price, and vice versa. Many supplemented their income with milking a few cows and raising some chickens.

Bob Gearhart Place

The next settler below Brown was Bob Gearhart. The Gearharts raised a family there. A daughter, Annie, married Guy Holt, the world's champion bronc rider at Cheyenne in 1903. The Holts moved to western Wyoming and lived there until they passed away. The second and third generations live in Jackson. Another daughter, Addie, married Ed Lane, who had

a small ranch in that vicinity. A son, George, lived around Laramie and raised a family, Helen (Green), Merle (Schultz), George Jr., who has a place west of Howell, and Alice (Bohrer), who lives in California. Gearhart sold to John Nugey, who sold to Bert Raymond, and the present owners are Art and Minnie Williams who bought the place in 1932.

The Grey Place

The next settler below on Dale Creek was a man named Grey. That place changed hands several times and at present is owned by the Warren Livestock Company.

The Borgeman Place

The next settler on Dale Creek was August Borgeman. Borgeman's place eventually passed into the ranch of John Stevenson.

The Ed Lane Place

Ed Lane was the next settler going down Dale Creek. He raised a family there and his wife was Addie Gearhart. A daughter, Jennie, married Ed Clark and she resided in Rock River, where she passed away about two years ago. There was one son, John, who is still living. The place is still in the Lane estate.

Lindstrom Place

Ed and John Lindstrom were the next settlers on Dale Creek and their place is now owned by John Stevenson.

Sutherland Ranch

The land records show that J. R. and Alexander L. Sutherland obtained patents on 160-acre homesteads in Section 24-13-72 in 1890. Will Barton furnishes detailed information about A. Sutherland, who was born in 1845 and

came to Wyoming in 1870, and started ranching on Dale Creek at the mouth of Pump Creek. He built his house and barns in the 1880s. James Cokell, a brother-in-law, a harness maker of Cheyenne got the place on a debt. He leased the place to various neighbors. John Lindstrom had a ranch on Dale Creek just above the big "railroad fill" on the Union Pacific Ry. which is just about a mile east of the tunnel. Lindstrom ran the Cokell place quite awhile and Bill Barton leased it when he received 100 head of cows from J. J. Ihmsen in 1900. During this lease the railroad bought a right-of-way from Cokell and began operations of filling in the deep creek in place of the 136 foot trestle bridge that they had first used. The railroad survey ran across the crest of a high rocky hill, perhaps 50 to 75 feet higher than the level required for the rails. It was right up against the creek, so engineers and miners dug a tunnel at railroad height or level, and finished it half way through the hill. They placed several tons of black powder in that tunnel and when it was set off rocks and soil and gravel covered the country with a layer and the remains of the hill can be seen today along the modern railroad grade. Bill Barton, at the end of the lease, sold his cattle to Otto Burns and left the country, going out to the opening of the Ute Reservation around Roosevelt and Duchesne, Utah.

The Sutherlands sold out to Trewartha and he to Dean Prosser and Lee Boyle. Some other people had the place and today the Bath Brothers are the owners. Prosser and Boyle had the reputation of raising good registered Hereford cattle and their bulls found a ready market.

J. T. Holliday Place

J. T. Holliday was the next settler on Dale Creek, prior to 1886, according to the Owen map. The place changed hands several times. One of the owners was Hans Neilson. Art and Minnie Williams bought the Holliday Ranch in 1926 and their son Richard is the present owner.

W. R. Williams Ranch

The next settler going down Dale Creek was W. R. Williams. He was one of the first as well as a permanent settler. He lived on Box Elder Creek for a while, but was not satisfied with that location and came over on to Dale Creek and settled on Section 5-12-71. The operations of this ranch have already been described at the beginning of this chapter.

Dan Hechart Ranch

The next settler below Williams was his old friend Dan Hechart. It is probable that Dan Hechart settled on Dale Creek about the same time that Williams did. He sold out to a man named Fier, who operated the ranch for a while and sold to Lilley. He in turn sold in 1912 to Shephard, whose son Tom is the present owner. Tom Shephard's home is a real country mansion. It has beauty on the exterior and interior, as well as its setting, which is on the head of a tributary of Dale Creek.

The Shephard and Hechart places are just over the line into Colorado. The Shephard house is close to a mountain spring of water and a pumping system has been installed to make cool spring water available from the taps in the house. Shephard raises Hereford cattle and specializes in fine

Arabian horses. His fine Arabian stallion has been shown several times at the horse show in Laramie.

Deadman Creek A Tributary of Dale Creek

Deadman Creek acquired its name from an incident in the early days when a dead man was found by the creek who was never identified. However, people never thought it a haunted place on account of this incident, but went ahead and settled there.

Gale Place, and Others

In 1876 Rudolph Gale took up land and water rights for 0.32 feet of water to irrigate 23 acres of land as a starter on a meadow.

M. C. Dunlap filed on some land prior to 1884. In the meantime he secured a water right for 0.35 second feet to irrigate 25 acres of land to raise hay for his livestock. Such a meadow seems small nowadays but at that time the cattle ran on the open range the year around and the only hay needed was for a few saddle horses and some milk cows.

John F. Buckendorf had two water rights which he took out in 1889 for his homestead. The water rights called for 0.26 second feet of water to irrigate 16 acres of land to raise hay on.

The estate of W. R. Williams secured a water right out of Deadman Creek in 1886 for 0.52 second feet to irrigate 38 acres of land for a hay meadow.

William McNurlen was an elderly settler on Deadman Creek. He and his wife raised a family there. The younger members were born there. There were five children: Guy, Pat, Mona, Edith, and Josie. The McNurlens raised cattle and horses for a live-

lihood and the boys worked on the side whenever they were not needed at home. The boys were wonderful horsemen, and were good riders and ropers. Some years after they left home they went over into the Bear River country in Colorado and made a business of catching the wild, unclaimed and unbranded horses which abounded in that region. They took some burros with them when they made a raid on a bunch of wild horses. When they caught a wild horse they would tie it down, put a hackamore on it and then tie the hackamore rope around the burro's neck, leaving about three feet of rope between them and then turn them loose. In a few days the burro would have the wild horse halter broken and would lead him into camp. Then the burro would be relieved of his charge and the McNurlen boys would take over the breaking of the horse. When these wild horses were broken, some of them turned out to be the best in the world for endurance.

Jim Creek A Tributary of Deadman Creek

John F. Buckendorf took out a water right from Jim Creek in 1886 for 0.10 second feet of water to irrigate 7 acres of land to supplement his hay land on Deadman Creek.

Mason-Allen Creek A Tributary of Dale Creek

M. A. Dunlap took three water rights out of this creek in 1884. These rights called for 0.18 second feet to irrigate 14 acres of land.

Texas Creek A Tributary of Dale Creek

The earliest water right on this creek was taken out by Hans Nielson. In

1872 he acquired water rights for two ditches for 0.23 second feet to irrigate 17 acres of land to raise hay on.

F. J. Ihmsen took 8 water rights out of this creek in 1881. These called for 0.69 second feet to irrigate 51 acres of land to make hay meadows.

The estate of W. R. Williams took out a water right in 1884 for 0.34 second feet to irrigate 34 acres for hay meadow and the water was obtained through five different ditches.

C. W. Ihmsen acquired two water rights in 1886 which called for 0.14 second feet to irrigate 10 acres of land. He also acquired a water right out of west form of Texas Creek for 0.01 second feet for one acre of land for his drinking water.

Pump Creek, Tributary of Dale Creek

D. L. Boyle was a very early settler on Pump Creek. He settled there prior to 1876 and during that year obtained a water right for 0.25 second feet of water to irrigate 18 acres of land. In 1878 he acquired nine other water rights from the same creek for 1.18 second feet to irrigate 85 acres of land to produce hay for his livestock. D. L. Boyle and his wife raised a family there, a son named Lee, and a daughter, Grace. They raised commercial cattle there until Lee became interested with Dean Prosser and then they went to raising registered Hereford cattle. His brand is 3/4 on left side of cattle and left shoulder of horses.

John Lindstrom settled on Pump Creek prior to 1888 for at that time he acquired a water right out of Pump Creek for 0.30 second feet of water to irrigate 21 acres of land.

Hay Creek, Tributary of Dale Creek

Mrs. M. A. Proctor acquired 5 water rights out of Hay Creek, totaling 0.78 second feet to irrigate 50 acres of land to raise hay on.

Sam Frego settled on Hay Creek prior to 1884 as he acquired a water right in 1884 for 3 ditches, totaling 0.28 second feet to irrigate 20½ acres of

S

land. He used the brand I on the left

S

ribs of cattle and left hips of horses.

Fish Creek, Tributary of Dale Creek

In the early days there seemed to be only two settlers on Fish Creek. Charles H. Neal, who settled there prior to May 15, 1887 when he obtained a water right for 0.41 second feet to irrigate 29 acres to raise hay on. In 1886 he took out four water rights totaling 2.70 second feet to irrigate 97 acres of land for hay meadows. He used the brand 74 on the right hip of cattle.

The other early settler was Della F. Hall, who settled on Fish Creek prior to May 15, 1887 and at that time acquired water rights for 9 different ditches allowing 0.69 second feet to irrigate 58 acres of land for hay meadows.

North Fish Creek, Tributary to Fish and Dale Creeks

Charles H. Neal settled on a claim prior to November 18, 1880 and at that time obtained a water right for 0.37 second feet to irrigate 26 acres of land for hay.

Knight Creek, Tributary to Fish Creek and Dale Creek

Wm. Hawkes settled on Knight Creek about 1876 for he secured his

first water right out of Knight Creek in that year and obtained others in 1882 and 1883. They called for 0.67 second feet to irrigate 40 acres of land for hay.

Mrs. A. J. Weaver, the mother of Mrs. (Dr.) McCollum obtained a water right in 1886 for 0.52 second feet to irrigate 37 acres of land for a hay meadow.

Minna F. Hawkes obtained a water right in 1883 from Gulch, a tributary of Knight Creek, for 0.15 second feet to irrigate 11 acres of land.

Mrs. A. J. Weaver in 1902 obtained a water right from Duck Creek, a tributary of Knight Creek for 0.15 second feet to irrigate 11 acres.

Johnson Creek Tributary to Dale Creek

Hans Nielson secured a water right in 1875 for 0.04 second feet to irrigate 3 acres of hay land. Nielson's brands were XY open A on left side of cattle and left thigh of horses.

Charles E. Woodard settled on Johnson Creek about 1880. That year he obtained his first two water rights and in 1885 he secured his third one. They totaled 1.12 second feet to irrigate 79 acres of hay land.

Spring Creek, Tributary to Dale Creek

Ole Sanden took out three water rights from this creek on February 23, 1904 for 0.61 second feet for 40 acres of hay land. His brand was an encircled N put on the left side of cattle and right jaw of horses. This ranch has been described earlier in this Chapter.

Fish Creek

The stream was extremely well named along about 1908 when the writer as a youngster used to spend

his summers at the Johnson Ranch near Diamond Peak. He vividly remembers the handsome catches of fish which were taken from that stream. In the early days when Tie Siding was named for the tie and timber industry a number of people engaged in tie making and hauling also engaged in ranching on a small scale. Among these ranches on Fish Creek from head to mouth, were Lowell Davis, Tunis Blodgett, George Gearhart, George Shelton, John Edmondson, Henry Hawkes (Home Rock Ranch), William Keyes, Jimmy Williams, and Jane Wallace (now Ted Schaffer Ranch). Most of these places, except the last three, were small ranches which were later incorporated into larger neighboring ranches. The Home Rock Ranch has been a show place for many years and Henry Hawkes built up a fine ranch with broad meadows under the shadow of that large pile of rock aptly named HOME ROCK which rose precipitously to the east and south of the Hawkes Ranch buildings. The present owner, Mr. Ferris, is developing an outstanding herd of Charbray cattle, a cross between the Charollaise, a French breed, and the Brahma breed from India. This Charbray breed is making an outstanding record as a beef producer in the feed lot.

In recent years the Ted Schaffer place has been the site of an excellent ranch rodeo which has had one of the finest natural amphitheaters to be seen anywhere. Each June at about the third Sunday, hundreds of people from Laramie, Cheyenne, Fort Collins, Greeley and other neighboring cities wend their way to the Schaffer Ranch Rodeo and enjoy a fine show amongst unparalleled natural surroundings.



Home of Wm. L. Keyes. By courtesy Laramie Republican 1901 Industrial Edition and Bert Wallis.



Supply Wagons on Laramie street on way to Webber saw mill. By courtesy Cassius W. Webber.



Mr. and Mrs. Cassius W. Webber. Sept. 1950.
Photo by R. H. Burns.



C. W. Webber ranch at Virginia Dale. 1946.
By courtesy Mrs. C. W. (Rachel Boyd) Webber.

William Keyes Ranch on Fish Creek

Fifty-one years ago the Laramie Republican published a fine sketch of the William Keyes Ranch on Fish Creek and it is so appropo and illustrative of literary style, that it is repeated here:

"Mr. Keyes has been a resident of this county since 1879. Going into the hotel business at Tie Siding the next season after his arrival and continuing that business until 1894 when the hotel burned and Mr. Keyes retired to this ranch on North Fish Creek, five miles south from Tie Siding, where he has built a home which for comfort and rural beauty is difficult to equal and one that might well be the envy of a millionaire. Pine and granite boulders . . . rise in rugged grandeur, peeping through the upper lights of your bedroom window, and aspen groves closely guard the premises on the north.

A tiny trout stream winds down the meadows and forms a small pool at the back door, where its water is distributed for irrigation through vegetable and flower gardens and through a meadow below. Slopes of grazing land crowned with granite peaks extend to the north and west, where roads are boulevards, and from the upper lands many miles of Colorado scenery and distant mountain ranges are visible as far as Long's Peak (Note by RHB: Who has not thrilled at the sight of the snowclad, cloud shrouded peaks of the frontal Colorado range as seen from the highway to Fort Collins). The large two-story house of twelve rooms is well and tastefully furnished. What a rest is here for the tired human beings; what a relief from the din of city life; what a refuge for delicate healths and tired brains! It is to be regretted that Mr. and Mrs. Keyes have not turned their years of hotel experience to the entertaining of their guests. Mr. and Mrs. Keyes are both from Nova Scotia, where Mr. Keyes was born in 1845 and where he remained until the age of twenty-one, learning thoroughly the necessities of a rigorous climate,

which has made him a successful pioneer of our mountains.

Many springs feed the creeks of this ranch and water remains open all winter, and the 60 tons of hay usually cut is able to winter 75 to 100 head of cattle, where enclosed barns are not considered as favorable for stock as the natural shelter of the groves and piles of granite boulders, among which the sun gives warmth by day and the animal's free movements can relieve the cold of nights. The altitude is probably a little below that of Laramie and the usual grains, tame grasses, and potatoes succeed as field crops. The fire of '94 which burned the hotel robbed Mr. Keyes of about \$3,000.00 but his ranch affords a home where no true lover of nature and of home could be unhappy."

The writer is indebted to Bud Gillespie and John Stevenson for information on the present Stevenson Ranch, located between the east and west bound tracks of the Union Pacific Railroad on the headwaters of Harney Creek.

Louie Wurl settled on Harney Creek on Section 6-13-72 somewhere between 1895 and 1897. His brother Will settled on a homestead nearby, also in Section 6. In the course of events Will Wurl bought the homestead from his brother Louie and consolidated the two places to branch out into the cattle business. Dairying was the best outlook for a beginner, so he started with a herd of Shorthorn cattle, as they were not only good milkers, but made good beef as well. He soon built up a herd of milk cows which was large enough to take up the time of one man when milking twice a day. Of course that was before the day of the milking machine. Wurl continued in the dairy business for a number of years and was making a good living out of it.

John Stevenson Ranch

In 1909 John Stevenson and his wife, Myrtle, consolidated their meager finances and bought the 2,000-acre ranch from Will Wurl. They bought the ranch intact, land, livestock, and all equipment. Mr. and Mrs. Stevenson had the natural ability and ambition to be successful in the ranching business. They continued in the dairy business for many years and at the same time they were building up a good herd of beef cattle. For a cross in the cattle herd they bought a Hereford bull which was shipped into Wyoming from Connecticut. He was an outstanding animal with plenty of bone and conformation. By careful management they gathered up some cash and credit and were in a position to buy other land when it came onto the market. The Billy Broadhurst Ranch was included in the land the Stevensons purchased from Will Wurl. They bought a part of the Lindstrum land in 1914. In the aggregate they bought 8,000 acres of deeded land and accumulated 3,000 acres of leased land. Stevenson's holdings made a good growth from 2,000 to 11,000 acres. No one except enterprising people can forge ahead in such a manner. They made it through their hard work, good management, honesty, and perseverance.

The Stevensons are to be envied, for they are still the operators of that large tract of land and the cattle that are on the place are a straight bunch of Herefords of good quality. In the beginning they raised, for their own use and the market, three crops of colts from a black Percheron sire. After that they bought a colt from a Thoroughbred Stallion named "Billy Mason". He

was an outstanding horse in the State at that or any other time and was owned by the late Charles B. Irwin. Bud Gillespie had the pleasure of riding that horse and winning every race he rode him in. His distance was over a half-mile track. The Stevensons raised some of the very best saddle stock from that horse cross, between Billy Mason and a Morgan mare. Their brand was a half diamond over a figure four on the left side of cattle and left shoulder of horses. They supplemented their income by selling cream to the Lemollis Creamery in Cheyenne. The Stevensons had two sons, John D. and Delroy. The boys were educated at a time when ranching was an up-hill business, but this education has made it possible for the boys to climb the ladder of success and feel at ease in the highest circles. John D. became a Brigadier General in the Air Force and has been stationed in England, where he has dined with Royalty. Delroy finished his education and assumed the responsibility of operating the ranch. He was doing a splendid job, forging ahead as his father had, when he was accidentally killed, his tractor turned over on him. John Stevenson has done much for Albany County. He was a representative at the State Legislature where he served with distinction for his constituents and has been respected by both parties. He has taken an active part in public affairs and has been a constant supporter and participant in the Albany County Farm Bureau Forum. He has been active in the Wyoming Stock Growers Association and at the present time is a Vice-President of that organization. Stevensons recently sold their ranch to Fred Phifer.

Other Ranches on Harney Creek

Further down on Harney Creek are the Whitehouse and Palmer and Simpson (Monolith) ranches, which have already been described in Chapter 9.

Cash Webber

"Cash" (Cassius W.) Webber was born January 17, 1861, at Rising Sun, Iowa, some 15 miles from Des Moines. The family left there in 1864 and came to Pikes Peak, Colorado. His father, Noel Webber, ran a saw mill at Running Water about 20 miles north of Pikes Peak and close to the present town of Castle Rock. The Hungate family was killed here by Indians in 1864 and Noel Webber joined Company M of the Third Colorado, and fought Indians for three months. During this time his wife and children were in a stockade at Denver. In 1868 "Cash" and his oldest sister were sent to their grandmother in Fort Wayne, Indiana to go to school there. In 1871 their father came for them and brought them to Sherman and shortly after the family moved to Laramie. Noel Webber, in 1870, built the house at Second and Fremont Streets in Laramie, now owned by the Murphys. In 1868 Noel Webber had a lumber mill on Boxelder, south of Granite Canyon and furnished lumber for the railroad snow sheds and for railroad buildings in Cheyenne. He had several lumber mills in the Laramie Mountains and in the Foxpark area. In 1873 he had a mill on Fish Creek and hauled the lumber to Sherman for shipment. Old records from 1902-1908 show that eight men in a crew cut around 150 logs a day. "Cash" Webber went to Buffalo in 1882 and rode the range in the Hole-in-the-Wall country for four years for

the Frontier Cattle Company. (Horace Plunkett, Mgr.) He returned to Laramie in 1887 and in 1889 worked for Sam Woods as a sawyer at his mill above Woods Landing. The W. H. Holliday Company had a huge pile of logs laying below the Woods mill and Dan Neal and Cash Webber took the contract to saw these 500,000 feet of logs. After 100,000 feet had been sawed, the panic of 1893 forced the closing of the mill and Cash Webber went up to the Green River country and finished a job there. He then returned to Laramie and started a dairy of 33 cows which he sold later to Ed McCue. He purchased a meat market but after working out of doors for so many years could not stand the indoors work and after a year sold out and financed Will Graham. Cash Webber went back to the logging business and later helped survey the railroad to North Park. In 1908 Cash moved to Virginia Dale and purchased a 257-acre place settled by Mr. Fobes. In 1948 Cash Webber sold this place, amounting to 2,046 acres, to a man named Liehl. In his later years he lived in Fort Collins and died there in 1952. Cash Webber had a wealth of material on the timber industry of this area as he and his father before him were in this industry from the 1860s in Colorado, until comparatively recent years.

The Virginia Dale Stage Station

On the highway from Laramie to Fort Collins, just the other side of the bridge crossing Dale Creek, and beyond the Bishopp Ranch is a bronze milestone in memory of Virginia Dale. The inscription on this bronze plaque gives the story about Virginia Dale and is repeated here:



*MacDonald Ranch on Pole Creek. Settled by Ronald MacDonald in 1876.
By courtesy Mrs. Hugh MacDonald.*



*Ranch of Mrs. C. M. Simpson. By courtesy Laramie Republican 1901 Industrial Edition
and Bert Wallis.*

"This Memorial is the Property of the State of Colorado. Three-quarters of a mile northwest from this point is the original VIRGINIA DALE, famous stage station on the Overland route to California 1862-1867 established by Joseph A. (Jack) Slade and named for his wife, Virginia. Located on Cherokee Trail of 1849. Favorite camp ground for emigrants. Vice-President Colfax and party were detained here by Indian raids in 1866. Robert J. Spottswood replaced Slade. Erected by the State Historical Society of Colorado from the Mrs. J. H. Hall Foundation and by the Fort Collins Pioneer Society. 1935."

Slade was a demon when drunk and a man-killer. His conduct and the reputation of the stage station as a hang-out for the "wild bunch" led to his dismissal by the Overland Stage Company a year after the station was established. Slade yielded peaceably to the new division superintendent and went to Virginia City, Montana; started a ranch and made money at freighting, but his drinking habits proved his downfall. After he had killed several persons in his wild outbreaks the vigilantes hanged him in 1864. The Virginia Dale stage station was abandoned in 1868.

The Bishopp Ranch

Just before the Highway to Fort Collins crosses the bridge over Dale Creek it passes the Bishopp Ranch on the north side of the road. This ranch is located on Section 4-11-71. Thos. Bishopp started his ranch in early days and lived there until his death in 1910. He engaged in cattle raising, horse raising and general farming and has raised fine Jersey cattle for many years. He married Hattie Carey in 1878 and had four children, Barton, Glen, Dale, and Fred. The sons have operated the ranch since their father's death.

Ranches on Pole and Crow Creeks

Let us take a tour of the ranches on Pole Creek from where it crosses the line into Laramie County upstream.

The late Billy Owen was the furthest down on Pole Creek, and settled on Section 14-15-71. This was the same place where W. H. Holliday ran a saw mill in the 1880s. Billy raised horses for many years and then branched out into the sheep business. He operated the ranch from 1893 to 1915, when he sold out to the Government who put it into the Pole Mountain reserve. His brand was a W with a bar underneath, which was placed on the left shoulder.

Michael Kasahn Place

Mr. and Mrs. Michael Kasahn squatted on Section 17-15-71 in March 1890. Michael Kasahn died in 1900 and his widow, Wilhelmina, and her family continued to live on the claim holding it under the squatter's right until 1905 when she filed on the land as a homestead and proved up on it. There was much controversy over this filing, for the President of the United States gave an order withdrawing the land for a military reservation. Under these conditions a patent could not be given to a homesteader. However, the Kasahns employed a lawyer. After much correspondence between Congressman Mondell and H. V. S. Groesbeck who represented the Kasahns and the Cheyenne Land Office, the case was settled by allowing Mrs. Kasahn to proceed and obtain a patent on her homestead. The Kasahns raised some horses which they broke out in teams for dirt moving jobs. At this time the Talmadge and Buntin Company was promoting the sale of lands



Getting ready for a picnic at the Pulscher ranch. Lady in light skirt: Katie Pulscher Brown; Lady in dark skirt: Luella Patrick Garrett. Courtesy Mrs. Harry Brown (Katie Pulscher).



The Pulscher family. Four sisters, one brother and brother-in-law Wm. Moore in middle. About 1906. Courtesy Mrs. Harry Brown (Katie Pulscher).

for farming purposes. August Kasahn moved to the Bosler area and contracted to build some irrigation ditches. After the project was completed they moved to Rock River where Kasahn obtained the contract to build the ditches for the Rock Creek Conservation Company and the Pierce Reservoir. The Kasahns raised six children: Ed, Otto, Ginney, Mrs. Frank White, Mrs. Ray Botton, and Annie. August Kasahn and his brother, Herman used an open AF for a brand. The Kasahns sold their place on Pole Creek to Uncle Sam to include in the Pole Mountain Military Reservation.

Buck Sullivan Place

Buck Sullivan lived above the Kasahns on Pole Creek. His homestead was in Section 14-15-72 and he filed on that land in the 1880s. About 1893 he sold to Gustave Kasahn who in turn sold it to Balch & Bacon who used it as a camp while running their livestock on the open range in the Black Hills (Laramie Mountains). Now the land is in the Pole Mountain Reserve.

The late Steve Frazer located the Buck Sullivan place as the first canyon north of Telephone Canyon, which he said was named Buck Sullivan Canyon. The ranch site was just a little northeast of the present beacon light. Buck was a bachelor "squattor". His brand was a lazy B S, with the B facing the S and both lying on their side.

On Middle Pole Creek a man named King squatted on a claim in Section 12-15-72 about 1889. When King gave up his squattor right it was taken up by Gustave Kasahn who filed on it and in 1898 he sold out to Balch & Bacon.

This land was also included in the Military Reservation at Pole Mountain.

Ben Black Place

Ben Black, a brother of George (the man who was hanged in Laramie in 1889 for killing Bob Burnett), was the next settler on Pole Creek. He settled in the 1880s on Section 8-15-71. Black sold out to Bill Kasahn about 1892. He raised cattle and horses. Kasahn sold out to Z. W. Faulkner and he in turn disposed of it to John Pulscher, who sold it to Uncle Sam for the Military Reservation. John Holmes squatted on land in Section 10-15-71 about 1890. Bill Kasahn bought the land and improvements and the land later was put into the Military Reservation.

Tom Shanton was the next settler below. He used his squattor's right on a part of Section 11-15-71 and that land in turn was taken into the Military Reservation.

John Medina Place

On North Pole Creek the first settler was John Medina who settled on Section 6-16-71 about 1888. He sold out to James McGibbon about 1906 and later the land was included in the Military Reservation.

John Pulscher Ranch

The next settler going down the creek was John Pulscher, who squatted there in 1891. John Pulscher was ambitious to get ahead and came to Laramie in 1890. He took over the original homestead filing made by the late Raymond Henke in 1879 which consisted of 160 acres in Section 30-16-71. The house was built by "Indian Johnny" about 1892. Indian Johnny's real name was John Thompson. He owned a place in Section 26-



*John Pulscher's birth-house. The Pulscher home in Germany, Loga Kneis Leer, Ostfriesland.
By courtesy Mrs. Harry Brown (Katie Pulscher).*



Mrs. John Pulscher. H. W. Lawhead, Photographer. Courtesy Mrs. Harry Brown (Katie Pulscher)



John Pulscher. H. Svenson's Art Gallery. Courtesy Mrs. Harry Brown (Katie Pulscher)

16-72 which was later acquired by Beulah Richardson. She married Elmer La Pash and after his death she married Theodore Burner. Mr. and Mrs. John Pulscher raised six children: Mrs. Katie (Harry S.) Brown of Laramie, Mrs. Lizzie Bingham of Denver, Mrs. Maggie Fowler of Shoshone, Ida., Mrs. Irene Havens of Grants Pass, Ore., Matthew Pulscher of Loveland, and John Pulscher Jr. of Gooding, Ida. Pulscher raised horses as a business. He was very fond of a fine Percheron stallion which he owned about 1907. He also raised a strain of pumpkin-colored horses which made good driving and saddle horses. Today they would be called Palominos. Pulscher's brand was a figure 3 with a bar underneath, then a reversed figure 3 below the bar. He also used a small letter A (a) for a brand. Some time after taking up the homestead he bought an adjoining homestead from Bill Kasahn. Then a man named Murphey secured possession of the place and sold it to the late William Powell. Powell sold it to the late P. H. Lorenz. Billy Fisher homesteaded on Section 34-16-71 in the 1880s. He sold to Elmer La Pash and the land went to his wife, Beulah R., when he died and she sold it to the present owner, King Merritt and his heirs.

John Bridge Place

The next settler below on Pole Creek was John W. Bridge, who squatted on Section 31-16-71. In 1886 he obtained a water right for 0.80 second feet to irrigate 60 acres of land. He was about the only settler in these parts to take out a water right. Bridge sold his improvements to Bill Landen and the land to the Union Pacific Railroad Co. Landen sold out to John

Pulscher who turned it over to Matthew Pulscher. A man named Davis is the present owner.

Ben Brower Place and Charley Frazer Place

The uppermost settler on Pole Creek was Ben Brower who squatted on Section 34-15-72. This land came into the hands of Charley Frazer, who built a nice house there. However he decided that ranching was not the life for him and the land reverted to the government.

Bob Burnett Place Scene of a Murder

The next settler on Pole Creek was a Civil War Veteran, named Bob Burnett, who squatted on a portion of Section 20-15-71. His claim was on the Government Hay Reserve and hay was harvested and hauled to Fort Sanders for feeding the calvary horses. Bob Burnett came up missing and there was much excitement concerning his disappearance. As Bob Burnett was a member of the Grand Army of the Republic, a veterans' organization, that group began to put pressure on county officials and in particular on County Attorney H. V. S. Groesbeck. Public sentiment was aroused when two men left the locality. George Black was soon located but the other man could not be found. He was a sailor and although Attorney Groesbeck checked all seaports, the missing man could not be located. This man, named Stockwell, had most likely gone out to sea. Later a ranchman from North Park saw the advertisement of the County Attorney and reported that a man named Stockwell was working in a hay crew up in North Park. Officers were sent to North Park imme-

diately to bring in Stockwell. It was 2 o'clock in the morning when they arrived with him. The County Attorney was awakened and called from his bed. The officers went to work on Stockwell and secured a confession which he signed before a notary public. The officers had only one clue to work on. Mrs. Baccus and her daughter, Mary, were out picking currants. They came to a place where there had been a fire and picked up some bones which lay nearby and put them in their baskets. Mrs. Baccus brought the bones to Laramie and turned them over to County Attorney Groesbeck, who called the county physician, Dr. Finckroff down to look at them. He pronounced them human bones but could not tell whether they were those of Bob Burnett or some other person (possibly an Indian). The officers had discovered the tracks of a wagon which had come down the little valley during a wet spell. The team on the wagon had balked when the wagon had stuck in the mud and the tracks showed how they had been turned right and left in the driver's effort to get them straightened out, so they would pull the wagon out. The body was unloaded there and brush and wood was heaped around and over it and set afire. The body was consumed except for the bones. Stockwell was asked where the rest of the bones were and told the officers that they were under a rock not far away from where the body was burned. The officers asked him to guide them to the rock, which he did, and the bones were found under the only rock that the officers had previously overlooked. Stockwell gave very accurate testimony. Black was surly and his testi-

mony was not so impressive. Stockwell was tried first and the judge and jurors were tired as no conclusive evidence had been introduced against him. Judge Sopley was on the bench. He went to County Attorney Groesbeck and told him that he was not getting anywhere with the case and that the jury needed a change in tactics. Judge Sopley told Groesbeck, "When you call Black to the stand, roar out his name as though you had all the necessary clues in a nutshell and then carry on with the same attitude until the end of the case." When the case was completed and County Attorney Groesbeck made his plea to the jury he told them: "Here are two men charged equally with killing Bob Burnett. Which one are we to believe? Stockwell has answered every question quickly and clearly and has given well-connected evidence in his favor. Black has acted surly, has refused to answer some questions and his testimony is tangled up. Which one are we to believe?" The jury received their instructions and went to the jury room to deliberate and were not there long until they reported that they had reached a verdict. When the verdict was read it indicated that George Black was found guilty and in a short time he was hanged for his crime. The testimony showed that when the land was thrown open for settlement, that George Black filed a homestead in this location. Bob Burnett had taken a trip and was absent for awhile. Black and Stockwell were sort of pals. They went into the cabin and threw all of Burnett's belongings outside and moved Black into Burnett's cabin. When Black and Stockwell returned they found old Bob Burnett and an

argument took place. Bob Burnett was sitting on his bed lacing his shoes and the testimony indicated that Black raised his Winchester and shot the old man.

John Wrismger Homestead

John Wrismger homesteaded in 1880 on Section 14-15-71. In 1896 he sold to "Ma" Ferguson. She sold to William Matthews and he in turn sold to the government for the military reserve.

Jim Fish Homestead

Jim Fish was the next homesteader below and he settled on Section 18-15-70 in the early 1880s. He sold to Walter Haltsel and he to Katie McPhee about 1896. She sold to Frank Carroll about 1904 and he to Annie McKechnie, and she to Katie Cameron, who is likely the present owner.

Ranches on North Crow Creek Sanders Place

The uppermost settler on North Crow Creek was H. C. Sanders, who settled on Section 34-15-71 in the early 1880s. He sold to the late Charles C. Frazer, who turned the land to the Military Reserve.

Dan Arnold Homestead

Dan Arnold settled on the next homestead below on Section 30-15-70. He sold to Sam Frye who turned it to John Bray. Bray sold to John Swanson, who in turn sold to the City of Cheyenne.

Ranches on Middle Crow Creew

Dick Wallis and John Wallis Places

Dick Wallis settled on School Section 36-15-72. John A. Wallis homesteaded on Section 6-15-71 and sold

his land to the government for the Military Reserve.

Dave Blair Homestead

Dave Blair was the next homesteader below on Section 8-15-71. He sold out to John Wallis who in turn sold to the Government.

Atherly Homestead

J. S. Atherly was the next homesteader below and he settled on Section 10-14-71. He sold to Granville Faulkner in about 1903 and he in turn sold to John Wallis who sold to Uncle Sam for the Reserve.

Golden Homestead

On a tributary of Middle Crow Creek, one R. D. Golden filed on a homestead and when he acquired title to the land he sold it to George Lotty. Lotty in the early 1880s filed on a homestead in Section 14-14-71. That land was on a tributary of Crow Creek which flowed by Green Mountain. Lotty sold to R. S. Van Tassell who in turn sold to the Warren Livestock Company. They sold to the Government for inclusion in the Reserve.

Frye Place

A man named Frye settled below Lotty in the same Section 14-14-71. Frye's son took over the land and later sold it to the Government.

Pole Mountain Military Reserve

Most of the land on Pole and Crow Creeks was eventually included in Uncle Sam's Military Reserve and was named the Pole Mountain Military Reserve. Today it is a part of the Medicine Bow National Forest and is administered jointly by the Agricultural and Defense Departments of Uncle Sam's Government.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS AND SOURCES

The writer is indebted to the following people for information on the ranches around Tie Siding and Virginia Dale: Messrs. Albert "Bud" Maxwell, A. S. "Bud" Gillespie, John Stevenson, J. R. Malody, Mrs. C. W. (Rachel Boyd) Webber, Mildred Erickson, Minnie Williams, Bill Barton, Adelaide B. Burns, Axel Palmer, Harry Olson, and Ernie Anderson.

ANONYMOUS 1935

Another bronze milestone on Colorado's Highways of history now marks the location of famous old Virginia Dale on Overland Trail, forty miles northwest of Fort Collins near the Wyoming line.

Denver Post February 24, 1935.

COUTANT, C. G. 1899

The History of Wyoming. Volume I Virginia Dale Stage Station :389, 451 Laramie, Wyo. Chaplin, Spafford & Mathison, Printers 1899

COUTANT, C. G. 1925.

Ames Monument.
Quart. Bul. Wyo. Hist. Dept. (Annals of Wyo.) Vol. 2 Pp. 50-52 Jan. 15, 1925.

FOSTER, Jack, 1952.

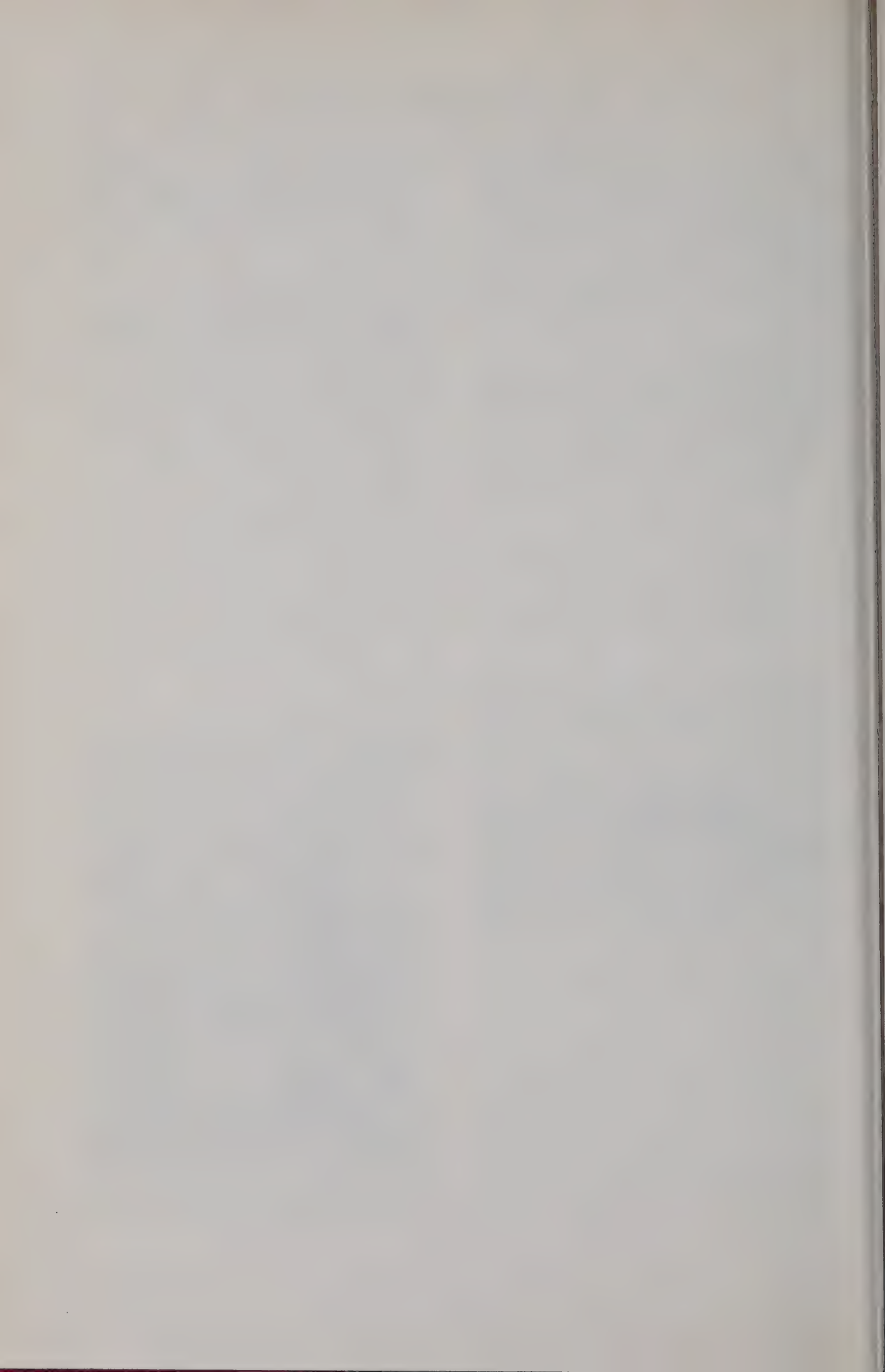
The Colorado Question Box. Strong Box recalls Jack Slade Stage Coach Robbery near Virginia Dale.
Rocky Mountain News Page 15A Jan. 27, 1952.

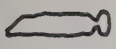


Mr. Frazer and Driving Horse at Albany County Fair, Sept. 15, 1905. By courtesy of Western History and Archives Dept., U. of Wyo. Library.



Favorite Percheron stallion of John Pulscher. Wt. 1700 lbs. Purchased in Laramie for \$700. Courtesy Mrs. Harry Brown. (Katie Pulscher).





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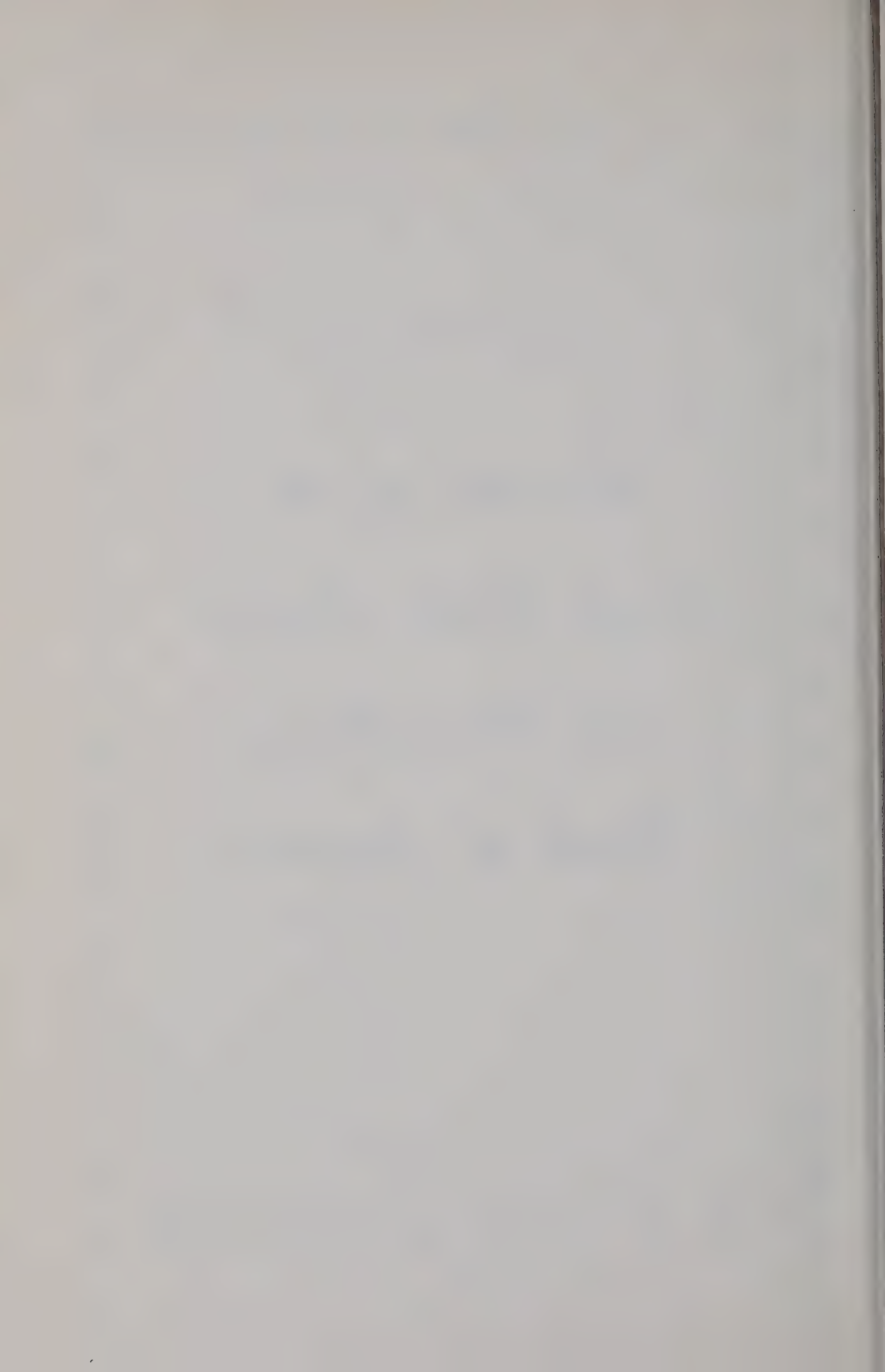


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CHAPTER XIII

Ranches of the
Black Hills, Sybille
and Blue Grass
North of Laramie



CHAPTER 13

RANCHES OF THE BLACK HILLS, SYBILLE, AND BLUE GRASS NORTH OF LARAMIE

By A. S. "Bud" Gillespie

In this chapter we shall deal with the ranches in the Black Hills from Pilot Knob on north to the main Sybille.

Using the 1886 map of Billy Owen as a guide to the ranches of the Black Hills area, let us give a little information on each of them.

Tie City

Tie City was marked on Section 23-15-72 and was the site of a tie camp built during the construction of the Union Pacific Railroad. It is now the camp ground on the first right hand turn from Laramie, going over Happy Jack Road. The timber along the Highway in Telephone Canyon was cut for lumber to build Fort Sanders and some was used in building early day ranches. The stubbs of these trees can be seen on either side of U. S. Highway 30 going up the Telephone Canyon route. An ancient cedar tree stump was brought in to the University and two different tree stumps are on display, one in the Soils Division and the other in the Botany Department. Both show many rings of age and strikingly show the years of high and low rainfall as shown by the width of the growth rings in the tree stump. The history of slow and rapid growth rings during the past 350 to 400 years is clearly shown on these old cedar stump sections.

Richardson Ranch and a Pioneer Nurse

The Richardson Ranch buildings

were located on Horse Creek on Section 8-16-71, about fifteen miles northeast of Laramie. Harriman D. Richardson was born Feb. 24, 1842, in Warren, N. H. and came west to Wisconsin where in 1870 he married Elizabeth T. Page at Bangor, Wisc. In 1872 he came to Wyoming Territory and his family followed in 1873. Elizabeth T. Page graduated from Haverhill Academy and from Massachusetts General Hospital in Boston. She followed the nursing profession throughout her life. She served as matron for the County Home from 1891 until 1893 and Superintendent of the County Hospital from 1895 to 1905. Mrs. Richardson ran a hospital in the old brick house by the City Springs (just north of present Nottage and Spring Creek (Carlisle) Tourist Camps.) This brick house was built in the early days by Noah Wallis who sold it about 1885 to Jimmy Vine, who ran a furniture store and did some ranching on the side. Richardson worked for the Railroad, building snow fences from 1873 to 1875 and at this time the family lived at the Jabe and Laura Simpson place near Red Buttes, later the Bill Goode place and now the Monolith Ranch. The Richardsons had four daughters, Lovisa, Beulah (La Pash-Berner), Lucia (Pulscher), and Rosa. The Richardsons ran around 250 head of cattle of Hereford type. They also had 300 horses. In 1873 they ran two bands of sheep, owning 3500 head and taking 300 head on shares. In 1899

they lost 1100 head of sheep, 100 cattle, and 30 horses in an unusually severe snow storm. Mr. Richardson died in Laramie August 19, 1910 and Mrs. Richardson passed away April 25, 1912. The Richardson brand, in 1916, was recorded in the name of Lovisa, the oldest daughter, and was an interesting one, a razor strap. Lovisa died in 1927 and Beulah (Mrs. Berner) in 1951. The ranch was sold in portions; the Warren Livestock Company bought one portion in 1917 and in 1939 P. H. Lorenz purchased the other part.

Rogers Ranch

Rogers and Dawber are listed as having ranches in Horse Creek in 1886 but no information has been obtained on the Dawber Place except the location of the ranch buildings, on Section 34-17-72. Wilson and Ricketts had a ranch on Section 16-17-71 on Mill Creek just north of Horse Creek.

Some of the early pioneers were attracted to the section of country about sixteen miles northeast of Laramie on the tributaries of Horse Creek. It impressed them as a country suitable for the raising of livestock, for it had grass and spring water in abundance. In recent years this Horse Creek area has been one of the best of the early fishing areas. Among these early settlers was Oscar Rogers who was born in 1842 and came to Laramie in 1877, staying here until about 1903. He squatted on land in Section 30-17-71 at the foot of Dirty Em Mountain in 1877, and filed in 1884. He trailed sheep up from Texas about 1881 and was inexperienced but tried the sheep business from 1881 to 1883. He thought that a fine big shed was the answer to avoid losses of sheep in severe winter weather. When the immense sheds

were completed he thought he had the answer to winter storms and when the storms did come he filled the sheds to the brim with sheep. There was no ventilation in the shed and \$15,000.00 worth of sheep suffocated in two nights. It had never occurred to him to go out and look at the sheep to see how they were doing, something that an experienced sheepman would never think of neglecting. After this he tried the cattle business from 1887 to 1903. His brand was a VS on the left side of cattle, the left shoulder of horses and the back of sheep. He was married and raised four children, Warren, Clarence, Lily and Hazel.

Rogers Canyon North of the Spur

The canyon north of the Spur, which has been the main road to the Horse Creek area, was named Rogers Canyon after Oscar Rogers, who made many trips over it in early days, hauling timber and lumber to Laramie. Warren Rogers, a son, left the home ranch and started on his own. He went over to the Little Laramie River, and built up a nice ranch which is now owned by James Johnson. He raised good cattle and used the H brand on either hip of cattle and the left shoulder of horses.

A Lord As a Ranchman

Cortney Schmidt, a glass blower by trade, was employed in the Laramie Glass Works in the early days. He filed on a homestead in Section 12-18-72 in 1880. He owned some cattle. In August 1905 Schmidt sold out to an Englishman, who was known as Lord Charles Kennedy. He never held a seat in the House of Lords but his father was an Earl. Lord Charles had a difficult time in the ranching busi-



Mrs. Harry (Katy) Brown and Harry S. Brown and daughter Eunice in front of their ranch home. May 24, 1940. By courtesy Mrs. Harry S. Brown.



The Brown family at the Montgomery Ranch a few miles north of the present headquarters. Note early model Franklin auto. By courtesy Mrs. Harry S. Brown.

ness. He made a complaint that one of his neighbors was stealing some of his calves. The neighbor happened to be a woman and she was hailed before Judge and Jury. When the case was completed, the Judge gave the Jury its instructions and it retired to the jury room for deliberation. The case had created a lot of interest and by the time the jury was ready to report its verdict, the court room was full of spectators. The verdict was read and after several moments of silence, an old ranchman from the Little Laramie arose from his seat and said, "Believe I will go hoist one, this is a case of the Virgin Mary beating the Lord." Soon after the trial Lord Charles had a misfortune when all of his haystacks were burned, presumably in retaliation. Kennedy realized that he could not continue ranching in the face of such opposition and misfortunes and let out his foreman, Fred Snider, a local man. He sold his place in August 1914 to Samuel and Mary Harnden who owned the place for 13 years. They in turn sold the place to a man named Coe who uses it for summer pasture. He is the present owner. Coe also bought the George Crouse land which was originally the homestead of a man named Meyers.

A highly educated woman named Johanna Odder filed on 580 acres of land under the Desert Act. This land was located in Section 34-18-72. The Odder land was marked on the Owen map put out in 1886. Frank C. Bosler is the present owner of the Odder place.

Charles W. and Harry S. Brown

Charles W. Brown was the original squattor on some land in Section

30-17-71 and in 1893 he applied for a homestead right on this land. His filing was accepted and he had security for a home and ranch. During the time he was holding the land under squattor's rights, he made the necessary improvements which were needed, including buildings, barns, and fences, which were finished around 1890. The ranch buildings are located about sixteen miles northeast of Laramie on a tributary of Horse Creek.

Charles W. Brown came to Laramie in 1872 where he accepted employment as an engineer on the railroad. Harry S. Brown was born in Laramie January 16, 1884. He married Katie Pulscher in 1908 and they have made their home on the ranch of his father, Charles W. Brown. Harry S. Brown and his wife raised one daughter, Eunice, who married a man named Stiles, and lives in Berkeley, California. Harry Brown had two sisters, one married Hugo Donzleman, a famous attorney at Cheyenne. The other sister, Mrs. Minnie Dain Little, resides in Laramie. Charles W. Brown bought the Montgomery place in 1895. The chain of ownership shows the following names: Charles W. Brown, Sr., Charles W. Brown, Jr., and the present owner, Harry S. Brown. They have raised cattle founded on local stock and bred to Scotch Shorthorn bulls from Greeley, Colorado. The brand is 29 on left hip of cattle and left hip of horses. Their steers sold from \$4.00 per head in 1893 to 29 cents a pound in 1950. Bulls sold for about \$30.00 a head in 1903 and Hereford bulls up to \$200.00 each in 1948. Cows brought \$10.00 a head in 1893 and 18 cents a pound in 1950. Work horses sold for \$20.00 a head in 1946 and in 1950 they



Group of work and saddle horses on way to hay field. By courtesy Mrs. Harry S. Brown.



Site where Fred Powell was killed.



Barns at Radichal (Plumbago) Ranch built in 1887 and rebuilt in 1940.



Old Rock House at Radichal (Plumbago) Ranch built in 1887. In two separate rooms.



New House at Radichal (Plumbago) Ranch built in 1908.

were worth \$200.00 each. Riding horses sold from \$25.00 to \$175.00.

E. P. Baker

E. P. Baker settled on a section of State Land in 1880, described as Section 36-16-72, which lies on the main tributary of Horse Creek. He engaged in the sheep business about 1894 and spent some time on his side lines of mining and prospecting. He had two daughters, Hazel and Laura. He sold out and went to Colorado in 1901 but returned to live near Wheatland. Harry S. Brown is now holding Section 36-16-72 under a lease from the State.

Fred Powell Ranch

Fred Powell worked on the railroad and lost a portion of his arm while employed there. In the early 1890s he settled on a homestead on Section 25-17-71. He married into one of the pioneer families of Laramie when Mary Keane said "yes" to his offer to set up housekeeping. Mary Keane was a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John Keane who had a little place where the first fair ground building was located (now a part of the Cochran addition). The Fred Powells had only one son, William. The Powell brand was a reversed LP connected with a bar underneath which was recorded in 1886.

Not many years after the Powells had settled on the main tributary of Horse Creek, trouble developed between some of the small settlers and the large cattlemen. Powell received three notices from which to choose what he would do; he could mend his ways and practices, leave the country, or be killed, as he chose. He did leave the country for awhile but came back

to put up his hay crop. In the meantime he received another notice to leave the country within ten days. He had only a day's work left to finish haying, but on the eleventh day he was shot from ambush. The crime was never pinned on anyone. One of his neighbors, a man named Lewis was shot about a month previously, presumably for the same reason.

Fred Powell's widow, Mary Powell, and little son, William, continued to live on the ranch for many years. When Mrs. Powell passed away the property went to her son, William. Soon after his death, Art McKechnie bought the ranch and started a building and improvement plan. At this time it is one of the best improved ranches in the county and he also has one of the best bunches of Hereford cattle in the area. If Powell had put forth the same effort, energy, and ambition as Art McKechnie, he would have had a home and business to be proud of.

Ranches of the Wayside Area

The area received its name from the Wayside Ranch which was named by its owner, August Trabing who moved out to the ranch when he sold his grocery business to the Gem City Grocery around the turn of the century. More will be given about this ranch in the latter part of this article. The mail road by way of the King Ranch to the Wayside Ranch was around twenty-four miles from Laramie. The present road by the way of Wheatland Highway is all of 40 miles from Laramie to the Wayside Ranch.

Strong Homestead

The first settler in that area was a man named Strong, who located on

Section 26-19-72 in the late 1880s. His homestead was one of those filed on under the old original Homestead Act which allowed only 160 acres for a homestead. Strong did not expand his real estate holdings, but he did build up a small bunch of cattle in common with the others who began in those free open-range days. For a sideline he used to travel over the country with a spring wagon loaded with kitchen cabinets, travelling from place to place selling these items to the settlers wherever he could make a deal. These kitchen cabinets were made of metal and had many lettered compartments for sugar, salt, spices, flavoring, flour, etc. A woman in those days who owned one of those "spiffy" cabinets just figured she was strictly modern. Practically all of the ranches had them and the writer remembers them well. About the turn of the century Strong sold his holdings to the Radichal brothers, Albert and August. They moved out on the Strong place, which was located on a tributary of Chugwater Creek, known as Strong Creek.

Radichal Brothers

The Radichal Brothers were hard-working, enterprising men. They soon exercised their land rights and filed on homesteads, thereby expanding their grazing ground so as to make room for more cattle.

August Radichal filed his homestead in Section 20-18-71, and built a nice cozy and comfortable house, putting in the common conveniences and some of the better ones for those days. The Radichals were good carpenters and did most of the work on their new house. August Radichal was married when they moved out on the Strong

ranch. They had two daughters, Mabel and Elsie, who grew up on the ranch. Mabel married Jack McCue and after Mr. Radichal's death they lived on the ranch for around eight years, until Jack McCue's health broke and he died September 10, 1940.

Albert Radichal filed on a homestead that blocked up with the Strong place. Albert lived on this homestead long enough to acquire title to the land, and then made his home with his brother August and his family. Albert never married, and died in 1930.

Country Dance

The Radichals enjoyed life thoroughly and August and his wife often gave dances for their friends. August was the life of the party. In the winter time he danced away in his felt boots. It seemed he could get more of a bounce from the soles of those felt boots. The last party was a sad one. He was on the dance floor with several other couples and they were dancing a polka. They were really "hoeing it down" every few minutes. August would give a whoop to liven up the dancers. Suddenly, without any warning, he was stricken with a fatal heart attack and the party was over. Mrs. Radichal died shortly afterward and the ranch passed into the hands of the daughters, Mabel and Elsie. They kept the property intact for a number of years, and in 1938 sold the property to the present owner, Orval Greaser, who raises some nice Herefords. The Radichal Brothers' brand was a circle around the letter T on the right side of cattle and right shoulder of horses.

Thomas Shanton

Another old timer to settle in that

area in the early days was the late Thomas Shanton. He was the father of the late Mrs. W. H. Frazee, whose husband operated a dry goods store known as the Leader, which was located on the corner where the McDonald Store is located today. Tom Shanton located on Section 8-18-71 on a tributary of Chugwater Creek during the 1880s. That tributary was named Shanton Creek, after Tom, who was the uppermost settler on that creek. Tom Shanton had nothing when he went out on that place, and one old timer expressed it this way: "Why Tom only owned a milk stool when he went out there." He started out with practically nothing, as was the case with practically all of the other old timers. He wore out his original milk stool milking cows. He took his family with him when he moved out onto the new homestead; his wife, two sons, and a daughter. The sons turned out to be most interesting and outstanding individuals. They became top riders and ropers. The older son, Henry, went to work for Buffalo Bill's Wild West Show when it was on its way to the World's Fair at Chicago in 1893. After he left the Wild West Show he went to New York City and was employed by the police department. He received promotion after promotion until he became a top man in the New York Police Department. The younger son, George, continued punching cows in southeastern Wyoming until the Spanish-American war broke out.

Torrey's Rough Riders

Then George quit his cowboy job and organized a company of rough riders to serve under Colonel Torrey's Rough Riders. He was made captain

of the Company. Sometime later, when the Rough Riders were discharged, George Shanton did not find a position to suit him and had the brilliant idea of contacting President Theodore Roosevelt. Shanton wasted no time in getting to Washington and called on President Roosevelt at the White House. Shanton was admitted to the reception room and when the President came in, Shanton raised from his chair to introduce himself. Putting his hand on the President's shoulder in a gesture of western hospitality, he addressed him as "Teddy" and they soon became well acquainted. The president invited Shanton to have a seat. Finally the President said, "Mr. Shanton, what can I do for you?" Shanton promptly replied, "I want a job." The President asked, "What qualifications have you, Mr. Shanton?" Shanton answered, "I have punched cows in Wyoming all of my life until the Spanish-American War broke out, when I organized a company of Rough Riders at Laramie to serve under Colonel Torrey, and I was made Captain of that Company." After the President thought over the situation a few moments, he said, "You go on home, Mr. Shanton. I will see what I can do for you." Not long afterwards George Shanton was notified to go to Panama as he had been appointed Chief of Police of the Canal Zone. Shanton was on that job until the Canal was completed, and then he went to the West Indies. The last the author knew of him, before his death, was that he was Lieutenant Governor of San Domingo.

Thomas Shanton was a veteran of the Civil War on the Union side. He loved to tell of his experiences while



*Thomas and Henry Shanton
By courtesy W. H. Frazee*



Trabing's Model Farm. 1889 Laramie Boomerang. By courtesy Albany County Historical Museum.

in service. He raised many horses as well as cattle. His brand was a bar over an N4 on cattle and an inverted truncated Y called a "wobbler" by old cowpunchers. This latter brand was for horses.

Tom Jay Ranch

East of the Shanton place was the Tom Jay Ranch, part of which was in Section 8-18-71. This place was settled by Merrifield, who sold to Tom Jay. He was an Englishman and he practiced many of the English customs and fashions, particularly in his dress. He and his wife enjoyed the sport of hunting, chasing and catching coyotes with gray, as well as stag hounds. They had some wonderful hunters and jumpers among their riding horses. Jumping was not as safe in this country as in England, for in the old country the horses had the rail fences and could judge their jumps easily. In this country the fences were made of barbed wire which could not be seen as easily and hence made it difficult for the horses to judge the height of the fence they were jumping. Often the horse would catch his hind legs on the top wire. Tom Jay worked out a scheme which solved this serious problem. He would hang his and his wife's coats over the top wire and then the horse and rider could easily see where the fence was and could judge the jump more easily. In the summer time Tom Jay would put his full length yellow slicker on the fence and this made a fine mark for the horse and rider to judge the jump. Tom Jay sold his ranch and moved to Cheyenne about the turn of the century. The ranch changed hands several times and the present owner is Charles T. Farthing of Iron Mountain.

Tom Jay's brand was an H L connected on the left side of cattle and left thigh of horses.

Trabing Brothers

Another old timer, one of the Trabing Brothers, filed on a homestead in Section 26-19-22 shortly after the turn of the century. He was one of the brothers (Trabing) who owned large herds of cattle when the range was open wide and long. The headquarters of their ranch was located east of what is known as the TB mountains, which is some 16 miles north and a little east of Medicine Bow. That ranch is known as the TB Ranch today and is owned by Denver Miller, who lives in a little valley in the TB mountains. The Trabing Brothers used their initials as a brand, with the TB arranged with a B with stem of the T running through and forming the back of the B. They had store holdings in Medicine Bow and later, in so-called Trabing City on the Crazy Woman Creek, south of Buffalo.

While loading cattle at Medicine Bow in the early days one of the Trabing Brothers, George, received a badly scratched hand from the sharp end of a piece of steel which reinforced the sliding cattle car door. Trabing went with the shipment of cattle to Omaha. Before reaching that city his hand commenced to swell, blood poisoning set in and he died soon after reaching the hospital.

The surviving brother, Augustus, sold out their ranching interest and moved to Laramie, where he opened up a large grocery business on the corner of Second Street and Grand, the site on which the Gem City Grocery operated for so many years. This building is now owned by the Garlett



Trabing Brothers and friends on a hunting trip near Laramie. In front seat, left to right: August and Charles Trabing. Others unidentified. By courtesy Mrs. Tom (Gertrude) Carroll.



Chas. Trabing & Co. store at Trabing City on Crazy Woman Creek south of Buffalo, Wyoming. By courtesy Mrs. Tom (Gertrude) Carroll.

Company. Shortly after the turn of the century August Trabing disposed of his grocery business and secured the mail contract from the United States, to carry mail from Laramie to the Sybille Postoffice on the South Sybille. He erected some wonderful buildings on his homestead and named the place Wayside. The house was a mammoth one which was well furnished. There were perhaps ten spacious rooms. This fine house burned to the ground in 1918. The barn was erected on the same scale as the house. It was necessary to have many horses to run the mail route, with four horses needed on the wagon for each trip each way, especially in the winter time. Trabing had to haul his horse feed from Laramie as his homestead produced only a small amount of hay. There was much express and freight to be hauled out of Laramie and the express shipments were a large item, for that was before the days of parcel post.

Caught in Fierce Blizzard

On one of these long trips from Laramie to Wayside, a cold, penetrating blizzard came up. Trabing, unfortunately, was riding the stage that day. He became so cold and numb that he had to lie down in the bottom of the wagon and took a severe cold which turned into pneumonia and he died.

The ranch passed into the hands of the heirs, a daughter, Mabel, who married W. H. Bridger, an Englishman. The Bridgers lived there many years and raised a family.

The Trabings had a son, George, who lived in Laramie. He was sheriff for a couple of terms. The Bridgers bought the Thomas Shanton Ranch and

the two places together made a nice setup for a cattle ranch. W. H. Bridger sold the Wayside Ranch to Frank Iloff; then it passed in turn to Bliss in 1917, to Cushing in 1940, and in 1950 to the present owner, Charles Farthing. W. H. Bridger's brand was a lazy B over a W on the right side of cattle and right shoulder of horses.

Tom Dodds Ranch

The old timers took the choicest of the valley lands when selecting land to file on under the Homestead Act. For many years it was thought that all opportunities to engage in the ranching business by filing on Government land had come to an abrupt end because none of the remaining land was good enough. However, occasionally someone comes along with a vision and gumption to see and take an opportunity which all others have overlooked or regarded as worthless.

Where many others had driven or ridden over this land many times without giving a thought to filing on it, Tom Dodds in 1915 thought that it would "pan" out and staked his judgment and ambition on a filing and his adventurous and enthusiastic spirit resulted in final success. The credit is not due him alone, but just as much to his fine helpmate, who was a most important part of the new enterprise. She was born and raised in Laramie, Phyllis Hegewald, a daughter of Charles Hegewald. The wide open spaces, out-of-town and out-of-doors environment appealed to both members of this happy couple. It takes that kind of people to fill in the overlooked gaps which have been passed by.

Thomas Dodds filed on a homestead of 320 acres on August 10, 1915, which



*Tom and Phyllis (Hegewald) Dodds and branding scene at Dodds Ranch.
By courtesy Tom Dodds Sr. and Jr.*



Original Dodds homestead filed in 1915 and group of work horses. By courtesy Tom Dodds Sr. and Jr.

Tom Dodds Ranch house, formerly Peden Place and a group of cattle. By courtesy Tom Dodds Sr. and Jr.

was located in Section 28-19-72, some 11 miles east of Bosler, as the crow flies. That was the extent of the acreage allowed at that time by the United States Government. The following year a bill was passed by Congress increasing the allowable acreage in a filing to 640 acres, the so-called Stock Grazing Homestead Act. Uncle Sam put a card in Tom Dodds' hand by allowing him an additional 320 acres. To comply with that law in the fullest sense a homesteader should have some livestock and in this case Tom had some livestock for the extra land. It does not seem to matter in which scale a person starts out ranching, they almost always meet with reverses or "tough breaks." Dodds bought 5 head of milk cows in May 1918 for a starter in the cattle game. During the following winter the wolves killed three of these five cows and in the spring of 1919 another one of his cows died from eating poison weed or larkspur. When there is about three inches of snow on the ground, followed by warm weather, the poison weed grows up rapidly through the snow and in one night seems to make a good mouthful for an animal starved for green food through the long winter months. The cow brute eating this weed soon becomes paralyzed and bloated and death results shortly.

When the house was built, the furniture was hauled out with many difficulties. The horses balked on the hill for they had not been used to pulling heavy loads as in drawing plows and scrapers which experience fell to the horses on larger ranches and operations. One team balked and the other played themselves out trying to pull a load requiring four horses. Tom

Dodds describes this experience as follows:

"The late E. J. Travis, contractor, built the cabin and also the cattle shed. The lumber was hauled by wagon by Bob O'Donnell from Bosler, Wyoming. I hauled our furniture out by four horses and a wagon, over the old mail route, from Laramie through the King Ranch over the summit, through the W. H. Bridger or Wayside Ranch. Half way up the summit a couple of the horses balked and the other two played out, and I was compelled to unhitch and go on without the wagon to Radichal Brothers and August Radichal came back with their team and pulled the load home. This trip took three days from Laramie because of this delay."

The next problem was to fence the homestead. Again let Tom Dodds tell the story:

"Mrs. Dodds and my younger brother hauled all of the fence posts from Laramie. Mrs. Dodds drove a single horse and wagon; Jimmy driving my black team and wagon. The trip took two days as it was about 30 miles from Laramie. At least 480 fence posts would be required and about 48 hundred pounds of barbed wire was needed for the border fence. Tom dug the post holes and took care of his son, Tommy, then a baby, who was laid on a blanket on the ground to sleep. Dodds would not only have to carry the baby and pallet to the next post hole site, but would also have to carry his shovel and post hole bar.

After the house, barn, and fences were built things came easier. They commenced to buy little bunches of cattle wherever they could until the



Ride of President Roosevelt: Laramie to Cheyenne. May 20, 1903. 1. Pres. Teddy Roosevelt; 2. Sen. F. E. Warren; 3. Otto Gramm; 4. N. K. Boswell; 5. F. A. Hadsell; 6. John W. Ernest; 7. W. L. Park; 8. Wm. Daley Jr.; 9. Jerome Atherly; 10. Fred Porter; 11. Dr. Rixie; 12. Jos. Le Fors; 13. Seth Bullock. Photo courtesy Elmer Beltz.



Trabing Brothers Store at Laramie City. Left to right: Lager, August Trabing, Unknown, Chas. Trabing, Howard Ingham and Herman Hegewald. Others unknown. By courtesy of Mrs. Tom (Gertrude) Carroll.

place was stocked. After the winter of 1918, mentioned previously, he had only one cow and two calves left.

The year 1917 was a very bad winter, with lots of snow and cold weather. On the way from Laramie Dodds had to go through Woods Canyon, which was full of snow. He drove the team and wagon over drifts of hard-packed snow at least twenty feet deep.

The logs and posts which were hauled out by Mrs. Dodds and Jimmy were given to the Dodds by John Masterson and they were from an old log barn in Laramie. He also helped out by giving them an old horse that at one time was a delivery horse in town and also a single horse wagon and buggy which furnished them with transportation around the ranch.

The cattle and cream business payed off with some income which enabled the Dodds to expand and buy three other homesteads adjoining Section 28-19-72 and in 1940 they purchased the James Peden Ranch on Gate Creek along with some cattle purchased from Ray Cheesebrough of Elk Mountain and Medicine Bow.

Cattle and horses were branded with the Dodds brand, AJ upside down connected, which was put on the left ribs of cattle and left shoulder of horses. The Dodds are still living on the Peden place on Section 18-19-72. They are true scions of pioneer spirit who had the courage and initiative to go ahead and try and successfully work out a situation considered difficult, if not impossible, by others.

Ed Farley Ranch

Ed Farley filed on a homestead in Section 2-19-73 around 1920. His

homestead is strictly a stock grazing proposition. It can be seen alongside the road on the left side of the Bosler-Wheatland Highway (Wyo. No. 14) a mile before coming to Plumbago cut-off, and some nine miles east of the Bosler junction. There is no doubt that Farley has a hard time making ends meet for he is short of land to operate on. He has a family but none of them were born on the homestead, but have grown up there and have taken off for themselves. He raises sheep and in some years has had a patch of potatoes.

Ben Smith Place

Ben Smith and his family are near neighbors of the Farleys. Their place is located east and south of the Bosler-Wheatland Highway (Wyo. No. 14) and can be seen on top of the hill to the right of the highway. Ben Smith married Mabel Moore, a girl that was born and raised on the Sybille. They were married about 1920 and settled on Ben's homestead in Section 30-19-72. From that union twelve children were born. One of the boys was killed in action in the Korean War. The rest of the family is scattered around at different parts of the country. The father and older boys often worked at ranches at Medicine Bow during haying and the wife and mother with her younger children kept the home fires burning. About 1930 Ben Smith proved up on a homestead left him by his father, George B. Smith, which was in Section 14-19-73. Section 10 belonged to Gail Farley, a son of Ed Farley. This family is one used to and doing a lot of hard work which is necessary to feed that many mouths. They are engaged in the sheep business, which is the only profitable busi-

ness they could engage in at that location and make a living. They had plenty of sheep herders right in the family for all of the sheep that they could run on their land.

In late years sheep can be turned loose and not herded as coyotes are few and far between, while in former years the coyotes would kill, worry, and cause the sheep to run and pile up and smother, and naturally the business could not be successful with such death losses. When bunches of sheep have drifted away from a herder in a storm their trail could be followed by the dead sheep strung along, which coyotes had killed and where they had dropped from exhaustion and smothering

R. W. Wood Place

R. W. Wood was an old timer who deserves mention in these articles. He was a prospector and a spiritualist in faith. He thought the spirits told him where there was a rich lead or vein of copper in one particular mountain of solid rock. He went to work blasting that solid rock mass and hauling out the rock to a dump with a wheelbarrow. His mining claim was located on Wood Creek, a tributary to Gate Creek. About 1912 the author had occasion to call on him and Wood took him back into the shaft in the solid rock. On the way out the writer counted his steps and found that one shaft or drift ran back into the mountain of solid rock for a distance of 150 feet. There were several side shafts running out from the main shaft which were not checked for distance. Merely as a guess the writer would estimate that these intersecting side shafts would exceed fifty feet in length. Wood worked at least ten or fifteen

years after 1912 on that shaft before he died. In a sense of the word he was a public spirited man. He served many years on the school board in District No. 30 and he could preside at a meeting and maintain perfect parliamentary order.

Ted Peden Place

Ted Peden filed on a homestead on Wall Rock Creek just below the mouth of the canyon. He was located on one of those 640-acre stock grazing homesteads. He did a wonderful job of improving his homestead by building a nice-sized, comfortable house and a huge cattle barn. He really needed both of these sturdy and comfortable buildings in such a bleak section of the country. He raised a family. His business was that of milking cows and shipping cream. His cattle accumulated to the maximum number that he could take care of. He raised some feed, such as rye and the author thinks that at one time he raised some alfalfa. His water supply was limited and came too early in the season to be of any beneficial use. At the same time he had a reservoir to impound a portion of the run-off. He finally became discouraged and sold out to the Wallis Brothers and now the place is owned by Wallis and Miller. Peden's brand was a lazy T over a U.

Homesteader Stump

There were only two watering places on the flats in the Wall Rock Pasture, one being the North Spring along the north fence about midway between the hills and the ranch pasture fence, and on the South side the Mud Springs which were about midway along the south fence. On one occasion the author was passing nearby

that spring at the north side and stopped at the spring for a drink. There stood a wagon load of lumber and beside it a man who was unhitching his team. An acquaintance was struck up and the author found that the man was a homesteader by the name of Stump. The author asked Stump where he was going to build his cabin. Stump answered "There where the wagon was." Then the author advised him to hitch up and pull his load of lumber up to where the spring was, so that he could have running water in his cabin. Stump studied over this advice for a few moments and then replied, "My wife needs exercise anyway, so I'll just build the cabin here." The author knew for many years that the spring was on government land and took the liberty to advise one of the managers of the Diamond Cattle Company that they had better get possession of that land before some homesteader filed on it. The pasture was six miles wide and eight miles long and the Company's cattle really needed that water to properly use the grass. The manager replied "this is a Company section," and never realized that it was not until after Stump had his filing and residence established. Stump sold his homestead to a nearby neighbor and the Diamond Cattle Company lost an opportunity of controlling that part of their range.

These latter-day homesteads show the possibilities of filing on Uncle Sam's land which remains unattached and although the road to success is long and rough, some have made a go of living there and raising a family through dint of long hours of labor and persevering pioneer spirits.

Plumbago Canyon Ranch of Radichals

Plumbago Canyon acquired its name from a crystalline form of carbon which was mined in that canyon. The product, sometimes called graphite, was used in making lead pencils.

Last Buffalo Killed on Laramie Plains

Some distinctive history is connected with Plumbago Canyon. During the summer of 1881 the author's father and his half-brother were camped in that canyon. They were taking care of a bunch of sheep for an outfit in Colorado. In those days the Colorado sheepmen trailed up into Wyoming to obtain summer range for their sheep. They made it a practice of leaving Wyoming by the time the snow started to fall for fear the sheep would get caught in the snow and be drifted under. They thought that there would be a continuous snow bank from the Medicine Bow Mountains on the west to the Laramie Mountains on the East, and they believed that the snowbank extended from summit to summit.

One day the two above mentioned men heard a noise and they rushed out through the flaps of the tent door just in time to see a large buffalo bull running by their tent. They hurried to get their saddle horses and guns and went in pursuit of the buffalo, which was heading for the Laramie Plains. They came within gun-shot range of the buffalo just as he crossed the limestone ledge west of the mouth of Plumbago creek and a little to the north. From that ledge the author's father, Sam Gillespie, fired the fatal shot that killed the last buffalo in this section of the country. A little time later and some distance behind the

buffalo, came a hunter who had chased the buffalo from Iron Mountain, trying to get close enough to get a shot. They dressed the buffalo that evening and bright and early the next morning the author's uncle started to Laramie by team and wagon, hauling the buffalo carcass to Laramie City to sell the meat. The weather turned hot as the sun rose in the sky. The long run from Iron Mountain to the mouth of Plumbago had heated up the buffalo and the meat retained the heat and that, along with the sultry morning sun, caused the meat to spoil during the twenty-eight mile trip by team to Laramie City.

The Radichals Establish a Home and Ranch

In the summer of 1887 a courageous and energetic young married couple took up their residence in a tent on the groom's homestead. William C. Radichal was born in Germany in 1862 and came to Wyoming in 1885. At three years of age he came to Wisconsin and in 1885 came to Laramie to work with his brother-in-law, August Trabing. Mary Louise Stromstedt was born in Gottland Island (near Hamburg) in 1856 and was married to William C. Radichal in Wayside, Wisconsin on June 1, 1887. The ranch buildings are located on Section 6-19-72. When they moved to the location in 1887, they lived in a tent and built a rock house in the summer and fall of that year. The first barn was built in 1888 while the fences were put up in 1889-1891. The present house was built by Mr. Radichal and Mr. Berner in 1908. William Radichal filed on the 160-acre homestead in 1887, and has lived there since that time. The original stock consisted of two cows

and four heifers brought out from Wisconsin. These were of Shorthorn blood and for several years the Radichals milked cows for an income. They had one team and a Shorthorn bull. The low price for steers was obtained in 1893 when a single steer brought \$18.00. In 1916 a 3-year-old steer brought \$160.00. That was the beginning of a long, happy and prosperous career, full of brightness as well as sorrow. This couple which many have neighbored with throughout the years and enjoyed their hospitality immensely, were no one else but the late William Radichal and his dear good wife and mother of their four children. The strength of her love for her family and her neighbors has enabled her to pass her 99th year this past September 17, 1955. She enjoys her friends as much, if not more than ever. The Radichals settled on Section 6-19-72.

The Boughton Ranch, Later the Whitaker or Coble Ranch

An Englishman, E. S. R. Boughton, built up the ranch which was known by his name for many years and later on was owned by Whitaker and then by Coble and Bosler and Frank Bosler, Sr. After his death his widow, Elizabeth, sold the ranch to Wallis Brothers and now it is known as the Wallis and Miller Ranch. Boughton had a large tract of land fenced in for his herd of cattle. One particular drift fence which he built ran from the northeast corner of his holdings up into the hills and passed Plumbago. This and the cross fences took the full time of a fence rider. After one of these rides around the fence, the rider while sitting at the supper table reported to Mr. Boughton that there was a "nes-

tor" in Plumbago canyon and wanted to know what to do about it. Mr. Boughton studied for a while with his face in his hands, and finally replied, "Just leave him there. He will soon starve out." His judgment did not prove out for he went broke and Mr. and Mrs. Radichal forged ahead through economy, energy, perseverance, and good management until they were the owners of much over half a township of land stocked with cattle, and had one of the nicest houses in the county. They had only a few head of milk cows to start with. They cut hay during the first few years, with a scythe and raked it with a garden rake, to get enough hay for their small bunch of cattle. What a change from scythe and garden rake to modern tractor mowers, rakes, sweeps and stacker. They made butter for the market and raised potatoes by wagon-loads which they sold to bring in a little cash income. Mr. and Mrs. Radichal raised four children. A son, Arthur, was a veteran of World War I and he passed away in April 1928 from acute appendicitis. He was married to Miss Lily Metcalf and they had one son, Jack, who resides on a ranch on the Sybille, which his grandfather bought from William W. Phelps in 1916. Ella was the next oldest child, and she married Jim Steele. Mrs. Steele was a victim of that dreaded disease, cancer, and passed away in 1944. Mr. Radichal died during the winter of 1952. The next daughter, Cora, married Louie Seidel. They live on the home ranch, part of the time and their place is the one that Mr. Radichal bought from Phelps. Seidels have no children. The youngest daughter, Marie, married Ed Shearer. They had two children, a

son and a daughter. The son received a fatal injury in a football game, which ended his youthful life. The daughter, Kathleen, married a man named Castle, and they live in Arizona.

Radichals Typical Hardy Pioneers

The Radichals are the kind of people that it takes to build up a frontier. The secret of their success was that they never bought anything until they had the money to pay for it, and never used borrowed money. Their ambition, thrift and honesty paid off. Neither did they meet with any business reverses.

Plumbago Creek runs west out of the mountains, and where it enters the Plains it changes its course to the north and also its name, as it is known as Sybille Creek.

The Boughton Ditch

Mr. Boughton built an immense ditch out of Plumbago Creek. He planned on making a ranch out on the flats west of the hills. When the time came to turn the water into the completed ditch, Mr. Radichal was not slow in tearing out the diversion dam. When Boughton's men found the water turned off in the ditch they started an investigation. When they questioned Mr. Radichal he did not deny turning the water back into the creek and informed them that the water belonged to him and showed them the papers indicating he had an 1887 water right from Wyoming Territory. This right was for 0.91 cubic feet of water per second to irrigate 69 acres of land on which he raised hay and potatoes.

Copper Mine in Plumbago Canyon

There was a rich lead or vein of copper located on the north side of

Plumbago Creek just before it left the hills. A. F. Whitman made the discovery and was successful in inducing some Chicago men to finance a mining venture. The first thing he did was to build a stone house for his family to live in. Then he built a bunkhouse and stable. He paid high wages for those times, namely \$3.00 a day and board. Some of Colonel Torrey's Rough Riders under Captain George Shanton, returned to Wyoming after receiving their discharge (Spanish-American War), and heard about these big wages. Before the Spanish-American War they had been punching cows for \$25.00 to \$30.00 a month and during their army service they drew about \$18.00 a month. It can be readily seen that \$3.00 a day for ten hours work looked like a pretty good deal to them. The crew soon filled up and the work began on the McKinley Mine. It did not take more than about six months to dig and blast that pocket of copper out of its black formation and the new enterprise soon came to an end when the copper pocket ran out.

The Radichal brand for their cattle and horses consists of HT connected, which is placed on the left hip of cattle and left shoulder of horses. In this brand the top of the T made the center of the letter H.

Ranches on the South Sybille

The south Sybille Creek heads over the divide north and a little west of Iron Mountain about four or five miles. At one time there were more people living in that valley than at the present time.

John Shaffer Ranch

The uppermost settler on the headwaters of the South Sybille was John

Shaffer. He homesteaded Section 34-19-71 in the year 1885. For a number of years he was a bachelor, but that did not have a lasting appeal to him so he eventually married Miss Mary Patton. Her parents operated the adjoining ranch below, for Dr. Henry L. Stevens for many years. The Shaffers were married in 1894. Shaffer's ranch was known as the Indian Guide Ranch as there were indications of an Indian battle there, and in early days an Indian trail ran across the county from Chugwater Creek near Iron Mountain and crossed the headwaters of the three different Sybille Creeks and their tributaries. That trail was spoken of as the "Horse Trail" (see Page 374). Shaffer raised Shorthorn cattle during his lifetime. He shipped his bulls from Iowa from a breeder named Cameron. Mr. and Mrs. John Shaffer raised a large family. There were five sons: John of Laramie, Bill, Charles and Fred of the South Sybille, and Frank of western Colorado. There were five daughters: Rose (Mrs. Art Stacy of Laramie), Flora (Mrs. John Stacey of Laramie), Ann and Frances (Mrs. Oscar Miller of Wheatland), and one daughter died. Mr. John Shaffer passed away in 1932. The property apparently was bequeathed to his widow, Mary, and to the writer's knowledge she is still the owner. John Shaffer, the oldest son, managed the ranch for a period of time and then Bill Shaffer has operated the ranch most of the time since his father's death. Shaffer, like many of the other old timers, had to have a side line to make some money to add to his banking account to raise his family. He received the appointment as deputy tax assessor, a job which he

liked and did such a good job that he was reappointed for many years. The Shaffer Ranch has a large acreage of grazing and meadow ground to raise native hay and alfalfa. The Shaffers switched from Shorthorns to Herefords by exclusive use of Hereford bulls. John A. and Mary Shaffer secured water rights in 1888-1906 for an appropriation of 2.74 cubic feet per second to irrigate 126 acres on which to raise native hay and alfalfa. John A. Shaffer's brand was a 2S on the right shoulder and hip on cattle and he branded the same brand on the right shoulder of horses. Mary Shaffer, his wife, had her own brand, a quarter circle over the figure 20 on the right hip of cattle and right shoulder of horses.

De Lario Homestead

The next homestead below on the creek was filed on by Louie De Lario of Laramie. He did not branch out much in the livestock business. His homestead was located in Section 27-19-71. About 1889 or a little earlier, he sold his homestead to the late Dr. Henry L. Stevens of Laramie. As soon as Dr. Stevens acquired ownership of the land he commenced to make improvements so he could raise hay for the livestock he planned to put on the place. He obtained a water appropriation from Wyoming Territory and later from the State of Wyoming. The first water right was dated April 1889 for 0.50 cubic feet per second to irrigate 35 acres of land to raise hay, native and alfalfa. The second water right was obtained in April 1890 for 0.96 cubic feet per second to irrigate 67 acres of land for making hay. Dr. Stevens started raising cattle and horses. He branded his cattle with an

italic A on the left side. He branded his horses with an SB on the left hip. At one time he raised horses of outstanding type. They were grade Morgans, rich in color, black predominating, with some bays and sorrels. He sold one car load from which there were seven matched teams picked for hearse teams. About 1905 he sold his cattle to the late John McGill and went into the sheep business. He bought a township of land that adjoined him, from the Union Pacific Railroad Company. He continued in the sheep business as long as he stayed in business. The Laramie Boomerang for December 13, 1904 mentions that Dr. H. L. Stevens had purchased the interest of Mr. William Maxwell in the Maxwell-Stevens herd of sheep. The sheep at that time (1904) were ranging on the ranch of Dr. Stevens in the Sybille country under the direction of Charles Jarvis as foreman.

Albany County Sheep Raid

This sheep raid took place in May 1904, after the owners of the sheep had been warned not to bring them to the Weaver Ranch on Knight and Buck Creeks near the Colorado line. Details of the raid are given in Chapter 4.

Dr. Stevens sold out his grazing land about 1912. The above mentioned John Shaffer bought half of the Township. A neighbor below on the same creek, the late James Allen, bought the ranch part (home ranch) of the Stevens holdings. His son and wife moved onto the place and resided there for a period of time. About 1916 the Allens sold it to the late John Innes who resided on the main Sybille. About 1950 the widow, Mrs. Flora Innes, sold it to the late "Scotty" Hay



John Shaffer's Ranch in 1918.



Closeup of the "ring" of rocks marking the site where Willie Nickell's body was found and the gate where he was shot, 22 paces away.



John Shaffer's cattle in 1935.

and he in turn sold it to the Shaffers, who are the present owners.

Waechter Ranch

The next settlers on the South Sybille were the Waechters. They raised cattle in a commercial way. August Waechter and his wife raised six children, namely: Charlie, John, Chris, Harry, Oscar, and Mildred. She is the only survivor except possibly Chris.

August Waechter made homestead filings prior to 1886, and in July 1886 he obtained a water right entitling him to use 0.37 cubic feet per second to irrigate 26 acres of land for hay. John Waechter obtained a water right in 1886 for 1.07 cubic feet per second from the South Sybille to irrigate 75 acres of land for hay production. Harry Waechter's brand was a lazy S with a hanging Y on the right ribs of cattle and the right thigh of horses. Oscar Waechter's brand was RL on the left side of cattle and left shoulder of horses. Oscar also used the brand AW on the left ribs of cattle and left shoulder of horses. Mildred Waechter's brand was a spur rowel on the right hip of cattle and right shoulder of horses. Mildred (Mrs. Pat Lenihan) is the only survivor of the Waechter family, and lives in Burbank, California. She lost her husband less than a year ago. The Waechters sold out on the Sybille in the 1920s, to Willing Richardson of Elk Mountain. He operated the ranch for a few years and it eventually passed into the hands of the late "Scotty" Hay and is now in the Hay estate.

Scotty Hay Ranch

Alex "Scotty" Hay settled on a little creek over the mountain east of the

Dr. Stevens Ranch. His homestead was in Section 25-19-71. "Scotty" raised a high quality Hereford cattle. He marketed his cattle as calves, and always received close to the top price on the Omaha market and had near the heaviest weights. Alex married a school teacher, Miss Edna Metcalf. They moved on to the Stevens ranch in 1917 to start housekeeping, and then to "Scotty's" homestead. Their family consisted of two sons and two daughters. Gordon lives in Laramie and the other son, Alex Jr., lives on the ranch and assists his mother in its operation. Helen and Edith are school teachers. Alex Sr. died in Feb. 1954.

James Allen Place

The next settler below the Waechter Ranch on the South Sybille was James Allen, an Englishman. In the early days he and his brother were dirt contractors. One of their jobs is a landmark today for they constructed the Pioneer Canal. Another contract was to construct the Boughton Canal which irrigates the Boughton place, now a part of the Whitaker Coble or Bosler Ranch. Jim Allen made a filing prior to the spring of 1888. He married and raised a family of two, a son, Ed, and a daughter, Annie. Allen raised cattle for a living after giving up the contracting business. He had two water rights dated in 1888 and October 1899. In total they amounted to 0.80 cubic feet per second to irrigate 50 acres. Their brand was the letter A over a half circle. The points of the circle were up and the right point of the A was placed to come about the center of the two points of the half circle. The Allen ranch passed into the hands of Major Raburg,

once a large operator in Laramie and Albany Counties. It remained in their hands (Company) until late years when it passed into the hands of that good old cattleman, George Martin, who is still enjoying its operation at the age of 80 years.

Henke Ranch

The next settler below on the South Sybille was Rudolph Henke. He filed on land in Section 25-21-71 in 1885. On December 24, 1886 he acquired a water right amounting to 0.89 cubic feet per second to irrigate 60 acres of land on which he raised native hay and later alfalfa hay for his livestock. In the spring of 1887 he acquired an additional water right out of the South Sybille totaling 0.36 cubic feet per second, to irrigate 20 additional acres. Mr. and Mrs. Rudolph Henke were Germans by birth, but they made good citizens and their thrift paid off and they thoroughly appreciated their adopted country. They raised five children: Fritz, who managed the ranch until his folk's death and then until his son, Raymond, took over. Mrs. Fritz Henke is living, perhaps in Salt Lake City, where she and Fritz made their home when they retired. Otto, the next son, went to railroading out of Cheyenne and continued at that work until his death several years ago. He was a passenger brakeman. Minnie, the oldest daughter, is now Mrs. Swan and lives in Wheatland. Julia, Mrs. Kern Smith, and Mabel, now Mrs. Harry Dearing, reside in Wheatland. Grade cattle were used and at first a pedigreed Hereford bull, and later Angus bulls. The present herd is almost purebred Angus. The original cattle were purchased

locally in 1885. Steers sold from \$20.00 a head in 1893 to \$34.00 a cwt. in 1950. Bulls were worth \$20.00 a head in 1893, and \$300.00 a head in 1950. Cows brought from \$15.00 a head in 1893 to \$230.00 a head in 1950. Rudolph Henke branded a reversed L on a H Z on the left ribs of cattle and the left hip of horses. The L and H were connected.

Rosentrater Ranch

The next settler on the South Sybille is Gustave W. Rosentrater. He filed on a homestead prior to June 1899 in Section 8-21-70. He was an old cowpuncher who rode at one time for the Swan Land & Cattle Company. He, like other early settlers, had to carry on a side line to obtain extra cash to make ends meet. He chose punching cows. He finally got a little bunch of cattle started that made him a nest egg. He let those cattle increase by keeping the females, until he had a bunch of cattle large enough to live on. He is still living on them and his two sons are operating with him. He has expanded his land holdings to the point where they carry enough cattle to support three families. They raise a herd of commercial cattle of Hereford blood and at one time ran a herd of steers along with their breeding cows. Rosentrater's brand is ORC on the left ribs of cattle and left thigh of horses. He also owned the brand VLV on the left side of cattle and on the left thigh of horses. Rosentrater obtained a water right out of the South Sybille on June 5, 1899 for 0.96 cubic feet per second to irrigate 67 acres of bottom land on which to raise alfalfa. One daughter married Earl Flaharty.

Christensen Ranch

The next settler below on the South Sybille was Christ Christensen who was an uncle of James M. "Sunny Jim" Christensen of Laramie. About 1887 he filed on a homestead of 160 acres and later, about 1903, acquired 320 acres as a desert claim. The land in the two filings was located in three different sections, 3, 4, and 9 in T.21N R. 70 W. He and his wife were hard working, enterprising people. They secured their first water right from the State of Wyoming in 1901 and three more rights in 1903. These rights covered 2.79 cubic feet per second to irrigate 201 acres of bottom land on which to raise alfalfa. In addition to the ditches he built to get this water on his land, he also built an immense dirt embankment to back up water from the creek and impound water throughout the year to use in the irrigating season. However, he had bad luck when a flood came down and broke out his dirt dam. Christensen raised cattle for a livelihood. His brand was a lazy Diamond with a lazy S with point down, on the left side and pointing up on the right side. It was always called a Diamond S and was put on the left ribs of cattle and the left shoulder of horses. About 1905 Chris Christensen sold his ranch to the partnership firm of Dodge and Dover. They operated as partners for several years and after World War I they dissolved partnership, and the Christensen place went to W. E. Dover, who is the present owner. Dover operates it as a cattle ranch. His brand is 31 Bar on the left hip of cattle and left shoulder of horses. The W. E. Dover Ranch is the last one on the South Sybille before it empties into the main

Sybille near the present Shamrock Service Station on the Laramie-Bosler-Wheatland Highway.

Ranches on the Middle Sybille George Berner Ranch

The Middle Sybille has a nice little valley which affords several prosperous little ranches. The uppermost settler on the Middle Sybille was George Berner. He settled on a homestead in Section 30-20-71 and secured a water right from the Territory of Wyoming for 0.36 cubic feet per second to irrigate 25 acres of meadow land to raise hay for his livestock. On the same date, May 1, 1886, Berner secured an additional water right for the same size of water appropriation for the above mentioned acreage.

George Berner was married and raised four boys: Albert, who resides on the ranch; August, who passed away in 1947 in California; Walter, who resides in Laramie, and George, Jr., who died in December 1947. A daughter, Louise, married J. R. Richardson.

The Berners raised cattle and they improved them as they went along until they reached almost perfection in quality and size. Their brand was GB on the right side.

Mr. Berner died in March 1917 and Mrs. Berner passed away in August 1923. They resided at the ranch and were living there at the time of their deaths. Mrs. Berner was about the most motherly looking lady one could ever expect to meet. Albert Berner is the present owner of his father's ranch.

Thomas Cleve Ranch

The next settler below on the Middle Sybille was Thomas Cleve, Jr., who



Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Henke (Mrs. Henke formerly Mrs. Ernest Plaga) with Otto and Ernest Plaga in background. By courtesy of Albin Plaga.



The Plaga Ranch. Photo by R. H. Burns, 1951.



Henry Mudd Ranch on the Sybille. By courtesy Western History and Archives Department, University of Wyoming Library

by profession was a pugilist. He fought in the light or middle weight division. He filed on a homestead in Section 18-20-71 around 1885. He secured a water right out of the South Sybille for 0.21 cubic feet of water per second to irrigate fifteen acres of land to produce hay for his livestock. He never did accumulate many cattle. The Cleve place passed through several hands. A large family named Weibel owned it and lived there for a number of years; then a man named Eddington owned it for a few years; then the late Jim Allen owned it for a while. Then the Swan Company owned it until they started to liquidate in 1945. It was included in the first block of land that the Swan Company sold to the Sybille Corporation, who is the present owner. John Bell of Iron Mountain operates it under a lease.

Henry Bridger Place

The next settler below was Henry Bridger. He was an Englishman by birth. Soon after he filed on the homestead in Section 28-21-71 in 1887 he put up the buildings and was well established when his brother, Alf, came over from England. It was winter time when he arrived in Laramie. He learned that he would have to take the stage to get to his brother Henry's place, so he made a reservation with the stage driver. Alf did not realize the hazards of a Wyoming blizzard, and was not suitably clothed when he boarded the stage, having neither warm clothing nor overshoes. The journey by stage was a long one, perhaps forty-five miles. During that trip a cold east storm came up which caused Alf much suffering on the trip and the after-effects were with him

the rest of his life. He froze his feet back to his instep and they sluffed off. After this misfortune he had boots made-to-order but they were very uncomfortable because he was not able to balance himself to keep from falling backwards or forwards. He always had to use a cane and if he had any great distance to walk he had to use two canes. Poor fellow, he did not live many years and is buried on the ranch. Henry Bridger filed on that homestead prior to April 1886. He obtained a water right for 0.36 cubic feet per second to irrigate twenty-five acres of ground on which he raised hay and eventually alfalfa. He raised a good type of beef cattle and his brand was lazy three over a nine on the left side of cattle and left shoulder of horses. In the fall of 1916 Henry Bridger sold his ranch to the late Pat Lenihan and wife. They operated it until about 1920 when they transferred it back to Bridger. William Bridger inherited it and sold it to George Lucy, the present owner. He has added much acreage to it and is still raising cattle.

Ernest Plaga Ranch

The next settler on the Middle Sybille was a man named Ernest Plaga, who was born in Prussia in 1864 and came to New York in 1868 with his parents. He came to Wyoming in 1879 and married Barbara Julia Keilhauer in New York. She was born in Bavaria in 1852. She came over to New York in the ship "Silesia," which made a record trip for those days, coming across in nine days, in 1869. The Plagas had two boys, Otto and Albin. Otto Plaga died some years ago and in his earlier years was a noted bronc rider. Albin is living in Wheat-

land but spends a lot of time "breaking in" the daughter and son-in-law, Thelma and Robert L. Barton in the ranching business. The buildings were built in 1882 and are located on Sections 26 & 27-21-71. The original homestead entry was made in 1882 and through the years the ranch acreage has increased to 5,000 acres. This is the place Charley Kuster squatted on in early days but he never lived there, and Ernest Plaga filed on the land.

After Ernest Plaga's death in 1899, Mrs. Plaga remarried to Raymond Henke. They continued to live on the ranch for many years until they sold the ranch to Mrs. Henke's younger son, Albin, and they moved to Wheatland to spend the rest of their days. The water rights were acquired by Mrs. Julia Plaga. In May 1887 she obtained a water right from Wyoming Territory for 0.36 cubic feet of water to irrigate twenty-five acres of land to raise alfalfa. That was the No. 1 ditch. In October of the same year she obtained a water right for 0.30 cubic feet per second to irrigate twenty-one acres of land to raise alfalfa on. That was the No. 2 water right. The original livestock were local, but several bunches of steers were purchased on the Denver market in recent years. In 1915 Albin Plaga purchased 400 head from his step-father, Raymond Henke. In 1917 a "line" of steers were purchased from Silver City, New Mexico. In 1918 some 400 head of Mexican cattle were selected from a bunch bought in Sonora by the Toltec Land and Livestock Company. In 1917 some 700 head were purchased from Westcliffe, Colorado. Steers sold for 3 cents a pound in 1923, while 4-year-old steers sold for \$25.00 a head in 1893.

In 1920 steers brought 13 cents a pound in Omaha. Cows sold for \$10.00 a head in 1934. Calves sold from \$10.00 a head (1934) to \$31.00 a cwt. in 1950. In 1922 Albin Plaga, in his own words, "went to the cleaners" for \$82,000.00 on a bunch of cattle. The brand used by the Plagas for many years was the letter T connected with the bottom part of a heart, which makes the heart look upside down. It is used on the right ribs or hip of cattle and the left thigh of horses. While Raymond Henke was on the ranch his private brand was a T Heart Half Circle on the left side of cattle. The Plaga brand, T Heart, is imprinted in the concrete walk in front of the ranch doorstep.

Tom Moore

The next settler below, before the Middle Sybille empties into the main Sybille, was Tom Moore. He filed there in the latter part of the 1880s and sold out to Raymond Henke and his wife in the early 1900s. Thomas N. Moore obtained a water right in the fall of 1887 for 0.49 cubic feet per second to irrigate 34 acres of land. Tom Moore did not accumulate a large number of cattle; he depended on making his living on mail contracts and working on other ranches when not otherwise engaged.

Tributaries to the Main Sybille Other Than the Middle Sybille

Johnson Creek is the name of a tributary to the Main Sybille which comes in from the northwest just below the present Wyoming Game Reserve. It acquired its name from a man who filed on a homestead in Section 3-20-72 at about the turn of the century. J. L. Johnson was a widower

with one son, who lived with him. When he first established his residence there he raised a truck garden consisting mainly of potatoes. He really raised some good spuds. After he lived there a few years he took a small bunch of sheep on shares from the late partnership of Hall and Tregoning. He was very successful with sheep, and soon accumulated enough from his share of the increase to build up an economical unit which made him a living. About 1930 he bought the ranch from Edwin Moore, where he built a neat little house. He turned that house over to his son, Fred. J. L. Johnson bought some land north of the forks of the highways, south of Bosler and close to the Laramie River and moved out there to live. His health broke and he did not live long after that. Fred, his son, lived on the Edwin Moore place until about 1938 and then sold it to the State of Wyoming, who is using it for experimental work with game animals and birds. The State bought all of the Johnson land on the Sybille and Johnson Creek and now has it fenced with a high woven wire fence and other improvements including a modern residence for the caretaker. Buffalo, deer and antelope can be seen in their pastures from Highway 34.

Ralph Hall Ranch

In 1897 H. Ralph Hall and his bride, Miss Tinnie Gillespie, an aunt of the author, settled on School Section 16-20-72, on what is known as Long Canyon, the first canyon and/or creek to flow into the Sybille from the south after the Wheatland Highway from Bosler enters the Sybille hills. Long Valley is quite noticeable running along to the right of the highway and

almost parallel to it. Hall built a neat little log house to which to take his bride. He was engaged in the sheep business. The Halls lived there one winter; then they moved to the ranch which is the headquarters for B. Frank Dobson and is located on the North Laramie River at the mouth of Cow Creek. Hall leased the school section with the new house to the late J. L. Johnson in the fall of 1898, when he moved over on his own ranch recently purchased from the author's uncle, E. C. Gillespie. The school section passed into the hands of the Swan Land and Cattle Company and they passed it on to the Sybille Corporation when they bought the land in Township 20 from the limits on the east to the Laramie River on the west. John Bell of Iron Mountain is the present operator of that land under lease.

Edwin Moore Ranch

Edwin A. Moore was the first settler in Long Canyon. He settled on a tract of land up near the head of the canyon, but did not live there long enough to get title to the land. His wife deserted him and his infant daughter, so he had to move back down the Sybille to the other Moore's place so his mother could assist him in the care of the baby.

Fuse Homestead

The next tributary which flows into the Sybille from the south is Bear Creek. It received its name from the bear which inhabited that section of the country in the early days. It flows through a very rugged part of the country.

This ground was too rough and rugged for any man to use up his land rights on but after the Stock Grazing



Ranch of H. Ralph Hall. Pen and Ink Sketch by Houghton. From 1901 Industrial Edition of Laramie Republican.



Langhoff, now Martens Ranch. Jan. 7, 1951.



Blue Grass Well, with Rocky Hills by Blue Grass Corrals in background. Bud Gillespie in foreground. Note the size of the well compared to his height. Sept. 30, 1951.

Homestead Act was passed, with additional acres of land available, a man by the name of Fuse filed on a section at the very head of the canyon and lived there long enough to comply with the law and get a title to the land. The writer believes he sold it to Claude Lewis. This land changed hands several times and ended up in the hands of the Sybille Corporation, who are the present owners.

Grandma Shearer Place

The late Grandmother Shearer filed on a homestead on the extreme head of Long Canyon and the fork which came in from the East. She resided there long enough to comply with the law and put on the necessary improvements to entitle her to a deed, which she obtained from Uncle Sam. She closed the trail which led from the hills to the Laramie Plains, known as the Horse Trail. Thousands of cattle, as well as the buffalo before them, used that trail each year at the start of the summer season, when their migrating instinct told them it was time to hit for the Plains and quit the hills. They no longer needed the shelter of the hills and in the spring lush green grass awaited them on the plains.

Sybille Creek Ranches

After Plumbago Creek runs out of the Laramie Mountains (Black Hills) from the east, it turns north and from that point is spoken of as Sybille Creek, and is the main Sybille. About two miles from the mouth of Plumbago Creek is located Sybille Springs which are only a few yards west of the main Sybille. There is a small grove of cottonwood trees about the Springs and this grove can be seen about a mile west of where the Wheatland

Highway enters the hills (Laramie Mountains).

Thomas N. Moore Homestead

Near the grove are some buildings which Thomas N. Moore built on his homestead, on Section 24-30-73 soon after the turn of the century. He raised a large family there. He raised some cattle and his brand was a lazy H over U on the left thigh of cattle and horses. Part of the time he was engaged in the sheep business and as a side line he raised potatoes. He operated there until the early 1920s. He and his wife died about the same time. Then Nels Larsen bought the place and operated it for a great many years. He sold it to the Swan Company and recently the Sybille Corporation purchased it from the Swan Company to block out their other holdings. The Sybille Corporation does not operate a livestock business but depends on leasing the land. The present leasee and operator is John Bell of Iron Mountain.

Mike Fitzmorris Place

The next settler on the main Sybille was Michael C. Fitzmorris. He was called Charlie. He filed on a homestead in Section 2-20-72 about 1886. Nearby is a noticeable landmark, "Sheep Rock" which looms up at first straight ahead, and finally to the left of the Wheatland Highway. The ranch buildings are on the right side of the Wheatland Highway when traveling eastward. He raised a family of 12 children and had his boys riding about all of the time. Charlie engaged in the cattle business and raised Shorthorns, the so-called Durhams of those days. His brand was a Bar over a T. He made a wattle under the chin on his

cattle. He owned a large bunch of cattle and operated the surrounding range as if he owned it. He kept his cattle out on the Laramie Plains, as well as other people's cattle, during the summer months. In the fall he would let his cattle come into the hills around Longs Canyon and Bear Creek, and that part of the Sybille west of his house, but he would keep other people's cattle herded back on the Plains. He would keep those cattle on what he was herding for a fall range until about January 1st; then he would let his cattle go below his field on the Sybille and range up on School Creek. School Creek crosses the Wheatland Highway and there is a marker on the bridge. Charlie had only enough hay to feed his calves and any mature stock that was in poor condition. Michael Fitzmorris took a water right out of the Sybille Creek in 1887 for 0.50 cubic feet per second to irrigate 35 acres of land on which to raise alfalfa. On February 16, 1898 Ella Fitzmorris, Michael's wife, obtained a water right out of the main Sybille for 0.70 cubic feet to irrigate 50 acres of bottom land on which to raise alfalfa. About 1902 Fitzmorris sold his outfit intact to three men who have now passed on. Those three men who associated themselves together to buy the Fitzmorris Ranch were John Innes, Neil Clark, and William Daiber of the Daiber Clothing Store in Cheyenne. As time passed on, Mr. Innes bought out his partners and operated the place himself, along with his family. He operated it until 1920 and then he sold it to Claude Lewis, who in turn sold it to the late Al Konold and his son, William. Konolds operated it about two years when they sold

it to the Swan Company. When the Swan Company started to liquidate, this was their first ranch to be sold to the Sybille Corporation about 1945. That sale comprised all of the Swan holdings in Township 20, from the railroad limits east to the Laramie River. In fact the river passed through two sections on the west border of this area of land. This ranch is leased to John Bell of Iron Mountain by the Sybille Corporation.

Gus Van Burken Homestead

The next settler on the Sybille was a German named Gus van Burken. He filed on a homestead in the very late 1890s. He lived there long enough to get a small bunch of cattle started and a deed to his homestead. He then sold out to John Innes.

Edwin Moore, the same man whose wife deserted him, an older brother of the Thomas N. Moore mentioned before, settled on a homestead in Section 20-21-71. The old log building of this homestead is still to be seen close to the Wheatland Highway on the right side going east; one sees a few of the apple trees which he planted. For a time Ed studied phrenology (head shape and human behavior). A phrenologist was an unusual person in these parts. People had plenty of fun when he was called on for an analysis of the heads of some of their friends. He did not mince words, but told just what he thought after an examination of their heads, and cared little whether or not he flattered them.

Edwin Moore spent the night at the S. W. Gillespie Ranch on the Big Laramie River near Ione Lake. "Sam" Gillespie was fond of playing tricks on people. He and his wife were in the kitchen preparing breakfast when Ed

Moore came out of his room and the three of them started talking. The writer's Dad said, "Ed, I want to put up a 'job' on the school teacher." The teacher was Mabel Hayford, a daughter of the late J. H. Hayford, who established the Laramie Sentinel Newspaper. The writer's father, when all were seated at the table, said, "Ed, have you ever paid any attention to the bumps on our teacher's head?" Ed answered, "No, I have not." Dad retorted, "Well, Ed, look her over and tell us what she knows." Ed dropped his hands to his lap and stared at Miss Hayford for some time. Then he said, "Sam, she is a little fast." Ed forgot the little word "flirt" and substituted the word "fast." Miss Hayford sprang from her chair and started to dash out of the room. When she got to the door she turned around with her face red as fire, and looking desperately at the writer's father, she shook her finger at him and said, "You are at the bottom of that." Thus ended one lesson in phrenology and a good joshing and put up job became increasingly embarrassing to the participants.

Edwin Moore's chief business was truck gardening. He raised every kind of vegetable that would grow in the Sybille valley and all of the different varieties of each kind. He would bring an exhibit to the County Fair each fall. The surplus he would haul to Medicine Bow and Hanna for a market. He had an apple orchard which was the first one in that locality. He raised a few cattle. His brand was a lazy E on the left ribs of cattle and the right shoulder of horses. He would also bring in a rattle snake to the County Fair in a glass cage. Edwin Moore used to play the violin for the

country dances around the country. He would drive as far as 35 miles with his team of mules in order to play all night, for the sum of \$5.00. His wife left him. He obtained custody of his only child, a daughter, and raised and educated her himself, teaching her reading, writing, and arithmetic. Edwin Moore obtained a water right out of the main Sybille January 29, 1901 for an appropriation of 0.36 cubic feet, to irrigate 27 acres of land for a truck garden, and also raised some alfalfa.

The Laramie Republican at one time offered a prize for the best love letter written by one of their subscribers. Ed's composition and vocabulary were sufficient to carry off the prize, which is not surprising for a grass widower. He sold his ranch about 1925, to the late J. L. Johnson who operated it only a short time when he passed away and left the place to his son, Fred. Fred operated it for a number of years as a cattle ranch and then sold it to the State of Wyoming. It is now the site of the Game and Fish Department Game Farm.

George Moore Place

George Moore was the next settler on the Main Sybille. He settled there in the latter part of the 1890s. He raised a small bunch of commercial cattle and had alfalfa to feed them on during the winter. Most of his living came from a potato patch and other garden vegetables. He sold potatoes and vegetables at the towns along the Union Pacific Railroad as far as Hanna and prior to that, at Carbon.

A Tragic Accident

George Moore had a large family. One of his boys was working for the late Flake Hall up on Cow Creek. He

and another man went out in a pasture to take the hobbles off a bull. They roped the bull and stretched him out. The Moore boy got off his horse and went to take the hobbles off. The bull struggled to get up and kicked the heel rope off of his hind feet. He regained his feet and made a run at the Moore boy. The other man had a rope on the bull's horns and the other end of the rope wrapped around his saddle horn. The bull jerked the man's horse down and continued after the Moore boy. When the bull caught up with the Moore boy he went down. The man could not determine whether or not the bull struck Moore, but the bull ran over him and on to his bunch of cattle. When the man got to the Moore boy he was unconscious. They immediately started in a spring wagon for Rock River with the boy, but he died before they reached the doctor. About 1910 George Moore sold his ranch to the late Mrs. Hartwig Martens, and since her death the place has passed into the hands of Verne Martens, who is the present owner.

Langhoff Now Martens Ranch

The next settler on the main Sybille was Fred Langhoff. He settled on Section 23-21-71 prior to 1886. On July 1, 1886 an appropriation was made for that homestead for 1.21 cu. ft. of water per second, to irrigate 85 acres of land on which to raise alfalfa. Mr. Langhoff married Evelyn Farrell, a girl from the Little Laramie. The Farrells owned the ranch later owned by Wallis Brothers and now in the possession of George Forbes. The Langhoffs raised three children while on that ranch. They lived on that ranch less than ten years, when it passed into the hands

of some "moneyed people" named Hoffman, from Cheyenne. They put a man by the name of Hartwig Martens on it to manage and take care of it. They finally sold the ranch to Martens. He did not have any money to invest, but he bought the ranch intact including land, livestock, and equipment, and all the security he needed to give them was his word in the form of a promissory note. Martens paid off all of that indebtedness with his and his wife's hard work, perseverance and good management, for which they deserved the highest praise and credit. Then they raised and educated three sons: Mark, Verne, and Julius, and a daughter named Lucy. Hartwig Martens' brand was HOF on the right side.

Sommer Ranch

The next family downstream on the main Sybille was the Sommer family. They located on Section 7-21-70 in the late 1880s. The parents were rather elderly when they came here as all their children were grown. They had four sons: Charles, Dave, Joe, and Leslie. They built up a well-improved ranch and were prosperous cattlemen. They accumulated considerable land and a herd of around 500 cattle before they commenced to separate and start individual businesses. The first depression in 1920 started them on the "down-grade." The mainstay in the family was Dave. He passed on about 1933. The outfit soon liquidated. The whole family has passed on. The present owner of the old Home Ranch is Earl Flaharty. The lower meadow was purchased by the late Charles T. Moore and belongs to the Moore Estate. The Sommer brand was ZJ.

Roved Now Flaharty Ranch

The next settler on the main Sybille was Louis P. Roved and his brother. Louis was Danish by birth. They settled on Section 7-21-70 in the very early 1890s. Like many of the early day settlers, they raised potatoes which gave them food and a little spare cash for the surplus. In the fall they had to drive a team and wagon to town for provisions. They usually put on four horses and took a full load of potatoes to town to sell, to get money to buy groceries with. Often the grocers accepted potatoes "in kind", as well as butter and eggs. In the early days when the Langhoffs lived on the ranch above them, Mrs. Langhoff gave Louis a milk cow. He kept that cow, and her increase grew into a herd of cattle. In fact all of the cattle they could winter there came from this start and they were good cattle with plenty of quality and size. They went into the cattle business without too much effort and never owed anyone a thin dime. Louis' brand was a PR5 on the right side of cattle and right shoulder of horses. They lived there as long as they were able to. The brother died first and Louis moved into Wheatland, where he did not last many years. When the ranch was sold it was bought by Earl Flaharty, the present owner, who has made many improvements and has remodeled the house so it is on a par with a modern city dwelling.

Henke Ranch

Prior to 1886 Richard Henke settled on a homestead on the main Sybille on Section 32-22-70. The original homestead filing was in Laramie County, but since Platte County was organized it falls within the limits of

that county. The Henke's were in the cattle business, and continued in that business as long as they operated the ranch. Mr. and Mrs. Henke raised a family of three. One son, who was well known throughout the country as "Dude" attended the University of Wyoming. In the last years of his life he lived in Wheatland and operated a filling station. He was assassinated. The two daughters are married and to the writer's knowledge they still live in Wheatland. Richard Henke secured a water right out of the Main Sybille Creek in the spring of 1886 from the State of Wyoming for an appropriation of 0.47 cu. ft. to irrigate 30 acres on which to raise alfalfa. Charles Sommer, a man with a large family, bought the Richard Henke ranch when it came onto the market. He raised Hereford cattle there. Sommer sold the ranch to Fred Schwatke about 1920. Fred Schwatke operated the ranch until about 1924 when he decided to discontinue his ranching interests. He looked around for a buyer. After showing it to the late Charles T. Moore, he found a cowman here that was interested. Charles T. Moore had a partner named William Wheelock who had some interest in the operation, but whether in livestock or land the writer is unable to say. Moore eventually bought out the Wheelock interest and operated the ranch until his death about the fall of 1952. His widow and son, Tommy, now operate the ranch. Moore's Hereford cattle were known far and wide for their excellent quality. The Moores added acreage to their holdings until they had a large outfit. Charles T. Moore's brand was KMS.

Jones Ranch

The next ranch below on the Main Sybille has some important history and connections. It is known as the Jones Ranch. No record of any man named Jones is found on the Abstract of Title. Evidently a man named Jones was on the tract of land as a "Squattor." The first land that was patented was to William R. Swan, one of the firm of Swan Brothers. He sold out and went over in the Saratoga country and established himself there as the operator of another large cattle company. He was associated with Tom and Henry. The patent to the land by the government went to William Swan on December 20, 1883 and was recorded on February 1, 1884. William H. Swan conveyed the land to the Swan Land and Cattle Company by warranty deed dated June 29, 1883 and recorded February 23, 1884. All of the land in the Jones Ranch is embraced in Sections 26, 27, 33, and 34, T. 22N R. 70W. Letters Patent U.S.A. to Moses Robinson, dated 1-15-1885; recorded 3-6-1885. Only the NW $\frac{1}{4}$ of NW $\frac{1}{4}$ was deeded to go in on the sale of the Jones Ranch, and the present owners thus have this piece of land. Moses Robinson conveyed the land to the Swan Land and Cattle Company by warranty deed, and they passed it on to the next buyer. Howard Johnson obtained a patent for 160 acres in Section 34-22-70 dated June 20, 1884 and recorded July 23, 1884. Howard Johnson conveyed this land by warranty deed to the Swan Land Company on May 7, 1894 and recorded September 8, 1894. Another piece of land was patented by Charles H. Schick on October 9, 1888 and recorded January

21, 1889. Charles Schick's homestead was also transferred to the Swan Land and Cattle Company in 1889 and was a part of the Jones Ranch. The Jones Ranch also contained 40 acres in the Henry Keakey place, and 80 acres from the Estelle Keakey filing. Taken all together, the Jones Ranch had some large meadows and was an ideal little ranch. It had to be a good place to attract the attention of such a prominent man as William H. Swan. It was the camping ground for the Swan Land and Cattle Company's roundup wagon when it was going to or coming from the Laramie Plains, where many trainloads of beef were shipped out from old Rock Creek Station. Howard Johnson lived on the place long enough to raise a family of three: Vic, Oscar, and Mary. Before Johnson's death he was confined to his bed for about ten or twelve years. The only time he sat up was one day when the wood pile got on fire. In those day the people burned wood in their stoves. There were many wagon loads of wood in one pile, and it was close to the house when it caught fire. Johnson was the first to notice it. He became so excited that he had his feet out on the floor and was sitting up in bed when they found him. Tom Horn made that ranch his stopping place occasionally when he was going back and forth on his livestock detective jobs. If a storm happened to hit there at the same time the roundup came along, the riders would go up to the bunkhouse where it was more comfortable, to play and pass the time away. If a tenderfoot happened to be in the bunch a nice little trick unfolded: Someone would accidentally slip a newspaper in his

hip pocket; another would touch a match to the tinder-dry newspaper; another would shout fire; and another would throw a bucket of water on him, completing the drama. They would have "stag" dances. The little spare-made fellows would have a white handkerchief tied around his right arm and he was to dance on the right side, filling a lady's shoes. When the Swan Company started liquidating their vast holdings, the Jones Ranch was one of the first ranches to be sold. That land was conveyed to Collier Jenkins in October 1944, who, in March, 1946, passed it on to E. W. Bryant and Earl Blevens, the present owners. They have a good herd of registered Hereford cattle.

Mudd Ranch

The next settler below the Jones Ranch was Henry Mudd. He settled on that homestead prior to 1888. He obtained an irrigation and stock water right out of the Sybille for 4.24 cubic feet per second to irrigate 297 acres of land on which to raise alfalfa. Mudd married a widow woman by the name of Sheldon, who had two sons, Alfred and Leo. The Mudd's raised one son named Don. He is married and has lived in Laramie most of his married life. Henry Mudd was the President and organizer of the Sybille Valley Horse and Cattle Growers Association. It was an active association whose purpose was to run a roundup wagon each fall, after the Swan Land and Cattle Company had gone into the sheep business and had discontinued its roundup outfit. The Association gathered the cattle on the Laramie Plains and the adjoining hills.

Henry Mudd was the ditch rider for the Wyoming Development Company and had charge of the No. 1 ditch. He held that job for about as long as he was physically able to take care of it. That ditch is the main one used in irrigating the Wheatland flats. Henry Mudd raised cattle and his brand was a rolling pin on the left side of cattle and the left shoulder of horses. The Mudds passed away about 1950. Don Wickam came into possession of the ranch and operated it for awhile when he sold it in 1953 to Raymond Cushing, who is the present owner.

Phelps Homestead

The next homestead below on the main Sybille was settled by Albert M. Phelps prior to 1900. He had a family and two daughters, Mrs. J. Raymond Baker and Mrs. Frank Baker live in Laramie. Phelps owned about a thousand acres along the creek, which was mostly alfalfa ground. He raised some cattle. In the fall of the dry summer of 1916 he sold his ranch to the late William Radichal of Plumbago Canyon. That move was a livestock saver for Mr. Radichal. That winter set a record as a cattle killer, which was surpassed only by the record breakers of 1886 and 1887. Mr. Radichal was overstocked on his own ranch and by this wise move saved a crisis in his business. That winter he was able to save enough cattle to more than pay for the Phelps property. A daughter, Cora, and her husband, Louie Seidel owned the Phelps property for a great many years. Then they sold it to Cora's nephew, Jack Radichal, who to the writer's knowledge is the present owner.

Dave Morris Place

The next settler below on the main Sybille was one of the hard-working roundup foremen for the Swan Company for many years. His name was Dave Morris and he filed on a homestead prior to giving up the Swan foreman job. The filing was prior to 1897. He quit his roundup job in 1898. He married a school teacher, Miss Daisy Curtis, in 1897. From that union two children were born. The oldest child was a daughter, whose name the writer cannot recall. She never married. The son's name was John and he died in 1918 while attending school in Denver. Mrs. Daisy Morris passed away about 1912 and Dave Morris married a lady from Nebraska about 1916. He passed away about 1930. On that ranch he raised a commercial herd of Hereford cattle. His brand was a reversed L and a script N connected. In 1906 Dave Morris sold his cattle to the late partnership of Harden and Hartman of Laramie. After Morris sold his cattle he rented his grazing land to the Swan outfit, later known as the Swan Company. He cut and stacked his hay and sold it to the Swan Company as long as he lived and since his passing the estate has handled the ranch in the same way. After the Swan Company liquidated, a man named Harlan McLeod bought the old Two Bar Ranch on the Sybille and he keeps the contract in force in the same way as the Swan Company did. Dave Morris added much grazing ground to his meadow land. Dave Morris was a great favorite of the late John Clay. In all of John Clay's writings Morris was favorably mentioned. Dave Morris obtained his irrigation water from

the Wyoming Development Company, and drew his water from the No. 1 Ditch. He cut many hundred tons of alfalfa hay.

Ankney Place

The next settler below on the main Sybille was D. E. Ankney. He partly raised a family there; three boys, Carl, Tom, and Floyd, and a daughter, now Mrs. Gus Rosentrater, who lives on the Sybille. Mr. Ankney was called "Dad" by his friends, and he had scores of them. He raised cattle for a living. His brand was a U over a Bar and the bar was over an H. After his children grew up and left home, ranching was too strenuous a life for him and he sold out to his neighbor, Dave Morris. Ankney was very successful in raising alfalfa. He also obtained water for irrigation purposes from the Wyoming Development Company out of No. 1 Ditch.

Ranches on Blue Grass Creek

Blue Grass Creek has a large water shed. It has three forks and drains all of the Blue Grass flats, about thirty-five miles north and a little east of Laramie. The three forks are appropriately named the West, Middle, and East Forks. They come together before they enter the Blue Grass Hills. Below the junction of the three forks and well into the hills, Mill Creek, an important tributary, flows into the Blue Grass from the east. Bull Camp Creek flows into the Blue Grass from the west slope.

Fuse and Simerlee Places

In the early part of the 1920s a prospector by the name of Fuse lived on the East Fork of the Blue Grass. About

1901 Charles Simerlee filed on a homestead a mile and a quarter north and a little east of the old Swan Land and Cattle Company's branding corrals. Simerlee raised potatoes and prospected.

Tom Dodge Ranch

Thomas B. Dodge filed on a homestead in 1900 on Section 4-22-72 on a tributary that flowed into the Blue Grass from the west. In the early days this location was known as the Bull Camp, so-called because the oxen that freighted out of Old Rock Creek were wintered at this location. No freighting was carried on during the winter with the "big string" outfits drawn by oxen so they grazed and rested. Tom Dodge built a nice, roomy, comfortable house on his homestead, and went into the cattle business in a small and safe way. He started from the bottom with a small number of cattle and saved the increase and soon he had a large enough herd of cattle to provide him with a living. In 1906 he married Eva Dover, and they had three children. A son, George W., resides on his grandfather's ranch on the Laramie River and is at present one of the County Commissioners. A daughter, Margaret, now Mrs. Jimmie Laycock, lives near Wheatland. The other daughter, June, is now Mrs. Archie Akers and her husband is serving in the armed forces. Tom Dodge was a good stockman and always ran a good quality commercial herd of cattle. He did not put up much hay but had the knack of always keeping his cattle in good flesh. He operated in a wonderful winter range country and spent most of his time during the winter riding

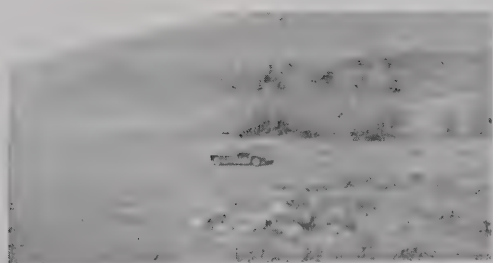
and switching his cattle from place to place where there was fresh and better feed. He also used a pack horse to pack cake to cattle where they needed it in the rough country. About three years ago Mr. and Mrs. Thomas B. Dodge accepted retirement. They sold most of their land to their only son, George, and built themselves a nice home in Wheatland. Tom Dodge's brand was a 96. Part of the time Dodge raised sheep during his later years at ranching, and also many horses.

William "Razor" Irvine Ranch

The next permanent settler on Blue Grass Creek was William Irvine, an Irishman. He was generally known as "Razor," a nickname acquired from his brand, which was a razor on the left side of cattle and a razor blade on the left jaw of horses. He and his partner, Dr. Charles A. Morrison, settled on that land about 1895. The filing was on Section 5-22-71 where the house was located. They dissolved partnership before the turn of the century. "Razor" acquired a water right out of the Blue Grass Creek, August 21, 1899 for an appropriation of 0.81 cu. ft., to irrigate 57 acres of land on which he later grew a good stand of alfalfa. Irvine only acquired 400 acres of land at the time he ran 1000 head of cattle, mostly steers. The deputy assessor used to argue with "Razor" over the number of cattle he was turning in for taxes. When the assessor told him he had more cattle than he turned in, "Razor" replied, "Yes, but the wolves killed some of my cattle." There was adequate range for Irvine's cattle. He operated only in the free range in that section of the country.



Tom Dodge and female wolf he shot in 1908 at ranch. By courtesy Tom Dodge and A. S. "Bud" Gillespie.



Site of house location at Lewis Ranch. This is in Platte County and Lewis was accused of rustling and warned to leave the country and was supposedly a victim of Tom Horn.

He fed only the calves and any cattle that became thin during the winter. William Irvine was a bachelor during the time he operated on the Blue Grass. His affections were centered on a strawberry roan horse, which he called "Lousy." They knew all of the trails and the isolated hiding places where there was good feed for his cattle to eat. Irvine took out two additional water rights from Blue Grass which amounted to 0.82 cubic feet per second to irrigate 58 acres more of land. These water rights were taken out in January 1904. William Irvine sold his ranch, livestock and everything intact on the place to his niece and her husband, Mr. and Mrs. Adam Boyd, who are the present owners and operators. During the years they have added land and now their operation takes in a large block of land on the Laramie Plains. Boyd's brand is PAT connected. The Boyds had two boys, William and Frank, and a girl, Nora, who lived only to her 12th year. Her passing left a gap in the family which has never been closed.

Linscott—Then Garlock Ranch

The next neighbor down the creek was Jack Linscott, who lived on Section 3-22-71 for a short time. He sold out to a Mr. Wesley Garlock, who used to live in Antelope Basin. Mr. Garlock bought the ranch for his eldest son, Harry, who branched out in a large way in the cattle business. H. C. Garlock got possession of a water right which was dated 1889 for 0.63 cubic feet, to irrigate 44 acres of land on which to raise alfalfa. On November 5, 1902 Harry C. Garlock took out an additional water right for 0.50 cubic feet to irrigate more ground, amount-

ing to 35 acres. In those years ranchers would often cut the alfalfa three times a year. They had numerous stacks of hay to show for their efforts. Harry Garlock's brand was a (2 lazy B connected). William Boyd is the present owner of the Garlock Ranch. He is married and has two children. William Boyd's brand is a (V over an O). Harry Garlock used to have a little difficulty in satisfying the deputy county assessor. One spring the assessor was filling out the tax schedule. As he filled out the blank spaces he came to the line where it called for the number of bulls. He asked Harry: "How many bulls have you, Harry," and Harry answered, "Just half as many as 'Razor'." Mind you "Razor" had returned one bull.

The Blue Grass Tunnel

Above William Irvine's Ranch about three miles, the Wyoming Development Company put a tunnel from the Laramie River through a solid mountain of rock to the Blue Grass Creek so that the Laramie River water could be used on the Wheatland farm land. The Blue Grass runs into the Sybille Creek and the Wyoming Development Company has taken out ditches from the Sybille to irrigate the Wheatland flats. The tunnel is about three quarters of a mile in length and is 12 feet high and about ten feet wide. It was built around 1887.

Annie McKechnie Ranch

Now Wickam Ranch

The last settler on the Blue Grass Creek before its junction with the Sybille was "Grandma" or Annie McKechnie. She was the oldest settler on the Blue Grass Creek. She took out

a water right in 1888 to irrigate fifty acres of land. Like her neighbors, she raised alfalfa and a few cattle. Her ranch passed into the hands of Frank A. Wickam. He operated it as a cattle ranch for many years, then went into sheep and continued in this business as long as he operated it. His cattle brand was a UH on the left hip. His son John Wickam is the present owner, and he raises cattle.

Fred Gibbs Place

Before leaving this section of the country there was another operator in the livestock business. He filed on a homestead on a creek that runs past Elmer rock and flows into the Laramie River. His name was Fred O. Gibbs, and he filed on a homestead in Section 26-23-72 about 1914. He raised sheep and was a good sheep man. He also accumulated a small bunch of cattle and a few Thoroughbred horses. He married Harriet P. Gillespie in 1917. They had two children, Frederick and Virginia. Fred Gibbs met a tragic death, being kicked by a horse about 1936. The land was leased for a period of time. Donald Crearer leased the land at Six Mile and Frank Boyd leased the home place. Boyd finally bought the place. Frank Boyd helps his father in his operation and during the last two years has bought the Kite ranch on the Laramie River. He is a bachelor and operates a prosperous cattle outfit. His brand is CJ on the left side of cattle.

The Blue Grass Well

Largest Water Hole in the World

The importance of water for humans and livestock is well known throughout the western country and today

water must be developed in every pasture or field to take care of the livestock and in cities the water supply is always a major problem when the population and water consumption increases.

Some eighteen miles north and east of Lookout, and seven and half miles east of the McGill bridge is the Blue Grass Well which is one of the largest, if not the largest, water hole in the world. It is located on Section 14-21-72. You do not see it until you almost fall into the large saucer-shaped hole seemingly gouged out of the prairie. It is around 125 feet across from east to west, and its circumference by our actual pacing, amounted to 148 paces and the pool is round as a dollar. The surface of the water is about fifteen feet below the general level of the ground.

Cattle Trails All Come to the Well

Trails come into the well from all directions radiating like the spokes of a wheel. It is located on a flat between the west and the middle forks of the Blue Grass, and is extremely hard to find even to one who knows the country. Old timers have told the writer that the wall around the well is perpendicular except in a few places, which gave livestock a chance to go down to the edge of the pool. However, for many years now the slope surrounding the pool has been quite gradual as shown in the illustrations taken in 1951.

Where Does the Water Come From?

The source of the water which keeps up the level of the Blue Grass Well has always been a mystery. The level

of the water never varies greatly even when large numbers of cattle and horses drink their fill and observations indicates that the water level never has varied much over three feet. There is no outlet for heavy snows or rains which are engulfed by the pool. The Geology Department furnished the following description of this natural phenomenon: "A spring is a place where, without the agency of man, water flows from rock or soil upon the land or into a body of surface water. The geological situations which allow this to happen are very numerous and each individual spring must be studied and the local condition reviewed in order to logically explain why water should emerge from the surface of the earth at that point in preference to some spot nearby. One is amazed at the variety of conditions which cause springs, and is puzzled at the seeming mystery of some occurrences. It appears that the water hole owes its origin to the fact that ground water enters the ground over a rather flat area, and slowly moves toward the low spot at the hole. It is interesting to speculate as to whether or not this watering spot might have earlier been a blow out. There is much evidence on the Laramie Plains and in the Laramie Range for a period of extreme drought and wind activity during the glacial interval about a million years ago. During that period wind may have excavated the blow area into which, when the climate became more equitable, ground water could drain from a fairly large area. This spring, or well, has long been a great natural wonder to livestock men and is not completely explained to the satisfaction of geolo-

gists. Whatever the full story may be, one must appreciate that water moving underground follows and obeys rather clear cut physical laws. If the geological factors are not entirely clear it is because the evidence is concealed by the soil and the grass land that make the area so desirable from a pastureage standpoint."

The Well Furnished Water for Thousands of Livestock

During the days of the open range up to about 1905, perhaps two or three thousand head of cattle watered there and about four to five hundred horses. When cattle or horses go there for water during the hot weather they usually wade out to where the water is up to their shoulders. They reach this depth of water in relatively short distance as the shores slope off rapidly. This well was originally on a government section. The Swan Company had possession of the land and well as long as they were in business, and when they liquidated they sold a block of land to Honorable Gilbert Small of Platte County, a former legislator. After the Swan Company went into sheep around 1905, they used to water two bands of sheep per day at the Blue Grass Well.

Caves Underfoot

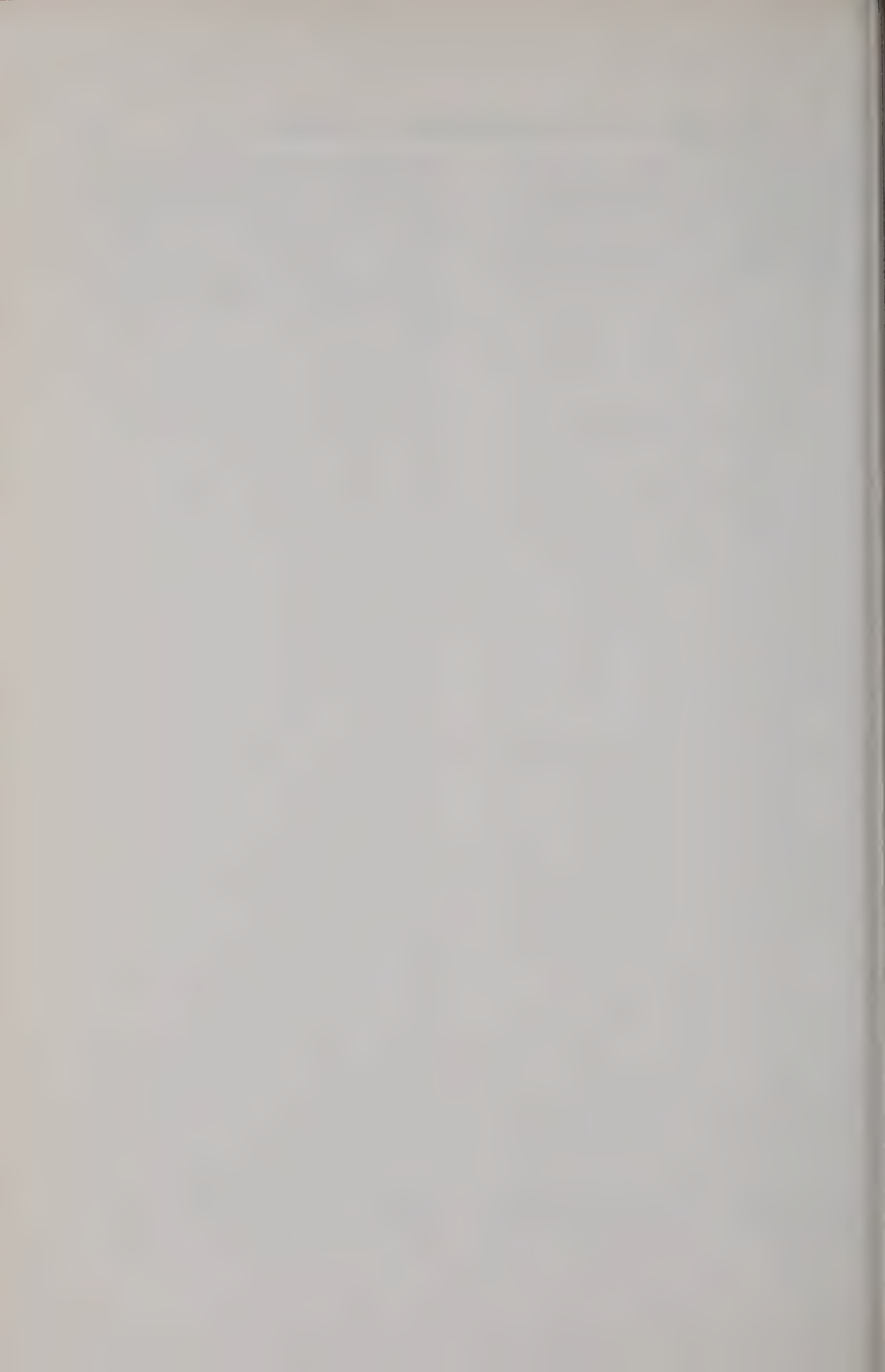
In the northern part of Albany County there are many caves and some of these are evident from their openings while others are covered up but readily located by the hollow sound when a person rides over them on horseback.

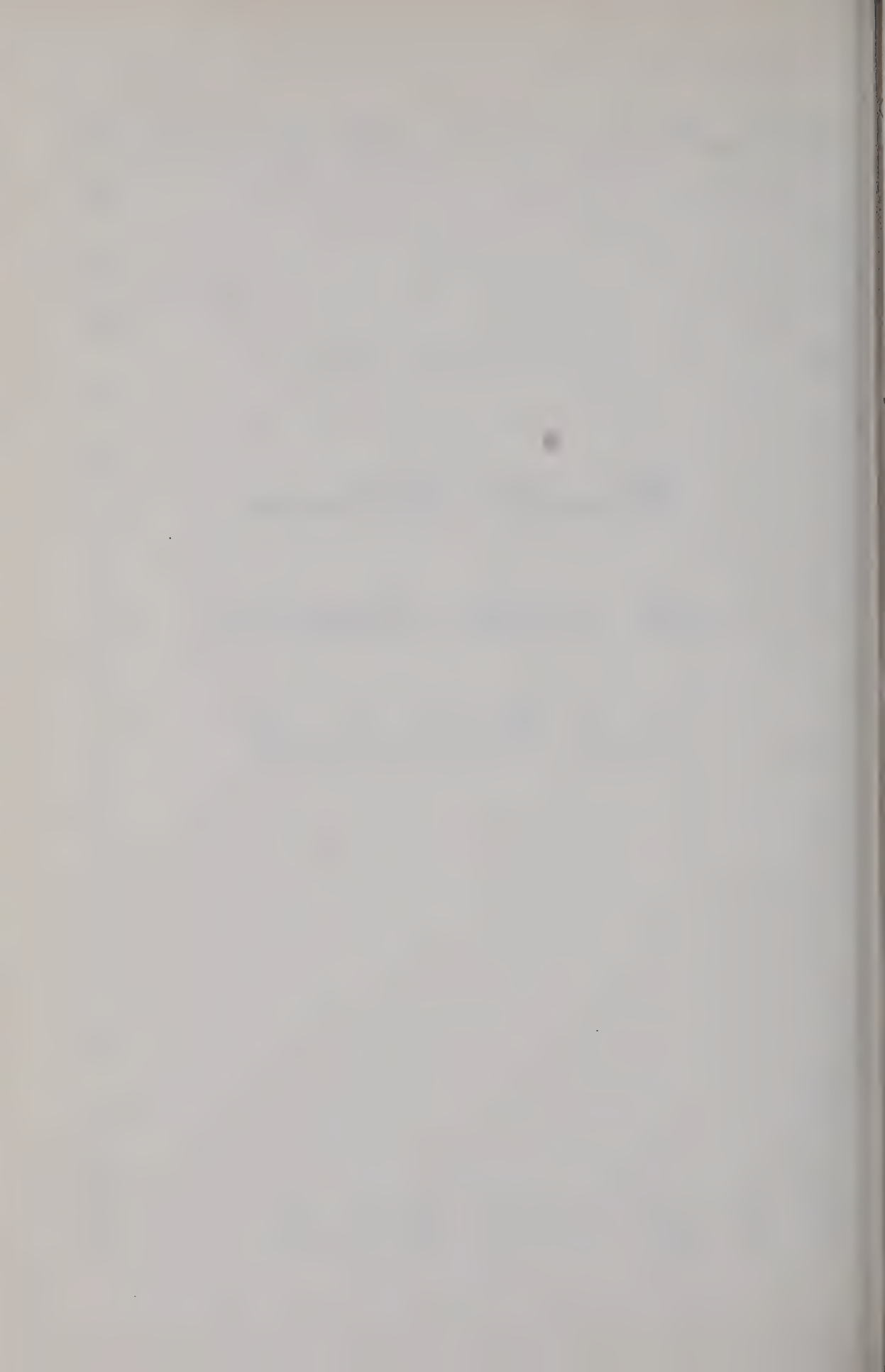
The Blue Grass Well is a most interesting and distinctive feature of the Laramie Plains and can well be called

the largest water hole in the world. Where else in the world can cattle by the thousands find the shore line space and volume of water to assuage their thirst without waiting in a long line?

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS AND SOURCES

The writer wishes to thank the following people for information and encouragement: Mrs. Beulah R. Berner, Mr. and Mrs. Harry S. Brown, Thos. Dodds, Sr., Thos. Dodds, Jr., Mrs. Wm. Radichal, John Shaffer, Walter Berner, Mrs. Mabel Allen, Albin Plaga, Ned Dover, H. J. "Bert" King, and Don Blackstone.





CHAPTER 14

RANCHES BETWEEN THE LITTLE LARAMIE AND ROCK CREEK

By R. H. "Bob" Burns

Mill Creek is the first creek north of the Little Laramie River which runs east out from the Medicine Bow Mountains. On Billy Owen's map of 1886 three ranches are shown on Mill Creek.

The Nellis Ranch

Furthest up Mill Creek was the homestead of Ed Nellis, a clerk in C. R. LeRoy's hardware store in Laramie, who took up a claim on south Mill Creek on Section 10-16-77. The land records show that Martin E. Nellis made both desert and homestead entries, the former in 1882 and the latter in 1890. Mr. Nellis died in 1905 and his wife sold the place in 1906 to the Millbrook Land and Cattle Co., E. J. Bell General Manager. The place sold consisted of 160 acres, all in Section 10-66-77.

The Webb Ranch

The Webb ranch buildings are shown on the Owen Map as located on Section 7-16-76. This ranch has already been described in Chapter 11 with the Little Laramie River ranches.

The Willan Ranch

This famous ranch built up by Jack Douglas-Willan and the Sartoris Brothers, has already been described in Chapter 11. It lies at the mouth of Mill Creek on the Little Laramie River.

Ranches on Seven Mile Creek

This is the first creek which is crossed going north from Mill Creek.

It flows into James or Seven Mile Lake. The ranches from the mouth of the creek going upstream are the following:

Sam Phillips Ranch

The Sam Phillips ranch was located on Section 16-18-76, a school section which is now a part of the Holly Hunt ranch.

The Basin, Eykyn or Quealy Ranch

The Basin ranch is just below the present road crossing over Seven Mile Creek on the Quealy Dome, Morgan, McFadden road. It is located on Sections 7 & 12-17-76. The Owen map of 1886 shows the Eykyn Ranch on Section 7-17-76. Mr. George R. Eykyn was on the ranch in 1899. He raised both cattle and sheep and sold the ranch to the Carbon Timber Company who in turn sold it to the Quealy Land and Livestock Company of Hanna. A few years ago it was sold to Swift & Co. who in turn sold it to the present owners, Miller Bros. The brand book of 1916 lists a brand GE connected for George Eykyn, for cattle, sheep, and horses.

The Owen map of 1886 shows a Hecht Place in the next Section (12) west of the Eykyn place. This was evidently a cattle camp for Charlie Hecht who lived on the Mandel place on the Little Laramie River. (The present Miller Bros. headquarters or old Swift Ranch). The Wyoming Stock Growers Association Brand book of 1890 listed Charles Hecht as having range on the Little and Big Laramie

Rivers, Seven Mile, Four Mile, Cooper, Dutton, and Rock Creeks.

Stillson Ranch

The Stillson ranch is located on Section 17-17-77, west of the Basin or Eykyn ranch. It was sold to V. M. Woolf who in turn sold it to Swift & Company and it is now owned by Miller Bros.

Young John Strous Place

The Young John Strous place is the highest place on Seven Mile and is up next to the Seven Mile Burn. It has been owned by Mrs. V. M. Woolf since October 1928.

Ranches on Four Mile Creek

This is the second creek north of Mill Creek. It originally ran into the Big Laramie River near Two Rivers (Old Wyoming Station), but was diverted by the Laramie Valley Municipal Irrigation District and diverted into James or Seven Mile Lake. The ranches are taken up in order from the lower ranches up to the mountains.

Denny Fee Ranch

Dennis Fee settled on a place on Section 35-18-77, at the mouth of Four Mile as diverted into James Lake. The original squatter was John Daily. Dennis Fee was born in Chicago in 1858 and died in 1935. He came to Wyoming in 1872. He worked as a cowboy on the Sargent & Homer Ranch in the 1880s. He was a bachelor. He raised Shorthorn cattle and some nice horses. His riding horses sold in 1910 for \$125. The late Oscar Sodergreen told the writer that the Fees were in the country when he arrived in 1873. Larry Fee was Deputy

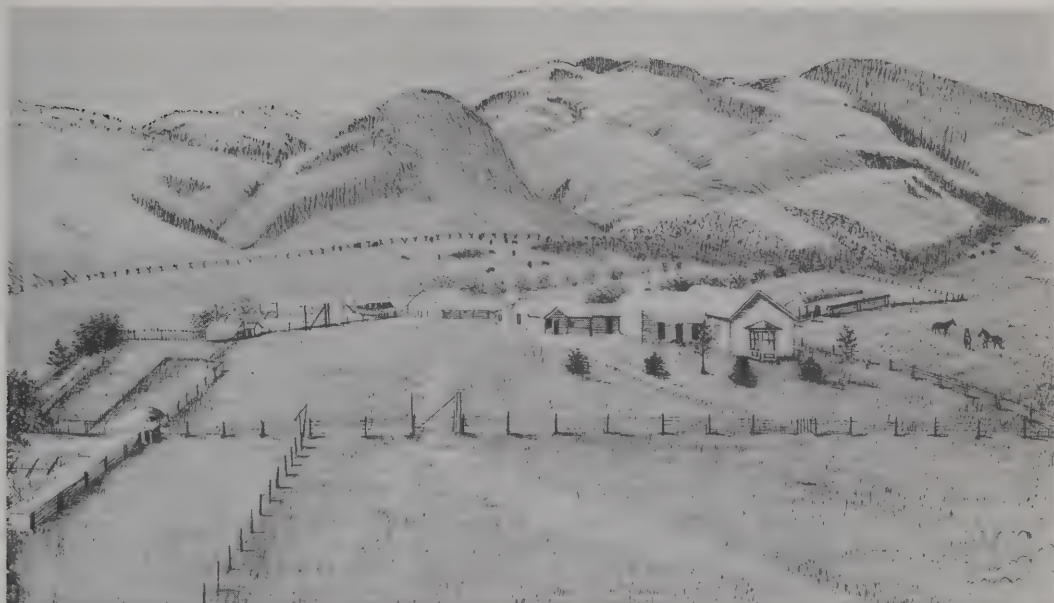
Sheriff under Brody and received a bullet in his knee in the shooting scrape with the notorious outlaw, Watkins. Jack Fee, a brother of Dennis, had one of the early ranches on the Little Laramie described in Chapter 11. The Denny Fee ranch is now a part of the Holly Hunt ranch.

McKay Ranch

Just above the Fee ranch was the William McKay Ranch located on Section 32-18-76, owned by a jolly Scotchman who started out working for Thomas Alsop on the Little Laramie in 1880. The late Oscar Sodergreen said that Wm. McKay owned a ranch on Shell Creek and then the A-A Ranch on the Platte River, in later years before going to California, where he was killed in a railroad crossing accident. Donald, the youngest brother, who was quite a player on the Scotch bag pipes, was killed in Laramie by the railroad police and was buried in Laramie in 1897. Roderick, another brother, was killed in a peculiar accident in 1902, when he was hauling a mowing machine. He was on his way to the A-A Ranch and the wagon capsized on the steep sided road, pinning him under the mowing machine and wagon. The McKay ranch was sold to the present owner, Holly Hunt.

Lauritz Miller Ranch

On the present road to Morgan and McFadden, there are the remains or ruins of an old ranch on the right hand side where the road crosses Four Mile Creek. This is all that remains of the Lauritz Miller ranch located on Section 2-17-77. This place was sold to Swift & Co. and then passed to the present owners, Miller Brothers.



Ranch of M. E. Nellis. Millcreek Albany County, Wyoming. Pen and Ink sketch by Houghton. By courtesy Arthur Phillips.



Mr. and Mrs. Sam Phillips and daughter Zoe about 1902. By courtesy of Willing Richardson.



Mr. and Mrs. Sam Phillips and their fancy buggy, about 1902. By courtesy of Willing Richardson.

Old John Straus Ranch

On Section 4, the second section west of the Lauritz Miller ranch is the site of the old John Straus ranch. Only a part of the buildings are now standing. John P. Straus was born in 1837 and located in Albany County in the spring of 1868. He herded sheep for Tom Alsop when he (Straus) first came to the country. John Straus was buried in the Laramie cemetery in March 1928: Age 91. The ranch was not the cleanest in the county and among some travelers was known as the Bug ranch from its inhabitants. Straus Hill in this area was named for this pioneer. Miller Brothers now own the Old John Straus and Lauritz Miller ranches.

Ranches on Cooper Creek

Dropping over the rim from Four Mile Creek one comes to Cooper Cove which is watered by Cooper Creek. Cooper Creek flows into Cooper Lake and we shall take the ranches from the mouth of the creek upstream to its source in the mountains.

Latham Ranch

Before there were any land filings, the original Chamber of Commerce, in one person for the Laramie Plains and the west, one Dr. H. Latham, located a place where the Overland Stage route crossed over Cooper Creek. The U. S. Forest Service in Laramie has a copy of the General Land Office map of 1870 which shows a Latham Ranch on the SE $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 20-18-77, Cooper Creek where the stage road crosses it. This would be close to the present Hansell place owned first by Fanny G. Johnson and now by James Jankowski. The activities of Dr. H. Latham have been outlined in Chapter 2.

Ranches on Cooper Lake Flat

Since the waters of its feeding streams have been used in irrigation, Cooper Lake has gradually dried up and today there is not much lake but more flats. The writer is indebted to Bud Gillespie for the information on the Cavender, Strochine, Purine, Swank, and Tomezak ranches.

Homer Cavender Made Meadows From Greasewood Flats

Everyone looking for a suitable tract of land to place a homestead filing on, passed up Section 18-19-75, except Homer Cavender. That section was covered for the most part with greasewood which thrives on gumbo soil. Before Cavender settled on that tract of land it was open range and during the time the Riverside Livestock Co. operated it was used as lambing grounds. Then they had a winter corral under the hill there and a log cabin for the herder to live in while camped in that area. That section looked good to Cavender so he filed on a homestead to see what kind of a ranch he could develop. He not only filed on a homestead himself but had his mother and sister out to file on land adjoining his. At that time an individual could make entry for 640 acres under the Stock Grazing Homestead Act. As soon as he obtained his rights to the land, he applied for a water right out of Cooper Creek and obtained a permit from the State of Wyoming to build a reservoir and started to irrigate his land. He soon had that land producing so much hay that he could not get it all stacked in any one season. He had hundreds of acres of land to clear of greasewood and had to do considerable leveling to make these meadows. He raised both sheep and cattle and was quite pros-

perous. His most serious reverses were when he went to pay his income taxes, which were burdensome. Some stockmen would have borrowed money to pay income taxes, but not Cavender. He sold enough livestock to pay his. Cavender developed plenty of water for his livestock. He put down about five wells and used windmills to pump the water. He was just luckier than most folks and in one place where he drilled he hit artesian water in a shallow hole. He was a genius. He could set up one of the 20-30 foot windmill towers alone or he could take one down if anything went wrong with the mill. He owned a "Farm Hand" tractor attachment, with which he could lift the tower any place he wanted to move it to. For other men, that job moving a windmill tower, would be a job for three or four men. Cavender accumulated about five sections of land. He improved that land by irrigation until it would produce upward of 300 tons of hay until the present drought. The water would wash the alkali out of that soil and then the hay would begin to grow. Joe Miller and Co. (Miller Bros.) now own the Cavender property.

The Strochine and Purine Homesteads

About 1910 two of the Bosler farmers moved over to Cooper Lake and filed on some homesteads. They had in mind that Cooper Lake would be as productive as Ione Lake in raising crops of oats and barley. Each had families. Strochine filed on a homestead in Section 4-19-75. That section was at the north end of Cooper flat. He put up suitable buildings there to carry on a dairying business, and milked a number of cows. Purine filed

on a homestead in Section 18-19-75. That section was on the west side of Cooper Lake flat. He, like his farmer friend Strochine, milked cows and sold cream for a living. Strochine and Purine went into partnership on an irrigation project to develop a system to irrigate their land to produce hay for their milk cows. They secured water rights from the State of Wyoming out of Dutton Creek. They also obtained a permit from the same source to build a reservoir along Dutton Creek about two or more miles from their land. They found a location where they could impound enough water to pay them for their work and completed their work. Then they were confronted with a lack of water during a few dry years, when the reservoir did not fill up. Herbert King above them on Dutton Creek had a prior right to the water, and after he received the water he was entitled to, there was not sufficient over and above that to fill the reservoir for Purine and Strochine. School District No. 30 built a nice little school house between Strochine and Purine and a nine-month's school was voted for them, so their children would have a good school. Their business did not pay off to the extent that they could remain there indefinitely, and eventually they moved off of their homesteads like many other small operators were obliged to do.

Swank Ranch

James Swank settled on Section 32-20-75 about 1930. He started a sheep ranch there and was very prosperous. He was a brother of Mrs. Frank Bosler, Sr. Of course he started in a small way, adding first one block of land, then another until he had a considerable acreage. At the same

time he was increasing his small bunch of sheep until he had a good sized band. When he reached the point financially where he could retire he sold out. Swank bought much land for the tax bill against it, and acquired a large acreage under lease from the Taylor Grazing district. Swank built one of the nicest little houses in the country. It was equipped with all of the modern conveniences. He had a well drilled on a knoll several hundred feet above the house which furnished water for household use. The party who bought the land from Swank did not keep the land long, but sold out to a man named Cochrane and his partner.

Tomezak Homestead

A man named Ed Tomezak filed on a homestead in Section 28-19-75 about 1930. He went into the sheep business in a small way and was prosperous. He, like his neighbors Homer Cavender and Jim Swank, was a bachelor for many years, but finally married Marjorie Hill of Cooper Lake. Tomezak acquired additional land by purchasing adjoining land on the east which was sold for taxes. This land was in the bonded area under the Talmadge - Buntin Colonization Plan which complicated the titles to these lands and they were eventually sold for taxes. About 1949 Tomezak sold his land to the late Elmer Harris and the land is still in that estate. The Tomezaks moved to Colorado.

The Northrup Ranch

A well known early day ranch on Cooper Creek was the Charley Northrup ranch. Northrup came to the country in 1888 as foreman for W. D. Currier, pioneer sheepman on Rock Creek. The Northrup ranch was a

small one of around a section and a half. It was purchased by the Riverside Livestock Company (Balch & Bacon) in 1898 with the livestock thrown in for the sum of \$1,154.89. The late Al Mountford spoke glowingly of the fine coffee and cake Mrs. Northrup used to serve him when he was carrying mail from Laramie to Morgan. Charley Northrup died in Laramie in 1923 and is buried here. Eli Peterson of Douglas, who worked for the Willan Ranch in the early days told the writer that when he was sent to the River Ranch of the Willan Co. Charley Northrup was his closest neighbor. Charley was a southerner and dispensed good fellowship of which a major part was the supply of good moonshine type whiskey. The Northrup place is some 3½ miles downstream from the Fannie G. Johnson place now owned by the Jankowskis. The Northrup place is now a part of the Joe Miller Co. (Miller Bros.) ranch.

E. L. Dixon Place

The next place on Section 20-18-77 on Cooper Creek was filed on by E. L. Dixon in the 1880s. He, as a civil engineer, surveyed his own ditches. He was in a shooting scrape and killed a man named Embree in self defense. The late Elmer Beltz was there at the coroner's inquest and took the picture which the writer has in his collection. It seems that a man named Embree was convicted of cattle stealing through the testimony of E. L. Dixon. Embree served his term in Joliet prison and then returned to Laramie and threatened the life of Dixon. The latter was warned and was ready when Embree came to the ranch and in 1887 Dixon shot Embree



E. L. Dixon Ranch. Later owned by Fannie G. Johnson and now owned by James Dankowski. House built by Fannie G. Johnson about 1930. By courtesy A. S. "Bud" Gillespie.



Feeding the Arizona Calves on Dutton Creek Ranch in 1942. By courtesy Mrs. Herbert King.

in self defense. After the shooting trouble, Mr. Dixon's health broke and he died at the ranch. The ranch passed to his widow and daughter, Nina. His widow married Jack Huselton, a miner, and the income was spent in the mines at Morgan. Then the daughter and her husband, Bobby Nielson, moved to the ranch. They left the ranch about 1908 and went to Jackson Hole and thence to Oregon. Flake Hall took the place over on a mortgage and J. L. Johnson leased it in the spring of 1912. Ed McNurlen went on the place in May 1912 and was killed there in 1918. His widow, Fannie Gillespie McNurlen lived there until 1948 when she sold the ranch to James Jankowski who came from Sedgewick, Colorado and he still owns the place. Mrs. McNurlen later married Mr. Johnson and they now reside in Laramie and Mrs. Johnson has given the writer much information concerning the ranches of that vicinity and the Bengough place in particular.

Bengough Place

The next place on Cooper Creek is the Bengough place which has already been described in Chapter 11. The original filing on this place was a squattor's right by Andy Hixon. Later Bengough made a filing and proved up.

McFadden Ranch

The next place going up Cooper Creek is that of Walter McFadden who filed on the home place on Section 30-18-77 in 1890, after his father, F. D. McFadden had a squattor's right on it in 1887. F. D. McFadden came from Kansas in September 1886 by covered wagon and spent the summer and fall with Bengough, and then spent the first winter on the J. E. Dixon

place. McFadden moved over to Section 30 in 1887 and his son filed in 1890 as already stated. When Walter McFadden died the place was sold to Miller Bros. (Joe Miller Co.) the present owners.

McMurtrie Place

The ranch furthest up Cooper Creek next to the forest is known as the McMurtrie place and consists of two sections. James McMurtrie came from Longmont about 1913 and filed on a homestead which originally had been filed on by Grant McFadden and relinquished. McMurtrie sold the place about 1922 to Bunn Hair who recently sold it to a Texas party, Mr. Manthos, who plans to build a large home on the top of the hill. It is a very small place and was the old Morgan post office. The McMurtries went to California and he died there. The post office was moved to the McMurtrie place from Morgan (At Cooper Hill) about 1918 and was moved back to the ranch when McMurtries sold out, but has since been discontinued.

Ranches on Dutton Creek

Taking these ranches from the mouth of the creek, upstream, we have the following places:

Herbert King Ranch

The Herbert King ranch was the old Joe Bush place and the buildings are located on Section 24-19-77. Herbert King was born at Hamlin, Kansas on August 3, 1872. He came to Wyoming in 1883 and went to Rock Creek Crossing, now called Arlington. He came there with an emigrant train and sold the train to Bill Williams who had to turn them back. Herbert King hauled lumber from Mearns and then to the Holliday mill (George Gearhart was



Ranch of Herbert King on Rock Creek. 1901 Industrial Edition of the Laramie Republican.



*Machinery Shed at Dutton Creek Ranch of Herbert King, 1930-1935.
By courtesy Mrs. Herbert King.*



Herd of 500 Arizona calves on Dutton Creek Ranch in 1942. By courtesy of Mrs. Herbert King.

manager), which was located on Seven Mile (Site of present V. M. Woolf place). Holliday needed some large timbers 12 by 12 inches by 24 feet long for the bridges in the Sprague Lane, so it was necessary to cut the big spruce trees which had been passed up before. Herbert King states that his father had a ranch on Four Mile for many years since 1885. He had a farm in Kansas so he went back in 1883, sold out his farm and bought cattle and trailed them back to Wyoming. He sold the ranch to Luther Stillson about 1892. He died and his widow traded the ranch to V. M. Woolf. The first buildings on the King ranch were built in 1886 on the Seven Mile (Stillson) ranch. The first barns were built in 1885 and the first fences in 1888. The original squatter was James Alfred King who squatted there in 1883. The original filing was by Fletcher King (brother of Herbert) who filed on 160 acres in 1886. James A. King had used his homestead rights in Kansas. Fletcher King filed on 160 acres on Rock Creek.

The **Dutton Creek** ranch was purchased from the J. Clark Thornhill estate in 1904. Herbert King built a reservoir on Dutton Creek to catch the run-off and irrigate grain fields totalling about 500 acres. A large meadow totalling around 1400 acres was developed which cut around 800 tons of hay and the balance of the meadow was pastured. Herbert King took out a ditch from Rock Creek and in completing the job bought a steam shovel and dug the ditch which was around seven miles long. The work was completed about 1919. The reservoir was completed around 1921. Herbert King along with many other live-

stock men went broke in 1893. At that time he had sheep and after the crash he spent about nine years in the Laramie Peak country working on the ranches there. The milk cows were of Shorthorn blood and came from Kansas. The sheep were run on shares with George Eykyn from 1890-1893. The horses were of native stock. Steers brought bottom prices in 1893 when 3-year-old steers sold to Eykyn at \$20 while the high price was 15 cents a pound or \$165 a head in 1917. Lambs hit a low of 75 cents a head in 1893. Wool sold in 1893 for a 5 cent advance and did not pay the advance. The brands were a script S and 53 on cattle and a script S on horses. Herbert King purchased the Home place on Rock Creek on Section 10-19-78 in 1899 and has owned it continually since that time. It is fully described in Chapter 15 on the Rock Creek ranches.

Judson & Sutphin Sheep Camp

The Judson & Sutphin sheep camp was later a part of the Northrup place and now is a part of the Miller Bros. holdings. Judson and Sutphin had a sheep camp here but their home place was on the Little Laramie where Axel Palmer now lives (See Chapter 11). At one time this place was owned by the Toltec Livestock Company.

Alsop Horse Ranch

Another pioneer ranchman, Tom Alsop, who lived on the Little Laramie, had what he called his horse ranch on Dutton Creek. This place was above the Tim McCarthy place and below the Jimmy Dixon ranches. Members of the Alsop family (Louise and John) have told the writer of the inspiring scenery of this fine ranch where they loved to go in the summer.



J. W. Dixon Ranch on Four Mile. Group of people at Coroner's Inquest at ranch. Elmer Beltz went out with Coroner M. C. Jeren and County Attorney Groesbeck. J. W. Dixon shot Embree, an ex-convict in self defense. By courtesy Elmer Beltz.



Jimmy Dixon Ranch on Dutton Creek. Ladies' Aid group there with Hattie Fox Dixon as hostess. Summer 1929.

According to Mrs. Fannie G. Johnson, the Alsop Horse Ranch was probably on Section 12-18-78. The late Al Mountford located the Alsop Horse Ranch where the Ned Irvine ranch is now, on the north branch of Dutton Creek.

Tim McCarty Place

Tim McCarty came to the country in the early days and worked on ranches and sheared sheep to supplement his income. He took up a place on Dutton Creek in Section 6-18-78 just across the Carbon county line. He married a sister of Jim Atkinson of the Laramie Peak country and later sold out to Sid Morris about 1912 and moved to Thermopolis. Fred Greaser later bought the place and then Mr. and Mrs. Ralph May bought it, and are the present owners.

Jimmy Dixon Ranch

The Jimmy Dixon ranch is a well known place. Mrs. Ned Irvine, widow of Ned Irvine, a recent owner, furnishes the following information. Knute Hall made the uppermost filing on Dutton Creek soon before the turn of the century. He sold out to the late George W. Fox and the land passed into the hands of their only child Hattie who had married the late Jimmy Dixon previously. From then on the place was known as the Jimmy Dixon Ranch. The Dixons operated it until 1932 when it was lost to the Joint Stock

Land Bank who took over the property and leased it to the late Jim Atkinson for three years. In 1935 Mr. and Mrs. Ned Irvine bought the Dixon holdings and successfully operated it until the fall of 1946. Then in turn sold it to Leslie Layton who owned it for only nine months. He in turn sold it to McCartney and Wilson who operated it for a few years and then the present owner, Mr. Ringsby bought it. He is the owner of a fleet of trucks hauling freight cross-country. This place is located in Section 10-18-78. In the Wyoming Brand Book for 1916 Jimmy Dixon is listed for the brand 7K connected on the left hip of cattle and the left hip of horses. His post office was at Morgan in Carbon county.

Jimmy and Hattie Dixon obtained a small place on Section 22 about a mile upstream and built a nice two-story house there. After Jimmy Dixon's death Hattie lived there for awhile and recently sold the place to C. McKinley of Rock River who operates a sawmill in the timber and is subdividing a portion of the place into summer cabin sites for Laramie and Cheyenne residents.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS AND SOURCES

The writer wishes to acknowledge information from the following people: Holly Hunt, Louie Coughlin, Ellsworth Chase, Al Mountford, Oscar Sodergreen, Steve Frazer, Fannie G. Johnson, A. S. "Bud" Gillespie, Herbert King of Rock River, Mrs. Ned Irvine, Elizabeth Fee, Elmer Beltz and Ralph May.

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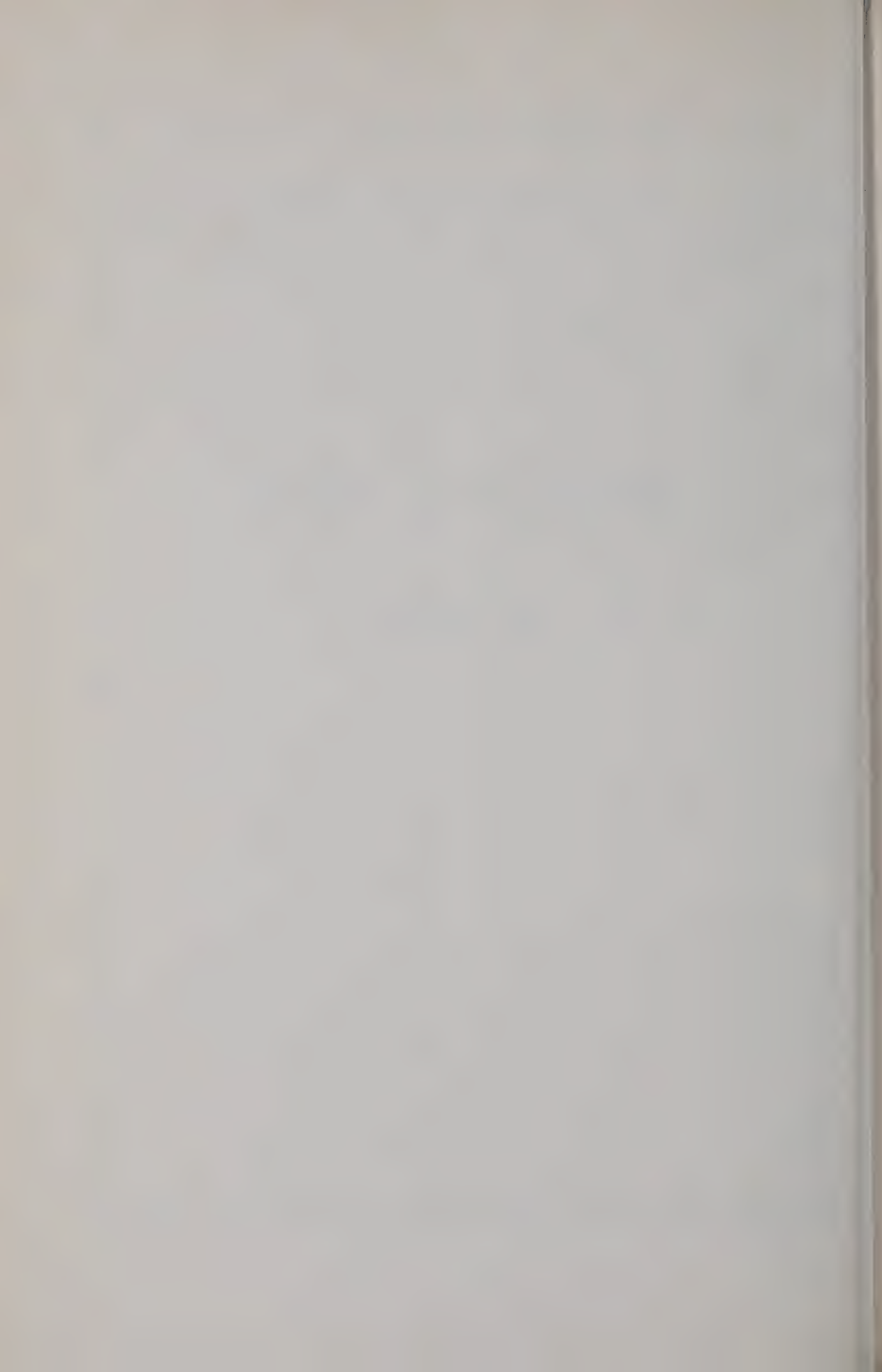
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CHAPTER XV

Ranches on Rock
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CHAPTER 15

RANCHES ON ROCK CREEK

By A. S. "Bud" Gillespie

Joe Bush Ranch

JOE BUSH, pioneer settler on Rock Creek, was one of the three men of the same name who were on the Laramie Plains in the early days. The original Joe Bush settled on Rock Creek where it comes out of the canyon. This was the so-called Rock Creek Crossing where the Overland Trail crossed Rock Creek and today this spot is known as Arlington. This Overland Trail came from Cheyenne and Denver and the branch from Denver came on through Dale Creek, Willow Station, Lake Station, Big Laramie Crossing, Little Laramie Crossing, Cooper Creek Crossing and on to Rock Creek Crossing. The old Overland Trail can be seen as grass-grown scars across the Big Hollow about 16 miles west of Laramie on the Centennial road.

Before going on with the original Joe Bush, let us consider the other two people bearing the same name. Another Joe Bush had a ranch on the Big Laramie River on Section 12-14-75 (1886 Owen Map.) This place is now known as the Alvin C. Nelson ranch about 15 miles out from Laramie on the Woods Landing Road. Another Joe Bush had a place on Dutton Creek and his real name was J. Clark Thornhill. According to Eli Peterson, old-time hand at the Willan Ranch on the Little Laramie, J. Clark Thornhill (Joe Bush) was a rich Englishman who had been disinherited ("Black Sheep"), as he drank too much whiskey. His

father got wind of his "goings-on" and stopped the remittances from England, so Joe borrowed money from Lionel Sartoris of the Willan-Sartoris outfit and then "beat the country" about 1890 and went to South Africa leaving Sartoris holding the sack. Lionel Sartoris sent Eli Peterson from the Willan Home Ranch over to the Dutton Creek Ranch to look after it. The house was exquisitely furnished with rugs that were thick enough for your feet to sink into and the furnishings were very expensive for such a long log building. The buildings were located on Section 17-19-77 and this ranch was later owned by Herbert King of Rock River. Recently the author and Bob Burns visited the scene of this old ranch and today nothing remains except an old iron pitcher pump, the ruins of a well and a few bits of glass and crockery. The Laramie Boomerang of May 1, 1904 stated that appraisers had been appointed for the Wm. C. Clarke Thornhill estate consisting of several sections of land in the Cooper Lake district.

During those early days pioneers were not interested in building up an establishment and settlement and making a living out of what they could produce. They were thinking of other means of a livelihood.

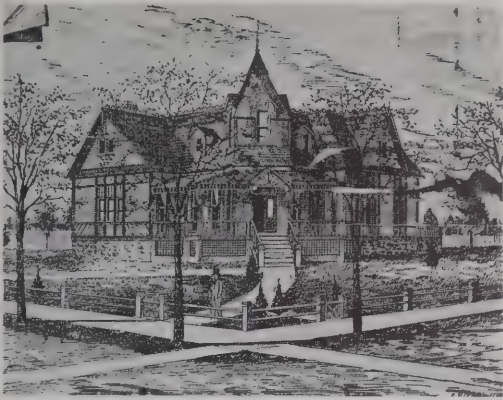
Another Joe Bush was a cowboy who worked in the North Park country and played in an historic football game. Harry Cordiner, a pioneer Laramie druggist, has a picture of this

football team, the Laramie Athletic Club football team who played Fort Russell on February 23, 1893. The members of the team shown in the picture are: Tyvold, Harris, Doyle, Hesse (Coach), Soule, Bush, Maynard, Peabody, Owen, Abrams, Howard, Crumrine, Hunt and Bramel. Bob Burns' father, Otto Burns, told about Joe Bush, himself, and some other cowboys who were around town, getting together and playing a practice game with the University Cowboys of those days. Likely some of the participants in that game are still around the country. In any event a good time was had by all and Dad Burns did not say who won the game, but it is probable that the college boys had more wind than the workaday cowboys from the range.

Joe Bush did not hold on to that claim for many years until it passed into the hands of William A. Williams, who decided to build up a small ranch there. The historical files of the Medicine Bow National Forest state that Bush settled at Rock Creek in 1860 and put up a toll bridge, and his toll charge was 75 cents for each vehicle. The rocky nature of the stream bed and the thick brush along the banks made it difficult for any travelers to ford the stream, so the toll bridge did a thriving business. The late Mrs. Sid Morris (formerly Mrs. Bill Williams) stated that Joe Bush went to Los Angeles in 1870 but came back in a couple of years.

Mr. Williams came to that part of the country with a trail herd of Oregon cattle, which the author thinks were bought by Marsh and Cooper. In 1884 Bill Williams secured a water right out of Rock Creek for 0.81 of a

second foot of water to irrigate 60 acres of bottom land on which to produce hay to sell to the travelers who had to have hay for their livestock which was their only means of transportation. The emigrants drove horses for the most part, but sometimes used mules and some oxen, as well as their milk cows to pull their wagons. Men of doubtful character but with sage business sense, had a hideout in the brush and would steal the emigrants' horses. After the emigrants had tired themselves out searching for their horses, they would offer a reward to anyone who could return the horses and the outlaws would then produce the horses from the hideout. Bill Williams opened up a saloon at the Crossing as well as a gambling hall. Quite a number of people had settled around Rock Creek Crossing and a postoffice was set up by the Government. This postoffice was named Rock Dale. The saloon was built on the east side of the creek and south of the present road which passes through what now is called Arlington. On the hill east of the saloon was a building put up there in the early days, which had port holes cut through the logs of the walls, so the soldiers would have a barricade to shoot through in case of an Indian attack. Phil Mandel the station master at the Little Laramie crossing spoke of being saved from Indians many times, when a cloud of dust showed up on the northern horizon, caused by a troop of calvary coming back to Fort Sanders from Fort Halleck near Elk Mountain. They would pass by Rock Creek Crossing. Bill Williams was a skillful cowboy, but he met his death in a tragic accident. A horse bucked him off, throw-



Laramie Club owned by Marsh and Cooper (now Baptist Temple). Courtesy Albany County Historical Museum. From 1889 Edition of Laramie Boomerang.



Residence of Robert Marsh (now Johnson Jewelry Store). From 1889 Edition of Laramie Boomerang. Courtesy of Albany County Historical Museum.



7L Cowboys on Marsh and Cooper Range 1886. Left to right: Lee van Houton, Pat Wetherston, Ed Harper, Tim Finnal, Unknown, Pete Smart, and John Smart. Courtesy of Jim Hardman.

ing him over a wire fence and at the same time his foot caught in the stirrup. He was dragged along the fence and the jagged barbs mutilated his body terribly and he died in a short time. Many years after that tragedy, the author had the opportunity of riding that same horse and does not think there was ever a better rope horse than this one, for he would place the rider in an advantageous position for a cast of the rope. If you wanted to front-foot the steer he would run up even with the steer and close to his side. All you had to do was to throw over the withers of the steer and turn your loop as you threw it which placed the wide-open loop in front of the steer and he would jump into it with both feet. The horse automatically turned away from the steer, the loop tightened and "down came the steer's meat-house". That white horse's name was "Bill" and he was later owned by the Rockdale Livestock Company.

Toll Bridge Across Rock Creek

Bill Williams had a toll bridge across Rock Creek and charged 75 cents per team to cross. A man on horseback payed 50 cents to cross. There was a pole swinging on a hinge which extended out across the bridge. The loose end of the pole had a padlock and chain which could securely fasten it, so transients could not cross. Occasionally a reckless rider would come along and jump his horse over the pole and cross the bridge. He would not any more than be off the bridge until he got his orders to halt from the mouth of someone who meant what he said and had the necessary backing to enforce the stop. The rider knew that it was best to stop. Below the

bridge there was an opening through the brush that a team and wagon could pass, but the channel was kept blocked by large boulders that men placed there which obstructed animals from crossing especially when hitched to a wagon. An emigrant refused to pay the toll charge for the bridge and attempted to ford the creek when it was high and dangerous. When he drove off of the bank into that swift current of water, two of his little girls were drowned. His horses became tangled up in their harness and were also drowned. After the passing of Bill Williams his widow Sadie Williams became the owner of the ranch and she later married Sid Morris and they continued business for some time. Joe Dixon bought the place from the Morrises and it is now in the Dixon family. One source of amusement was a dance hall at "The Crossing". People came a great many miles by horseback and in wagons, spring wagons and buggies to indulge in the "light fantastic". There were swarms of "tie hacks" in the timber camps around "The Crossing". They spent the fall and winter cutting ties and getting them to the bank of Rock Creek where they would shove them off into the turbulent "high water" of the creek when the spring "run-off" occurred and the tie drive was completed before the "high water" had receded.

Frank Harrison Ranch

Frank O. Harrison, an Englishman settled on the next ranch below Bill Williams prior to 1878. He purchased several sections of land from the Union Pacific Railroad Company. He made slight improvements on the ranch and was getting a start in the cattle busi-

ness. Two other Englishmen were students of the ranch trade with Brackenberry who operated on the Medicine Bow River and used the Anchor brand. They went over to visit Frank Harrison and were so impressed with the location that they decided to try and purchase it and made a cash offer of \$25,000. Harrison needed some time to think over the deal and in the meantime he went to the Currier ranch down the creek, which was a much larger "spread" and was running sheep. He made Currier an offer of \$25,000 which was immediately accepted. Then Harrison went back and accepted the offer of Hebel and Murray and gave them immediate possession. This transaction indicates that the Yankees may come by their shrewdness naturally from their English cousins.

Hebel and Murray Ranch

Hebel and Murray immediately started to make further improvements on the ranch. In the spring of 1886 they got a water right out of Rock Creek for 1.43 second feet of water to irrigate 100 acres of land. Then in the spring of 1887 they secured another water right of 14.71 second feet for 1,030 acres of land which they irrigated and developed into a hay meadow. That gave them more than 1,100 acres of land to irrigate and raise hay for their livestock. It was not long until they had a well improved ranch, which was stocked to its capacity with good cattle. They raised Herefords and Shorthorns, until about 1901 when they traded their commercial herd to a large operator on the Sweetwater named Bothwell, for a bunch of registered Hereford cattle. This man

Bothwell operated in the territory where Cattle Kate and Jim Averill were hung for rustling cattle. Hebel and Murray received with the bunch of registered cattle a famous sire named "Breast Plate Lad." He was a descendant of the famous imported bull Anxiety 4th, owned by Gudgell and Simpson of Missouri which was the founder of a dynasty of Herefords which are still carrying on today.

"Breastplate Lad" weighed over 2300 pounds. His sons matured on the range weighing around 1600 to 1700 pounds. The Industrial Edition of the Laramie Republican in 1901 has the following to say about the Rockdale herd of Hebel and Murray: "The home of this herd of pedigreed Herefords is located on Rock Creek, 12 miles above the station of Rock River on the Union Pacific Railroad, and is four miles from the foothills of the Medicine Bow range. It has telephone communication with Rock River station. The ranch includes four sections of bottom lands on Rock Creek and comprises a succession of broad and beautiful meadows, between which are streams and natural lawns and parks with willow clumps, aspen groves and towering cottonwoods, yellow and green in the early autumn, but gorgeously red and russet as the frosts increase. It is an ideal ranch for the raising of thoroughbred stock. Registered Herefords are the only stock now kept on the ranch, and some of the best strains to be found in the United States are here. Among the large list is "Breastplate Lad," who has weighed 2350 pounds, yet is active and of good disposition. His sire was Beau Real 11055, and his grandsire Anxiety 4th 9904 and his great-grandsire Anxi-

ety 2238. No finer specimen of the Hereford herd can be found anywhere and among the cows are many fine pedigrees and symmetrical forms of rare beauty. This is the only herd of the kind in Carbon county. Messrs. Bebe-ler and Murray will be able to supply the market with stock of the finest strain—an industry long needed, in our part of the state. Workmen are busy erecting breeding barns capable of accommodating the animal increase and in another year this firm will have a herd of 125 head of breeding stock and be able to handle contracts of car-load lots, both bulls and heifers. The heifers and cows from this well known strain of Herefords will be valuable additions to any western breeder's herd, and there is no question of the success of the enterprise."

Hebeler and Murray would let a purchaser go into their herd and take his choice for \$100 for one bull or as many as wanted, as long as they had bulls left. Hebeler and Murray used the italic FH connected as their brand placed on the hip and side. When Dan Bacon, president of the Riverside Live-stock Company passed away, his Sec-etary John A. Winkler was made tem-porary manager. Winkler decided that his first move as manager was to at-tempt to improve the quality of the Riverside livestock. He went to Den-ver in search of bulls of better "blood" and conformation with outstanding bone and found some which suited his fancy. He purchased them, one costing him \$900 and the other a trifle less. He sent them to the Northrup Ranch on Cooper Creek for good care. The author happened to be at that ranch one night and John McCormick,

a herdsman for the Hebeler and Mur-ray concern came along with a bunch of bulls he was taking south for de-livery, so he stayed overnight. John McCormick was very much interested in seeing the high priced bulls which Winkler had just brought up from Denver. As soon as he saw them he was sure he recognized the bulls. He asked the author to help him catch the two bulls and look at their ear tags and tattoo marks. Sure enough he was right, for they were Hebeler and Murray raised bulls and had been taken to Denver where they were pam-pered and dressed up until no one but an expert could have identified them. Those bulls could have been bought for \$100 a head just 12 miles from the Northrup ranch. However, they had been places and had been educated and pampered in the meantime. Hebeler and Murray dissolved partnership. One brother Lee Hebeler was killed in the Boer War and the other Rollie Hebeler (Murray's partner) returned to Eng-land and died there. Murray sold out to a large operator named Timothy Ross who continued the raising of purebred Herefords for many years. After Timothy Ross was through with the ranch it was held by the Crescent Holding Company. They sold out to some eastern men and J. Ross Kelley operated it for them for a while. Then the late Alvy Dixon bought the ranch and it is in the Dixon family today. The long low built ranch house looks much the same today as it did fifty years ago and can be seen about a mile south of the McFadden-Arlington road just on the west side of Rock Creek Valley.



*Alvy Dixon at Arlington. By courtesy
Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd E. Dixon.*



*John Pierce, Gen. Mgr. Diamond Cattle Company,
1904-1917. By courtesy Mr. and Mrs.
Lloyd E. Dixon.*



*Left to right: Mrs. Alvy (Rosemary) Dixon, Alvy
Dixon and Mrs. Maggie Gillespie. Taken at
Arlington in 1941. By courtesy Mr. and Mrs.
Lloyd E. Dixon*

Alvy Dixon Homestead The Start of An Empire

Just east of the Hebel and Murray ranch is where the late Alvy Dixon filed on a homestead and built one of those man-made ranches which is a monument to the initiative of the American citizen and the freedom of enterprise which has made this nation great. He was successful because of hard work and perseverance. He and his first wife like many of the old timers were not planning for themselves, but for the future and their children. Mrs. Dixon passed away in 1915 but Mr. Dixon lived to reap the benefit from his particularly strenuous, ambitious life. They raised four children on that ranch, gave them a good education to go out into the world. Mr. Dixon acquired land from time to time to add to his homestead, until he had accumulated a large ranch holding. That ranch takes in about the choicest part of the Rock Creek valley. He built up a large herd of Hereford cattle and he really put out the hay for them during the late fall and winter until green grass came in the spring. During the winter his cows resembled a beef herd rather than a bunch of brood cows for they were in such good flesh. Mr. Dixon's brand was 2X on both sides. A short time before Mr. Dixon's death he bought about a township of land north of Rock River from the Swan Company. Bob Burns visited with Alvy in the spring of 1944 and his son Lloyd Dixon has given him much information on the early day operations of Alvy Dixon and his brothers. Alvy Dixon was born in 1868 and came to Wyoming in 1879. He freighted and worked in the timber. He had 46 head of horses to haul

freight. He also freighted from Rock Creek Station to Fort McKinnie and Fort Fetterman. Alvy Dixon spoke of his father, mother, 2 boys and a girl coming out west with two teams and living at Woods Landing for a couple of years. They worked on the Bird Ranch during haying and also hauled ties. Then they went to Rock Creek Crossing. Alvy Dixon died in Laramie in 1944 aged 81 years and a review of his life appears in the Laramie Republican for Nov. 27, 1944. After Mr. Dixon's death the ranch properties have been divided among his family. The land he bought from the Swan Company was purchased by a man named Hoefus who traded or sold it to some Texas men Hawn Brothers, who are the present owners. Mrs. Margaret Dixon Le Beau lives on the home ranch which is about three miles south and west of McFadden.

Cullum Ranch

Down the creek from Alvy Dixon's and the Hebel and Murray ranches was another small ranch owned by John Cullum. He obtained a water right on Rock Creek in May 1888 for 1.71 second feet of water to irrigate 120 acres. He did not build up the ranch much and became discouraged and sold his homestead to Alvy Dixon. Lloyd Dixon says his father paid for the land with the first year's hay crop and later half of the oil rights brought in \$210,000, so it was the most valuable land on Rock Creek. Fourteen producing oil wells were located on it and have brought in royalty for many years and two wells are still pumping today.

Currier Ranch

The next ranch, going down the creek is the Currier ranch which as



Modern method of loading hay on the L. E. Dixon Ranch 1949. By courtesy of Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd E. Dixon.



Alvy Dixon and his grandchildren. By courtesy Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd E. Dixon.



Homestead house built by Stockten Smith in 1888. Called Fisher Ranch and then a part of the L. E. Dixon Ranch. By courtesy of Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd E. Dixon.



Pet antelope and original Stockten Smith barns in foreground. By courtesy of Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd E. Dixon.



Left to right: Mrs. Margaret Dixon LeBeau, Lloyd E. Dixon, Alvy Dixon, Mrs. Edith Dixon Brokaw. Taken at Arlington in 1941. By courtesy Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd E. Dixon.

has been mentioned was sold to Frank O. Harrison when he had sold his first ranch to Hebel and Murray. The late Alvy Dixon said that W. D. Currier was a bachelor who was born in Boston. He was a great sport and gambler and knew every card that had been played. He was also a very good sheepman and ran about 20,000 head and improved his flock with superior bucks. Alvy Dixon mentioned that he worked for Currier. Herbert King of Rock River, mentions that Currier sold out to Harrison for \$25,000 and moved back to Vermont. Currier once played poker with LeRoy the hardware man to see whether he paid for a keg of nails double or nothing and won, taking the keg of nails back to the ranch for use in a building program. He had a glass eye, as he had lost his eye while traveling in France as a young man, when he contracted eye trouble. The late Mrs. Sid Morris remembers him shipping in some high class bucks in the period 1876-79 and she vividly remembered the long staple wool of around six inches in length. The late Oscar Sodergreen told of a fishing trip that he took along with Balch, Bacon, Currier and Wm. Lawrence. They took a four-horse team and a two-horse team, a horse wrangler and a cook. They caught so many fish in the Platte River, near the present A—A ranch that they could hardly carry them. Sodergreen's catch weighed from 3 to 8 pounds each. They had so many fish that they gave over 200 pounds of fish to the tie camp nearby. Currier took out his glass eye at night and had a looking glass on his watch fob, to help him in taking out and replacing his glass eye. W. D. Currier made a classical statement

about the changes taking place on the range in the 1880s, which has been printed in a Government publication. He stated "Here on the Laramie Plains the sheep business is about wiped out. Six years ago (circa 1883), there were forty sheep ranches, now there are six. Cause, no range. Parties bought the railroad land in large blocks and then fenced in both railroad and government land and allow no one to go inside of the fence. There are blocks of 50,000 and 100,000 acres so fenced here. I used to run 20,000 head of sheep here—now run 6,000 or 8,000 and shall have to move out next year, as they are now fencing the last of my ranges. It is a dog-in-the-manger business, as there is not one-fourth the cattle or sheep on the Laramie Plains there were six years ago."

The Laramie Boomerang for May 30, 1889 stated that H. K. Evans had sold his flock of 6,000 sheep near Red Buttes to W. D. Currier of Lookout and George Fisher of Omaha. Currier came from Boston where he had been a clerk in a silk store. He had \$200 in his pocket when he arrived in Laramie and decided to try the sheep business so went out to a big ranch near Laramie to see how it operated. He failed to tell the foreman what he wanted and in three days the foreman asked him if he wanted to have a ride back to town as a rig was going in. Currier went with him and on the way was asked why he came out to the ranch. When the foreman found out that Currier wanted to learn the ranch business he insisted that he return to the ranch so he could show him more details of the management. Currier insisted that he had seen what he wanted. He took up a homestead on



Ranch house of Hebel & Murray. 1901 Edition Laramie Republican. By courtesy Bert Wallis. Illustrations of Herbert King Ranch are found in Chapter 14.



Rockdale Livestock Company. Full Blood Herefords. Timothy Ross. Photo by Svenson. Courtesy G. R. McConnell.

Section 18-20-77 in the early 1870s. He gave \$75 of his \$200 to an experienced sheep man to tell him where to build a shed on his homestead. The shed drifted under during the first snow in the fall and was never used. Currier decided then and there that he must use his own head to succeed and carried out his decision in the future years. He owned very few cattle but was very successful as a sheep rancher. Currier's principal range was on Foote Creek. He was tickled to death to accept Frank Harrison's offer of \$25,000 for his ranch.

Frank Harrison's Second Ranch

Frank Harrison set right to work improving that splendid location as soon as he had purchased it. He wanted it for a cattle ranch and commenced vast improvements. He took out several water rights from 1878 to 1892 and had 18.27 second feet of water out of Rock Creek to irrigate some 1380 acres of land. He rented all of Frank Cooper's land on Rock Creek, Three Mile and adjacent lands for the bargain price of \$2500 per year. That land included the old Diamond Ranch on Three Mile, a tributary of Rock Creek. The land thus extended down Three Mile to Rock Creek and thence down Rock Creek as far down as the Heart Ranch, on Rock Creek. Frank Cooper's land also included the Heart Ranch on Rock Creek. Frank Cooper had 56.89 second feet of water appropriated out of Rock Creek for irrigating 1835 acres of land. In addition he had 17.21 second feet of water out of Three Mile to irrigate 1205 acres of land. Then he had 4.42 second feet out of One Mile to irrigate 310 acres. Frank Cooper took his first water right out of Rock Creek and its tributaries

in the spring of 1881. The last water right he obtained was in March 1897.

First Oil Well On Rock Creek

It was on Cooper land that the first oil on Rock Creek was found, just under the hill on the west outskirts of the present town of McFadden. It proved to be a good sized oil field. Oil was also discovered on the John Cullum homestead which belonged to Alvy Dixon at the time. Harrison and Cooper sold their land to an elderly man from the east named Haynes about 1903. He only operated the ranch about a year, when it was sold to the late Frank C. Bosler who consolidated the Harrison and Cooper holdings with the Iron Mountain Ranch Company's property at Bosler. The latter company was owned by the late Frank C. Bosler and the late John C. Coble. Bosler bought out Coble's interest in the latter part of 1903. Frank C. Bosler then organized the Diamond Cattle Company.

Diamond Cattle Company

The Diamond Cattle company used the Diamond brand on cattle and the pot hook brand on horses. It dropped the 7L brand which Harrison used as well as the other brands he used such as Half Diamond E, Half Diamond Z, TOL (up and down), lazy sickle and neck tie brands. Bosler secured the pot hook brand from Harrison.

Bosler secured the services of John Pierce as Manager about 1904. Pierce had been manager of a ranch for the Kilpatrick Brothers in Nebraska. Pierce run a roundup wagon in the fall for about a month and a half, with 10 men and about 100 head of saddle horses. The purpose was to gather the cattle off of the range, classify them



Home of E. H. Thornton. 1901 Edition Laramie Republican. By courtesy Bert Wallis.



Breaking Horses at Corral in Sprague Pasture on hill north of Sprague Lane. Bar M: Toltec L. & L.S. Co. 1. Ross Kelly; 2. Harry Miller; 3. "Humpy" Scholz; 4. Roy Stafford; 5. Siegel George; 6. Herbert Robinson. By courtesy Mrs. Roy Stafford.

for the different pastures, vaccinate the calves and trail the cattle to the different ranches where they were to spend the winter. A summer roundup immediately preceding haying was held to gather and brand calves. The last roundup wagon went out about 1921.

John Pierce was a stern but likeable man and Lloyd Dixon tells us that as a boy of 12 he was tickled to death when John Pierce took him on a cattle train to Omaha. John liked kids and they were naturally attracted to him and at every stop the local youngsters came down to see the big cattle train and trailed along with John when he was checking the different cars to see if any cattle were down or needed attention. The large cattle losses of 1917 due to the severe storm at Rock River, were a big blow to John and he never fully recovered, dying the next spring. The Diamond Cattle Company operated that property intact until Mr. Bosler's death in 1918. In the spring of 1921 his widow started to liquidate the cattle and sold them out in a relatively short time. Then she sold some of the land, rented a greater part of it and harvested and sold the hay off of the land she still held. Mrs. Bosler died in 1944. Frank C. Bosler Jr., the only heir came into what was left of the Diamond Ranch Co. lands and he has sold practically all of it to different individuals. The Diamond home ranch on Rock Creek formerly owned by Harrison and Currier is now owned by a man named L. W. Bailey. The present buildings are quite extensive and give evidence of the extensive cattle holdings at one time controlled from that headquarters. The old Diamond Ranch on Three Mile was settled by a

man named Ed Harper. He sold it to Marsh and Cooper prior to 1882. In the spring of 1882 Marsh and Cooper applied for water rights out of Three Mile and Rock Creek for 74.21 second feet of water to irrigate 5045 acres of land to produce native hay.

Marsh and Cooper Ranch

Through some arrangement with Ed Harper when he sold his land to Marsh and Cooper, he stayed and managed the outfit and helped them get organized. When Marsh and Cooper started operating in the 1870s all of the country was an open and free range. They had cattle scattered over the greater part of the Laramie Plains and in the hills adjoining the Plains on the East. They used to send a "rep" with the No. 2 wagon which the Wyoming Stock Growers Association put out to work the range. They met at Durbin's Crossing on Pole Creek near Cheyenne. From there the roundup worked down Pole Creek to its mouth into the Platte near Sidney, Nebraska. Then they worked up the Platte to the mouth of Pumpkin Creek and up Pumpkin Creek to its head where the roundup disbanded. Wallis Link was the "rep" (representative) sent by Marsh and Cooper to the No. 2 Roundup, for a season or two. After the No. 2 Roundup was finished Wallis took his strays to their home range and then went on the No. 7 Roundup. This Roundup worked the northern part of Albany County and adjoining portions of Natrona, Converse, and Carbon Counties. Lee van Houten succeeded Ed Harper as manager of the Marsh and Cooper outfit. He was a shrewd business man with plenty of ability to carry out his position. He was an outstanding cowboy and one of

the best ropers and riders that ever came to this country. He came here from Oregon. He rode all kinds of horses and was never known to have been bucked off in Wyoming. He was a winner at everything he tried including poker games. Otto Burns worked with Lee van Houten on the 7L and spoke very highly of him. At one time the roundup was camped on Wagon Hound Creek northwest of Arlington (Rock Creek Crossing), when they were caught in a cloudburst one dark night. They had a narrow escape for men and horses but came out without loss of life, but lost a large part of their "gear". After Marsh and Cooper dissolved partnership, Frank O. Harrison rented all of Frank Cooper's land and Lee van Houten was Harrison's manager until about 1898. Then Neil Clark took over as Lee van Houten decided to go into the sheep business and later moved to Johnson county. Later on he moved to Oklahoma, made a fortune in the oil game and lost his money.

Frank O. Harrison was one of the few English investors who made plenty of money out of the cattle business, even though at times cattle were very cheap. He gave the credit to Lee van Houten and Neil Clark for his success and they were very deserving of it.

The Mystery of the Saddle Stirrup and Man's Leg

On one of Marsh & Cooper's horse roundups, a riderless horse came in with a "drive" carrying a saddle with a man's leg hanging in the stirrup. That "drive" was on the Coal Bank range, a tributary of Rock Creek. No information was ever found about the man who apparently died such a tragic death and his body was never found.

The author's sister, Mrs. Fannie G. Johnson found an old rusted spur on that range which she felt might have been the other spur that had been pulled from the man's other foot when the horse stepped on the spur. The same outfit's horse roundup on another "drive" brought in a horse carrying a jockey saddle which had evidently been on the horse for a year or two because hair had grown out between the cords of the cinch and out from under and around the saddle. This horse and saddle has remained a mystery throughout the years.

Heart Ranch on Rock Creek

The Heart Ranch on Rock Creek (there was the original Heart or Hut-ton ranch on the Big Laramie River), was settled by Ora Haley in the 1870s. He did not make many improvements on the ranch but used it as a range proposition, along with his other extensive holdings, mentioned before as extending from the Laramie Plains to the Bear River Valley of Colorado. He did not operate this ranch many years until he sold it to Marsh and Cooper, who applied for and secured the water rights, built the ditches and made numerous other improvements in the way of fences etc. The Heart Ranch received its name from the Heart brand Ora Haley used on his livestock while operating that ranch. The present owner Frank C. Bosler Jr. sold the Heart Ranch to his aunt and her husband, Mr. and Mrs. Earl Sweigert. They operated it for two or three years, and then sold the land at and above the house to Alfred and Harold Banzaf. The land east of the house and road they sold to Lawrence Anderson. The Banzaf's and Anderson

are the present owners of the Heart Ranch.

Coal Bank Creek, Tributary to Rock Creek

Coal Bank Creek acquired its name from a coal mine that was opened up near its head in the early 1890s by the late Terry Fee. Not long after the turn of the century, J. F. (Sam) White filed on a homestead in Section 14-20-77, close to where Coal Bank Creek empties into Three Mile Creek. White acquired more land which reached south up to the McFadden road. At one time he farmed the land and raised a few crops of grain. He also raised some hay. Sam White at one time lived at old Rock Creek. About all of the livestock he raised were horses and mules. At one time he had a large bunch. His brand was a < I > on the left shoulder. White found a ready market for his horses in his native state, Georgia. Most every winter he would make a shipment of horses and mules to Georgia where he would sell and trade them off. White kept that land as long as he lived and then it passed to his heirs. The present owner of the land is Lawrence Anderson who operates it together with a portion of the Heart Ranch which extends from the Heart Ranch buildings east down the Creek to the McFadden road. Anderson operates these two ranches as a single cattle outfit.

John White, a son of Sam, filed on a homestead on Coal Bank Creek about three miles south of his Dad's place. John White made his homestead filing about 1915. Through some deal with his father he got his water through the same ditch from Three Mile. The ditch

forked about where the McFadden road crosses it and the ditch going east belonged to John White. He developed some good meadow land in the valley of Coal Bank Creek. John White accumulated several sections of land during his operations. He raised cattle and horses and at one time raised mules as his father had before him. The mules were the right type for the Georgia farmers and were quite popular down south. John White used two different brands. One was two lazy B's, one over the top of the other. The brand was placed on the left side of cattle and left shoulder on horses and mules. The other brand was a 3L on the left side of cattle and left hip on horses and mules. John White passed away in 1954 on his home in Section 4-20-76 and the property is still in an estate.

Herbert and John King

Herbert and John King settled on half a section of bottom land adjoining the Hebel and Murray Ranch on the east. They made an ideal ranch out of it by the modern improvements they built. They obtained a water right for 2.24 second feet to irrigate 157 acres of land to provide a hay meadow. That appropriation of water came out of Dry Creek, a tributary of Rock Creek. They built a nice two-story log house a few years after they moved there. Sorry to say that house was destroyed by fire and in later years another house burned on the same property. They also built one of the best barns in the Rock Creek Valley. It is 32 by 64 feet in size, holds 50 tons of hay in the loft and will hold 25 horses. It is still standing and is in good condition. They engaged in the



Horses at Thornton Ranch east of Rock River about 1912. By courtesy Mrs. Roy Stafford.



Bar M. Cowboys at Thornton Ranch about 1915. 1. Bob Burron; 2. Dillon Coons; 3. Roy Stafford; 4. Roy Bottom; 5. Unknown; 6. Bill Pence; 7. Unknown. By courtesy Mrs. Roy Stafford.

cattle business and raised mostly Herefords. They also ran steers and later sold out the cow herd. This place has been known as the Home Ranch to differentiate it from the Dutton Creek Ranch, owned by the same people. The Home Ranch was certainly a nice home along that clear stream of water and with plenty of brush for shelter from the prevailing winds. One hardly knew when the wind was blowing when standing in their yard. They had other ranch property on Dutton Creek, originally settled by Joe Bush, station master at Rock Creek Crossing. They spent a lot of time developing this ranch, which they had bought from the estate of J. Clark Thornhill in 1904. Herbert King told the writer that he built reservoirs on Dutton Creek to catch the run-off and irrigated grain fields totaling about 500 acres. A yarge hay meadow totaling around 1400 acres was developed here which cut a little over 800 tons and the balance of the meadow was pastured. He took out a ditch from Rock Creek and in completing the job bought a steam shovel and dug the ditch which was around seven miles long and was finished about 1919. This ditch is quite a landmark and is just south of Arlington. Mr. King gives some interesting information about their livestock which were of Shorthorn blood. Steers hit a low price in 1893 when 3 year olds sold at \$20 while the high price was \$165 a head in 1917. Lambs hit a low of 75 cents a head in 1893. Wool sold in 1893 on a 5 cent advance and did not pay the advance. The brands were a script S and 53 on cattle and a script S on horses. John King, his wife and two of their four children lost their lives when the house went up in

flames. John was Herbert's brother and worked with him on the ranches. John King's two living children are Herbie (Herbert) who operates the ranch for his Uncle Herbert, and Esther who resides in Nevada.

The next stream north of Dutton Creek is Three Mile which is a tributary of Rock Creek. The Stockton and Smith homestead was built on Three Mile in 1888. Later it was called the Fisher Ranch and was a part of the Lloyd E. Dixon ranch.

Mary Ivinson Place

Mary Ivinson had a small ranch on Three Mile. She obtained two water rights in 1886 and 1887, covering 1.70 second feet to irrigate 120 acres of land. That place changed hands until Lloyd Dixon gained possession and erected a nice home. He and his wife lived there when they were first married. Their business flourished until they moved out to another headquarters so their herd of cattle could expand. They rented the Guyton ranch from Mrs. Frank C. Bosler. They turned the Guyton ranch into their headquarters and expanded from there. It was not long until they were running cattle in the Fisher and Brown fields. Then they went out on the Greasewood Flats and Pine Ridge and bought a large block of land from the Swan Company for their summer range. After renting the Guyton ranch for some years they bought it, the Fisher and part of the Brown field. They then obtained the Swan land. Lloyd Dixon used the N Cross brand on the left side of cattle. Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd Dixon sold their holdings together with the livestock to Frank Hofus, a Texas man. He in turn sold

the property to some other Texas people, the Hawn Brothers, who now own the place which is known as the N Cross outfit.

Frontier Brown Place

A man by the name of Frontier Brown owned or had a claim in the Rock Creek valley which has always been known as the Brown field. He owned a gray hound which caught a number of antelope. A family named Schuite had a water right for 10.28 second feet of water to irrigate 720 acres. These people lived in the lower part of the valley near the junction of Rock Creek with Medicine Bow River but no details are available on their operations.

Marshall Dixon Place

Marshall Dixon, father of Alvy Dixon homesteaded on Section 20-19-78 and kept the place. Marshall Dixon died in 1904 and his widow later married Mayland Hampton, one of Currier's top sheep herders. He later died and today the Ralph Brokaw family lives on the place. John Kidd had a homestead which is today included in the Brokaw property.

Phelan Ranch

The next ranch below the Heart Ranch is the one Charles J. Phelan homesteaded prior to 1890. That couple was like many other operators in those days, starting from the bottom and needing some sidelines to make ends meet until they had sufficient livestock to make them a living. The Phelans homesteaded in Section 6-20-76. Mr. Phelan obtained a water right out of Rock Creek on May 10, 1890 to irrigate 110 acres of land. The state allowed him 1.57 second feet for

his land. He, like many of the other old timers, used several times more water than his appropriation called for. However he soon improved his nicely sheltered ranch to the extent that he was able to make a living.

Rock River

When the attempt was made to colonize the vicinity north of Rock River about 1910, Rock River was a promising little town. In fact it was so promising that plans were considered of taking portions of Albany and Carbon counties and establishing a new county and making Rock River the county seat. The Phelans moved to Rock River and built a large hotel on the west side of the track. They named the hotel after themselves and the promoters of the Rock River Conservation Company made their headquarters there most of the time. Charley Phelan was elected to the office of Justice of the Peace. Many cases came up before him and he tried to do justice to all. One little incident which the author recalls was rather amusing. A young fellow who was trying to get started in the ranching business was cheated out of his wages by one of the bosses of a large corporation. The young ranchman met his boss between the livery barn and the business part of town. An argument ensued which got "hot". The ranchman let go "rights and lefts" at the boss who broke away and ran. He finally ended up in the office of the Justice of the Peace and filed a complaint against the ranchman for assault and battery charges. Judge Phelan had a chance to talk to the ranchman and thoroughly sympathized with him. He instructed the ranchman that

when the case was called and the charge was read, to get up and call the Boss's name and apologize and tell him he was sorry he hit him. The Judge said he would then throw the case out of court. The case was opened and the charges read. The ranchman arose from his chair and looked at the boss and told him he was sorry he hit him and apologized. The boss said, "Your apology is not accepted," but the judge said, indeed it is and threw the case out of court.

The second Mrs. Phelan is the present owner of that nice, little, well-sheltered ranch with Rock Creek running through the center of it.

Twelve Ranch

The next ranch below on the creek was at one time known as the Twelve Ranch. It was nothing more than a cow camp operated at the time when Marsh and Cooper were in the cattle business on a big scale and Ed Harper was their manager. Fremont Nelson took a homestead prior to 1885 in that same location on Section 6-20-76. The Nelsons raised a family of four children, a daughter now Mrs. Elmer Slothers who lives with her family in the state of Washington, Edgar Nelson and Verne who reside at the ranch and Dick who works for the Ohio Oil Co. The Twelve Ranch at the time it was a cow camp and the adjacent range was all south of the railroad.

Fremont Nelson Ranch

Mr. and Mrs. Fremont Nelson like the other old timers had a hard and difficult life. He had a few head of cattle and horses to start with. Mr. Nelson did much freighting from the timber. Mrs. Nelson milked many cows to make butter to sell for a live-

lihood. Mr. Nelson passed away about 1920 and Mrs. Nelson about 1935. Their place was one of the nicest little ranches on Rock Creek. Their brands were an inverted UJ connected on the right forearm of horses and TL Quarter Circle on the right side of cattle. The TL was connected. During the time they were ranching they raised cattle, horses, sheep and goats. After Mr. Nelson's death Mrs. Nelson shipped in a bunch of registered Jersey cows from Iowa and operated a profitable business in supplying the city of Rock River with an ever popular supply of unusually rich Jersey milk.

Frank White Place

The next ranch below was a filing made by Frank White of Rock River, and was made in Section 4-20-76. Frank White did not make any improvements. The land passed into the hands of one of Rock River's banks. Then Roy Street obtained it but he did not work it very much. It then passed into the hands of Lance Robinson who added more land to the original filing and did much in the way of improvements, both in the form of buildings, making ditches, and clearing and leveling the greasewood covered ground. He developed a nice tract of hay land and had the place well stocked with dairy cows from which he supplied the town of Rock River with milk. Lance Robinson is the present owner.

Thornton Ranch

The next ranch along Rock Creek to the north and east of Rock River was settled by Edgar H. Thornton prior to 1885 on Section 34-21-76. Mr. Thornton took out a water right for 12 second feet to irrigate 800 acres of

land. Thornton owned about three or four sections of land along Rock Creek. In the early part of 1900 it looked as though the Union Pacific was going to do something with their land which had been granted to them by the Government. They did offer it for lease subject to sale. The Iron Mountain ranch leased the land between the Thornton ranch and the recently abandoned grade of the old railroad line to the east, which had been used prior to 1900. The Iron Mountain Ranch Co. was jointly owned by John C. Coble and Frank C. Bosler. Mr. Thornton thought it a hopeless venture to attempt to raise sheep on land that an operator had to lease or buy, so he sold out that well-improved ranch for the sum of \$11,000, and gave an uncle of the author a thousand dollars for making the deal. Mr. Thornton did not think the money was in the "hand of cards he held," and moved out to Utah and started farming. He was a bachelor. He kept a family there, as the story goes, and eventually fired the man and kept the woman with her children. Mrs. West secured a divorce and Mr. Thornton was sitting pretty when he acquired a capable wife with a ready-made family. Mr. Thornton had two sheds there that would each hold a band of sheep and he put water into the sheds so that the sheep could be watered by turning a spigot. Mr. Thornton had a different system of running sheep in the winter time, that was quite unique. For instance he ran wethers for the most part and had them in three immense bands with around 3,000 head to a band. He had three winter corrals on the range. He would send one band out from the ranch to go to the camp northeast of

the ranch headquarters. The band at that corral would be grazed across to the corral directly east of the ranch. The band at that corral would be grazed into the ranch during that day. In this system of rotation he had a set of three camps on a circle around the ranch and rotated the sheep along to each of the three camps, every day making a change.

Toltec Livestock Company

About 1903 Edgar H. Thornton sold the ranch to the Toltec Livestock Co. They bought the Union Pacific land out from under the Iron Mountain Ranch Company's lease and established that as their home ranch. The late Timothy Ross was president of that company. That company had the land all under fence except about three or four miles of fence they had to build from the southwest corner of the Swan Land and Cattle Company's land to the northeast corner of the Diamond Cattle Company's land. The Swan Company enclosed their land in 1900. They bought the right-of-fence on the east side of the old railroad grade from the late William Taylor of Rock Creek who had obtained all of the material left on the ground when the Union Pacific railroad put their new cut-off into operation. That fence enclosed all of that land for the Toltec Livestock Co. without much expense to them. There was a little incident which occurred which was rather amusing, when Mr. Taylor purchased the material on the ground from the railroad for the right-of-way, from a point half way between Lookout and Harper Stations on to Medicine Bow. One of the railroad officials said, "Mr. Taylor there is that artesian well at Harper that I am going

to give you." Mr. Taylor thanked him and being an enterprising man he sent his men up to take the brick out of the wall of the well, and hauled them over to the new Harper Station and sold them to the new boss there for a new cistern he was building. The Toltec Livestock Co. ran cattle, horses and sheep on their holdings. They branched out into a large concern. Perhaps at one time they had around 75,000 acres of land. L. L. Laughlin was their manager. Their brand was a bar over an M on the left side of cattle, left shoulder on horses, and back of sheep. They ran a roundup wagon jointly with Smith and Moore. The summer roundup was for horses and the fall roundup for cattle. The Toltec Livestock Co. defaulted about 1918 and eventually passed into the hands of the Crescent Holding Co. About 1928 the Crescent Holding Co. sold the place to Chappel Brothers of Rockford, Illinois. They used it for headquarters for a horse ranch. Their brand for horses was a reversed CBC on the left thigh. They operated the Thornton ranch until they liquidated their herd which at the "peak" numbered about 12,000 head. Around 1936 they rented the Thornton ranch to J. E. "Curly" Malmquist of Rock River, who is the present owner, for he purchased it after renting it for a short time. The acreage of the Thornton ranch is upward of 16,000 acres. Malmquist has the brand 76 on the left hip of cattle. He raised sheep for some years and then gradually stocked up the ranch with a herd of top quality Hereford cattle.

Roy Stafford Place

The next homestead below the Thornton Ranch was that of Roy Staf-

ford. This homestead was located on Section 26-21-76. Roy sold that block of land to J. E. Malmquist, the present owner.

Joseph E. Johnson Ranch

On down the creek below the Thornton ranch is the ranch known as the Taylor ranch. The original Taylor ranch was northwest of the old town of Rock Creek. Mr. Taylor always spoke of the upper part of this ranch as the Joseph E. Johnson ranch located on Section 10-21-76, while the lower ranch where the buildings were located was on Section 24-22-76. The ranch was settled on a desert claim made prior to 1887 by Mrs. William Taylor. At the time the filing was made an individual could take 320 acres of land on a desert filing but had to put water on the land. Mr. Taylor bought Sections 23 and 25 from the Swan Land and Cattle Co., and had state selections made of the N½ of Section 24 and the S½ of Section 14, That gave him a nice little ranch. Before 1900 he bought a township of land west of Rock Creek and west and south of the old railroad grade which adjoined his holdings. He enclosed this land for grazing purposes. He then had a ranch unit rounded out for a nice setup which would take care of a thousand head of cattle. Mr. Taylor sold his holdings, land and livestock to the Rock Creek Conservation Co. Some people have called it the Rock Creek Conversation Co., inasmuch as the land was purchased for a colonization scheme which soon "took fire" after the deal was consummated. A water right was secured by Wm. Taylor and then assigned to the Rock Creek Conservation Co., who secured additional water rights out of Rock



The old Wm. Taylor Ranch on Rock Creek, purchased by A. S. Gillespie and wife April, 1921 and sold to Roy Moore, Nov. 11, 1948. By courtesy A. S. Gillespie.



Bar M Bed Wagon on Roundup on Rock Creek about 1910. By courtesy Mrs. Roy Stafford.



Horses at Thornton Ranch. Presumably Bar M outfit about 1912. By courtesy Mrs. Roy Stafford.

Creek for approximately 75 second feet would take care of more than ten thousand acres of land. The ditch was taken out of Rock Creek some seven miles above Rock River. The work was started in earnest soon after the transfer of the land. The ditch forked just north of Wilcox station. The fork to the left and northwest carried water through a siphon about half a mile in length and carried water to irrigate the land known as the Kansas Valley that sloped toward the Medicine Bow River. The fork to the right extended north and then east, to irrigate land for Iowa farmers. There were several large ditches and many laterals carrying water to practically all of the land below the level of the main ditch. After Mr. Bosler's death the colonization plan dwindled away. The ranch or meadows of the Taylor or Johnson ranch seemed to have passed into the hands of the Diamond Cattle Company where they wintered about 600 head of steers each winter. In the spring or early summer of 1919 an uncle of the author, Flake Hall bought the Taylor or Johnson ranch and engaged in the sheep business but eventually changed to cattle. In the spring of 1921 Mr. Hall sold the part of the ranch north of the old town of Rock Creek to the author (A. S. Gillespie). The south portion which was known as the Joseph E. Johnson ranch, a school section and other small tracts of land aggregating 6,000 acres were reserved for himself (Mr. Hall). During his declining years he sold the land to his son Noel Hall who is the present owner. Mr. Taylor had a water right out of Rock Creek for the upper end of the ranch for 13.82 second feet to irrigate 900 acres. William Taylor's

brand was a lazy E over a lazy D on the right side of cattle and the right shoulder on horses. Flake Hall used the brand 76 on the left hip of cattle and left shoulder of horses. J. S. Malmquist bought the 76 brand from Flake Hall. Noel Hall, the son, uses 66 on the left thigh of cattle and horses.

A. S. Gillespie Ranch

Joseph E. Johnson started the Hall part of the Taylor ranch in the early 1890s, but he did not get enough of a ranch together to run any cattle successfully. The author and his wife bought the old original Taylor ranch from Flake Hall in the spring of 1921 and sold it to Mr. Roy Moore the present owner in November 1948. The Gillespies bought 1495 acres of deeded land and got possession of 640 acres of state land to go with the deeded land. At the time Mr. Moore bought the land there were 21,120 acres including a small acreage of state and Taylor Act leases which went with the ranch. This ranch had a water right of 12 to 14 second feet to irrigate 1,000 acres of land. The Gillespies ran cattle exclusively and they had various brands as each child had a brand. The chief brand used on cattle were the Six inverted Y in the name of A. S. Gillespie; the Six over Y brand owned by Mabel D. Gillespie. Both brands were located on the left side of cattle. At the present time the owner Roy R. Moore runs a herd of black Angus cattle on the ranch and during the summer and fall months he runs a bunch of Rambouillet and Rambouillet-Lincoln crossbred bucks for the Cunningham Sheep Co. of Oregon. Mr. Moore owns the brand, walking M on the left side of cattle and left shoulder of horses.

Marlow Ranch

The next ranch below is in Section 10-22-76, settled by B. F. Marlow in the early 1900s. Mr. Marlow raised a family there. About October 1931 Mr. and Mrs. Marlow's little 11 year old girl attempted to follow her mother who was searching for her oldest boy who became lost while searching for the milk cows. Mrs. Marlow was astonished when the little daughter caught up with her. The little girl did not have any wraps on. Mrs. Marlow sent the little girl back to the house, but the little girl never found the house and wandered in the blizzard and perished. The storm was only a local one of short duration. When Mrs. Marlow returned she hurriedly took their car and went to a neighboring ranch, the Banzhaf's for help. All of the neighbors and people from Rock River were summoned to join in the search which continued throughout the night without success. At 8 a. m. the next morning the little girl's body was found about a mile from her home. Mr. B. F. Marlow raised principally horses, but he also had a small bunch of cattle. His brand was a figure 2 with a circle around it which was placed on the left side of cattle and left shoulder of horses. Mrs. Marlow passed on shortly after the death of her little girl and Mr. Marlow died about 1948. About a year after Mrs. Marlow passed away the family deserted the ranch and moved to Rock River. The land is still in the possession of some of the family.

Ward Bros. Ranch

The Ward Brothers settled on Section 6-22-76 in the early part of the 1900s. They took advantage of the

Stock Grazing Homestead Act and increased their acreage to 1280. Then they obtained possession of a school section adjoining them. They raised horses exclusively. About 1930 they sold their horses to the Chappel Brothers who owned the Thornton ranch. Then they moved to Rock River. They leased the ranch for a period of years and about 1944 the survivor of the Ward Brothers sold the land to Owen McGill of Halleck canyon. He in turn sold it to the Swan Co. and they sold it to the Carlin ranch.

Carlin Ranch

The next ranch down the creek was the Carlin, which was settled by a man named Carlin. He made a homestead filing on Section 35-23-77, and put up his buildings in the latter part of the 1880s. He went into the sheep business on a rather large scale for an individual operator not owning any more land than he did. He leased land from the Swan Co. at \$2500 per year. There were several large springs on the ranch which supplied enough water to irrigate a block of ground to produce about 80-90 tons of hay. Some bad winters hit him which caused a heavy loss among his sheep, which drifted away in the storms. This was a severe loss and to "cap the climax" he found that all of the improvements on his place was on land belonging to the Swan Land & Cattle Co. He was thoroughly discouraged and moved away abandoning the ranch. The author does not believe that he obtained recompense for the improvements which he put up on this land.

Boylan Ranch and Fish Hatchery

The next homestead down the creek was filed by Thomas H. Boylan about

1909 and was located on Section 34-23-77. Mr. Boylan did not venture out into the livestock business but he straightened the channel in the horse-shoe-shaped curves in Rock Creek. He kept the creek from filling in these places but filled them with fresh water from the springs which were located in almost every draw. After Mr. Boylan filled these ponds with water he stocked them with trout. He had a wonderful place for a fish hatchery and eventually raised fish as a business and had a contract for furnishing fresh mountain trout to the railroad dining cars. The State of Wyoming became interested in Mr. Boylan's hatchery and purchased it in the 1930s and has made it a modern hatchery, the present Como Bluff Hatchery where many millions of fingerling fish are raised in the abundance of crystal-clear water running through the troughs and vats.

Louis Harnden Homestead

The next homestead below the Fish Hatchery was filed on by Louis Harnden. He did not branch out to any extent in the livestock business and eventually sold out. The author thinks the land now belongs to the Weir ranch, as they owned the railroad land which surrounded the homestead.

Weir Ranch (So-Called Robbers' Roost)

Below the Harnden Ranch you come to the Weir ranch which is located on Rock Creek at its junction with the Medicine Bow River. Frederick, Anna M., Laura, Mrs. Charlotte and Abraham Schulte obtained a water right out of Rock Creek from the Territory of Wyoming in February 1884 for

10.28 second feet of water to irrigate 720 acres on which to raise native hay. These were the first settlers on the Weir property.

A man by the name of Wolf from Weir, Nebraska was passing through Wyoming on a train and liked the looks of the grazing land and upon inquiry to a railroad official found out the value they placed on the land. On his return to Nebraska he approached some men of means and explained to them the great possibilities in a business venture. The result was the organization of the Weir Livestock Co. This company bought a block of land 18 miles long and 6 miles wide and commenced to stock and improve it. They went into sheep primarily. Billy McCabe was the manager for many years. Mr. Wolf continued the operation of the ranch until his death. As the years passed along, he had bought out the stockholders one by one, until he gained complete control of the company. After Mr. Wolf's death the land passed into the hands of his son in the early 1930s. This is the ranch which has been known as the Robbers' Roost Ranch for many years and purportedly was a hangout for the Cassidy gang on their trips from Brown's Hole and other points out west to their rendezvous in the Hole in the Wall country. The east line of the Weir ranch was the county line between Albany and Carbon counties. The son, Tom Wolf, sold out the ranch to a group of Medicine Bow people who in turn sold it to the present owners, the Crane Brothers.

The county line between Albany and Carbon counties was the boundary of the original Louisiana Purchase.

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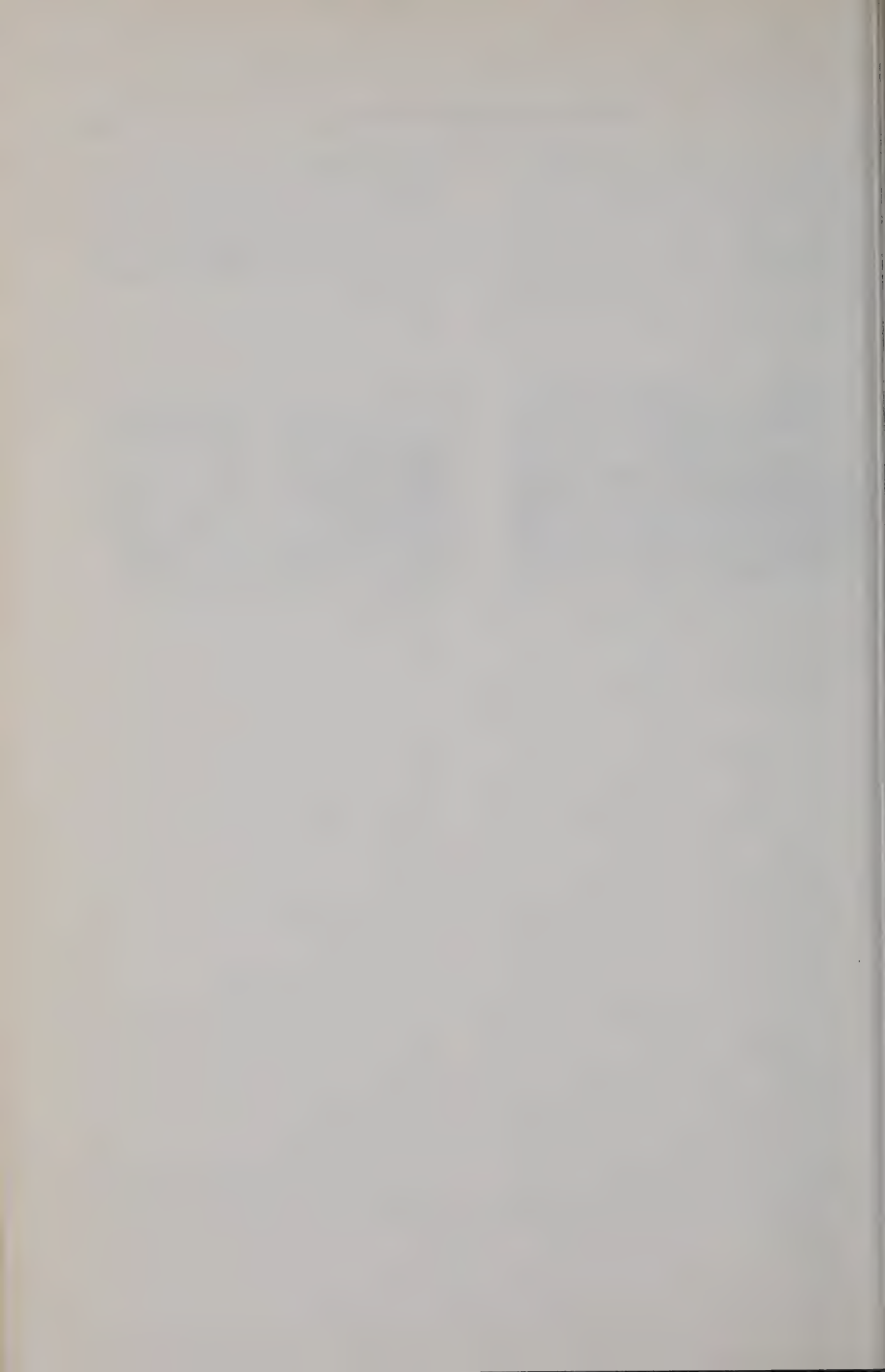
A meal at cook tent of Bar M outfit at Rock Creek about 1910. 1. Jack Bales; 2. Roy Stafford; 3. Herbert Robinson; 4. Harry Miller; 5. Ernest Robinson; 6. Mrs. Herbert Robinson; 7. Velma Robinson; 8. Al Fisher; 9. Lance Robinson. By courtesy Mrs. Roy Stafford.

ANONYMOUS 1891

Statement of W. D. Currier of Albany County, Wyoming. Sixth and Seventh Annual Reports of Bureau of Animal Industry for Years 1889 and 1890. Page 256, Washington, D. C. Government Printing Office. 1891.



Bar M Chuck Wagon and Tent on Rock Creek about 1910. By courtesy Mrs. Roy Stafford.



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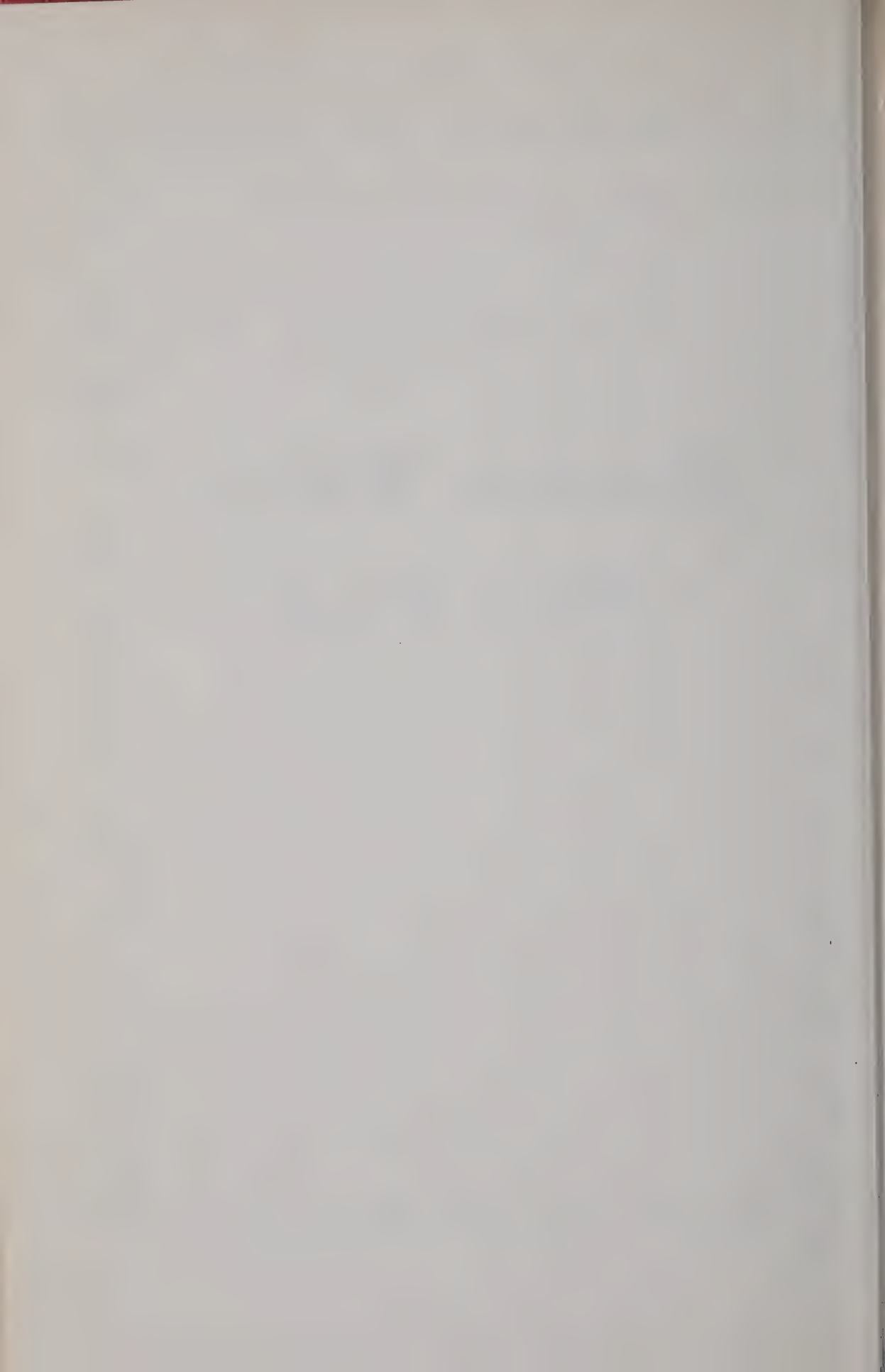
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CHAPTER XVI

*Ranches in Northern
Albany County*

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CHAPTER 16

RANCHES IN NORTHERN ALBANY COUNTY

By A. S. "Bud" Gillespie

North Laramie River

The North Laramie River heads close to the divide of the northern edge of the Laramie Plains. Its headwaters are on Section 24-24-74 just across the divide from where LaBonte Creek heads and about 12 miles west and 3 miles north of Laramie Peak.

Forty Mile Ranch

The old Forty Mile ranch was located just a few miles north of the headwaters of the North Laramie River and the ranch was so named because it was forty miles north of Old Rock Creek Station and was a stop on the stage line from Rock Creek to Fort Fetterman. We shall now learn a little about the various ranches going downstream on the North Laramie from its source.

Bert Bell Ranch

Bert Bell, who came to Wyoming from Texas about 1886 settled on an important tributary of the North Laramie in 1891. The tributary has three branches at its headwaters like the three prongs of a fork. The one where Bert settled comes in from the east and carries the largest amount of water of any of the three, and might be designated as the main branch of the North Laramie. Bert Bell worked for the Bar M outfit which was engaged in the horse business on Bar M Creek which is a tributary of the North Laramie River. He later filed on a homestead located in Township 27N Range 73W, and engaged in the cattle business and

was quite successful. In fact, he topped the Omaha market for price and weight of his cattle, which he did not ship until he regarded them as prime. He had plenty of money and acted as banker for many of his neighbors. Mr. Bell was a bachelor for a few years but that life did not appeal to him and he married Mrs. Eva J. Kelley who had two daughters Miss Freda Dustman and Miss Ida Kelley. Miss Dustman came to Wyoming in 1908 and some years later married James Newell. Miss Kelley first married Joe Tuttle and later married George Dent of Rock River in 1927. She is postmistress at Rock River and he runs a trucking business. Mr. and Mrs. Bert Bell raised three sons, Albert, Wilson, and John. John is the present owner of his father's estate. Bert Bell, to improve the quality and size of his stock came down to the University and bought some Shorthorn bulls in 1920. This blood improved his herd which were branded with the Quarter Circle Lazy K. Mr. Bell passed away in 1928.

Joe Kafka Ranch

The next settler below on the river was Joe Kafka and his wife, Olive Garrett Kafka. They settled on a homestead in 1907 and still own that property but are living in Rock River. Their son, John, operates the ranch and they have two other sons, Tommie and Judd. Joe Kafka cleared off the sagebrush and made a good meadow which he irrigated from the North Laramie River. They raised cattle and

their brand is 75 put on the left hip of cattle and horses.

Bar M Outfit (Toltec Livestock Co.)

The Bar M outfit was located on Bar M Creek, a tributary of Hay Creek, which in turn is a tributary of the North Laramie. That outfit raised horses and started operations in the 1880s. The owners lived in Pennsylvania. A man by the name of John R. Rush owned it for a good many years. Rody Adams was foreman for them for a considerable length of time. Johnny Rogers was another foreman for a number of years, and then a man named Legdard Baily, who was the father of the late Mrs. Felix Atkinson and also the late Fred Baily. The outfit took its name from the Creek on which it was located. Bar M mountain was a forest covered mountain above the countryside which was and is well known. All of these were named from the Company's brand which was a plain BAR over an M on the left shoulder. During the latter part of the 1890s, Timothy Ross bought the Bar M outfit from Mr. Rush and he incorporated it under the name of the Toltec Livestock Company. The origin of this name is quite interesting. The name Totec was given to a post-office in that area by Alex Moore and was the name of an ancient tribe of Mexican people whose capital, Tollan, was well known to the Mayan people. Mr. Ross made Mr. L. L. Laughlin manager of the ranch. He was the head of the Cattarangus Company. The new company bought the Frank Howe ranch further down the river and made that their headquarters. From there the company continued to expand its

land holdings until it owned up to 105,000 acres of land. Later the Thornton Ranch on Rock Creek became their general headquarters. They kept a bookkeeper at their office in Rock River. They engaged in the horse, cattle, and sheep business and bought the Hebel and Murray ranch on Rock Creek along with its herd of registered Hereford cattle. (See description of Rock Creek ranches in Chapter 15).

Neil Matheson Ranch

During the early part of the 1880s, Neil Matheson settled on Bar M Creek. In 1898 and 1900 he secured water rights from the above mentioned creek for 1.34 second feet to irrigate 94 acres of land. Mr. Matheson drove the last stage to Fort Fetterman, and later finished up by driving to the end of the route when it had been shortened and the terminus was at Forty Mile. Mr. Matheson married Miss Margaret Clark at Rock Creek and they raised a family on that ranch. Mrs. Matheson took the ranch as her part of property division and in 1933 sold it to David Thomas McFarlane. He had homesteaded just below the Matheson ranch. He built up a fine ranch and still resides there.

W. W. Houghton Horse Ranch

W. W. Houghton settled on Bar M Creek close to Joe Kafka and went into the horse business. For his foundation stock he went to the Indian Reservation and bought up a bunch of Indian pony mares and then purchased a purebred Hambletonian stallion and crossed them. That made a good cross for saddle stock which had good conformation, but were often rough in



Group of Sheep Shearers taken on Laramie Plains about 1900. 1. Unknown; 2. Unknown; 3. Unknown; 4. Unknown; 5. John Robinson; 6. Unknown; 7. Unknown; 8. Jim Atkinson; 9. George Atkinson; 10. Bud Clarke. Courtesy of Mrs. James Atkinson.



Group of 1890 Dandies. Photo by Hartwell. 1. W. A. Comly; 2. Dawson; 3. Kendell; 4. T. Smith; 5. L. Hanks; 6. C. Schalk; 7. H. Maynard; 8. Hutchison; 9. C. Chase.

gait. Bill Houghton settled there about 1899 or 1900. Mr. Houghton, his mother, Mary, and sister Jenny all had land filings and water rights. Their water rights were out of the North Laramie River and its tributaries Antelope Creek and Newell Spring Creek, and totaled 9.07 second feet to irrigate 593 acres. The horse business did not pay off and they did not get the place improved so that it would take care of a large enough herd of cattle to be an economical operation, so they sold out and Joe Kafka is the present owner.

Cattarangus Company

Mr. L. L. Laughlin had some land filings and was the owner of numerous water rights totaling 20.48 second feet to irrigate 1374 acres of land. All water rights appear to have been out of Bar M Creek. Mr. Laughlin did not engage in the livestock business personally, but was manager of the Cattarangus Company, later absorbed by the Toltec Livestock Co. He was the manager for the larger outfit until about 1905 when he resigned and came over to the Little Laramie River and bought the D. N. Stickney and Motley ranches (See Chapter 11).

Caton Ranch

Freeland Caton took the L. L. Laughlin homestead over about 1904, when the latter failed to prove up. He branched out and acquired a considerable amount of land and went into the sheep business. He prospered for awhile but depressions and draughts put "a crimp" on his business and he eventually was forced to quit. Mrs. Frank Buckland took possession of the ranch and eventually sold it to Mr. Hobson Park who built up a successful

cattle business there and died about three years ago. The ranch was in an estate a year or more before J. S. Malmquist of Rock River obtained it and he operates it as part of his cattle outfit.

Jim Harvey Place: 29 Ranch

Jim Harvey settled his homestead in 1881 and was called "Uncle Jim" by his acquaintances. He lived at the extreme headwaters of Antelope Creek. In 1903 he acquired water rights out of Aspen, Rock, Yankee and Antelope Creeks for upwards of 0.39 second feet to irrigate more than 28 acres of meadow land. In 1903 Uncle Jim went into the cattle business with Edholm and Akin, who "flew the coop" and left him to carry on. He raised black cattle which were stocky in build and were horned. They were Angus-Shorthorn crosses. His brand was a BAR over the figures 29. The ranch is known to this day as the 29 ranch. Uncle Jim was a bachelor. After his death the ranch passed into the hands of the Prager family and Mrs. Dora Prager Burnett is the present owner. She and her husband "Matt" were living on that ranch when he met his mysterious and tragic death which has never been explained, although there was no foul play.

James Newell Homestead

James Newell settled on a homestead in 1886 on a fork of Antelope Creek. He built up a nice little ranch there with improved meadows. His water right out of Antelope Creek was dated 1902 and covered an appropriation of 0.54 second feet of water to irrigate 38 acres of hay-producing land. Jim added to his holdings until he had sufficient land to run a herd of cattle of



*Sybilie Valley Horse and Cattle Association. The roundup on the Blue Grass about 1905.
Jim Atkinson, Foreman. Courtesy of Mrs. James Atkinson.*



*Jim Atkinson House. Old log house built in 1898.
Courtesy of Mrs. James Atkinson.*

economic size. This ranch passed into the hands of the late Mrs. Theodore Tregoning and she in turn sold it to Mr. and Mrs. Leslie Atkinson, who are the present owners.

Early Day Airship Put Together On Frank Newell Ranch

Frank Newell, a brother of Jim lived across the valley. He was a genius and worked and planned for many years to invent an airship. He finally thought he had it perfected and put it together on the roof of a shed. He invited some of his neighbors to come over and help by giving him and his machine a push for a takeoff from the roof. The shove did not produce enough momentum on the takeoff and the plane and passenger crashed. If he had had the money to use, he might have been the man to invent the flying machine instead of the Wright Brothers, who knows! His ideas were very similar to those of Wright's. His theory was that a small wing extending upwards from the outer end of the main wing would catch the air and prevent the plane from turning over. This invention happened before the day of the gasoline engine and he was dependent upon a crank to turn the gears which spun the propeller. Of course the hand crank could not develop enough speed to turn the propeller fast enough to pull the plane. He did not give up or get discouraged and later moved to California and developed the air brake which all railroads use today. He sold the idea for \$1500.00. If he had realized then the future value of his invention he would have died a millionaire.

George Newell Ranch

Cottonwood, Willow and Harvey Creeks were branches of Antelope

Creek which is a tributary of the North Laramie River. George Newell, brother of the late James and Frank Newell, located on Cottonwood Creek prior to 1900 and acquired water rights, together with his wife Lillie, for 3.28 second feet of water to irrigate 231.1 acres of hay land. Mr. Newell was in the cattle business and his brand was two letter E's with backs together and connected. The George Newells left the country before 1915. They had twins in their family and when these were infants their mother had them lying on a couch in the sitting room. The door was open. During an electrical storm lightning came through the door and shattered the couch but did not injure the twins although a pup which was lying on the back porch was killed. Will Newell, a brother of George, Frank, Perry, and James Newell, lived on a tributary of Antelope Creek, named Cottonwood Creek. Will Newell married into the Ambler family. The older generations of the Newells moved into this region in the 1870s.

Perry Newell Place

Continuing down the North Laramie River we come to the Perry Newell place on a little tributary coming into it from the east between the Bar M and Antelope Creeks. His buildings were back in a sort of cove. He moved away from there in the early 1900s. The place did not appear to be much of a ranch and no water rights are recorded. This ranch is now owned by J. S. Malmquist.

Frank Howe Ranch

The Howe ranch was settled as a desert claim in 1884. In those days the Desert filings were enlarged, and might include up to 640 acres. Frank

Howe did not branch out much in the livestock business. He filed on the land during the 1880s and the Toltec Livestock Co. bought it about 1900. The Toltec Livestock Co. operated it until they liquidated about 1917. A loan company had possession of it and then the Swan Co. bought it about 1930 or later. When the Swan Co. started to liquidate they sold it to Frank Dobson and his son who are the present owners. They have made a well improved ranch out of it. The Toltec Livestock Co. built a large ditch out of the North Laramie which put a large acreage under irrigation. There was a water right for all of the land under that ditch so the Dobsons took advantage of that opportunity and have a large hay meadow where they can winter hundreds of cattle. Before their improvement work and irrigation work it looked like a small piece of the North Pole in winter and as sagebrush flats in the summer. Such are the changes brought out by a little clearing and water development.

A. B. Gillespie Homestead

About 1893, A. B. Gillespie, uncle of the author, took up a homestead in Section 26-25-75. He and his wife, like many other couples, had a difficult time making "ends meet". They had a good start on a family when they went on the homestead. Whatever spare time he had he went to work away from home. He finally went into the sheep business and he had also a small herd of cattle. He obtained a water right for 4.5 second feet to irrigate 314 acres of land. He grubbed sagebrush that was below the ditches with a hoe. During the time that Mr. Gillespie lived in the northern part of the coun-

ty, some thrilling episodes occurred. Guns and knives were used to settle arguments. The law enforcement officers made frequent trips to the northern end of the county to bring in some offender from that section. When they fired a gun it was pointed to hit the target. When they used a knife it was sharp and left its mark. Mr. Gillespie's brand was twin G's with their backs together. About 1908 Mr. Gillespie sold his ranch to the Hall Livestock Co. They operated it a few years and then dissolved partnership. The place went into the hands of Al Bowie, formerly Manager of the Swan Land & Cattle Co. It then went into the hands of Hall and Dobson. They then dissolved partnership and Frank Dobson took over and has been operating this property along with his other holdings.

E. C. Gillespie Place

The author had another uncle, E. C. Gillespie who settled on the North Laramie River just at its junction with Cow Creek. He settled there about 1890 on Section 30-25-73. He dug a ditch and chopped off sagebrush in order to clear some hay-producing ground for a little bunch of cattle he was starting out with. He raised horses and shipped them to North Carolina for sale. His brand was an L X connected, on the left side of cattle and left hip of horses. He sold the ranch to another uncle of the author on his mother's side of the house, H. Ralph Hall who operated it until the Hall Livestock Co. was organized, when it was included in that company. Later it went with the A. B. Gillespie ranch into the ownership of Al Bowie and then to Hall and Dobson. Later this

partnership was dissolved and Frank Dobson took over this property. There were two water rights amounting to 1.5 second feet, sufficient to irrigate 125 acres of meadow land. Dobson's brand is L on the left shoulder, T on the left ribs and B on the left hip of cattle. The Dobsons have one of the best herds of cattle in the county. These cattle are primarily Herefords. The ranch was located on both the North Laramie and Cow Creek, an important tributary.

Joe Gillespie Place

The first and uppermost squatter on Cow Creek was another uncle of the writer, Joe Gillespie. About 1885 Joe Gillespie married Miss Kate Blick who lived with her parents over in Antelope Basin. They immediately moved over to his claim on Cow Creek. The Blicks took a notion to move to California, so the Gillespies went along and abandoned the claim. Aaron Slothower immediately jumped the claim and as soon as he acquired title to that claim he sold it to an Englishman, whom some said was a remittance man, who received money from England in monthly installments. In 1888 he took out two water rights out of Cow Creek totaling 1.21 second feet, sufficient to irrigate 92 acres. Carleton F. Skar-rat sold his ranch to two Englishmen, Frank and George Buckland about 1903. Bucklands were brothers and they operated the ranch until around 1912, when they sold it to the late Walter Roe. Their brand was H-H on the side of cattle. Walter Roe never lived on the ranch but just rented it. He did not live many years after he bought the Buckland place. After his death the ranch passed into the hands

of his widow, Blanche. She married Harry Dunlap and they moved to the ranch about 1915. Mrs. Blanche Dunlap passed away about 1940 and Harry Dunlap is the present owner. His brand is a HEART B connected, on the left side of cattle. He has a well improved herd of Hereford cattle.

Slothower Place

The next ranch going down Cow Creek was settled by Robert J. Slothower prior to 1899. In that year he obtained a water right out of Cow Creek for 1.62 second feet to irrigate 114 acres. He raised cattle and potatoes. After his wife's death in 1909 he became discouraged and sold the ranch to Mr. Flake Hall. He operated it for a few years and sold it to Claude Lewis who stayed there a few years. Other owners in order were Gordan & Menter, James and George Atkinson and eventually Harry Dunlap, who is the present owner.

William Center Ranch

The next place below the Slothower ranch was settled by William Center prior to 1898. He obtained a water right during that year totaling 1.37 second feet from Cow Creek to irrigate 96 acres of land. William Center had a job grubbing off the sagebrush to make a hay meadow. To help out the ranch business he started up a store on his ranch which did a large amount of business for a country store. The Laramie Republican (Industrial Edition) of 1901 mentions the Center Store and Ranch and shows a picture of it. About 1904 Mr. Center sold his ranch and store to the Toltec Livestock Co., who operated it until the company liquidated. Harry Dunlap is the present owner. Bill



Sybillé Valley Horse and Cattle Association. The boys on the roundup take "chow". Blue Grass about 1905. Jim Atkinson, Foreman. Courtesy of Mrs. James Atkinson.



The Dover Ranch 1898. Courtesy of Thos. B. Dodge.

Center used to have a small team of mules that he would drive into Laramie City in one day and return to the ranch the following day, a round trip of 140 miles.

**Thomas S. Garrett Ranch
(Garrett Post Office)**

The next ranch was settled on Section 28-25-73 by Mr. and Mrs. Thomas S. Garrett around 1890. T. S. Garrett came to Wyoming from Iowa in 1874. At first he freighted from Rawlins to the White River in Colorado and was on that job shortly after the Meeker massacre. Later he moved to Rock Creek and ran a hotel, a store, and post office. Then he moved to the ranch. They took out a water right for 1.99 second feet to irrigate 191 acres of meadow land. These rights were acquired between 1900 and 1905, and all were from the North Laramie River. The Garrett's had a good herd of grade Shorthorn cattle. Their brand was the number 17 with a bar under it, which was placed on the left side of cattle and left shoulder of horses. They had a wonderful garden and raised hundreds of bushels of potatoes. They had one of the first country post offices, which was established in 1898 at their ranch and named Garrett after them. It was established at the recommendation of Hon. Frank W. Mondell and is in operation today. The Garretts had a country store for years and did a thriving business. Tom Garrett Jr. is the present owner of his parent's ranch and is postmaster since his mother passed away in 1925.

**Elmer Slothower Ranch
Now Robert Sturgeon Ranch**

The next place going down the North Laramie River was the place

settled by Elmer G. Slothower about 1898. During 1901 and 1902 he obtained a water right for 1.71 second feet to irrigate 129 acres of land. He ran a small herd of cattle and like many other homesteaders had to go out and work on the side to make ends meet. Elmer Slothower sold his ranch to the late Walter Roe, who bought the Buckland ranches on Cow Creek. Walter Roe owned this ranch up to the time of his death, but never lived on it. After his death his widow had the ranch. She sold it to Donald Crear about 1912. He in turn sold to Robert Sturgeon about 1947 and he is the present owner. Donald Crear ran a few cattle but his principal business was with sheep. Bob Sturgeon runs both sheep and cattle.

North Laramie Canyon

From here the North Laramie runs through a rough canyon on its way downstream. The next ranch was settled by the late James Atkinson Jr. He filed on the land prior to 1898. He married Jennie Bell McFarlane in November 1898. They commenced their lives together and their path was a long happy career. During the period from 1899 to 1904 James Atkinson Jr. and his wife took out water rights from the North Laramie for 2.21 second feet for 147 acres of land. The Atkinsons built one of the finest houses in the northern end of the county, some years after they were married. They raised Hereford and Shorthorn cattle and were in the sheep business at the same time. James Atkinson Jr. passed away in 1950 and Mrs. Atkinson is the present owner of the ranch. Their brand on cattle was J T J connected. They raised three boys: Leslie, James,



Home of Felix Atkinson. Pen and ink sketch by Houghton. Courtesy Laramie Republican Industrial Edition 1901 and Bert Wallis.



Ranch of Edholm & Akin near Laramie Peak. Courtesy Laramie Republican Industrial Edition 1901 and Bert Wallis.

and Tommy, and one daughter, Katie Bell.

George Atkinson Ranch A Double Wedding

George Atkinson was the next settler downstream on the North Laramie, from his brother James. These two brothers were also brothers-in-law for they married sisters, the McFarlane girls. Jim married Jennie Bell and George Katie Elizabeth in a double wedding in November 1899 at the home of the brides' parents, Mr. and Mrs. John McFarlane, who resided on McFarlane Creek, tributary to the North Laramie. That was a grand affair with a large crowd of relatives and friends present and the ceremony will long be remembered. George Atkinson during the years between 1899 and 1905 acquired water rights out of the North Laramie for 1.21 second feet to irrigate 156 acres of meadow land. Both families, Jim and George, raised alfalfa as well as native hay. George, like his brother, shifted around with the different breeds of cattle from Herefords to Shorthorns, then back to Herefords. They were partners in the sheep business, and acquired a large acreage of land. Mr. and Mrs. George Atkinson raised a son, Jack, and a daughter. Jack Atkinson, who died a couple of years ago, lived on the Ed Held place near Laramie Peak. The daughter, Georgia Kate, owns the ranch now as both of her parents have passed away. George's brand was three quarter circles, two of which point upwards and the third one is over the other two and this one points downwards. The Atkinsons land extended from a strip along the North Laramie over into Antelope Basin, Duck Creek, and Sand

Creek. A few years before he died, James Jr. bought a hay ranch on the Laramie River just north of Wheatland, and a son, James III, is now living on that ranch.

A Fine Group of Citizens In Northern Albany County

In visiting around the ranches of this region you will find some of them in the hands of the second and third generation. That indicates a citizenry who love the land and at the same time make good substantial citizens. These people rightfully deserve congratulations for establishing a new ranch country. They are the pioneers and the backbone of our state. They were not educated in formal class rooms but they had sufficient inherent knowledge and judgment to solve problems which confronted them in their everyday business. They had the ambition and business training of their parents to carry on the business in the path charted by their parents. All of these hardy homesteaders were not planning so much for themselves as for the coming generation and the 160 acre homesteads took some hard work and industry and business acumen to "pan out". The parents learned the hard way through economy and experience and were capable of giving mature and valuable advice. The youngsters following in their footsteps can not help but be successful.

Pinto is another tributary of the North Laramie and empties into that stream in Frank Dobson's ranch. It comes in from the south. A man named Mike F. O'Brien settled there prior to 1902 and he was Irish in both name and nature. He obtained a water right out of Pinto for 0.78 second feet



The Open B Ranch on Cottonwood Creek owned by Ira Bean. Courtesy of Ira Bean.



The Tom S. Garrett family in front of their rock house. (Garrett Post Office). 1. Tom Garrett; 2. Jennie G. White; 3. Olive G. Kafka; 4. T. S. Garrett; 5. Mary E. Swan; 6. Mary A. Garrett; 7. Robert N. Garrett. Courtesy of Thos. S. Garrett Jr.

to irrigate 55 acres of land for a hay meadow. He had a few cattle and horses. Mr. O'Brien sold his ranch to the late Frank Prager Sr. and at the present time the owner is Sidney Sturgeon.

Edholm & Akin Ranch

Another important tributary to the North Laramie River is Bear Creek. It heads north and west of Laramie Peak and empties into the North Laramie on Section 35-26-72. Arthur M. Akin of the partnership of Edholm and Akin was perhaps the first permanent settler on Bear Creek. These two men were jewelers from Omaha. They believed in a short life and a merry one. They did not usually celebrate at the same time, but it looked like one would always stay in condition to take care of the other one when he was ailing. After the one who was playing nurse would fill and light the pipe for the ailing one, place an additional pillow in the proper place for comfort, and tuck in the covers to keep the patient warm, he would inquire solicitously, "Are you comfortable? Try and go to sleep now." In 1886 Arthur E. Akin took out a water right on Bear Creek for 1.14 second feet to irrigate 100 acres of hay land. Edholm and Akin ran a mixture of Hereford and Short-horn cattle, and their ranch was on Bear Creek and Bar M Creek. Uncle Jim Harvey was a partner for awhile. The 1901 Industrial Edition of the Republican has this to say about this ranch: "The Eangle Mountain Cattle Company's home ranch is located on Bear Creek, in the Laramie Peak neighborhood, and is one of the most picturesque of canyon ranches. It was purchased by this Company in 1884

and has been managed for many years by N. J. Edholm and A. M. Akin of Omaha, and both noted for their genial hospitality and scholarly. Connected with these gentlemen is Judge James Harvey, a pioneer of Albany County, who has charge of the ranch on Antelope Creek, now used for winter feeding." After Edholm and Akin decided the ranch business was not for them any longer, they sold out and the ranch is now a part of the David and Lawrence Prager and their mother, Mrs. Frank Prager's holdings.

James Carragher or Comly Ranch

James Carragher settled on a piece of land on Bear Creek prior to 1899. That year he secured a water right from the State of Wyoming for 0.77 second feet from Bear Creek for 54 acres of land to provide meadow land. Mr. Carragher was one of the victims who was stabbed at a social gathering but recovered. Jim Carragher sold out to W. A. Comly. Steve Frazer told Bob Burns that Mr. Comly had a dry goods store next to where the Albany Bank was located at Second and Grand. Later Comly leased a ranch on Grace Creek before buying the Carragher place. He was Assessor of Albany County for many years. He built one of the nicest houses in the northern end of the county. Sometime after 1917 Frank Prager Jr., now deceased, bought the ranch from Mr. Comly. A son of Frank Prager, Lawrence, now lives on that ranch. Mr. Comly passed away in 1934. A daughter Mary (Mrs. Gus Olson) lives in Laramie.

Frank Prager, Pioneer Wyoming Resident

Frank Prager was one of the first inhabitants of the northern end of



The Garrett Ranch Home and Garrett Post Office. Courtesy of Thos. S. Garrett Jr.

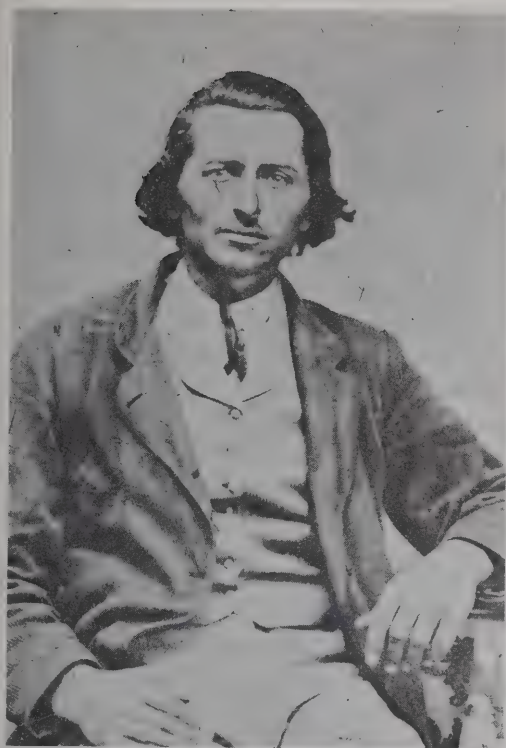


T. S. Garrett Sr. at Garrett Ranch in his fine garden. Courtesy of Thos. S. Garrett Jr.

Albany County. He was born in 1840 in Germany and came to Colorado in 1859 and thence to Wyoming in 1872. He was here during the time of the Indian raids and had some exciting experiences, which are related in the *Reminiscences of Edward Ordway*:

"I believe that it was the same party of Indians that surrounded Frank Prager's camp on the Cottonwood two days later. Frank came to Colorado with his parents during the 1859 gold rush. They were German-Swiss (people) and located on the Big Thompson. In the summer of 1872 Frank came to Wyoming bringing 150 head of cattle, all improved stock, camping on Boughton Slough about 7 miles below where Durbin Bros. were then located. Frank was a man that everyone liked so well they easily forgave him for bringing in a grade of cattle that were slow to keep up with the procession. He was an odd genius in many ways. He had 15 head or more of horse stock and when he went to town with his team, the whole bunch would follow. In the outfit was a fine race animal, a near Thoroughbred that a young Lieutenant had brought from Fort Garland, New Mexico. It was as nearly perfect a saddle animal as any man could wish for. A sporting man would have christened her some glorified name, but to Frank she was just Old Susie—a dear friend that money could not buy. The summer of 1875 he moved up on the Cottonwood and had, by the fall of 1875 completed house, stable, corrals and other necessary appurtenances, including a big stack of hay, and was congratulating himself on being well fixed for the coming winter when the Cheyennes came down on him, surrounding his

camp completely on three sides. Taking the situation in at a glance, he caught up a rifle, shot gun and two belts of ammunition and made a run for the brush just a short distance from his back door. They called him pretty close with a dozen arrows, but he dove into the willows without a scratch. All that long day, while part of the band watched the brush, the others made merry in the house. Sometime in the afternoon, one young brave began a demonstration nearly opposite the upper end of the willows to draw his attention entirely from the upper end of the willows, thus giving others a chance to slip up on him from the other side. Frank knew their game and did not neglect to watch all sides. The Indian after performing all manner of warlike antics and not drawing any attention or response finally got a little too brave and made a circle around coming within 75 yards of the edge of the brush. That being too much of a temptation, Frank poked the gun through the brush and let him have one barrel loaded with No. 12 buckshot, which he sent direct to the mark regardless of the arrow the Indian sent him. Prager in relating that affair said, 'I was sorry for that fellow. He was the prettiest Indian I ever saw. I had to do it or I would never have gotten away from there. I knew they could not take him away until darkness came on and when they were performing that spooky job would be my time to get away and that was just the time that I slipped by past them and was safe and none too soon as I was only just out of range of the light when they set the haystack on fire. It was a long walk and even in daylight and then not an easy



Frank Prager as a young man. Tintype taken in Denver about 1859. Courtesy Wyo. State Library and Historical Department, Cheyenne.



Frank Prager Ranch near Garrett now owned by Fred Prager. Photo by R. H. Burns 1950.



Mountain Lion trapped by Lawrence Prager and David Prager in vicinity of Laramie Peak on Nov. 10, 1953. Length, 7' 2", and weight 128 lbs. Skull is fifth largest in U. S. A. for lions killed in 1953 by Boone & Crockett Club records. Skull 8 5/16" long and 5 13/16" wide. Courtesy Lawrence Prager.



Mrs. Frank Prager (Rosa Schneider). Courtesy of Harry Prager.

one, but he got to Snyder Bros. & Wolfjen's ranch before daylight giving the boys there a surprise when he walked in with his shirt torn to rags by the brush, and wet and bedraggled from fording the river. But they asked him what the trouble was, he could only remember one loss and he replied, 'Oh, Jim, O Boys! the damn Injun got Old Susie.' His proud stepping old saddle mare comprised the man's loss. The other stock, hay, house, and all the other improvements, and the hard day's fight and all night tramp were not worth the trouble to speak of."

Frank Prager was an interesting story teller and used to entertain his friends by the hour with his thrilling experiences. He married Rosa Schneider in Cheyenne in 1881 and she died in 1945. They raised six children: Fred, Frank, Harry, Dora (Bennett), Sophia and Julia (Sturgeon). The original ranch was located on Section 1-25-73 on Antelope or Prager Creek, tributary to Bear Creek, a branch of the North Laramie.

The first house on the ranch was built in 1893. The first fences were built in 1884 in Antelope Basin, where he stayed a short time before moving to the present ranch. He had squatted in Antelope Basin when he first came to Albany County. Frank Prager raised Shorthorn cattle and after he broke his leg and could no longer ride horseback he took up sheep raising during the last 40 years of his life. His brand was the figure 10 on the left hip of cattle, left shoulder of horses and left ribs of sheep. This brand is one of the oldest recorded livestock brands in Wyoming. Mr. and Mrs. Prager took out water rights from

Prager Creek for 1.91 second feet to irrigate 135 acres of hay land. Mr. Prager raised some fine cattle and his steers would weigh from 1600 to 1800 pounds, and would sell at top prices for grass-fat cattle. Mr. Prager's chief business was with sheep and he would often worry as to what he would do with the next money when his wool and lambs were sold. Frank Prager died in 1920 and the property he owned is in the hands of the children.

Frank Prager Jr. Ranch

Frank Prager Jr. settled on a homestead about 1910, which was located on Section 1-26-74. Mr. Prager really did raise good cattle. He fed them during the winter and had an excellent summer range, where his cattle really put on the fat. He had two brands, a CU on the left hip of cattle and horses, and a quarter circle over a V on the left hip of cattle and horses. Mr. Prager passed away recently and his wife together with two sons are operating the ranch.

The Jock Brothers Early Residents

About 1880 three young men came down the Laramie River in a boat to a point where George Dodge now lives. They left their boat and made their way over into the vicinity where Tom Garrett now resides. Scouring around in the hills they found what appealed to them as an ideal place to live. This place was located high up among the evergreen trees with plenty of water and shelter. The peaks and walls of rock along the creek protected them from the wind and the morning sun shown down on the place. That creek or Draw, as it is now called, acquired the name of Jock Draw from the sur-

name of the three boys, Dick, Nick, and Jack Jock. Dick died from tuberculosis and is buried close to where their cabin stood. Nick was a rider and punched cows for the Swan Land & Cattle Co. and Jack kept the home fires burning when he was not working at whatever job he could get. After Dick's death they did not "squat" many years on that claim. After the roundup was over Nick would go back to their abode for the winter. They did a lot of trapping during the winter months. Jock Draw is a tributary of Cow Creek coming into that stream just northwest of Garrett, and just below Harry Dunlap's store place (old Wm. Center place).

Thomas Garrett Ranch and Garrett Post Office

Thomas S. Garrett came to Wyoming in the early 1880s and freighted to Lander, Fort Fetterman, and the White River during the time of the Meeker Massacre. He moved to the ranch on Section 28-25-73 in 1890. The house and barn were built about 1888 and the first fences in 1890. Some of the pitch pine posts used in this fence are still sound and in use. The cattle raised were Durham (Shorthorn), Angus, and Hereford-Durham. Three-year-old steers weighed 1240 pounds and sold at Omaha for 4¾ cents a pound. He received \$25 a head for cows with calves at foot. Wool once sold for 7 cents a pound. These prices indicate the lowest of the prices received.

Thomas Garrett married Mary A. Banner at Rock Creek in 1884. To this union were born six children: Robert Noel, Thomas S., Olive (Kafka), Genevieve (White), Nellie, and

Mary E. (Swan). Mary Banner (Mrs. T. S.) Garrett was the first woman to hold the job of justice of the peace to which she was elected in 1902. She was appointed postmistress of Rock Creek upon resignation of her husband. She resigned this position in 1890 when the family moved to the ranch at what is now the post office of Garrett, Wyoming. Their cattle were branded FH and 17 on the left ribs, while horses were branded TS and 17 on the left shoulder. Sheep were branded T on the back. The first brand, TS belonged to Thomas S. Garrett, while the second brand 17 was recorded for Mrs. Garrett (Mary A.). Thomas Garrett raised a fine garden and potatoes and also produced butter and eggs. Mrs. Garrett passed away in 1925 and Mr. Garrett in 1935. His son, Robert Noel married in 1910 and settled in Jock Draw. They built a nice house there and have one son, Robert J. who is now in charge of the ranch, which raises cattle, horses, and sheep. The recorded brands are RG on left ribs of cattle and left shoulder of horses. Thomas S., another son, lives at the home ranch which is the Garrett post office. Olive (Mrs. Joseph Kafka) lived at Rock River before her untimely death in 1955 and gathered a large amount of historical material concerning the northern part of Albany County. Her assistance and that of her husband, to the writer, is gratefully acknowledged. Mary (Swan), lives in Wheatland.

Wyman Place

The Wyman family settled on Section 1-26-72. Mr. Wyman was a hunter and trapper. Mr. and Mrs. Wyman raised a family of five girls and one boy

on that little place. The income from a place that size would not buy silk or nylon stockings for that many girls nowadays. They of course started to raise a bunch of cattle. They sold that ranch to William Atkinson about 1910 and he sold it to a doctor from Cheyenne who is the present owner and raises registered Herefords. The Wyman place had a water right for 0.36 second feet to irrigate 25 acres of land. A tributary to the North Laramie River comes in from the south and is called either Sturgeon or McFarlane Creek.

McFarlane Ranch

John McFarlane settled close to the headwaters of the creek, with his family prior to 1887. They moved into that locality from Chugwater Creek. They were Scotch people who came to Wyoming in 1866 so were very early settlers. Mr. McFarlane bought cattle in Oregon and trailed them into the Laramie Peak country before turning them loose. These cattle were of Shorthorn blood but he bred them to Herefords and eventually had a high grade of cattle. His brother-in-law, Mr. Dan McIlvain, who had access to the highest grade of registered Herefords furnished Mr. McFarlane and his brothers with registered bulls. You can imagine they obtained the best. When Mr. McFarlane went into the cattle business the cattle roamed the open range summer and winter. The losses became so great that Mr. McFarlane, along with others who stayed in the cattle business, was forced to reduce the numbers of cattle and provide winter feed. Mr. McFarlane secured a water right out of McFarlane Creek for 1.68 second feet to irrigate

117 acres of land. With the good range he had, he could run a large number of cattle on the hay he produced on his meadows. His brand was Five Dots on the hip of cattle. The ownership of the ranch has changed hands several times, and a man named Bovee is the present owner. Mr. and Mrs. John McFarlane had two boys, John and David Thomas, and also four daughters, Jennie Bell, Kate Elizabeth, Alamanda and Agnes Blair.

William Sturgeon Ranch

William Sturgeon settled on Rees Creek, a tributary of McFarlane Creek and that a tributary of the North Laramie. He settled as a squatter in the late 1890s. He proved up in 1906 and married Miss Cecely Atkinson. He gradually built up his ranch and stock. For some years he raised sheep and cattle, but finally he disposed of the sheep and devoted his entire attention to cattle. His brand was a Diamond W connected. Mr. Sturgeon obtained a water right out of Rees Creek for 0.52 second feet to irrigate 37 acres of meadow. Mr. and Mrs. Sturgeon raised three sons, Robert, George, and Sidney. There was another boy who was dragged to death by a horse when he was 14 years of age. There were three daughters in the family, Alma, Katie, and Cecelia. Mrs. Sturgeon passed away some years ago but Mr. Sturgeon is well in the 80s and is still in good health. His daughter Cecelia and her husband Stanley Wilson are operating the ranch.

Robinson Place

Back in the latter part of the 1890s a family of boys and their mother by the name of Robinson settled on a homestead between William Sturgeon's

place and the old H. R. Trail (Where HR ranch trailed to their summer range.)

They gradually left the place one at a time, until the only one left was the younger one, Frank, who lived there with his family a number of years before moving. The place has been owned recently by John Phifer of Wheatland.

Parker Homestead

George W. Parker and his family settled on a homestead on what is known as the Snow Water Gulch. Mr. Parker built a reservoir which impounded 266 acre feet of water which he used to irrigate his hay meadows. He raised cattle and also at one time raised sheep. He eventually sold out and the present owner is not known to the writer. Mr. Parker had a large family. His brand was 7P7 on the left ribs of cattle and right shoulder of horses.

Herbert King Place

Mr. Herbert King and his parents lived on a ranch at the head of Owen Creek for several years and then moved to Rock Creek where they reside today. They kept the Owen post office which was named after Billy Owen, an early day surveyor who located corner stones and made a map of Albany County in 1886. He had the contract from the Government to survey the lands. He was the first man to scale the Grand Teton Peak and Mt. Owen was named after him. He once traveled on foot from Laramie Peak to Laramie between sunup and sundown. When the Kings moved to Rock Creek, Frank Banner took over the place.

Frank Banner Homestead

Frank J. Banner settled on a homestead in the latter part of the 1890s, at the head of Owen Creek. The creek acquired its name from the post office of that name and Mr. Banner was the postmaster. He was a brother of Mrs. Tom Garrett Sr. Banner was a bachelor for many years and was born in England. He raised cattle and had a water right on Owen Creek for 0.76 second feet to irrigate 50 acres of meadow land. He sold his ranch to Charles Wagner, who operated it for many years as a cattle ranch and used the brand inverted V's connected in a brand that looks like the gable of a barn. He sold out just after the 1934 drought and the writer does not know the present owner, although it might be Lee Montgomery.

John Robinson Ranch

John Robinson owned a ranch on Owen Creek close to where it empties into the North Laramie. He built up a well improved ranch there. After many years he discovered that all of the improvements on the land was on ground which was not in his homestead entry. He became disheartened over the blunder and gave up ranching when his health broke.

Ed Robinson Homestead

Edward A. Robinson homesteaded a tract of land on Claud Irvin Creek, a tributary of the North Laramie. This is the last tributary of the North Laramie River before it leaves Albany County and going into Platte County. Mr. Robinson in 1906 secured a water right for 0.44 second feet to use in irrigating 38 acres of meadow land. He raised cattle and his brand was the reversed B R connected. He also

operated a saw mill and produced a considerable amount of lumber. This is the last ranch on the North Laramie River which lies in Albany County.

Ranches in the Antelope Basin

Antelope Basin is located in the northern part of Albany County about 65 miles north of Laramie. It has an interesting history for it was here that Frank Prager, one of the first settlers in Albany County came to live. He settled there in 1880 as a squatter on Section 28-25-73. Mr. Prager raised cattle on this ranch and in 1886 he moved to a new location and took up a homestead known as the 10 Ranch where he spent the rest of his life and raised a family who still reside in that country today. The Antelope Basin is an area about large enough to support three families.

George Martin Place or Sellers Place

George Martin was the next settler to move in on the claim when Mr. Prager moved away in 1886. Martin placed a homestead filing on that block of land and acquired title to it under the 160-acre Homestead Act. Mr. Martin cut some hay there and raised some cattle. In 1893 Martin sold his ranch to the late Alex Sellers, who lived there from the time he took possession until during the early 1900s. The Sellers boy, Lloyd was raised on that ranch. Mr. Seller's business was raising horses, but he also raised some cattle.

A Peculiar Fatal Accident

On the cross-log on top of the pole gate into the round corral, they had fastened the skull of an elk with a large spread of horns. A broncho buster was going to ride a vicious

horse, so all of the inhabitants of the place came out to see "the show." Unfortunately, Mrs. Sellers was standing in front of the closed gate. When the rider mounted the broncho exploded like dynamite. The horse ran head-on into the gate. The force was so great that the elk skull and horns were jarred loose and fell down. One point of the horns struck Mrs. Sellers in the hip, inflicting a wound that proved fatal. Robert Sturgeon owns the Sellers place now and all of the buildings have been removed.

Batty Place or Garlock Place

During the 1880s a man named Dwight Batty with his family settled on Section 35-25-73. They had two children, a son Alvin and a daughter Blanch. They raised Shorthorn cattle and milked a large number of cows. Mrs. Batty made butter and sold it wherever she could, mostly at Rock Creek. Mr. Batty got into an argument with a neighbor, and in a race for his life zig-zagging through the sagebrush, managed to dodge some lead, sent "red-hot" on his trail by his adversary. Mr. Batty sold the ranch in 1894 to Mr. Wesley Garlock of Michigan, and the Batty family moved to Colorado. Soon afterwards Mr. Garlock moved his family onto the ranch. Some members of his family were grown. Harry was the older son, Stanley the younger and Foster was in between in age. There were also two daughters, Grace and Ruth. The Garlocks had a struggle to make ends meet. Harry carried the mail from Owen post office to Rock Creek. He would mount a bronco before breakfast, using the round corral until the cayuse got the bow out of his back.

Then Harry's Dad would open the gate and Harry lost no time making the trip to Owen after the mail. Upon his return he possessed an appetite to eat without any "mincing" around. Soon after he finished the big meal, he caught another bronco and placing his saddle and mail pouch on a bronco selected for the longer distance to Rock Creek, he was away on that trip as soon as his Dad opened the gate to the round corral.

Uncle Sam's Mail Lost

On one occasion west of Boswell Springs, the bronco had quieted down to a walk. Harry for some reason shifted all of his weight to the left stirrup. At that moment the bronco was startled and exploded like dynamite, and Harry being off-balance never regained his seat and as the saying went "Harry took up a desert claim by hitting the ground." Off the horse went for parts unknown with Uncle Sam's mail pouch. Harry picked himself up, spit the dirt out of his mouth, brushed the dirt from his clothes, picked up his hat and headed for Antelope Basin and home. That was a long homeward journey which took the rest of the day and a portion of the night to walk in misery with his high heel boots which were never designed for walking long distances. When he returned and his father learned of the happenings, he was disturbed, because there was a stiff fine for a carrier who lost Uncle Sam's mail. Mr. Garlock hitched up his driving team and drove over to the E. C. Gillespie ranch on the North Laramie River and Cow Creek, to ask if he would go in search of the lost horse and empty saddle with a mail pouch hanging on it. E. C.

Gillespie was in the horse business and of necessity he had a good string of saddle horses to use in gathering the wild range horses. He caught his best and longest-winded horse "Baldy" and took off to the west end of Pine Ridge. That was the highest point overlooking the Laramie Plains, where one could see much of the north end of Albany County. After viewing much of that area with a field telescope, he located a lone horse out near Greasewood Knoll. He concluded that was the horse he was looking for and rode over in that direction, circling so as not to disturb the wild bronco. He rode out of sight on the west side of the bronco and when he came into sight, the bronco took off toward Sheep Creek. "Baldy" after several miles of running began to close in on the bronco and keeping off to one side, gradually turned the renegade toward home. When they got back into the Pinto locality the bronco run into a bunch of range horses and the whole bunch was driven to the Gillespie ranch and corraled. So Uncle Sam's mail pouch was rescued after a chase of many miles.

Blick Place

John Blick settled south of Batty on Section 25-25-73 in 1880. Mr. and Mrs. Blick had one daughter, Kate. Their family name was Blickenstein, but when they came to America they shortened their name by dropping the last seven letters. The Blicks had a struggle making a living out of their little herd of cattle. In 1891 or 1892 they sold out and moved to California. Their daughter Kate married Joe Gillespie, an uncle of the writer. They started to keep house on what is known as the Sellers Ranch but moved over

on to Cow Creek to a better location. That location has already been mentioned and Harry Dunlap is the present owner of that land. The Blick family and the Joe Gillespie family moved to California and the remaining members of the family still reside there. California, the State of the Golden Bear, was building up a reputation as an ideal place in which to live, for where else could one find sunshine, flowers, fog, and fleas! When we Wyomingites visited other natives who now reside in other climes, we were always welcomed into their homes with typical western hospitality, but they always apologized because they had no "Maverick Steak" to offer to us. Mr. Garlock obtained the Blick Place and later sold both the Blick and Batty places to the Toltec Livestock Co. in the early 1900s. They operated it until 1909 when the late James and George Atkinson bought most of it and an uncle of the writer, Flake Hall got possession of a part of it. The heirs of the Atkinson and Hall families are the present owners of this ranch.

Davidson Flats

Over the little range of hills east of Antelope Basin is what is known as Davidson Flats. It acquired its name from an old pioneer family named Davidson. Lou Davidson, his wife and daughter Grace made up the family. Grace was a very popular girl because of her beauty and lovely personality. The Davidsons moved into that location about 1885 and took up a homestead. The little stream they settled on is a tributary to McFarlane Creek and that stream is a tributary of the North Laramie. The Davidsons

lived in the extreme north end of the Flats, which extended from that point south to the Laramie Plains, or possibly better expressed as to the Laramie River after its turn east to enter the canyon. The Flats are about two miles wide and twelve long, and are traversed by Duck and Sand Creeks. At one time Lou Davidson kept the Owen post office. He raised some cattle but had to do other things to make a little cash to make ends meet.

A New Type of Monkey Wrench

One of the things he worked on was a new kind of monkey wrench. He finally finished his design and obtained a patent on it. Before he could manufacture the wrench he had to sell enough stock to build a plant. He approached one of his neighbors, Charles Vail and explained his plans. Charles Vail agreed that it was a money making venture, so bought some stock and gave his promissory note in payment, like any other ranchman who had no bank balance. After Mr. Vail discussed the venture with some of his neighbors he got "cold feet" and went to see Mr. Davidson to see if the obligation could be cancelled. He had definite plans as to how he could accomplish his aim. So, after they had visited awhile he said, "Lou, would you mind letting me see that note?" Mr. Davidson said, "Certainly," so he handed over the note to Charley Vail for inspection. The latter carefully looked over the note, doubled it in folds several times, and quickly tore it to bits. The writer has seen the first pattern for the monkey wrench which Mr. Davidson kept to show his friends, especially when he was selling stock

in the venture, but he has never seen any of the wrenches on sale in stores. As the writer remembers, the pattern showed a wrench with two rods, one a smooth guide rod and the other threaded so the jaws would close. The Davidsons sold out in the early part of the 1890s and left the country. They took their pretty daughter and their monkey wrench with them and nothing is known to date of either. Mr. James Atkinson Sr. operated the ranch for a number of years and then the ranch passed to William Sturgeon and then to his daughter and son-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Stanley Wilson.

The Antelope Basin is a picturesque place. On the north it is bounded by Sellers Mountain, a high abrupt mountain sparsely covered with timber. On the east is a range of unnamed mountains and to the south are the Duck Creek Hills. To the west are the Pinto Hills. The creek which flows through Antelope Basin is a tributary of the North Laramie River, and its confluence with the larger stream is just above the Garrett post office. From Antelope Basin, Laramie Peak looms up big in its stately fashion. The base of the Peak looks as though it is only a stone's throw away, but if you started to ride or walk to the Peak, you would have a long ride or walk, climbing up and down many steep, rocky canyons.

The Little Medicine Settlement

This settlement on the Little Medicine Creek, sometimes called a river was one of the last frontiers in Albany County and the Laramie Plains. This area is some 30 to 45 miles north-east of Medicine Bow. It was not a boom settlement like some of the irrigation booms of later years when fam-

ilies tried to make a living and raise a family by farming, only to find out that many factors, the main ones of which were high altitude, short season and lack of water, made farming a failure in most of the areas. This settlement was settled by sturdy, honest, industrious and enterprising people who did not have the fanfare and trouble which occurred in some areas which had a few troublemakers without such upright character.

The first homesteaders went into that vicinity with the object of locating permanently, and had the foresight and industry to set up a permanent self-sustaining settlement. They made their start in the right manner by filing on a homestead and putting up a dwelling suitable for their means and comfort. They planned carefully and constructed other improvements which added to the effectiveness of their enterprise. Barns, corrals, ditches, fences, reservoirs, wells and spring development all played a part in these useful improvements. Clearing land by grubbing out the sagebrush by hand with a "back-killing" grub hoe was a part of their work which took perseverance and developed strong backs and arms. Such an implement would not appeal to labor today, when such work is done by costly machinery. This operation not only cuts off the sagebrush but levels the ground and in most cases Uncle Sam pays the bill under range improvement practices. He may not always be so free with his pocket money. However, if the program is discontinued the ranch people have profited immensely and much value has been added to their ranches. The building of reservoirs to impound water for livestock, drill-

ing wells, ditches for irrigation and building of fences are included in these range improvement programs.

McGee and Reed Places

The uppermost settler on the South Fork of the Little Medicine was a man named McGee who squatted on a claim in Section 15-28-76, in the early 1880s. At first he made a living by trapping. Oscar Reed was the next squatter who settled there in the mid 90s, and filed on a homestead in section 29-28-77. He was married and raised a boy and girl. He raised a mixed grade of cattle.

Bowles Ranch: J. & W. Burnett

Juel Bowles acquired land in 1900. He like his neighbors had started a herd of livestock but favored horses. His brand was a lazy T over a Cross on the right shoulder of his horses. John Burnett bought out Bowles in 1913. John Burnett and his wife raised Shorthorn cattle. Their brand was an X T with a horizontal bar underneath. They operated that ranch from 1913 until 1941. John Burnett's brother, Wallace, bought the land from his brother in 1941. He ran cattle and his brand was a Flowerpot on the left side. Mr. and Mrs. Wallace Burnett raised a family and a daughter married James Dobson of Garrett. A son is operating the ranch, which is owned by the late Wallace Burnett Estate.

Mathew Burnett Ranch

Mathew Burnett in 1890 filed on a homestead on Section 7-28-76, on the north fork of the Little Medicine. Unfortunately Mathew passed away in 1917 and the land passed into the hands of the late Wallace Burnett, his son. The land is now in the estate of Wallace Burnett.

Dwyer Ranch

Kirk Dwyer settled on the next land below in 1886. He and his wife raised a family of three girls and a boy. They raised both cattle and horses. B4 was their brand for cattle and horses, being placed on the right ribs of the former and left shoulder of the latter. He was one of the few operators who raised draft horses, or it might be better said that he bred up his horses to draft size. He raised Shorthorn cattle. Dwyer sold to John Burnett in 1898. This ranch was located on Section 21-28-76 passed to Wallace Burnett and is now in his estate. Kirk Dwyer took out a water right in April 1888 for 0.57 second feet to irrigate 40 acres of land for a hay meadow.

Fales Place

George Fales was the next settler below and he made his land entry about 1885 in Section 30-28-76. He raised Shorthorn cattle. Fales sold out to Charles Fauver about 1899. Charles Fauver took out a water right for a second foot of water to irrigate 70 acres of land along the Little Medicine. Fauver sold out to Fred Stocks about 1904.

Stocks Place

Fred Stocks first raised horses but later reduced their number and went into cattle. He used the brand IZ for cattle and horses. He sold out to Jake Crouse in 1909 who owned the place until 1916. He raised both cattle and horses. His cattle brand was a Half Diamond over a Cue on the left ribs of cattle and a PUD on the left hip of horses. Crouse sold out to the Little Medicine Livestock Company, composed of Alex Cunningham, Veaver

and one other man whose name is not known now. This company liquidated in 1924. Chase bought out the Veaver ranch. He raised sheep. Fred Stocks made his original filing in 1890 on Section 26-28-77. Fred Stocks was one of the best riders of his day. He just never did get bucked off and could get as tough and rough as the bronco that he was riding. When Fred went to work with his quirt, using it on the horse's head, neck and down his hind legs and at the same time spurring him heavily, the bronco would soon realize it was a losing battle and would throw up his head and take off. Fred's policy was to conquer the horse regardless of the time and effort it took. He did not go in for the modern "ten-second stuff" and figure that ten seconds of riding would break a horse, but he figured to ride them to a finish.

Seiverts Place

The next settler below on the Little Medicine was Carl Seiverts. In about 1895 he filed on a homestead in Section 27-28-77. He raised horses and his brand was CS on the left thigh. On August 10, 1897 he obtained a water right for 1.21 second feet to irrigate 85 acres of land on which to raise native hay. Seiverts married a widow named Townsend who had two children. He sold out to Jake Crouse in 1909.

Stone Tree Forest

The petrified forest is located on the Heward Brothers land on Section 12-27-77. A large amount of petrified wood has been removed from the site but it is still a very interesting place to visit and study.

North Fork of Little Medicine

Let us now consider some of the settlers on the North Fork of the Little Medicine.

Fails Now Taylor Place

Zade Fails in 1886 filed on a homestead in Section 1-28-77. He milked about 25 cows. In those days the people who milked cows made butter from the cream and furnished butter to regular customers in Medicine Bow for table use. In 1891 Fails sold out to Wheeler Bowles. Bowles in turn sold to a man named Deslem. Deslem obtained a water right in May 1887 for 0.64 second feet to irrigate 45 acres of native hay land. William Taylor bought the ranch from Wheeler Bowles in 1913. Taylor operated the ranch until his death in 1946 and raised Shorthorn cattle. His brand was XC on the left ribs of cattle and left hip of horses. The sons of William Taylor are the present operators of their father's estate.

Dressler Place

George Dressler was the next settler below on the North Fork of the Little Medicine. In about 1895 he filed on a homestead in Section 11-28-77. He had a son, Elmer, who filed on a homestead and desert claim which adjoined his father's land. The Dresslers sold out to Louie Kamp in 1912. Dressler started raising Shorthorn cattle and Louie Kamp did likewise. They branded the cattle with a quarter circle with a bar to the right. Louie Kamp bequeathed his ranch and livestock to his son Pete and his daughter Ila. They operated the ranch from the time of their father's death until

1950 when they sold it to John Tobin, who is the owner of the old Two Bar Ranch in Bates Hole and he still owns the Dressler Place.

Charley Cooper Place

The next settler below was Charley Cooper, now of Medicine Bow, who has celebrated many wedding anniversaries including a recent sixty-seventh one, and it looks like they may make it a hundred! The Cooper Ranch was in Section 13-28-77, and he raised both cattle and horses. His brand was IO on the left side of cattle and left shoulder of horses. He bought the ranch from Bert Sanford in 1900. Charles Ellis bought the ranch from Cooper in 1909. He sold it to Hiram Haagerson about 1914 or 1915. Haagerson raised Hereford cattle and branded them with a Car Wheel. About 1930 he sold the ranch to Louie Kamp.

Van Divei Place

J. T. E. van Divei filed on a homestead in Section 15-28-77. Evidently he decided that ranching was not the career he wished to follow and sold his homestead to Fred Stocks in 1904. Stocks in turn sold to Jake Crouse and he passed title to the Little Medicine Livestock Company in 1909.

Heward Brothers Ranch

As we go down the Little Medicine, we now pass into Carbon County. It is astonishing how people will come to Wyoming and at once realize the opportunities that they find here. They can make their plans while they are getting acclimated and then start out. To be successful they must start in a small way as the Heward Brothers did in the Little Medicine country. They bought 1500 head of old ewes at \$3.50

a head in 1907 and found some range to run them on. In those days the range was free and open, but the sheepmen had to have a certain amount of deeded or leased land for their permanent camps for winter. The Heward Brothers bought the old Two Bar Ranch on the Little Medicine. That land was patented in 1889 to Josiah A. Apperson and in those days a man could make a filing for 640 acres under a desert act and Apperson took advantage of this opportunity. He sold the land in 1890 to John Clay Jr., William Swift and William H. Forest. Those gentlemen gave a deed for that land to the Swan Land and Cattle Company. The Swan Land and Cattle Company attempted to make a ranch there, where they could raise hundreds of tons of hay needed for some of their cattle. They went ahead and made those vast improvements and found out they could not keep horses there on account of the poison that comes up out of the ground onto the grass. This poison is selenium, which causes the horses to loose their hoofs and the hair from their manes and tails. The Swan Company sold the land to the Heward Brothers and they are still operating it. They raise sheep and their brand is 7E on the back of the sheep, left ribs of cattle and left shoulder of horses.

A couple of years ago, Bob Burns ran a test on the Heward and other sheep in the Medicine Bow and Rock River areas, to see the effect of moving the sheep from their native ranges to a range south of Laramie which was free of Selenium. The blood and wool of the sheep while on their native ranges showed considerable Selenium, but after being on the range south of

Laramie for six months their wool and blood were free or much lower in Selenium.

Heward Brothers also own Sections 32-, 27- and 28-28-77.

Section 29-28-77 was filed on by Oscar Reed in 1900. He raised Shorthorn cattle and branded them with a 09 on the left ribs. This place was where the Heward Brothers camped when making their start with the old ewes purchased for \$3.50.

William Hotchkiss filed on a homestead in 1908 for half of Section 2-27-78. He sold out to Raymond Bennett in 1913 or 1914. Then in 1921 Raymond Bennett sold out to the Rawlins National Bank. The bank sold the land to the Heward Brothers in 1928.

Jim Hall filed on 160 acres in Section 6-26-77 about 1905. He sold to Frank Walker after 1915.

Heward Brothers bought the following land from the Swan Company in 1918: Section 12-26-78 and Sections 7- and 19-26-77, and also Section 28-28-77. The Heward Brothers own about 28,000 acres of land located in three counties, Carbon, Albany, and Natrona. Their headquarters are where the Casper cut-off or Bates Hole road crosses the Little Medicine. It is too bad others of us are not as enterprising and had the foresight, ambition, and ability to forge ahead as the Heward Brothers did.

Joe Cooper, a son of the couple that has had so many wedding anniversaries, settled on a homestead on the Little Medicine northeast of Medicine Bow about nine miles.

A man by the name of Griffith, but better known as "Whiskers" was the next settler going down the Little Medicine. He was distinguished in more ways than one. He was a prominent

looking man with that well trimmed heavy beard and his outstanding ability enabled him and his wife to raise a family on a 640 acre Stock Grazing homestead. They not only fed and clothed their children but gave them an education. As the report goes the family consisted of nineteen children. It took lots of entertainment for a group of that size, although they made a great deal of amusement for themselves. One of their chief sports was to go rabbit hunting, which helped out the family larder. When they spied a rabbit huddled behind a bush they would surround it and close in, keeping a tight line until they could pick it up.

Raymond Bennett Ranch

Raymond Bennett bought his ranch from Korte Schancks about 1904. He operated the ranch until his death about 1944. He had left the ranch to his wife and she and her daughter operated it for a period of time. Joe Williams, the son-in-law played an active part in the operation of the ranch. Raymond Bennett raised both cattle and horses, but preferred horses. His brand was a Lazy H over an N. He also cut a wattle or dewlap on his cattle. He also used the brand Lazy 4 with a Lazy H below on the left hip of cattle and left hip of horses. The Bennett place was located above the Heward Brothers Ranch. The land changed hands several times after Mrs. Bennett sold it. A man named Noel was one of the owners. Another man named Burke bought a portion of it. Then a Colorado outfit bought a portion of it. The Ed Iba Estate of Casper is the present owner.

The Little Medicine Bow River runs

into the Medicine Bow River about six miles north of the town of Medicine Bow.

Ranches on Sheep Creek in Northern Albany County

The headwaters of Sheep Creek are located 70 miles north and 12 miles west of Laramie. This was a nice handy little stream for the ranchmen to live on. The stream has considerable fall which makes it easy for the ranchmen to take out a ditch and cover a large area of land without much cost in building a long ditch.

Sheep Creek acquired its name from the vast number of wild Bighorn sheep which grazed there in the early days. These animals furnished the meat rations of the early settlers, who went hunting each fall, as soon as it was cold enough for the meat to freeze and stay frozen.

Sheep Creek Park is a wonderful sight when seen from a high point overlooking the entire area. The Park is oval in shape and perhaps about four miles in length and two miles in width. There are several branches to the creek which come together to form Sheep Creek proper before it flows out of the park. Sheep Creek flows southwest in a general direction and empties into the little Medicine Bow River. The Park is surrounded by timber-covered mountains all the way around except for the eroded gap through which the stream passes out of the park at the southwest corner. The evergreen trees extend down the slopes of the surrounding mountains to the edge of the Park.

Before the homesteaders started to settle in the Park the domestic sheepmen used to take their bands into the

Park and the adjoining area to obtain their summer pasture. The author does not believe they attempted to winter their sheep in the Park for the snow piles up too deep. The Riverside Livestock Company was one of the chief outfits to take sheep into the area to summer and they had two bands there.

There is a gorge along Sheep Creek in the Park. It is worth going to see. It reminds one of the Royal Gorge of the Arkansas River in Colorado. No doubt it took Sheep Creek thousands of years to make that gorge. It is about 1-3 feet wide, 20 feet deep and some 200 feet long.

Mantz Place (Fred Meyers)

A man by the name of Mantz was the first settler in the Park and his claim was in Section 4-27-75. His original homestead consisted of 160 acres. He raised Shorthorn cattle and left the place about 1896. Mrs. Fred Meyers is the present owner of that ranch, which is located on Mantz Creek.

Bishop Ranch, Now Robbins Ranch

A. L. Bishop, who was the community surveyor, was the first to settle on what later was Mantz Creek. His daughter married Jim Cameron. "Dad" Cameron was the next settler below the Mantz ranch. He raised a family and his son Jim married the Bishop girl. Cameron raised Shorthorn cattle. "Shucky" Bell, a brother of the late Bert and "Hi" Bell, bought the ranch from "Dad" Cameron in the early 1900s. He raised a family and a daughter married Bill McCann. Shucky Bell had Shorthorn cattle.

A man named Christie bought the



*Old "49 Ranch" Summer headquarters of Smith and Moore, late '80s.
Courtesy of Harry Hannas.*



*1700 head of horses being counted out of the corral at the old 49 ranch in 1902.
Courtesy of Harry Hannas.*

Shucky Bell Ranch and operated it for many years. He made many improvements on the place, putting more land under irrigation to raise native hay. During the past few years Christie sold the ranch to Jimmie Robbins, the present owner. He raises good Hereford cattle and has plenty of flesh on them at market time. Hi Bell, a brother of Bert and Shucky, settled on a homestead on Sheep Creek below Shucky's place. Ewl Green, with his family, came out from Iowa and settled on Sheep Creek below Hi Bell's place. Jimmy Robbins owns the Hi Bell Ranch. Max Waring is the present owner of the Green Ranch and the Leo Nickerson Ranch. Leo Nickerson branded L bar N on the left ribs of cattle and left shoulder of horses. Merle Robbins is the present owner of the Dean Nickerson Ranch, located in Section 17-27-75.

Ashley Hall once had a filing on the land where Max Waring now resides. That filing was made in the early 1900s, but final proof was not made.

Tommy Bennett Jr. was the next ranch on Sheep Creek and raises horses and some cattle.

Tom Bennett Ranch

The next place below on Sheep Creek was settled by Tommy's father, Tom Bennett, Sr. who settled there in 1900 and raised a family of three boys. Tom Bennett's homestead was in Section 31-27-75. He raised horses principally, which he branded with a Circle on the left jaw. He also branded cattle OT on the right ribs and the left jaw of horses. William Bridges bought the Tom Bennett ranch during the 1920s, operated it about three years and sold it to Max Waring, the present owner.

The next settler below on Sheep Creek was O. G. Prill, who settled in Section 31-27-75 in the early part of the 1900s. He was married and raised a daughter named Nellie, who married Chester Sims. They now live in Douglas and have ranch holdings in that area, where they winter their cattle, but their son, Arthur, brings cattle over to summer on Sheep Creek as the ranch is still in the family. O. G. Prill's brand 5Z:LRC & LSH.

Otto G. Prill in 1903 and 1904 took out a water right from Cotton Wood Creek, a tributary of Sheep Creek. This right amounted to 2.54 second feet of water, to irrigate 179 acres of land to raise hay.

Red Land Ditch On Sheep Creek

The water users on Sheep Creek formed a stock company and built what is recorded as the Red Lands Ditch. They acquired water rights for 30.89 second feet to irrigate 2,635 acres of land to raise hay for their livestock. This water right was acquired in 1900 and the stockholders in the Red Lands Ditch were O. S. Marshall, Leon H. Marshall, Aud R. Marshall, Novia S. Beavers, Howard S. Engle, Frank L. Vonstine, Charles C. Vonstine, Elizabeth E. Prill, Otto G. Prill, and Elizabeth E. Prill a second time. The only survivor among these people is Mrs. Nellie Prill Sims and her son Arthur. Mrs. Nettie Marshall filed on land adjacent to that of her sons in the early 1900s. Mr. and Mrs. Adele Parks of Rock River own all of the Marshall land.

A school teacher, Miss Cassa Gammond, filed on a homestead in the early 1900s below the Marshall holdings.

She did not own it long after she proved up until she sold it to the late Felix Atkinson. Day Atkinson, a son of the late Felix Atkinson, is the present owner of this land.

49 Ranch

The next squatter below this land was a man named Mantz. He did not stay long on that claim but moved off of it before or about 1880. Then Rufe Rhodes filed on a homestead on that particular tract of land and established what is still spoken of as the 49 Ranch. Rufe Rhodes was the first round-up foreman for the Swan Land and Cattle Company. He did not care to give up his opportunity in the ranch business to accept a job. It wound up by the Swan Land and Cattle Company buying his ranch and livestock and he taking charge of the Horse Shoe, Two Bar cattle round-up. He was the best cow puncher available to them. This change took place about 1883. The Swan Land and Cattle Company did not make much use of that ranch as it was located away outside of their land limits. They eventually leased it to the late Smith & Moore horse outfit who used it as their summer headquarters. This outfit was the largest horse outfit in the county and used two brands, Dash Quarter Circle and Quarter Circle Six on left hip of horses. There was sufficient land under fence to hold the horses they wished to keep in a pasture and the corrals were large enough to work the large drives of horses which they brought in. Some times they would have seventeen hundred horses. Smith and Moore leased the ranch as long as they continued in the business, and in 1906 Mr. Moore passed away and

the estate was soon liquidated. Felix Atkinson then obtained possession of the 49 Ranch.

Felix Atkinson Ranch

Felix Atkinson was the next settler below the 49 Ranch on Sheep Creek. He and his wife raised a family of four boys, Carl, Day, Merle, and Wayne. He raised sheep on a large scale and was very prosperous at one time. He, like the other old timers, filed on a homestead and started from the bottom with a little bunch of sheep on shares and eventually built up an outfit with five bands of sheep which were free of debt. Practically all of the land outside the railroad limits was public domain. No one molested his grazing on the big public domain, and he took advantage of this wonderful opportunity. Such an opportunity is not available these days; it is pay as you go now. Frank Dobson bought the Felix Atkinson place about 1938. He did not own it many years until he sold it to Robert Sturgeon, who in turn sold it to Day Atkinson, the present owner. Felix Atkinson owned several brands: BUCKLE on LRC and LSH, JY connected LH & JC and LS&JH, BAR over V LHC & LHH, 5Z LRC and LSH, and finally the sheep brand HEART was recorded for the LR and RR. Day Atkinson's brand is 5 CROSS LHC and LTH. Felix Atkinson settled on this place about 1897 and passed away about 1930.

Brown Place

Albert Brown settled on Sheep Creek between Marshall and Medicine Bow. He raised a few cattle and milked a few cows. It was a convenient location for people who became

stranded in storms or with car trouble. At one time he had the contract for carrying mail from Medicine Bow to Marshall.

Emerson Place

Leslie Emerson was the next settler below Brown on Sheep Creek. An outfit named Weisbardt from Brush, Colorado, later bought the Brown and Emerson ranches, according to the best information the writer has. Sheep Creek runs into the Little Medicine Bow River not very far from where Lester Emerson lives. That place has always been spoken of by the cow-punchers as the mouth of Sheep Creek. The cow round-ups often made an overnight camp there.

Ira Bean Ranch

An important tributary of Sheep Creek is known as Magpie Creek and it was here that Ira Bean settled. He filed on a homestead on May 7, 1909 and built up the nicest house and barn in the north end of the county. He married Miss Mary Marshall and they had a son named Ned and a daughter named Dorothy. The Beans engaged in the cattle business and shipped out some of the top cattle of the county. Their brand was an open B. They filed a water right for 3.31 second feet out of the Cottonwood Creek, a tributary of Sheep Creek, which was used to irrigate 239 acres of land for the production of native hay. Ira Bean filed his homestead in Section 33-27-75, and owned land in Sections 27, 28, 29, and 34.

In the early part of 1900, two young ladies from North Carolina, Misses Mata and Rockwell Hall filed on land on the upper part of Magpie Creek. They did not live on the land the re-

quired time to prove up and the land reverted to the Government. In later years Ira Bean acquired title to the land. Jimmy Robbins owns the Bean Ranch at the present time.

Cotton Wood Creek, Tributary To Sheep Creek

Ralph Bennett filed on a homestead on Cotton Wood Creek above Ira Bean's homestead prior to 1905. He raised horses and cattle, mostly horses. He branded the cattle with a pine tree on left ribs and the same brand on the left jaw on horses.

On March 11th, 1905, Ralph Bennett obtained a water right out of Cotton Wood Creek, tributary to Sheep Creek, for .47 second feet to irrigate 33 acres of land to raise native hay to feed his livestock. Unfortunately Ralph Bennett lost his wife many years ago. He lives the distasteful life of a bachelor. He is the present owner of the ranch and continues to operate it.

Ranches on Mule Creek in Northern Albany County

Mule Creek in the northern part of Albany County is the most important tributary to Sheep Creek for it furnished resources for settlers to make their home and livelihood there in the livestock business.

Mule Creek acquired its name from an old tired white mule which gave out in the harness while on a freighting job. The freight outfit was operating between old Rock Creek and Fort Fetterman. The "mule skinner" saw it was a hopeless task to get the mule up and working in the harness, so he stopped his freight team, unhitched the old mule, pulled the harness off and turned him loose to die in peace. The white mule was "stubborn as a

mule" as the saying goes and would not die until he was ready. He strolled around those hills looking for a location and he evidently found plenty of spring water and luxurious grass for he recovered and thrived and lived for many years on the head of the little creek which today bears the name of Mule Creek.

Edward Corthell, brother of the late Nellis E. Corthell, able Laramie attorney, placed the first land filing on that creek in the very early 80s. He made final proof on the homestead and sold it to Smith and Moore, the horse outfit, in 1891.

Smith and Moore

The late Alex Moore and his partner John Smith were the uppermost homesteaders on Mule Creek. They improved those homesteads so they could be used for their winter quarters. They were the largest horse outfit ever to operate in Albany County and branded more than 1700 head of colts each year. Their range was the north two-thirds of Albany County, a portion of Carbon County northeast of Medicine Bow and a portion of Southern Natrona County. The buildings were located on Section 12-27-75. Their summer headquarters were located at the old Forty Nine Ranch on Sheep Creek. Their brand was a Bar over a Dash on the left hip. They also ran a large bunch of horses for a man by the name of Sterling, who lived at Greeley, Colo. His brand was a Quarter Circle over a Six on the left hip. Smith and Moore shipped their horses east to market and they found a ready market unbroken for use as light buggy horses or for riding purposes. The second wife of the late John Smith, Jennie Smith, who

lives in Massachusetts, is the present owner of the Smith and Moore Ranch property which is leased by the Dr. Hilton Estate of Douglas.

"Frenchy" Ring Place

"Frenchy" (R. A.) Ring had a timber and stone claim on a tributary to Mule Creek. He also had land in his homestead which reached clear down to Mule Creek. His land was below Smith and Moore's holdings. It was through Frenchy that Smith and Moore located their ranch property where they did. They were trailing their horses from around Sterling, Colorado to Montana in search of range, and happened to camp near Frenchy's place during the summer. Frenchy told them that this was the best horse range in the world and after sampling it during the summer they decided to spend the winter there and give it a thorough test, which was just what Frenchy was hoping they would do. Their horses wintered so well that they decided to locate as a neighbor to Frenchy. After living neighbors for a while, Alex Moore said it was like living between the devil and the deep blue sea to live between Frenchy and Jim Carragher. Frenchy was a bachelor but was interested in getting a wife. One of his neighbors to the east got a wife through the Heart and Hand paper. Soon after the couple were settled and keeping house, Frenchy was curious and went over to call on them. When he returned and met some of his neighbors he made the remark in his "broken French," "She is a pretty good vooman if she come from the 'Montgomery Voord." Frenchy was quite a local character. One day he and some of his neighbors were dis-

cussing how much it cost to live. Frenchy said it cost Alex Moore a dollar and a half a month to live, but it cost him an additional fifteen cents over this a month to live because he drank coffee and chewed tobacco. After Frenchy's death the land passed into the hands of Platte Valley Mack (A. L. McClellan). After his death the place passed to Leslie Atkinson who is the present owner.

Below Frenchy's place, E. E. McFarland had a homestead on Mule Creek. He married Dorothy Bean and lived on the Bean Ranch for awhile and later settled on Mule Creek. At the present time his ranch is owned by Fred Sailing who has land in Sections 1-26-75, 35-27-74 and 6-26-74.

Clifford Whistler was another settler near the E. E. McFarland homestead. He studied mining engineering at the Wyoming University. That knowledge aided him in locating a large deposit of manganese. The title to this deposit passed from Whistler to others and it is believed that he did not realize much cash from his discovery. Recently the author saw some of that ore being loaded on a car in Rock River, so the deposit is being used at this time.

Berret Cole was the next settler going down Mule Creek. His holdings were located on Sections 10- and 11-27-75. He raised Shorthorn cattle and his brand was a BOX around a letter E. His horse brand was an Anvil on the left shoulder. Mr. Cole's wife, Luella M. Cole had the water rights in her name. She had an appropriation from the State of Wyoming for 2.03 second feet to irrigate 205 acres of land to raise native hay. The Coles lived there for a great many years and

eventually sold out to Frank Robinson around 1920. Robinson's brand was a Bar over a figure Four, on the right side of cattle and right shoulder of horses. Frank Robinson also raised sheep on the Cole Ranch. He sold out to Harry Dunlap of Garrett about 1940.

Walter Robbins Ranch

Walter A. Robbins, better known as "Skinny" filed on a homestead on Mule Creek on Section 14-26-75. That filing was made in the early part of 1900 and he held that homestead about 30 years. Mrs. Jennie Smith of Massachusetts is the present owner. He raised horses by the hundreds and his brand was YT on the left shoulder. He did not have any idea of how many horses he owned, and besides that he claimed a "forty-foot" interest in the horses belonging to the Dash Quarter Circle outfit, the largest operators in Albany County.

"Skinny" was a bronco rider as well as an all around horseman. He was quick and active as a cat, and was never known to be kicked or receive an injury of any kind from a horse. The author thinks that there is no doubt that he rode more bucking horses than any other man in the State of Wyoming. He rode any kind of horse for his own amusement as well as to amuse and thrill a bunch of cow-punchers that happened to be around. He rode bucking horses before breakfast, after breakfast, after dinner, and after supper, in fact any old time. He seemed to sleep better if he had had a rough one to ride after supper. Every time a horse would buck with him he would giggle like a little boy that was being tickled in the ribs. "Skinny"

owned about fifty head of saddle horses and he was just about the only one that rode any of them; in fact he was about the only one that wanted to ride any of them. Hardly any of his horses were broke to lead. When he rode up to a gate he would dismount, open the gate, mount and ride through, dismount and close the gate, then remount and go on his way with the horse either bucking or galloping. There was one horse that Skinny mounted which gave him trouble. He gave no details except the terse saying that that horse just stood on his ear—that horse was STEAMBOAT. Many another rider bit the dust when he stepped upon Old Steamboat.

Bill Stewart had a claim on what is known as the Hamilton Springs Draw. He met with tragedy, being killed by a shot from a Winchester. His claim went back to the Government. In that neighborhood an old faithful colored man by the name of George A. Jordan filed and built a little ranch where he ran cattle. His brand was G4 on the left side of cattle, left ribs of sheep and left shoulder on horses. He helped the King family trail a herd of Shorthorn cattle into the country in the early 80s. He was not very successful in the cattle business because of heavy summer losses.

Ranches on Ashley Creek

In the very early days Ashley Creek was called the North Fork of Duck Creek. It went by that name until Jack Ashley settled on it by a homestead filing. It heads at the east side of Lee Mountain, some ten miles south-east of Laramie Peak.

Roe Ranch

The uppermost settler on Ashley

Creek was Mr. and Mrs. "Dad" James Roe, with their family, Mrs. George Stafford, a widowed daughter, a son, Walter, and a daughter Frances. They squatted on this land in the middle of the 1890s, which was located in Section 9-24-71. They drove Shorthorn cattle into the area and raised this breed of cattle. After Mr. Roe's death the family became scattered. Linda Utter filed on that tract of land many years after the Roe's vacated. The present owner is Lee Montgomery.

The next settler going down the Creek was John Koonse, who located on Section 10-24-71. Koonse had a limited number of livestock and a large family to raise. The family did not reside on that land the required time to obtain a patent from the Government. He moved his family over to a tract of land that was vacated by the late Archie McPhee.

Cochran Homestead

The next settler was Dave Cochran who filed on a homestead in Section 17-24-71. He filed on this land in the 1890s. He was one of those cowboy bachelors. One Sunday he rode over to see a lady friend. He spent most of the day, like most of the bachelors did when they went visiting. It was a little past sundown when he returned to his homestead cabin and was surprised to see a big bear sitting on his door step. When the bear saw him it immediately left the scene and started up the side of the mountain east of the cabin. Dave rushed into the cabin to get his gun, found only one shell and being an excellent shot he thought that one bullet was all that was needed. When he caught sight of the bear he

took steady aim at a vital spot and pulled the trigger. The bear went down but came up charging and came after Dave by big leaps and bounds. Dave's only chance was to get back to the cabin. Cowpunchers are not famous for breaking foot racing records, but Dave did beat the bear to the cabin, but the bear was so close that Dave did not have time to get through the door; so around the cabin they raced until Dave had time to get the door open and get inside. Not long after that episode he decided to get married and stay closer to home so he could keep hungry bears off of his front door step. Dave Cochran made a nice little ranch there, improving the meadow ground, and branched out in the cattle business. He ran mostly steers, with just enough cows to keep the steers located on the range. His brand was a 5L.

Jack Ashley Homestead

The next settler below and south of Cochran was Jack Ashley for whom the Creek was named. He settled on that homestead in the late eighties. He had the misfortune of losing his wife and he acted as both father and mother to their only child, a daughter named Lena, who grew up on that ranch and Married Frank Robinson. In early days Jack Ashley as well as Fred were hunters and trappers. On several occasions Jack Ashley would stop with the writer's parents who resided on the Laramie River near Ione Lake, as that was about half way between his ranch and Laramie City. The author remembers one time when Jack Ashley brought six hind quarters of deer which he had cured and dried. That meat was relished by all members of

the family and was a treat never to be forgotten. Jack sold his homestead in the early 1900s to Dave Cochran. Dave in turn sold all of his holdings to the Hall Livestock Company about 1908. The Hall Livestock Company dissolved partnership about 1920 and the late H. Ralph Hall took the Cochran holdings for his interest. His son, Ralph A. Hall, is the present owner. H. Ralph Hall raised sheep on that ranch, as well as cattle. His brand was LX connected on the right side of cattle and 07 on the left rear thigh of horses. The Hall Livestock Company raised cattle, sheep, and horses. A. Flake Hall was manager for the company. In addition to the Dave Cochran Ranch, Ralph A. Hall has Sections 17 to 20-24-71. French Joe had a claim on the west side of Ashley Creek. He was there such a long time ago that there is not much remembrance of him left. Seamen Gaynon is the lowest settler and furthest south on Ashley Creek.

David McFarlane Ranch

David McFarlane settled on a tributary of Ashley Creek, which is often spoken of as McFarlane Creek. The McFarlane brothers first located on Chugwater Creek when they came over from Scotland. There were three brothers, John, David, and Thomas. While they were living on Chugwater Creek many Indian raids took place. Dave and another Scotchman, Dan McIlvain were together. Dan became Dave's brother-in-law and operated the Wyoming Hereford association after the original owner, A. H. Swan, liquidated. Dave McFarlane and Dan McIlvain were away from their place on the Chugwater, scouting around afoot when they discovered a band of

Indian warriors in a ravine opposite them. The Indians saw them about as soon as they saw the Indians, and started to attack them. Both men were armed with their guns which were modern for those days. They opened fire on the Indians and while one kept up the fire the other rushed back to the top of the next ravine, then he would keep up the fire and the other would retreat and the Indians thought both men were firing at them. They kept up this rotation until the Indians gave up the attack, and stopped broadside on a neighboring hill. Dave McFarlane said, "Look at that big chief standing broadside. I am going to pick him off." So Dave took a steady aim and pulled the trigger. The bullet missed the Indian but came close enough that he waved "a highball" and they rushed off on their horses. Even though Dave and Dan made their escape they were very uneasy when they returned to their quarters that evening. They were up early the next morning and found that their horses had been taken away by Indians during the night. A camp of U.S. soldiers was located nearby and the two men walked over and reported that their horses had been stolen. The soldiers went back with them and all followed the trail of the Indians and came to where the Indians had crossed over a ledge of rock with the horses. One of the soldiers stuck his head up over the ledge and Dave said "You better duck your head or some Indian will shoot it off." Just then a bullet struck the soldier between the eyes. Dave and Dan never recovered their horses. The McFarlane's moved up into the Laramie Peak country in the 80s. Dave settled on a section of land in

Township 24 N Range 72 W. He married Miss Agnes Oliver and they raised one child, Nellie Agnes, who later married George Brandle but has since passed away. Dave McFarlane was a brother-in-law of his own brother John, as they married sisters. They owned one of the best herds of Hereford cattle in the country. Dave's brand was 66 on the left thigh on cattle. In the late 1920s the Dave McFarlane Ranch was rented to Archie McAuley. After 1932 Archie McAuley bought the 880 acre McFarlane Ranch. Archie McAuley owns Sections 7 and 17-24-71, as well as Sections 11, 12, and 13-24-72.

Tom McFarlane Ranch

Tommy McFarlane, a brother of David, filed on a homestead in Section 10-24-71. That filing was made in the early 1890s. He raised a good commercial herd of Hereford cattle like his brother David. He also got his bulls from the Wyoming Hereford association. Tommy was a bachelor for many years. About 1904 he married a well known school teacher, Miss Mamie (Mayme) Whiting. Just before the World War they sold their ranch to the Hall Livestock Company, and Ralph A. Hall is the present owner.

From many points along Ashley Creek one can see one of the well known landmarks known as Notch Peak, which is very well named. The top of the peak is a granite formation and there is a deep notch in the top. Probably no living creature can pass through the notch unless it be the American Eagle. The sides of the peak are too steep for any legged creature to ascend to the notch. The walls of the peak are covered with a dense growth of heavy timber up as far as

there is any soil for the trees to take root in.

Decker-Van Ortrick Shooting Scrape

A man named Decker moved in on the north side of Notch Peak and set up a new mill on a homestead which had been filed on by a Mrs. Seamons. She was not complying with the law in planning to prove up on the homestead, and other people knew this, including possibly Decker and Jean Van Ortrick. Jean Van Ortrick was planning on jumping the claim when Mrs. Seamon's time had expired. He ordered Decker not to cut any more timber on that land, but Decker did not heed his warning and continued to cut and saw timber. Van Ortrick walked into the lumber yard with his Winchester under his right arm. When he saw Decker, they exchanged glances, blood in the eye of each one, and they commenced to shoot at each other point blank, but none of the bullets took effect for a long time. One of Decker's boys appeared on the scene with a .22 rifle, and opened fire behind the water trough. When Van Ortrick saw that someone was firing from behind the trough he fired into the trough, breaking out a large hole in it and the water spurted out and drowned out young Decker from his hiding place. Mrs. Decker was not excited and came to the door and coolly took a shot at Van Ortrick with a shotgun. She was some distance from him but many of the shot had to be picked out of Van Ortrick's back when the trouble subsided. One of Decker's bullets went through Van Ortrick's elbow. The case came up in District Court but was dismissed. Decker left the country shortly afterwards and Van Ortrick stayed at the

Cochran Ranch for many years.

After the trial, both sides and their witnesses stayed all night at the author's parents' ranch, which was half way to their homes. The author's mother was away from home and the school teacher, Miss Elsie Towson and the small sisters, with the help of Mrs. Decker, pitched in and did the cooking to feed the large group of people. They had to set a table for each faction in the dispute, and they were on bitter terms and ready to fight at the least provocation. The fight in the court cooled them off to some extent for it was expensive for both sides and money was scarce in those days. Decker claimed that the man Van Ortrick, who opened fire on him, was wearing armor or he would have been killed by his shots.

Charley Lee Place

Another settler in that section of the country was Charley Lee and his family. He did not live on a creek but his homestead was on some springy meadow ground on the south side of Lee Mountain which was named for him. He settled on that homestead in the late 80s. The Lees had two children, a boy and a girl. The senior author does not remember the girl's name, but the boy was called "Chuck". Charley Lee raised cattle and they were of unusual type with large frame, rough bone and heavy weight and were black in color, with black horns. Many were blue roans. These were of peculiar type and the author does not remember seeing any other cattle like them. The author's father bought these cattle in the fall of 1898 but did not keep the breed separate. Charley Lee sold his ranch to the author's

uncle, the late H. Ralph Hall, in 1900. He in turn sold it to Wilson Meglemre and Billy Wilde about 1920. Lee Montgomery is the present owner. Ashley Creek is a tributary of Duck Creek.

Ranches on Duck Creek

Duck Creek was in its present location long before there were any duck hunters or shotguns or even bows and arrows. It was a small creek with lots of "fall" or grade and drains all of the mountain country between the North Laramie River and the Laramie River. During the spring run-off that little stream discharges an immense volume of water into the Laramie River.

Soward Place (Mertz)

The first settlers or squatters on this Creek was John Soward and family. He settled on Duck Creek in 1885 on Section 29-24-72. Their family consisted of three sons, Albert, Oscar, and Frank, and three daughters, Henrietta, Eva, and Ida. Ida married John Mertz and that couple came along with the Soward family and located with them. They trailed a bunch of cattle with them when they came to Wyoming. They did not reside in the Duck Creek valley long, but moved on west with their belongings. All of the Sowards, exclusive of Oscar, remained in the West, but Mertz returned to Duck Creek and settled on a homestead which still bears his name. Mr. and Mrs. Mertz lived on that ranch for many years, where they improved the hay meadow and raised cattle. Oscar Soward, Mrs. Mertz's brother, lived with them except during the time he was punching cows for the 7L outfit on Rock Creek. He became a real hand. He married Jessie McGill and soon after that he took charge of the Kite

Ranch and operated it until his tragic death in 1915 when he was caught under a horse which was pulled down on him while roping cattle during branding. In 1901 John Mertz and his wife sold their ranch to the late John McGill. He sold all of his holdings to the Toltec Livestock Company. They did not operate it but a year when they sold it in the fall of 1916 to the Cameron Brothers and M. D. Lewis. Lewis withdrew from the firm in the spring of 1917. Camerons operated the ranch for about five years and lost out during the first depression. Eventually all of the McGill land went back to Mr. McGill's estate. The Mertz land was handled in several different ways under a lease for a while. A school teacher and his wife bought it and lived there for some time. Barney Brooks is the present owner. He raises cattle and his brand is the Y bar Seven, up and down, left ribs on cattle and left thigh on horses. John Mertz branded his cattle with a V and Bar underneath on the left side on cattle and the left shoulder on horses.

James Atkinson Sr. Ranch

James Atkinson Sr. squatted on a piece of land in a draw in the late 80s which later was called Brandle Draw. This was on Section 8-24-72. There were three boys in the family: Felix, George, and James Jr. There were also three girls: one whose first name is not remembered married Tim McCarthy of Dutton Creek, another one married a man named Beggs, and Cicely, who married William Sturgeon about 1894. Near the turn of the Century James Atkinson Sr. moved out on the flat to Section 20-24-72, which was still in the Duck Creek watershed.

At first he raised cattle which he branded reversed K, reversed 7 connected. He also raised some good draft horses of the Shire breed. The first Mrs. Atkinson is buried on the first land claim. Mr. Atkinson did not stay in the cattle business very long, but changed over to the sheep business and remained in it until shortly before his death. His ranch is still in the Atkinson family.

Clark Homestead

There was a man named Clark who had a claim across the Duck Creek valley southwest of where John Mertz homesteaded. Clark settled on Section 3-24-72. Clark was a detective by profession but did none of his work around that part of the country except for his own amusement. One day he was on a hill with his field glasses, trying to find something to see. He saw one of his neighbors chasing a wild yearling all around trying to get it into his corral. Clark just figured it was a "maverick" when the man did get the yearling corraled. Clark went over after dinner. He met the man who asked him to get down from his horse. They visited around awhile and when they came in sight of the corral, Clark looked up and saw the yearling and said, "Where did you get my calf?" The man answered, "Is it yours? You may take it, Frank." When Clark was ready to go home the man opened the gate and let the bull out for Clark to take home, which he gladly did. Not only that, but he burned his own brand on it so everyone could see it.

William Sturgeon Ranch

Mr. William Sturgeon was the next settler in that period on Duck Creek. He took possession of the claim Clark

had in Section 32-24-72. He married Cicely Atkinson in 1894. They immediately set up housekeeping on Duck Creek. They lived there only two years and then moved over onto what is known as Sturgeon Creek and lived there many years, until the time he retired, a short time before his death in 1954.

William Atkinson Place

William Atkinson filed on a homestead in the early 1900s in the same locality (Section 8-24-72) that his father, the late James Atkinson Sr., squatted on in the early days. He lived there with his family until about 1912 when he sold out to a young man from Maryland named Bill Brandle. Bill Brandle was working for William Atkinson. One morning Brandle asked Atkinson what he would sell the ranch for. Atkinson told him. Brandle made a trip home shortly after that and upon his return he paid for the ranch in cash and took immediate possession. William Atkinson used two brands, one was a four H reversed Four connected, on the right ribs of cattle and left shoulder on horses. Atkinson also used another brand which was called a Hanging Fours. They were connected and one below the other. Bill Brandle started to establish a horse ranch there. He bought a very large Shire stallion. He operated the ranch until he sold it to the author's uncle, A. Flake Hall and that ranch is still in the Hall family. Brandle's brand was three T's with the lower part coming together. About the time Hall purchased the Brandle Ranch he filed on a homestead in Section 7-24-72 upstream on another creek, but they came together in the Brandle field. Hall made

a nice ranch there. The late Mrs. Theodore Tregoning filed on a Section 13-24-73 which joined corners with Hall's section. She sold that to Hall eventually. Hall also bought the Jim Donnelly homestead which was on west over the divide on another tributary to Duck Creek. These purchases gave Hall about 16 sections in a solid block for his ranch and this land is all in the Hall family.

Sidney Sturgeon Place

Sidney Sturgeon settled on a homestead in Section 22-24-73 on a tributary of Duck Creek about 1922. He started out "from scratch" with a little bunch of sheep and gradually increased his sheep and land until he had sizeable holdings. He acquired some land from the Swan Company on what is known as Greasewood Flats. It was a wonderful grass country. Sidney finally decided to sell his sheep and went into the cattle business. Soon after this change he sold the summer range out on the Greasewood Flats to L. G. Harding. Then he drew back onto his range on Duck Creek and Pinto, a tributary of the North Laramie River. The Sturgeons raised one son named Sidney Jr. Sidney Sturgeon branded a Cross Six on the left side of cattle and left shoulder of horses. Sturgeons are operating extensive holdings.

Smith Homestead (Byrum Homestead)

Over the divide to the southwest was a homestead filed on by a man named Smith. He was a blacksmith by trade and held that position down at the shearing pens for the Swan Company. He lived on the homestead the required length of time and enclosed it with a three-wire fence for the im-

provements he was required to make to comply with the Stock Grazing Homestead Act. After getting title to that land he was not long in selling it to the Swan Company. Smith's homestead was located on Duck Creek proper and right at the head of the creek. At its source Duck Creek runs toward the southeast. Near where the creek turns east was the location of a homestead filed on by Ted Byrum, an old Two Bar Cowpuncher. After the Company went into the sheep business he eventually went back to work for the outfit. He was promoted to range rider and that certainly suited him better than any other promotion available. During one of his rides he had a companion named Bobby Winborne. Bobby was riding a bronco. After eating their lunch they were ready to get their horses and ride on. Byrum caught his horse but Bobby's bronco took off, hobbles and all. Byrum urged his horse into a fast lope to head Bobby's bronco which was going along the edge of the lake. Byrum's horse stepped into a hole and fell over frontwards. Byrum was thrown head first and broke his neck. The Swan Company bought Ted Byrum's homestead.

Margaret McGill Irwin proved up on a homestead about 1910 on Duck Creek, just west of the Mertz place. This filing was in Section 30-24-72.

Duck Creek is blessed with as good scenery as can be found anywhere. In fact it has some waterfalls that are phenomenal. They are about 80 feet high.

John Newkirk Place

John W. Newkirk filed on a section of land directly northeast of the late James Atkinson Jr.'s home place. That filing was made about 1915. He had a

few cattle. During the first outbreak of Spanish influenza after World War I, the Newkirk family contracted it. The entire family was deathly sick and the father and oldest son died in the same room.

Vail Homestead

Duck Creek runs into the Laramie River after Cherry Creek and Collins Creek flow into it, a few miles before the Laramie River passes out of the canyon on the Wheatland side of the mountain. Cherry Creek is an important tributary to Duck Creek. It enters from the south watershed. Charley and Aubrey Vail filed on homesteads on what is known as the "Big Meadows." They are well named for that one meadow is the largest and only one on Cherry Creek. They filed on land in Section 12-23-72, in the very late 1880s. The Vails were highly educated people from Pennsylvania. They were not practical ranch or stockmen, but continued in the cattle business up until the late 1890s. At that time they sold out to the late John McGill and this land followed the same chain of ownership as the John Mertz place. It was purchased by the Kennedy Brothers from the McGill estate and they still have that ranch. The Vail's brand was called three Quarter Circles. Two of the quarter circles pointed up and the other one pointed down and was placed over the other two. This made a very good brand. It was placed on the left side. The Vails returned to Pennsylvania. Aubrey Vail studied for the ministry and followed that profession after leaving Wyoming. W. H. Kennedy made his start by filing on a homestead over the divide on another creek called Dodge Creek.

After proving up that homestead he moved east and was on the Cherry Creek watershed, and the author believes he built on his brother John Kennedy's section. In fact three houses were built near one another like in a city. Their homes are located on Section 15-23-72. The Kennedy Brothers raise cattle and sheep. Their brand is an M and Spear connected, used on the right hip. They have added to their land holdings until it is now among the largest in Albany County, with some land close to or in Platte County.

Ranches on Sand Creek on Lower Laramie River and Boswell Hills

Sand Creek is a tributary of the Laramie River and empties into that river just below the beginning of the Canyon at the west end and not far below where George W. Dodge now lives.

Sand Creek is not a flowing stream the year around. After a hard winter it discharges a large amount of water. It does not have a long watershed and no timber to hold the snow during the winter. It is fed by melting snow from the east side of the hills. There are two springs feeding it but they do not discharge enough water to run over half a mile. Sand Creek heads just south of Duck Creek.

Helen McGill Homestead

The first homesteader on Sand Creek was Miss Helen McGill, who is now Mrs. T. E. Yarbrough and lives in Laramie. Her land filing was made about 1908 or 1910 in Section 10-23-73. Will I. Palmer is the present owner. That homestead was located on the west fork of Sand Creek.

Will Palmer Place

Will I. Palmer filed a homestead on the north fork of Sand Creek either in 1915 or 1916. He built a homestead cabin on it for a starter. As time came along he found himself well established with good improvements and a herd of cattle. From time to time the Palmers have purchased land to add to their holdings until they have a large acreage. Will Palmer's homestead was located in Section 14-23-73. Mr. and Mrs. Palmer had three boys. The youngest boy has just returned from the armed forces and is living with them. Will I. Palmer's brand is a quarter circle over an IU on the left shoulder or just back of the shoulder on cattle. Mrs. Palmer's brand is a quarter circle over a UI on the left shoulder or just back of it.

A man named Houston had a homestead at the mouth of Sand Creek where it emptied into the Laramie River. George W. Dodge is the present owner.

Boswell Springs Hills The Swope Ranch

Arthur Swope filed on a stock grazing homestead on Section 26-23-74. Mr. and Mrs. Swope and their daughter moved from their home north of Rock River, where they had one of the farms purchased from the Rock Creek Conservation Company. The Swopes were not long in learning that farming in this high altitude was not a success, so Mr. Swope took up the homestead and built a comfortable house and many other improvements. Their section of land was without water. One of the first things he did was to drill a water well for domestic use as well as for their livestock. They started out with

the right kind of plan to succeed. They went into the sheep business and enclosed that section with woven wire fence with two barbed wires above so cattle and horses could not jump over it. This fence was not only sheep tight but just about "coyote-proof." With such a fence they could turn their sheep loose and let them run at will and with good pasture and free-will run, the sheep did exceptionally well and kept healthy. His sheep were the heaviest wool producing ones in that part of the country and also raised the heaviest lambs.

Mr. Swope had a brother that filed on Section 18-22-73. That section was also fenced in the same manner as the other and by agreement the sheep of the two brothers had free run over both sections. These two sections were well sheltered as they were on the sunny slope of the Boswell Springs Hills, which run north and south so the wind does not get the sweep there that it has out on the Plains. In those hills the sheep would be well spread out grazing, at the same time as a ground blizzard would be raging out on the Plains. The Swopes did not have any hay to cut but bought what hay, corn, and concentrate they needed to keep their sheep in a good thrifty condition. They did not have to put out much money for feed for the native grasses in that area were as good as grow anywhere in the great out-of-doors. The land would grow good potatoes. While on the homestead the Swopes raised a son, Junior, who was born after his sister was grown up. The daughter married Bob Newkirk and they reside on a farm southwest of Wheatland. The son married a girl at Rock River, and the author believes

they live at Rock River. Arthur Swope died a number of years ago, a victim of cancer.

Arthur Swope was a public spirited man and was the one who started the movement to organize the North Albany Club and was the president of the club during the first few years of its existence. Following the death of Arthur Swope the land was sold. A man named Al Keirsch is the present owner and he operates the Swope homestead in the same fashion that it has always been by the Swopes. Their key to success was a low overhead and personal interest in the business which resulted in them doing most of the work on the ranch.

Bulger Homestead

A widow filed on a stock grazing homestead on Section 32-23-74. Her name was Bulger and she was a hard-working woman. She followed the Swopes' plan of going into business. Soon after she made her entry on the land she built a neat, cozy little house. Then she bought a little bunch of sheep. Then she enclosed her land with woven wire fence topped by two barbed wires. This gave a nice height of fence which was both sheep and coyote proof. Part of her land was up in the edge of the hills where sheep could always find shelter and the balance of her land was out on the flats. Her homestead had an excellent stand of grass for grazing. There was no meadow land on her place, nor was there any natural water. She had a well drilled to furnish water for domestic and stock purposes.

Starting a Shelter Belt

People today could pattern after Mrs. Bulger's method of getting a shel-

ter belt started. She planted caragana (Siberian pea) and they grew up to make a grove. The only moisture which they had came from a snow drift which formed there because of a snow fence which she had built. During the summer she cultivated the caragana bushes with a hoe, which kept down the weeds and kept the top soil loose, to conserve moisture below and trap what moisture that fell in the form of rain. That grove of caragana stands today about a mile northeast of Boswell Springs, and is a landmark to prove what was done and can be done in raising shelter belts on the Laramie Plains. Mrs. Bulger's land passed into the hands of Curtis Templin and then to John Bell of Iron Mountain, who is the present owner.

Halleck Canyon Ranches

Halleck Canyon has an interesting background of early history. There are two canyons bearing the name of Halleck Canyon. The name came from Fort Halleck, at the north end of Elk Mountain which was named after General Halleck, an officer in the Northern Army of the Civil War. During the troublesome times with the Indians, Fort Halleck was established in 1862. General Halleck took charge of the Fort. The Fort was abandoned in 1866 and the buildings were moved to Fort Sanders, near Laramie. One of the oldest roads in the State was established between Fort Laramie and Fort Halleck.

It appears as though nature was particularly concerned in supervising the making of that canyon for the convenience of soldiers on the march, for it was in a direct line between Fort Laramie and Fort Halleck. When go-

ing toward Fort Halleck, there was a gradual up-grade from the entrance of the first canyon to its head, and from that point there is a gradual down-grade to an intersection with the second canyon which continues on through the mountains. The canyon extends all the way through the mountains and has about the same grade except the little divide between the two canyons. It was easy marching with little climbing. The canyon looks as though it was gouged out with a giant chisel.

Many Soldier Relics Found

A number of relics have been found which the soldiers lost. Among these were a sword, rifle, empty shells and other items.

A Soldier Inscription

Under a large sloping rock which gave protection to the inscription, a man wrote his name and date. He used axle grease from the edge of a wagon wheel hub which contained sand which gave a good writing compound. The inscription is dated October 3, 1863.

There are two versions as to the name which has been obliterated for several years. A majority of the early settlers maintain the name was John C. Hewitt, presumably a freighter because he used axle grease, while others maintain the name was John C. Reed. It was difficult to tell whether the middle initial was an "A" or a "C".

Records of the War Department show that there was no John C. Hewitt at Fort Laramie. However, there was a John A. Reed, a saddler with the rank of Sergeant at Fort Laramie in October 1863 serving with the 11th Ohio Volunteers.

First Settlers on Upper Halleck Canyon

Charles Sommer filed on a homestead, proved up, and later sold it to Tom McGill.

F. B. Chadwick was the next settler in Halleck Canyon. He filed on a homestead in Section 29-22-71 about the beginning of the century. He had a family of five children to take with him to the new homestead. He accumulated a bunch of cattle and made a nice comfortable living there. After his death before 1930, Thomas A. McGill and Charles Johnson bought the ranch. Eventually Thomas A. McGill bought the ranch and is the present owner. Chadwick's brand was OYO on the left side of cattle and left hip of horses.

Milton Small Homestead

Milton Small filed on a homestead before the turn of the century on a tributary of Halleck Canyon known as Tower Canyon because of its towering side walls. He raised sheep and had a prosperous enterprise. He had a wife and family to take with him to his new homestead. They lived there until Small bought the Johnson Ranch on Mule Creek, which is just about straight east from the present Shamrock Filling Station on the Sybille. Small bought the Johnson Ranch about 1908 and switched to cattle soon after buying that ranch. His brand was the A6 Bar.

Arthur Dover Ranch

The next ranch was settled by Arthur Dover, who in 1886 squatted on a homestead in Section 21-22-71. He lived on the place eleven years and made his filing and proof the same day. He started out in earnest to make a

ranch at the good location he had selected. He acquired a water right out of Halleck Creek for 0.44 second feet to irrigate 31 acres of bottom land on which to raise alfalfa. Those water rights were taken out in 1888 and later on additional rights were obtained for this ranch. These rights amounted to 1.21 second feet to irrigate 79 acres of land. Dover raised both cattle and horses. The brand was a reversed DHD connected on the horses he ran on shares, but his own brand was 31. Arthur Dover passed away around 1900 and about 1905 his widow married George W. Brandon. They sold the ranch to Thomas A. McGill about 1908, and he is the present owner. He still operates the ranch as a cattle outfit and his brand is 7E connected.

Herman Goldsmith, a brother of Mrs. Dover, filed on a homestead in Section 22-22-71. Goldsmith obtained a water right from Halleck Creek Spring for an appropriation of 0.10 second feet to irrigate 7.5 acres of land. That water right dated back to May 15, 1905. Goldsmith had a small herd of cattle. He sold his homestead to Mr. and Mrs. George Brandon and they sold to Thomas A. McGill.

Harry Yaunt Homestead

The next settler on Halleck Canyon Creek was Harry S. Yaunt. He was an old bachelor and filed on a homestead in the late 1890s in Section 14-22-71. He obtained a water right out of Halleck Canyon Creek June 19, 1900 for 0.43 second feet to irrigate 30 acres of land. He did not devote much of his time to ranch improvement but he had dreams of striking it rich by finding a gold or copper mine. He dug many prospect holes to complete the assess-

ment work to hold the mineral claims. He sold out to W. E. Dover who operated the place for a few years. The Yaunt Place had one of the best stands of alfalfa on the Halleck Canyon Creek.

Ned Dover Ranch

W. E. Dover, better known as "Ned" filed on a homestead east and north of Yaunt Mountain, soon after he was twenty-one years of age. He had a little bunch of cattle to stock his land with. He was too much hemmed in to spread out and consequently sold his land to Thomas A. McGill and went looking for a location elsewhere.

Padgett Place

The next settler on Halleck Canyon Creek and the last one before the stream empties into Blue Grass Creek, was W. H. Padgett, who was an old "bull whacker." He freighted from Old Rock Creek Station to Fort Fetterman with a string of ox teams. He was better known as "Uncle Dick" and his wife as "Aunt Joe". They were a very congenial pair. They raised one girl, who passed away about the time she came of age. "Uncle Dick" filed on a homestead in Section 14-22-71, which was in the same section as the filing of Harry Yaunt. Uncle Dick made an easy living from his little bunch of cattle. His brand was Quarter Circle J Quarter Circle. The Quarter circles stood on end and each one faced the capital J which was in the middle. Uncle Dick filed on his homestead in the late 1890s and lived on it until he sold it to Thomas A. McGill about 1912.

Bill Roberts Homestead

"Billy" Roberts was another old bachelor who filed on a homestead in

Section 24-22-71. His homestead was located on a little creek which came out of the first canyon of the so-called Halleck Canyon. He did not have many cattle. He was another miner who was determined to take out some rich ore from these hills but he failed to do so. He put in much of his time over with the Padgetts. He was a little fellow and could not make many sparks fly when his pick hit the granite rocks in carrying out his assessment work on his mining claims. When he finally became discouraged with mining and ranching he sold out to W. H. Padgett and he in turn sold to Thomas A. McGill. The Roberts place was the last place on that little creek before it entered the Blue Grass Creek. The Roberts and Padgett places were the lowest ones on the Halleck Canyon Creeks just above where they emptied into the Blue Grass Creek.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS AND SOURCES

The writer is indebted to the following for information on the ranches of northern Albany County: Mrs. Joe Kafka (Olive Garrett), Mrs. Gus Olson (Mary Comly), John Burnett, Mark Heward, Ira Bean, Harry Dur-lap, Joe Kafka, Robert Burns, Robert Garrett, Owen McGill and Tom McGill, Mrs. T. B. Dodge, Ned Dover and Mrs. George Brandon.

BEACH, Mrs. Alfred H.

Women of Wyoming, Vol. Nos. 1-2
Casper, Wyoming. 1927-1929.

LEONARD, and BURNS

ORDWAY, Edward

Reminiscences.

Annals of Wyoming Vol. 6 Nos. 1 & 2
Pp. 169-188. July-Oct. 1929

LEONARD, Robert O. and BURNS, R. H.

A preliminary study of selenized wool.
Journal of Animal Science, Vol. 14,
No. 2 Pages 446-457. May 1955. Albany 7 N. Y. Boyd Printing Co.

Letter from W. O. Owen to R. H. Burns dated
March 23, 1944.

Mr. Owen surveyed the west, east, and north boundaries of Albany County from 1880 to 1885. Prior to that the lines had been uncertain and subject to controversy. He did official survey work in every county of Wyoming and retired in 1914. He states in this letter that Phil Mandel was undoubtedly the first settler on the Little Laramie River. Mr. Owen died at Tucson, Ariz. on October 27, 1947.

Prof. R. H. Burns,
University of Wyoming,
Laramie, Wyoming.

Dear Mr. Burns:

I have your letter of 14th inst. and it is with genuine regret that I tell you I am unable to answer your questions about ranches and ranchers on the Laramie Plains. I am nearly blind now and it is only occasionally that I have enough vision either to read or write a letter. But I doubt that I could help you very much even if I were not handicapped by blindness for while I was intimately acquainted with every man mentioned in your letter (I made surveys for most of them) I couldn't give you the date when a single one of them made his settlement! One thing I can tell you, however: Philip Mandel was indisputably and beyond all question the first settler on the Little Laramie River. He was stationmaster at Little Laramie Station on the old Denver and Salt Lake stage road in 1866 and continued in that position till the stages quit running—about 1869, when the U. P. & C. P. Railroads were completed. Phil just remained there and made his filing as soon as the land was opened to settlement. Phil's brother, George, had a ranch right near Phil's but George Mandel came in a later year. Henry Bath and Ora Haley, and Edward Farrell were among the early settlers on the Little Laramie. They settled there about 1870 or 1871. Tom Alsop also was an early settler there. Alsop was sta-

tionmaster at the Big Laramie Station on the old Denver and Salt Lake stage road and located there when the Stage Line Co. went out of business. Let me make a suggestion to you, professor: I presume that when the government abolished the U. S. Land Office at Cheyenne they left the records of that office in the custody of some official where they would be available to the public at any time. If so, you could get a fund of information from those Records. On their township plats are shown all those

early filings, with the name of the filer and the date of his filing. These could almost certainly give you many pointers and leads to further information. By all means, look at those Records if they are still available. My eyes are fogging over, so I'll have to quit.

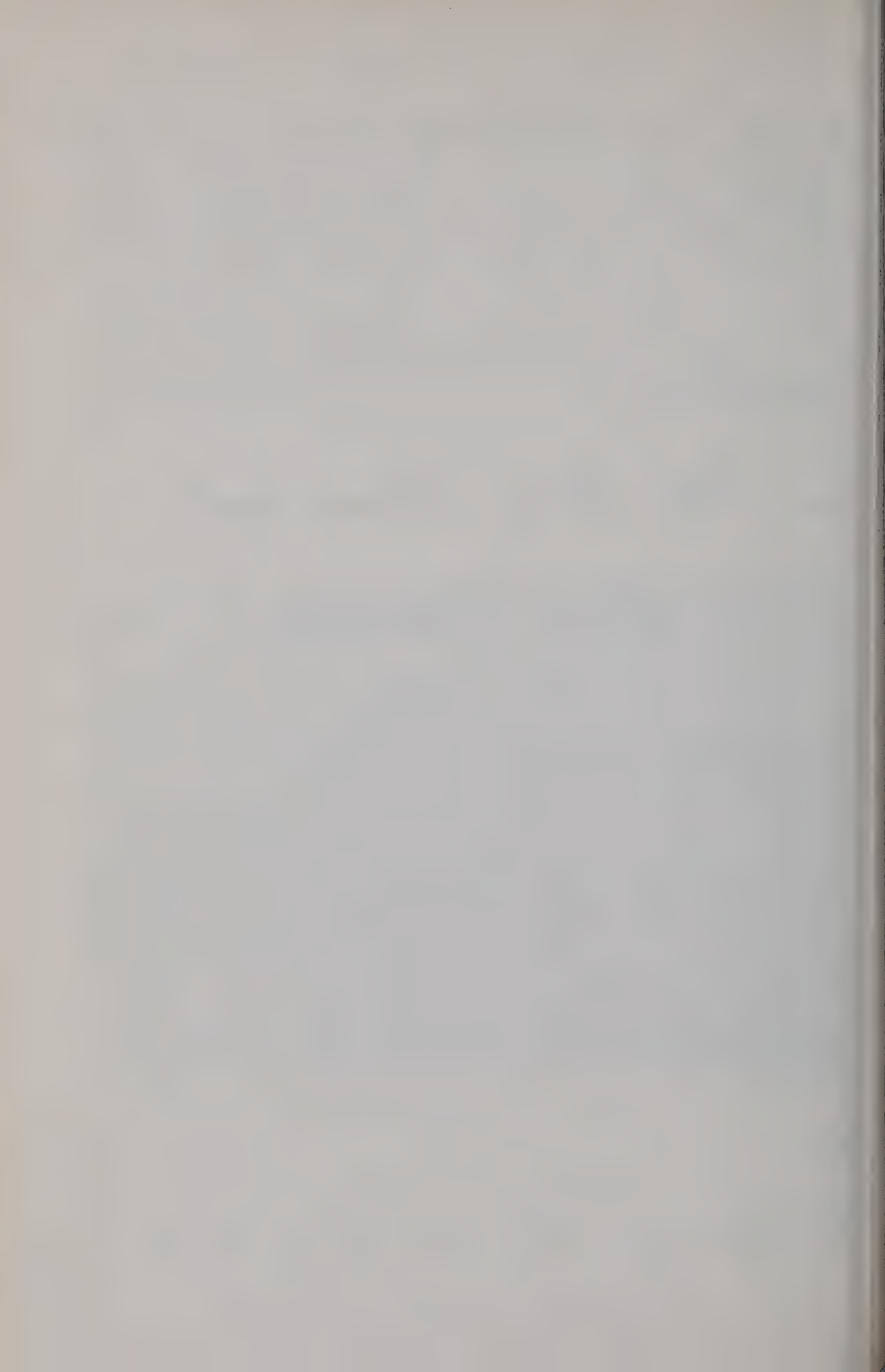
With kindest regards.

Faithfully yours,

W. O. OWEN
1428 West 11th Street,
Los Angeles 15, Calif.



Sam Moore (son of Alex Moore) holding "Steamboat" and "Leopard Spots", two rodeo horses which he owned. Photo taken on Mule Creek about 1910. Courtesy of Harry Hannas.



CHAPTER 17

THE SWAN LAND AND CATTLE COMPANY

A Story of Scotch Cash, Acumen, Wyoming Grass and a Range Empire

By A. S. "Bud" Gillespie and R. H. "Bob" Burns

The Swan Land and Cattle Company was one of the first of the foreign-owned cattle companies to be organized to take advantage of the rich, free grass of the western plains and mountains. It was also one of the largest and most famous ones and was the last to liquidate in 1947 after a renowned history of some sixty-four years. Some 2,000 acres making up the Home Ranch of the Company at Chugwater are still in operation but the vast holdings, stretching from Goshen Hole on the east to Fort Steele on the west, have been sold out during the years.

It has often been said that John Clay was the Doctor who treated a badly ailing Company in 1888 and saved it from bankruptcy at that time through his ability in finance and range management. The Swan Land and Cattle Company, with its office in Charlotte Square, at 130 George Street, just off the world-famous Princess Street in Edinburgh, Scotland, was the most famous of these foreign-owned companies. Today the names of the Swan, along with those of the Matador (Murdo McKenzie), Powder River Ranches (Frewen), Prairie Cattle Co. (Promoted by bankers Underwood Clark & Co., of Kansas City), Wyoming Cattle Ranche Co. (71 Quarter Circle) and Western Ranches Ltd. (VVV Outfit), all foreign-owned ranches, are now a memory.

The story of the Swan Land and Cattle Company is best told by the man who saved it from financial ruin. John Clay in his book "My Life on the Range" speaks as follows:

"Just before starting to the Black Hills, Alex Swan and Joseph Frank had called on me and asked if I would report on the Swan holdings previous to floating the Swan Land & Cattle Company in Scotland in the spring of 1883. I told them candidly that I could not think of passing on another cattle proposition except there was a count. The conversation drifted into other lines and that was the last of it. Needless to say my services were not made use of. It was, however, my first introduction to Swan and Frank, and I little dreamt that in the years to come my life would be more or less connected with the above company. At that time Swan was about fifty years of age. He stood six feet and one inch, and wherever he went he made an imposing figure. His face was close shaven, he had a keen eye, a Duke of Wellington nose and gold teeth. While his manner was casual it was magnetic and he had a great following. At Cheyenne groups of men sat around in his office and worshipped at his feet. In Chicago he was courted by bankers, commission men, breeders of fine cattle, in fact, all classes of people in the livestock business. The mercantile agencies rated him at a million, while I doubt, so far as range is concerned, if he ever owned an honest dollar. He played big stakes and eventually lost not only for himself, but for his friends, his employees and the hand maiden in his house. Swan's career in the West was worthy of the most exciting dime novels. He was born, I believe, in Pennsylvania,

came out to Iowa and in the early seventies reached Cheyenne. In 1883, as stated above, he was at the zenith of his glory. The world, as it were, lay at his feet. Northwards by the waters of the Laramie, the Chug and the Sybille, over on the plains down by Goshen's Hole, and the Platte River, he and his partners had thousands of cattle. He had a load of debt and his cattle count was a paper one. It looked well in a statement, though the foundation was of sand. In the world of finance he was skillful, resourceful, and his statements commanded respect. But, his ambition made his buildings top-heavy and when disaster came he was swept away in the torrent. His rise was meteoric, his fall terrific, and in 1887 when he failed, it was the forerunner of many disasters which will be developed later in their order. After our first interview I never had anything in common with Swan in a business way, although socially good friends, but I had endless opportunities to study him. He was vain and loved to do big things, with a jealous disposition and a somewhat overbearing manner with his neighbors and associates. Syncophants in abundance buzzed around him and he was swept off his feet by hero worship. He got deeper into the game by buying cattle, of borrowing, of paying interest which kept compounding. A little interval came when he carried the Scotch investors along with him, relieving him of some of his burdens, but this was only an interlude, for there were other worlds to conquer and when the crash came, the worshippers slipped away, saying under their breath, "I told you so. Poor Alex was no business man."

Joseph Frank was a different stripe. He was a Hebrew of fine talents and generous instincts, somewhat emotional, but honest, loyal, and sincere. He unfortunately followed Swan blindfolded, and never recovered from the blow of 1887. He had an office next to us in the Equitable Building at 110 Dearborn Street, Chicago, and I used to see a lot of him. He was an excellent talker, full of facts and figures, possessing a power-

ful memory, and when excited he would often break into German, and he had a peculiarity when very impressed, of putting his index finger to his brow and from the little eyes behind his spectacles there came flashes of light, vivid like shooting stars." (Pages 49-51).

Edinburgh to Laramie Plains

John Clay speaks of the Swan Company as follows: (From *My Life on the Range*, by John Clay):

"The Swan Land and Cattle Company was organized in 1883. It was a combination of three properties in which Messrs. A. H. Swan and Joseph Frank were dominant. Other properties were acquired and the cattle ranged, or at least the wagons worked from Ogallala, Nebraska to Fort Steele, Wyoming, from the line of the Union Pacific Railroad to the Platte River, but the principal range was the Chug and Sybille creeks, westward over the mountains to the Laramie Plains, where originally the company held over a million acres (intermediate sections) and Bates' Hole, a vast territory with an elevation from 4,000 to 7,000 feet above sea level, well watered and except on the bleak plains, well sheltered. It must have been God's country when the Indian and the buffalo had possession. In the fall of 1882, as stated in a previous chapter, Messrs. Swan and Frank had asked me to report on their properties in connection with proposed sale in Great Britain. Fortunately that job did not come my way. Mr. Thomas Lawson did the work. He was a Scotch farmer of considerable reputation. The question of count had been side-tracked. Backing up Mr. Lawson, the Chairman also examined the property during the early summer and he had as his adviser Mr. George Prentice of Strathore, Fife, Scotland. He was a farmer, land agent, and proprietor, a man of great ability in his line of work. He was well posted in agricultural work in Scotland and in his various visits to this side of the water he acquired a great deal of ranching knowledge, for as the Scotch say, "he



HENRY SWAN

WILLIAM F. SWAN

THOMAS "BLACKTOM" SWAN

ALEXANDER H. SWAN

Swan Brothers. Courtesy of Archives and Western History Department, Univ. of Wyo. Library.



View of Two Bar (Swan Co.) Horses on the roundup. Tower Canyon. Courtesy of Mrs. James Atkinson. Inscription on back of old print: "To Miss Jennie Bell McFarlane (late Mrs. Jim Atkinson) from her loving teacher, Mary Agnes Whiting. Given at Owen, Wyo., Aug. 21, 1899 in exchange for ten ripe June-berries."

was quick at the uptake". Eventually he became chairman of the company and he died in harness in the spring of 1916, a great loss to the company at a critical time. I foregathered with him on his way from looking over the property in the summer of 1883 in a Pullman car on the Union Pacific Railroad. He discussed the subject of counting range cattle and mentioned that all of the herds I had to do with did not show up as expected and that in one herd we had already developed a serious shortage. But the manner of count had been settled before he left the old country.

"The company was organized with a capital of 60,000 shares of \$50.00 each, total \$3,000,000.00. The shares were not fully paid, but from this source came about \$1,870,000.00 and the balance of \$1,130,000.00 was raised on debenture. Now a debenture in Scotland is not always secured on the property direct, but the security lies on the uncalled capital as well as the obligation of the company. The balance sheet at 31st December, 1883, showed the property to be worth \$3,000,000.00, including deposits for the year. The cattle count stood as follows:

Original purchase	89,167
Purchases in 1883	12,035
Calf brand	19,536
	120,536
Sales	11,773
	108,763
Total on hand 31st December...	108,763

"Not a hoof of these cattle were counted. The real estate consisted of 6,037 acres patented, and 24,813 acres in process of being acquired. As we shall tabulate all these figures so that he who runs may read, we will not dive further in this subject. Below is the first page of the statement of the condition of the property presented to the shareholders in Edinburgh, Scotland, 2nd April, 1884, covering the transactions for the time the property was acquired in 1883 to the end of that year.

ANNUAL REPORT
THE SWAN LAND & CATTLE COMPANY
LIMITED.

Capital £ 600,000, in 60,000 Shares
of £ 10 Each

Directors

Colin N. McKenzie, of Portmore
Chairman

William Anderson, C. A., Glasgow
Hugh Beckett, Glasgow (Director of
Nobel's Explosives Co., Limited)
Lord Douglas Gordon, M.P., London
Joseph Shepherd, Manufacturer,
Kirkcaldy

Alexander H. Swan, Cheyenne, Wyoming,
U. S. A.

James Wilson, Edinburgh, formerly
Merchant, China

(Under the Articles of the Association
each Director must hold at least 500
shares.)

Bankers

The British Linen Company Bank,
Edinburgh, London and Branches
The Importers' and Traders National
Bank of New York

The First National Bank,
Omaha, Nebraska

The First National Bank,
Cheyenne, Wyoming

Solicitors

Fraser, Stoddard & Ballingall, W. S.,
Edinburgh

Corlett and Rosendale,
Cheyenne, Wyoming

Auditors

Howden & Molleson, C. A. Edinburgh
Manager in America

Alexander H. Swan, Cheyenne, Wyoming
Secretary

Finlay Dun

Registered offices of the Company, 130
George Street, Edinburgh, Scotland.

It was the fashion in those days to throw in a Lord (Duke was better) to give respectability to the board. Directors had scarcely got warm in their seats before they began to call for more money and at the above meeting the capital was raised to \$3,750,000.00. Part



*Headquarters of Swan Company at Chugwater. Stimson Photo No. 415.
Courtesy of Wyoming State Historical Department.*



*Two Bar Ranch on Sybille. Swan Land and Cattle Company. Courtesy of Archives and Western
History Department, Univ. of Wyo. Library.*

of the extra money had been anticipated but most of it was used in purchasing the properties belonging to Hi Kelly and E. W. Whitcomb. In this way the company came into possession of its present headquarters. Kelly had secured a lot of beautiful meadowlands, some 3,200 acres, and Whitcomb contributed 1,543 to the rapidly growing possessions of the Company. The above gentlemen were remarkable in their way. Hi Kelly came West about the sixties and stands as straight and erect as a pine tree. When I last saw him his eyes were bright, the glow of health on his cheek, and although fortune has not favored him, he has met the vicissitudes of a varied career bravely (died 1923.) Whitcomb was killed by a stroke of lightning some years ago on the headwaters of Belle Fourche and when he left this earthly scene a noble life went out. He was brave as a lion, gentle as a child, loyal, with quaint, old fashioned manners that would have done credit to a Chesterfield.

In the second annual report of the Swan Land and Cattle Co., dated March 11, 1885, there is an astounding statement:

"The number of steers marketed is less than anticipated and the calf brand is also a little short of expectations. In explanation of this Mr. Swan states that the general range losses in some exceptionally bad years must have been heavier than they were at the time believed to be; that the severe spring storms, as for example that in April, 1883, kill not only young calves, but sometimes newly calved cows, and that ranchmen have come to be aware that outside branding do not, as they have hitherto imagined, compensate for these losses. During the years 1881 and 1882, when herds on the Chug and the Sybille were in the hands of the native Corporations, from whom they were purchased by this company, no al-

lowances other than outside branding was made for losses. . . . Directors feel assured that the actual number of cattle on the range does not differ materially from that on the books, they desire that the book numbers shall be reliable estimates for each year's business; and that if there be error it shall be on the side of safety. After consultation with Mr. Swan, they have accordingly deemed it prudent and proper to write off, in addition to the annual deduction, 200 bulls, 2,200 steers, and 5,500 cows.'

"Slowly light was being turned under the manipulation of Swan, on the book count. He was taking time by the forelock and preparing against the evil day. During 1884 the Company also purchased 549,423 acres of land from the Union Pacific Railroad Company, intermediate sections, and situated in Albany and Carbon Counties, Wyoming, payable in ten yearly installments. There were also purchased 9,764 Texas steers and another lot of 1,747 which had been turned loose on the range, were bought in the spring of 1885, a total of 11,500 cattle placed on a range already seriously overstocked. Most of these cattle died and never reached market. Calculations are also made that the expense of running the cattle is 56 cents per head. To this has to be added 12 $\frac{2}{3}$ cents per head for taxes. Excellent if the numbers have been verified, but the whole fabric was like a house built on quicksand. Mr. Swan's zealous efforts were also commended, although it is doubtful if he ever saw the ranch except when the Scotch deputation was looking over the property. He had other fish to fry. He was busy floating other properties, among them the Ogallala Land and Cattle Company, the Wyoming Hereford Association, situated down Crow Creek some eight or ten miles from



A herd of cattle belonging to the Swan Land & Cattle Co. Seven Mile Spring in 1895 or earlier. Courtesy of Harry Hannas.



Sam Moore, Roundup Foreman for Swan L & C Co. on "Muggins" 1905. Courtesy Harry Hannas.

Cheyenne, both of which came to grief, although the latter company after being in the hands of a receiver (Colin Hunter) passed into the hands of Messrs. Altman & McIlvane and is now controlled by a company of which Mr. J. D. Husted of Denver, Colorado is the leading light. But Swan was not alone in this class of business. Many others in Wyoming were at the same game of buying and selling unknown assets. It was worse than buying a gold mine or staking your dollars at fair, with less fun but more health giving if you rode the range. The report for the year 1885 presented to the shareholders the 12th of March, 1886, is more or less an apology for poor prices, expectations of increasing values in future and 3,000 old steers are chopped off of the books because they can't be found, and yet during this year of 1886 the directors, doubtless influenced by Swan, purchased the Reel herd of cattle by book account when everybody in the ranch business knew that all herds of cattle were notoriously short, many of them having 50 per cent less in actual numbers than the book account. The report of the company for the above year is placed before the share holders 17th March, 1887. No dividends are paid. Prices are at a low ebb. With this excuse few steers are shipped. Out of 11,500 Texas steers, half of them at least four years old, only 481 are sent to market. In this report another paragraph of serious import appears:

'Diminished sales and smaller calf brand raise the important question: Do the numbers of cattle on the books tally with the numbers on the range? The directors are of the opinion that the losses of the year, although considerably over an average, will be covered by the deduction of 10 per cent from range

bulls, and 8 per cent from the remainder of the range herd and from Grades and Texas, and such deductions have accordingly been made. The annual recurring failures to gather the expected numbers of mature steers, and the reduced calf brands imply that some shortage still exists not sufficiently provided for by previous deductions, and the Directors hope during the present year to ascertain its extent. They are further of opinion that the greater part of any shortage remaining, as well as the special deductions already made from the herd numbers are attributable to deficiency of the herds as enumerated by the Vendors at the time of sale. The Directors expect to have more information to lay before the shareholders at an early date, regarding the right of the Company to claim compensation for this original shortage, and the probability of their being able to enforce this claim. A Memorial upon these subjects has been prepared by the Company's Law Agent in full detail, and submitted to eminent American Counsel, whose opinion will be received very soon.'

"Nothing is said, however, about the shortage of the Texas steers. This unfortunate deal is passed over in the regular reports, although it may have been mentioned in an interim report dated 7th December, 1887, of which we have not a copy. At the very time the meeting was being held in Edinburgh thousands of carcasses all over the West and Northwest were withering in valleys and on divides, in deep arroyos amid willow brakes, driven by bitter blizzards over the rim rock or forced into ravines where the tired, emaciated dumb brutes lay down and rested from their labors. The lazy buzzard, the big grey wolf, the sneaking coyote supped well. Away in New England homes, across the broad Atlantic in cozy corners of Scottish cities, there was no dream, no warning of what had hap-



Dinner time at Swan L & C Co.'s Roundup Wagon camped on Richeau Creek 1900. 1. Bud Aldrech; 2. Henry Melton; 3. Harry Robb; 4. Ben Smith; 5. Charley Body; 6. Colon McDougal (kneeling). Courtesy Jimmy Danks.



Camp and Rope Corral. Swan L & C Co. Richeau Creek. 1903. Courtesy Jimmy Danks.

pened, making many simple folk poorer in money and richer in experience. The cattle cyclone, like an Alpine avalanche, was no respecter of persons. It hit the just and the unjust. It was the protest of nature against the love of gain, against greed, mismanagement and that happy-go-lucky sentiment which permeates frontier life. And yet, what would the West have been without the trapper, the miner and the cowpuncher, the pioneers in that wondrous country which pours wealth through its products into an already overflowing reservoir.

"A. H. Swan failed in the month of May, 1887. The announcement fell like a bombshell in Cheyenne and the cattle industry of the West was shaken to its foundation. Bankers and others rushed to the above town but they were hopeless errands. It was utter ruin. Not only the banks made a total loss, but the employees down to the hired girl saw their savings disappear. When the above gentleman's castle of cards fell he was disqualified as a Director of the Swan Company and shortly afterwards resigned as manager. I have tried in former chapters to tell an honest story about Mr. Swan and while he is dead and gone these many years and no good purpose could be attained by heaping ignominy on him, still one has to tell the truth, and as memories come flooding into my mind, I think his failure was probably as rotten a piece of business as one could imagine, and it gave the western cattle business a very black eye. His operations had one and all been of the most reckless character. With his casual hypnotism he had worked his credit to a finish, pyramiding one debt upon another, borrowing from Paul to pay

Peter and carrying along with evident success great schemes, skillfully concealing the weak points and boosting the strong ones. But of no avail. Nature outraged, claimed its retribution and Swan courted, flattered, gradually drifted downwards, a better man in his decline than in his glory, but he never got on his feet again financially. Leaving Cheyenne he lived for a while in Ogden, fighting an uphill battle and he died in an asylum almost forgotten. (Note by RHB: This was in 1905).

"To take his place the Directors of the Company sent out Mr. Finlay Dun. He came at a critical time and he did some extraordinary things. It is almost incomprehensible that a Board of Directors should have sent an untried man in western affairs to take hold of a Company in a serious distress, financially and otherwise, when there were no end of men in the West who could have taken hold of the concern and so far have organized its management to meet the changed conditions. Mr. Dun at once began to hobnob with the Swan clique, he advised with his friends, maintained the old staff and then he proceeded to count the cattle by painting them. The present Chairman of the Company, Mr. J. C. Johnston (afterwards the very successful manager of the Prairie Cattle Co.) was employed to check and assist in the count. It is an episode in his life which he rarely talks about. His protest against the method used had no weight with the Company's secretary. The painting went on but summer's rain and burning suns were too much for Mr. Dun's new idea. He admitted defeat by saying that the paint was not "sufficiently adhesive." After all, he had to make an estimate which proved



"Come and Get It" View at Swan Co. Roundup at Richeau Creek. 1900. Sam Moore, round-up foreman leaning against tent pole eating his dinner. Courtesy Jimmy Danks. Photo by Geo. Milne.



Calf properly heeled and coming to branding fire. Swan L & C Co. Jimmy Danks (not in picture) has roped the calf. 1. Billy Wilde; 2. Phil Gatch; 3. Dick Hanson. At Chugwater. 1900. Photo by Geo. Milne. Courtesy Jimmy Danks.

to be far too liberal and had to be shaved several times in the after years. The cowboys who laughed in their sleeve at this new-fashioned way of handling cattle, produced the following ditty known all over the West in those days:

'Daddy Dun's a dandy
But his paint won't stick.'

"Mr. Dunn went home in the fall and the Directors, after hearing his report, evidently began to wake up to the serious condition of affairs. The shareholders became alive to the situation and took a hand in them. The Board individually were a splendid lot of men but not a man of them had any wide experience of western affairs. There was a terrific write-off in the cattle account, somewhere about \$1,600,000.00. Shortly after New Year's they began to cast around for a manager. In a short list considered were Mr. Finlay Dun, who proposed to spend the summers in Wyoming and act as Secretary in Edinburgh in the winter; Mr. J. C. Johnston, mentioned above, a man of wide experience in Texas and Wyoming, and the writer. I was not an applicant but was considered and finally was offered the position. The reason I was eventually selected was not that I was any better than my friend Johnston, but that I was able to give valuable financial assistance to the Company. Shortly before the first day of March, 1888, I was appointed manager and for the next eight years and four months my principal work was to try and bring this unfortunate Company out of its difficulties, and, as will be seen, was only partially successful.

"It is well that 'hope springs eternal in the human breast.' The Directors

of that day have all passed over the Great Divide of Life. They were honest, capable, intensely loyal men, all of them losing heavily in this concern, vainly trying to stem the tide that was running against them, victims principally of the elements, led away in a measure by false gods. When Swan's balloon collapsed they were helpless and Mr. Dun's interim management merely intensified their difficulties. When the above gentleman came out in 1887 he found a fine organization in control of the physical and local financial work of the Company. In this direction Swan was a master and he gathered round him an able corps of lieutenants. In the early days Zack Thomasson was his superintendent but he went to the Ogallala Land & Cattle Company, with headquarters at Ogallala, Nebr. When I took charge of the Company's affairs Alexander Bowie was superintendent; F. W. Lafrentz was cashier. Both of these parties lived in Cheyenne. Duncan Grant was in charge of the ranches, assisted by Ed Banks. William Booker was range foreman. Fred Haight ran the Chugwater place as headquarters. It was a sort of half-way hotel with a store adjoining. In the outfit were a lot of capable men in minor positions, such as Frank Sheik, Dave Morris, John Bowie, Rufe Rhodes, Ben Guy, Harry Haig (brother of General Haig), George Prentice, and many others. As an organization it was capable of running over 100,000 cattle and all the side issues connected with such an outfit. Al Bowie as a superintendent was a most capable man, with an instructive knowledge of the range and range work. He succeeded to the management when I left, but as a manager he



Riders of the Swan Land & Cattle Co. 1900. 1. Charlie Body; 2. Ben Smith; 3. Willis Troyer; 4. Wally McVail; 5. Lou Brundage; 6. John Brown "Nighthawk"; 7. Johnny Robb; 8. Homer Payne; 9. Jimmy Danks on horse. Photo by Geo. Milne. Courtesy Jimmy Danks.



Ed Held, famous Two Bar cook at camp on Richeau Creek. 1900. Photo by Geo. Milne. Courtesy Jimmy Danks.

was more or less of a failure—In the eight years I was intimately associated with him I never met a more sterling, honest man, although I realized his limitations when he got away from the range or his beaten path—For eight years I seemed to be climbing, fighting, quarreling, making gigantic efforts to produce prosperity out of poverty, and accomplishing very little. After glancing over the winter statements of the ranch, I asked Bowie why he had not cut his expenses; why he had maintained an office in Cheyenne. He replied that Mr. Dun had instructed him to leave matters as they were and so about the 15th of March, 1888 I found this impecunious company with an office in Cheyenne, Mr. F. W. Lafrentz (now in a high position in Eastern Insurance circles) as Cashier, Al Bowie in town a good portion of the time, the bank account depleted, the Company's credit gone and general financial disorganization. On the range it was much the same thing. After going over the different ranches carefully, it seemed to be running full steam in spending money and eating grub. They had seven cooks with helpers at two places, nine men in all, at about \$40.00 a month, all found. They had to have a general headquarters, a farming ditto, a cattle ditto, and then one foreman who did not care to live with another, and so on. Meantime the Swan Company paid the bill. The widow and orphan back in Scotland were not considered. Lafrentz resigned, the Cheyenne offices were closed, Bowie rented his house in town and settled down at Chugwater, the regiment of cooks disbanded leaving one at headquarters, the ranches were rented or worked on shares. These violent changes made a manager

unpopular, but it is fair to say that Bowie did his best to economize when encouraged. Mr. Frank H. Connor, now a partner in John Clay & Company, became bookkeeper at Chugwater and stayed there two years. The labor bill and management salary, which in Swan's time was about \$50,000.00 was gradually reduced about half.

“The ranch was practically in two divisions. West of the hills dominated by Laramie Peak, the Pilatus of a small range running northwards from Sherman Hill to the North Platte was a high plateau, covered with sagebrush and except at some places very thinly grassed. Northwards over a line of rimrock it broke into Bates' Hole and westward the above river was our boundary, as it made a swing southwards to reach its birthplace in the North Park. East of this range of hills and mountains were the valleys of the Sybille and Chug and still going eastward over some finely grassed flats you jumped off the rimrock into Goshen's Hole.—No attempt during Swan's time had been made to separate these divisions; the cattle ran as they were dropped when calves, and took their chance. Most of the hay produced on the meadows of the above streams was fed to bulls or thin cows. The bulls were carefully nursed, added to on the theory that the poverty of the calf brand was want of bulls, whereas in every range I ever had to do with or examined there were always too many bulls. The shortage was in the cows, not in the males. This fairy tale was exposed by the tie-up during the hard winter and the counting of herds which had been staved off for many years. It is almost incredible in the



Calf Branding at Swan L & C Co. Chugwater 1900. 1. Billy Wilde; 2. Eddy Johnson; 3. Phil Gatch; 4. Delmer Wood; 5. Clayton Danks. Photo by Geo. Milne. Courtesy Jimmy Danks.



Swan "hands" after a swim in Geysers Lake. 1900. 1. Billy Wilde (others unidentified). Photo by Geo. Milne. Courtesy Jimmy Danks.

light of past years how the mirage of book count hung on the horizon of the cow business.

"The Swan company of today (1924) is in excellent condition, but in March 1888 it was just the reverse. It had a capital of \$4,500,000 which was represented by shares of all kinds, paid and partially paid, of \$3,000,000.00 debentures secured over uncalled capital of over \$1,000,000.00 and an indebtedness of \$500,000.00 for sundry amounts. Against this large amount of capital, debts, etc., it had property worth as stated in its balance sheet, \$2,500,000.00 made up of 50,000 cattle, value \$1,250,000.00, land worth over \$1,000,000.00 and other assets in horses, equipment, etc. But the assets turned out to be overvalued. When I stepped into the Cheyenne office of the company I think they had \$600.00 in their local account and were overdrawn \$1,200.00 in Chicago.

"Before leaving Chicago, Gage (Cashier First National Bank of Chicago), and I had a long heart-to-heart talk about the Swan Company. He agreed to advance \$75,000.00 for expenses, interest, etc., during the summer. The company, which seemed on the eve of bankruptcy was saved and some of the Scotch gentlemen who live by liquidating concerns which by bad management or otherwise get into trouble, were a bit disappointed. Gage saved us by his broad liberality as he had done once before. The Swan Company to this day keeps a good account on that bank. . . .

"It was no child's play to tackle the management of the 'Swan'. While the range and farming end of the business was well organized, they were top-heavy considering the enormous losses

since the company went principally into the hands of the Scotch shareholders. The cattle count, which had been reduced in 1887 to 56,814 from about 120,000, was further reduced at 31st December 1888, to 50,000 head. Mr. Dun's count during the previous summer had reached about 30,000 when it had to be abandoned. There was a movement to counterbrand the cattle but it was abandoned and we went along year after year whittling away at our book account. It is certain in the light of the coming years that we had not anything like 50,000 cattle when the management changed.

"As stated in the last chapter, the finances of the Company were in poor shape. They were righted so far as the work on this side was concerned for the summer of 1888, but in Scotland it was only by the Directors and larger shareholders guaranteeing a considerable overdraft at the Company's bank that this end of the business was adjusted. . . . On the range we were too busy to think much about anything but the work in hand. The employees all had been under the spell of Aleck Swan, he had given them all the rope they wanted and they were loyal to him. His personality had won their confidence and even after his failure they helped him financially. To eradicate this feeling was no easy job, but it gradually came about. . . .

"It was evident that the old system of open range was passing and this was further intensified by a series of dry years. During the eight years I was in command at the 'Swan', we had less than an average rainfall and very mild winters. Eighteen ninety was an exceedingly dry year. In 1893 the rainfall from the first of April until the



Calf Branding of Swan L & C Co. 1. Eddie Johnson; 2. Phil Gatch; 3. Bud Waterman; 4. Clayton Danks; 5. Dick Harrison (with pipe). Photo by Geo. Milne. Courtesy Jimmy Danks.



Examining a cow roped by Jimmy Danks. Swan L & C Co. "hands": 1. Frank Roach; 2. Jimmy Barber; 3. Clayton Danks; 4. Brid Weightman; 5. Marshall McPhee; 6. Eddie Johnson; 7. Phil Gatch; 8. Swede Hansen; 9. Oscar Eckdahl; 10. Delmer Wood; 11. ——— Ferguson; 12. Billy Wilde. Photo by Geo. Milne. Courtesy Jimmy Danks.

first of November was only 3.3 inches. Both hay and grass were short but with good winters we managed to pull through. In the changes that were to come Bowie was a great help. He had a wonderfully intimate knowledge of the range. He was instinctively a good cattleman and he soon absorbed into his system that it was only by the most drastic economy that we could survive. We therefore commenced to get rid of frills and come down to earth as the cowboys express it. We rented out our ranches such as the AL, Whitcomb, Kelly, Bar M, T Y, Two Bar, Muleshoe, Jones Ranch, and various others, on the basis of paying so much per ton for hay for every one put in the stack and then we paid the renters so much a month in winter time for feeding out the hay, cleaning out ditches, building fences, etc. They grubbed themselves and we paid so much a meal for any of our help that had to stay at their places. We produced immensely more hay, eliminated waste, and the system worked like a charm. It may be explained, however, that we had plenty of applicants for the ranches. Many of them did well. We gradually transferred our steers to the Plains, and concentrated our she cattle on the east side of the mountains on the Chug, Sybille, on the Fox Creek divide and in Goshen's Hole. As we raised hay and improved our pastures we began weaning calves, feeding thin cows and heifers, while away on the Plains in Bates' Hole, in rough country north of the Union Pacific towards the Platte River, our steers took their chance. Our hay production, as I recollect it, was some 1200 tons in 1888. In 1892 this had been raised to 3600 tons. In 1893 50,000 acres of land were leased

from the Goshen Hole Land & Irrigation Co., successor to the Union Cattle Co., so far as these lands were concerned. As a good deal of this was hay land, it raised our production in this way very largely. Gradually it went up to ten or twelve thousand tons a year and from the report of the year 1904 they started the winter with 14,586 tons. In 1911, through loss of some rented land and a poor season, only 6,821 tons of hay were on hand. The average production of the last four years has been 1914, 7,571 tons; 1915, 6,867 tons; 1916, 7,343 tons; 1917, 8,249 tons.

"While it does not take long to write the account of these changes, it was a great task to reorganize the machinery of the ranch work, cut down the cattle outfits, till in spring we had but one wagon running, with the help of a second in the fall, and look after the feeding of twelve to fifteen thousand head of cattle in pasture. As the work contracted we had to face blackleg and destruction by wolves among our calves and more or less mange appeared among the cattle. Most of our neighbors sold out and left us. Sheep trespassers on our plains lands were hard to handle and we had a continual fight on our hands. Eventually the courts granted injunctions and this range graft was stopped. To improve the herd and keep it up to standard we bought a good many purebred bulls and also raised quite a number ourselves, but the great improvement in our cattle came from the other side. We began spaying ten to fifteen per cent of our yearling heifers before turning them out on pasture. In this way we got rid of the delicate, light-boned, tailend of our female herd.

"It is true that the bull is half the herd and the greatest care should be displayed in choosing a bull or bulls, but when it comes to building up a herd you can make much more rapid progress in the female side than on the male. It is simply marvelous how quick a breeding herd responds to this class of management. . . . In the Swan (contrasted to the Matador), however, from force of circumstances, mainly that it was an open range proposition and all kinds of bulls were afoot, we devoted our energies to upbuilding our quality and constitution through the weaker sex and I say without fear of contradiction, when I left the herd in 1896 that as a whole for its size it was the equal of any on the continent. This is not vanity or flattery, or, as Jor-rocks of hunting fame says, 'the h'oil can', but the markets prove it. In those days the Swan steers had a reputation as feeders away ahead of anything on the Omaha market.

"In 1892 the finances of the Company were adjusted. The capital of \$4,500,000.00 was reduced to \$1,500,000.00. Another of the fairy tales of the Cattle Barons smashed into very small atoms. It would be too long a story to tell how it was all done, how poor Scotch shareholders had to pay up the uncalled capital of their shares, how Gen. Brisbane's cattle bonanza (Note by RHB: This is undoubtedly Gen. Brisbin's book entitled Beef Bonanza describing the marvelous possibilities of free grass and beef profits), was a broken reed, how we had to economize, finance, dip a little freely into the herd to make ends meet, or furnish some courage to a Board of Directors sadly troubled at times. No wonder that men's tempers were tried and

hard words sometimes passed for which there was no occasion.

"The cattle account (1892) was also readjusted and over 10,000 head were summarily disposed of. The herd was automatically placed at 40,000 head. Another very important step was taken. The Carbon County railroad lands (intermediate sections) to the extent of 283,226 acres were allowed to revert to the railroad. Two payments had been made and eight more were due. We got no use of these lands. Everybody with a flock of sheep or a bunch of cattle ranged over them. In those days you had only the redress of damages for trespass and as the sheepmen kept an attorney by the year, and the juries would only give you a cent damages, it was a wearisome business and unprofitable. We held on to the Albany County railroad lands and have them yet.

"As the company got on its feet it was evident my services were not in demand and at the above date (June 30, 1896), I left the services of the Company. In their shareholders' report, published 3rd March 1896 the following sentences occur:

During Mr. Clay's seven years' energetic management the position and prospects of the company have steadily improved. But the rapid extension of his own business necessitates his limiting his outside work, and he has resigned the Managership. The Directors have made arrangements for the efficient conduct of the Company's affairs."

"This was a sugar coated pill, because in plain language, I was fired.

"From 1896 to 1912 I had little to do with the Company except meeting the Directors occasionally, but a year or two previous to joining the Board in Edinburgh I was consulted by Mr.

McNab, then Chairman, as to the policy to pursue under the difficulties which were an annual crop and gave everyone connected with the Company a great amount of trouble and anxiety. Several dividends were paid. Very unwisely, because the Company still had a lot of Preference Shares which being preferential and supposedly cumulative were really a debt and have latterly given the Company considerable trouble. Counsel have decided that they are not cumulative and can only be paid out of profits of which the Company has made none for several years past. Consequently a large amount of interest has accumulated and at this writing (1924) the matter is being arranged by compromise betwixt the two sets of shareholders, which will need to be approved by the courts before it can go through. These dividends ate up the steers which had been placed on the range. For several years the reports to the shareholders show considerable prosperity. Nearly \$500,000 in dividends was paid away from 1898 to 1911, both inclusive. On the other hand, quite a large amount of valuable land was bought and the Company will reap largely in this way. During 1904 sheep were purchased by the Company and since then have been a leading part of the business, but with indifferent results. Eleven years after I left the Company Mr. Bowie's name disappeared from the management. A sad sort of leave taking it must have been, for after 35 years' service with the Company and Swan personally, there was not even a note of regret. His great reputation, influence and honesty were under a cloud towards the end so far as the Scotch Board were concerned and he retired, broken

in health, the last of the coterie of able men passed by Aleck Swan to the Scotch Company. Dave Morris, doyen of the cowboys, is the only man of the old crowd who meets me at Chugwater.

"The advent of sheep was the beginning of the end of the range business so far as the Swan Co. was concerned. For years when others had fled, sold out or disintegrated, it stood alone powerful, progressive, somewhat aggressive. The two managers succeeding Bowie were not a credit to the old cult of range managers. They were utterly incompetent and I say this with sorrow, as I was responsible for one of them. But management or mismanagement, the open range was gone. Its death rattle was echoed over its broad acres in three words, 'the dry farmer'. You can fight armies or disease or trespass, but the settler never. He advances slowly, surely, silently, like a great motor truck, pushing everything before him. He is cringing in distress, autocratic in prosperity, and yet he is a builder, a great western asset, peopling a childless land, planting schools by the side of cattle corrals, preaching in their practical way the new salvation that is coming to the arid West. The old timers thought their work was a flash in the pan, but it remains a luminous light over the valley and divide.

"In 1910 the cattle were disposed of. The settlers were too much for them. The range was so cut up. There was so much chasing, dogging, stealing and wastage that the Directors had no other course open to them. Thus closed a great era in the Company's history. It is not necessary for me to pursue it further. Today our Executive Com-



Riders of the Swan L & C Co. 1900. Beaver Dams. 1. Eddy Johnson; 2. Billy Wilde; 3. Wally McVail; 4. Sam Moore, foreman; 5. Harry Feiber. Photo by Geo. Milne. Courtesy Jimmy Danks.



Two Bar Ranch on Sybille. Sheep on feed. Jan. 1928. Photo by Stimson. Courtesy of Curtis Templin.

mittee, consisting of James T. Craig of Belle Fourche, S. D., Curtis Templin, resident manager of the Company and the writer, runs the practical end of the business. It is rather a thankless job, but with the high price of livestock and an improving demand for land, the outlook is better. But it does not do to prophesy about the Company, for during the 35 years I have known it, it has been rather a hoodoo on the horizon. The Swan Company is now (1924) out of debt with a good cash balance in the banks." (My Life on the Range, by John Clay Pp. 201-229).

The above account by John Clay gives a vivid account of the various phases of the development of the Swan Land and Cattle Company up to 1910 when the cattle were sold out. Since that time the Company has been running sheep and at the peak ran around 110,000 head in 1910. The first sheep were purchased in 1904. The ebb and flow of this great livestock firm is well shown in the Livestock Inventory of December 31st of each year which is given here through the courtesy of Curtis Templin, Manager of the Company since 1915:

SWAN LAND AND CATTLE COMPANY RECORDS LIVESTOCK INVENTORY

Courtesy Curtis Templin & Russell Staats

November 3, 1955

Year	Cattle	Horses	Sheep	Year	Cattle	Horses	Sheep
1883	108,763	1,037	—	1909	27,879	453	62,298
1884	109,893	936	—	1910	1,000	461	110,854
1885	111,287	884	—	1911	542	360	112,365
1886	113,625	860	—	1912	704	369	108,718
1887	56,856	640	—	1913	1,442	312	101,898
1888	50,000	495	—	1914	3,429	320	79,621
1889	51,924	469	—	1915	3,472	387	64,787
1890	51,895	590	—	1916	4,668	384	47,971
1891	51,776	580	—	1917	1,155	356	52,633
1892	40,456	554	—	1918	601	338	61,000
1893	41,080	545	—	1919	275	295	48,454
1894	40,583	512	—	1920	844	335	49,000
1895	40,717	551	—	1921	201	327	58,500
1896	41,480	595	—	1922	209	282	59,000
1897	39,083	509	—	1923	190	261	54,500
1898	40,095	564	—	1924	150	264	59,400
1899	41,850	566	—	1925	190	244	50,380
1900	44,793	530	—	1926	227	243	55,400
1901	42,977	521	—	1927	210	235	51,300
1902	44,073	521	—	1928	218	231	56,800
1903	41,144	507	—	1929	225	236	61,800
1904	37,036	516	17,241	1930	236	236	73,800
1905	32,571	482	42,106	1931	266	238	66,200
1906	30,362	450	38,209	1932	189	225	61,900
1907	29,073	453	60,870	1933	198	216	63,700
1908	29,283	469	55,310	1934	116	214	71,900



*Muleshoe Ranch Buildings. Jan. 1928. Photo by Stimson.
Courtesy of Curtis Templin.*



Bard Ranch Feedlots. Each year four thousand lambs were fed—five pens with eight hundred in each pen. Jan. 1928. Photo by Stimson. Courtesy of Curtis Templin.

WYOMING'S PIONEER RANCHES

Year	Cattle	Horses	Sheep
1935	162	222	65,300
1936	106	212	67,700
1937	135	206	64,500
1938	159	210	66,100
1939	130	228	67,300
1940	145	230	60,800
1941	200	248	63,700
1942	233	263	58,100
1943	304	220	50,000
1944	310	173	40,000
1945	357	133	29,000
1946	365	65	13,600
1947	473	24	—
1948	403	14	—
1949	393	11	—
1950	—	—	—

The recent history of the Swan is exceptionally well covered in a magazine article written by Mrs. Virginia Cole Trenholm in conjunction with Curtis Templin and Russell Staats. It is concise and authoritative and is reproduced here with the permission of Mrs. Trenholm and at the suggestion of Messrs. Templin and Staats:

"With the gradual and virtually complete liquidation of the Swan Company of Chugwater, Wyoming, the West is severing a connecting link with the spectacular cattle period of the 1880's. This vast cattle empire, which at one time extended from Scotts Bluff county, Nebraska to Fort Steele, Wyoming has been reduced to the home ranch of about 2,300 acres, 47 miles north of Cheyenne. This too, may be sold within the next few years and the name of the once great company will pass into history.

"The house of Swan produced more than one cattle king. Brothers Henry, Thomas (Black Tom), Alexander H.; Henry's son, Will F. and his cousins Daniel, Thomas (Red Tom), Lewis J. and Obadiah, were members of the aristocracy in the cattle kingdom. But Alexander was the greatest of all.

Coast to Coast Recognition

"Contrary to common belief, he was not a Scotchman but an American pro-

moter from Indianola, Iowa, born in Pennsylvania in 1831. His great-grandfather was raised on a plantation known as 'Swan's Delight', near Bowie, Maryland. Members of the family went over the mountains near Cumberland, Maryland into southwestern Pennsylvania on pack horses before the Revolution. There they made their tomahawk claim on what was then Indian treaty land, where they resided several generations. The Tomahawk was the brand used by Red Tom, Lou and Obe in the 1880's at their ranch near Encampment where the old Swan, Wyoming, postoffice was located.

"During the cattle period, Alex Swan was recognized from coast to coast and abroad as a dynamic personality. His first venture in Wyoming Territory began in 1873 with the organization of the Swan Brothers Company, which brought the first Hereford cattle to the West.

"He helped establish stockyards at Council Bluffs, Iowa, and to organize the South Omaha Land Syndicate and the Union Stock Yards in South Omaha. Besides Swan Brothers Company, he organized and was actively associated with Swan Brothers and Frank, Swan and Anthony Land and Cattle Company, the Horse Creek Land and Cattle Company, the Wyoming Hereford Association (now the Wyoming Hereford Ranch), the National Cattle Company, the Ogallala Land and Cattle Company, and the Swan Land and Cattle Company, Ltd.

"According to records in the home office, the Swan Land and Cattle Company, organized in Edinburgh, Scotland in 1883, was capitalized at \$3,750,000.00 and ran about 120,000 head of cattle on the range, 600,000 acres of which it controlled. Aside from the activities required by the various cattle companies he organized, the energetic promoter found time to raise purebred Herefords at his Indianola ranch in Iowa and to feed cattle at Grand Island and Omaha, Nebraska.

"Swan, though a member of the Territorial legislature, was more interested in business than in politics. But his popularity was unquestioned by the fact that



*Landscape and meadow with buildings in distance. Muleshoe Ranch. Jan. 1928.
Photo by Stimson. Courtesy of Curtis Templin.*



*Closeup of yearling sheep on meadow pasture at Muleshoe Ranch. Photo by Stimson.
Courtesy of Curtis Templin. Jan. 1928.*

without campaigning he missed being sent to Congress, in 1880, by only 25 votes in the entire territory. He died in 1905.

"The Swan Land and Cattle Company began with five original ranches—the Two Bar, the Muleshoe, the T Y, the M Bar, and the 40 Bar. In 1883, it acquired the land, cattle and other assets of the Swan, Frank and Anthony Cattle Company, the Swan and Frank Livestock Company, and the National Cattle Company.

"The next year it bought the valuable Kelly and Whitcomb ranches, but more important still, it contracted 549,423 acres from the Union Pacific Railway. This consisted of odd numbered sections located north of the railway in Albany and Carbon counties. Of this acreage, approximately half, located in Carbon County, was relinquished in 1892. Three well-known ranches—the Bates Creek, the 76, and the Beer Mug—located within the limits of the railroads grants in Carbon county, were sold shortly after this relinquishment.

"Although financial disaster befell its founder in 1887, the Swan lived on, but not without a struggle. Rumors have been published to the effect, but no records are available to show that this company ever went into receivership. The most trying period in its history was between 1887-92. In 1892, the par value of the shares of this Company was "written down" from £ 10 to £ 2, the difference amounting to about \$3,000,000.00.

"Credit for survival was due partly to the indomitable John Clay, who took over the management during its most crucial period. Clay, pioneer in the marketing field divided his time between Chicago and Chugwater, for the company adopted a conservative policy, and, in 1888, moved its headquarters from Cheyenne to the Chug.

"Ranching, as well as business methods, had to be revised. Allowing the cattle to rustle for winter feed was too uncertain, the investors found from bitter experience. So the happy-go-lucky cowboys of the Two Bar, like it or not, began mowing, stacking and pitching hay.

Clay Takes Over

"The Swan has always been known locally as the Two Bar, for its most popular brand. This brand was so simple that it would seem ideal for the rustler to change, but such was not the case. Its simplicity, coupled with the fact that it was the first brand one expected to see, caused it to be difficult.

"There were exceptions to this. Perhaps the two best known are the accounts of the Flying Diamond and the Window Sash. In the former, Tom Horn, dubbed 'the last of the bad men' by his biographer, is said to have placed a 'two-bit' piece under the skin on the neck of a Two Bar steer. This animal was later found bearing the Flying Diamond brand. In the other case, the brand was changed unsuccessfully into a Window Sash by the addition of a third bar, two horizontal bars closing the open ends, and an additional bar through the middle to make the four panes.

"At a time when the longest rope got the maverick, this company suffered more than its share at the hands of rustlers. John Clay was president of the Wyoming Stock Growers Association when the ingenious plan of ridding the state of the rustler was conceived by some of the irate stockmen, but he had the good fortune of being abroad, in 1892, when the famous Johnson County Invasion took place. The well-laid plans of the stockmen and their hired gunmen went awry, and all would have been annihilated by the aroused citizens had it not been for three troops of U. S. Cavalry called out from Fort McKinney to restore order.

"Tom Horn undoubtedly aided the Swan, although there are no records to show that he was ever on the payroll. In the concluding paragraphs of his autobiography, Horn states that he came to Wyoming in 1894 and went to work for the Swan Land and Cattle Company, 'since which time everyone has been more familiar with my life and business than I have been myself.' In his writings, John Clay leaves little doubt with the



Two Bar Shearing Pens north of Lookout. A general view. Note hand walking down the road (towards town?) Some forty thousand sheep shorn here annually. Courtesy of Curtis Templin.



Closeup of Two Bar Shearing Pens north of Lookout. Note herders' wagons and shearers' tent. Courtesy of Curtis Templin.

reader that Horn was more than a casual visitor at the Two Bar.

"Formerly a member of the Pinkerton detective agency, Tom Horn was hired by several large cattle companies in Colorado and Wyoming to apprehend rustlers and encourage homesteaders and small cattle and sheep owners to go elsewhere. His methods were ruthless but effective. He was hanged in 1903 for the alleged shooting of young Willie Nichol in the Iron Mountain region of Wyoming.

"A number of employees in the 80s and 90s became prominent citizens and rounded out their eventful lives in the region where they served the Two Bar. Among these were Ed Banks, farm superintendent for many years; Dave Morris, wagon boss and later cattle foreman, and George Milne, bookkeeper.

"Billy Booker, later manager of the Tolland Company, was originally range foreman, then cashier and bookkeeper for the Swan a number of years. Credit is due Duncan Grant, another well-remembered old timer, for putting in the irrigation ditches and headgates. F. W. Lafrentz, first cashier for the company, is now chairman of the board of the American Surety Company and resides in New York. The long list of employees serving in various positions includes such well-remembered names as Howard Jackson, later sheriff of Converse county; Frank Sheik, president at one time of the State Bank of Wheatland; Harry Haig, brother of General Haig of World War I fame in Germany, and Fred Haight, manager until his death of the Cherry Hills Country Club of Denver.

"Otto Plaga and Billy Montgomery of Wheatland are among the few left to tell of the carefree days of the early cowpunchers. Plaga recalls the occasion in 1896 when he and a bunch of Two Bar boys put on an impromptu rodeo performance in Cheyenne. This was a forerunner of the Cheyenne Frontier days. It was also important as the debut for Muggins, Wyoming's most famous horse. Muggins, broken to the saddle by Wilse Meglemre, was acquired by the

Swan when a 3-year-old. After a long and active life on the range and in rodeo, he was honored by being buried in front of the administration building of the Los Angeles Stock Yards.

"Sheep eventually took the place of cattle on the Swan ranches. The first flocks were purchased in 1904, and Wiley Brown, now living in retirement at Wheatland, was one of the first camp tenders and later sheep foreman, Ralph Hall being the first and Wallace B. McDonald the last. In the year 1911, the company owned around 112,000 sheep from which it clipped approximately 1,000,000 pounds of wool. At one time it was reported to be the largest single producer of wool in the United States.

"The present board of directors of the Swan Company consists of Frank H. Connor, president; Alan F. Wilson, vice-president and secretary-treasurer; and Curtis Templin assistant secretary-treasurer. Connor, cashier and bookkeeper at the Chugwater office from 1888 to 1890, is senior partner of John Clay and Company of Chicago. Wilson is a partner in the same company. Russell Staats, cashier, has been with the Swan since 1927. Magnus Larson, of Hawk Springs, Wyoming, recently retired after completing 30 years of service as farm superintendent.

"The managers of the Swan have been: Alex Swan, 1883-88; John Clay, 1888-96; Alex Bowie, 1896-1907; William Dawson, 1907-12; M. R. Johnston, 1912-15; and Curtis Templin, 1915 to the present. Templin, a native of Nebraska, was employed by John Clay and Company at Chicago in 1905. The following year he was transferred to the Stock Growers National Bank in Cheyenne, where he later became cashier.

"On March 1, 1915, he joined the Swan Land and Cattle Company as assistant to M. R. Johnston. He became manager 2 months later. Templin, who came to Chugwater at the age of 31, has served continuously in excess of half the corporate life of the company and a longer period than all of the other managers combined. He is one of the principal owners.

"The Swan Land and Cattle Company, Ltd., discontinued its foreign charter in 1926 and became a Delaware corporation, with its name changed to the Swan Company. The Scotch shareholders remained the same, but the business of the company was officially vested in a local board.

Dispose of Most of Land

"The Swan has owned some of the most historically interesting ranches in the West. These include the L D, the site of Bordeaux's road ranch in 1867; the Two Bar, wintering place for the bullwhackers in the '60s, and the Hi Kelly, where work cattle were wintered as early as 1852.

"Within the past five years the company has disposed of about 374,000 acres of valuable ranch and grazing land. Besides the three just mentioned, the other ranches include the Konold, the T H, the Whitcomb, the Muleshoe, the Jones, the Bard, the Neilson, the C M D, the Carlin, the Shearing Pens, the M Bar and the Naffziger. These holdings, which were purchased for the most part by ranchers and farmers in the Rocky Mountain region, lie in Platte, Albany, Carbon, and Goshen counties. Other holdings in Goshen, Platte, and Laramie counties were sold some years ago. Best known of these are the A L, the Lower Bard, the L L, the Doty and the Lone Tree. The L L is now part of the Diamond Ranch, Inc.

"For some years the Swan leased the Fox Creek, the Herrick, and the Rock ranches, but when the lease expired, they were purchased by the Lincoln Land Company. Although Two Bar cattle ranged eastward across the state line, the Peters place, near Lyman was the only ranch ever owned in Nebraska.

"The once glamorous Swan is no longer the Swan Land and Cattle Company, Ltd., nor the Swan Company, Sheep Ranching, but just the Swan Company, Ranching, as its letter-head now reads. The process of disposing of the cattle, sheep and land has been gradual and profitable, with prices high.

Empire Now Ranch Size

"On October 6, 1947, the last shipment of what was formerly one of the largest herds of sheep in the West left Look-out, Wyoming, and Andres Medina was ready to head for his native Taos, New Mexico. Andres had served the Swan intermittently since 1904, when he became one of its first sheep herders.

"In November, the remaining cattle were brought to the home ranch where they will be retained. They consist of about 500 head of Polled Shorthorns, the increase from the milk cows once found on the numerous ranches.

"The great company which once had shipping points as far west as North Platte, Nebraska, as far north as Casper and as far west as Old Rock Creek, had so many brands that it published its own brand book. Now only three are in use—the Two Bar, the Muleshoe, and the 77 Bar. The Two Bar, synonymous with the Swan, is one of the most significant brands in the history of the Western livestock industry.

"It is outlined in the sketch below, as an appropriate 'swan song' for this brief historical article, and for the great cattle outfit it represented for so many years. Old-timers throughout the Wyoming region will remember this famous brand, and they will remember the names of Swan, Clay, Templin and those other colorful characters connected with one of the most historic cattle brands that the West has known." ♂ Swan = (Western Farm Life, April 1, 1948, Pp. 5 and 22.)

Billy Clay in this testimony at the Coroner's Inquest into the death of Willie Nichols (Page 208 of Coroner's Report) stated that Tom Horn worked for the Two Bar or Swan Land and Cattle Company in the 1880s.

In the records of the County Clerk of Laramie County, there is a mention of the case for Fred Langhoff and Louis Bath, where they were arrested and tried in one case for staling horses. The alleged theft took place on June 2,

1892. The Langhoff case is allegedly the first one which Tom Horn gathered evidence in when he came to Wyoming after leaving the Pinkerton Detective Agency.

From 1905 until 1916 the Swan Company sheep loss was much heavier than in those years from 1915 until they liquidated, in 1947. The management under Curtis Templin developed an unequaled efficiency. He built tight board round corrals about eight feet high. That gave protection from the wind for the sheep and having no corners the sheep did not pile up in corners and suffocate. In the early fall Templin put hay and corn and other concentrates at each camp which he used on the Laramie Plains. Before his time there the foreman would have the camp tender move the sheep in behind a hill out of the wind. The wind would change during the night or come up from a different direction, which would cause the sheep to get to their feet and go with the wind and storm. During these days there was seldom a time in the winter when there was not a bunch of sheep gone in a drifting storm. There was one time when they lost an entire band of sheep had drifted onto the ice of a large reservoir. The ice was too thin to hold the weight and gave away under it and all of the sheep were drowned.

There was one man who kept up a string of work horses (hay and grain fed) so he could answer the call when the Swan company got into trouble if a blizzard came and they had no feed on the ground. They were compelled to pay any price that man would ask. That was under the old regime. In 1916 a band of yearling ewes were

stolen from the Swan Company. They were never recovered.

The difficult part of running a large sheep outfit is to get competent help who will work for the interest of their employers. It is difficult to get a large percent of lambs for lack of care, and to keep the lambs growing takes skilled handling by the herder. An individual who operated his own sheep business would raise lambs which were ten pounds heavier per head than the lambs raised by a company, and would get 10 percent more lambs. An individual would be out with the sheep early and late, and would save lambs during the inclement weather, when the hired man, if cold or wet, would more than likely go to camp and let the lambs die.

The Swan Company would have a camp tender for each three bands or camps. He moved the camp when it needed to be moved, hauled supplies, salt, water, and feed for the herder. He would have a team and a saddle horse to take along to use if he needed one. Sometimes the herder would be on some rough part of the range which was inaccessible for a wagon. Sometimes the herder would report some lost sheep and then the camp mover would have a horse so he could search for them.

When the Swan Company entered the sheep business they paid the sheep herder \$40.00 per month and the camp movers \$45.00 per month. These were the going wages until the first World War, when they began to increase slightly. In the beginning the Swan Company employed all white men if they could get them. Only occasionally would they have a Mexican in their employ, but as time went on they

changed almost entirely to Mexican help. They even had a range rider who was a Mexican. He was very honest and dependable and he knew the sheep business. He was a splendid looking man by the name of Modesta. During lambing they used Mexicans, who came up by bus or truck from Colorado or New Mexico.

In the last years they were in business they brought up Navajo Indians by bus. They proved very satisfactory as helpers in the lambing camp. The squaws worked with the sheep the same as the bucks. In fact they seemed a little more capable and dependable.

In 1945 it was announced that the Swan company was going to liquidate.

Swan Company Kind to Neighbors

During the days the Swan Land & Cattle Company operated they were very kind and generous to the settlers and operators in the cattle business. They were the best of all the larger outfits to the small ranchers who were trying to make a living. They gave hundreds of quarters of beef to settlers. Whenever it was necessary for a cattle operator to send a man on the round-up to gather his cattle, they were made to feel welcome. They were treated just like their regular men but they never had to go on day herd to hold the cattle during the day, and trail them to the next camp. They did not send any cattlemen a bill for taking care of his man while with their round-up.

Swan Company Sells Out

The Swan Land & Cattle Company paid fifty or seventy-five cents per acre

for the land they bought from the Union Pacific Railroad Company in 1884. When they started to liquidate, they received from \$2.25 to \$3.50 an acre.

When the liquidation plan started in 1945, the manager, Curtis Templin, used much tact. He sold enough sheep each fall to keep pace with his land sales, for fear the land he was holding would not all sell and he would still have more sheep than his land would carry. The best part of it for the settlers within and along the border, he would set aside a block of land which would make the buyer a ranching unit and at the same time not force him to buy more land than he needed or could ever pay for. Today the country is blocked off as it may stay for generations to come, if sons or daughters continue in the footsteps of their parents. That is the way it should be. As the United States continues to become crowded, the offspring will always have a nest-egg in the land needed for their ranching operation.

The liquidation of the Swan outfit marked the end of an epoch in the livestock business. It was one, if not the last of the large outfits financed by foreign capital, and its history covered the glamor and headaches of the business from 1883 to 1947.

The home office and a small parcel of land is still in operation at Chugwater.

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Two Bar (Swan Land & C Co.) Steer 5 years old. Photo by A. S. "Bud" Gillespie in July 1905 on Swan Range (Sec. 13-20-74).

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CHAPTER XVIII

*King Brothers
Company*

World Famous Sheep Breeders

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CHAPTER 18

KING BROTHERS COMPANY WORLD FAMOUS SHEEP BREEDERS

By R. H. "Bob" Burns

KING BROTHERS, connoisseurs and creators of Wyoming's Golden Fleece. Just eight miles north of Laramie, and one and a half miles to the east of the Lincoln Highway (US 30) is located one of the most famous ranches in Wyoming, which is well known to the far reaches of the world. This is the King Brothers Ranch which was started in the early 90s by the three King Brothers, Frank, Bert, and Joe. Frank, the oldest, came to Wyoming in 1884 as a youth of seventeen, and worked with Paul Pascoe on the ranch at Two Rivers, some seventeen miles northwest of Laramie. Shortly his thrift and ability earned him the chance for a working partnership and in 1888 Bert King, the next oldest brother, came from England. Bert has told the writer his experiences when he arrived at Old Wyoming Station, the nearest station to the Pascoe Ranch at Two Rivers. He had not paid any attention to the time of arrival of his train, except to note that it was supposed to stop at Wyoming Station at 7:30, which he presumed was in the morning. He was surprised when it stopped, on a pitch dark night, and he was sent on his way afoot by the Station Master, who assured him that it was just a short distance to the Pascoe Ranch. He arrived after a walk of two miles, a tired and hungry traveler. He herded sheep for his brother Frank and found the Pascoe table a little sparse for a growing boy. Mrs. Mike

Carroll used to give him some choice food when he called there during the noon "siesta" of his sheep, and he never failed to make it to the Carroll ranch. Joe, the younger brother, came over from England three years later, and came direct to Wyoming Station. Shortly after this the three brothers decided to start for themselves and in 1892 they began operations. In 1888 Frank had filed on a homestead in the hills northeast of Laramie, and this homestead later became the summer headquarters for the outfit. He purchased some railroad land and the holdings were gradually added to. In 1904 the F. S. King Brothers Company was incorporated. In 1915 Frank S. King sold out his interest to his brothers, Bert and Joe, who continued the company as the King Brothers Company. The ranch contained some 120,000 acres of deeded land and leased land, and a permit on the Pole Mountain Military Reservation. The ranch was bounded on the west by U. S. Highway 30 and the Union Pacific Railroad, and extends fifteen miles north to Bosler. The east boundary is the Albany-Laramie County line and runs from north Horse Creek to the main Chugwater. The south boundary runs to the Warren Livestock Company, the Pole Mountain Military Reserve and Laramie City.

Original Sheep

The sheep breeding program was

based on the original sheep which were trailed from Oregon and California by Paul Pascoe and Frank King. These were mostly grade Merinos. During the 1893 or Cleveland Panic, the flock went to pieces. In 1897 they purchased some 3,500 selected two-year-old ewes at \$2.50 each and purchased some Merino rams from E. D. King of Burlington, Kansas. These sheep were purchased without note or collateral and the remainder of the old flock was sold.

French Merinos and Von Homeyer Rambouillets

At the World's Fair in Chicago in 1893, the King Brothers purchased the Merino ram "McKinley" from King and Shattuck of Kansas. This ram was sired by "King's Chance" out of "Lady Burwell," both champions and holders of World's records for Merino fleeces. At this fair they saw their first von Homeyer Rambouillets, imported by Mr. Markham of New York from the flock of Baron von Homeyer at Ranzin, north Germany. Mr. Markham was a noted agricultural leader of New York State and was the first president of the National Wool Growers Association. They purchased their first Rambouillet Ram "Ray R 25", from Markham. This ram, sired by Ranzin Prince, was dropped on the boat coming over. The flock which was coming over from the von Homeyer flock, was en route to the World's Fair in Chicago in 1893. Mr. J. H. "Joe" King attended the first American Royal Show in Kansas City in 1904, on his way to the World's Fair in St. Louis. At this show he purchased Markham's 1st Aged Ram and A. E. Green's 1st

prize yearling ram, champion of the show. He then went on to visit the prominent Rambouillet flocks in Michigan and Ohio, where he selected a foundation flock of ewes from the following flocks: Wyckoff, Green and Freeman of Michigan, and Moore, Lincoln, Bates and Chapman of Ohio. On this trip he also selected the foundation flock for the University of Wyoming. Since that time the Company has continually purchased stud ewes and rams every year from the leading breeders of Ohio, Michigan, New York and elsewhere.

The Company imported the first Corriedales from New Zealand in 1914 in conjunction with the United States Government (Bureau of Animal Industry). This importation included "Greenwood Lad" champion ram at the Christchurch Show. In 1915 the Company showed two types of Rambouillets and the first Corriedales at the San Francisco Panama Pacific Exposition.

Leading Rambouillet Sires

Starting out with the first Rambouillet ram "Ray R 25" there is a never-ending string of high class rams and such names as "Beaconsfield," Wyoming Boy, Laramie Boy, Ben Hur, Big Chief (largest Rambouillet ram on record, body length 5'8", height at shoulders 3'6", girth 6'7"), Pride of the West, Longfellow, and numerous others. Longfellow, a son of Pride of the West, was sold to the U. S. Sheep Station for \$700.00. An offer of \$1500.00 was refused for Johnny Bull. The company holds a record in the six consecutive grand champion rams over all breeds at the International Livestock Exposition at Chicago.



Francis S. King, President of the Company



Herbert J. King, Vice-President of the Company



Joseph H. King, Sec.-Treas. of the Company

Won Many Wool Prizes

The King Brothers Company won gold medals at St. Louis, Portland, Seattle, San Francisco, and both World Fairs in 1909 and 1915. Their fleeces have won seven times as Grand Champion at the International at Chicago, and during the same time have won not less than five championships at the last seven Portland International shows.

Flocks Slaughtered During the Depression or Panic of 1893

The World's Fair at Chicago was the turning point and the start of many momentous incidents for the western sheepmen. At this Fair the King Brothers were much interested in some Rambouillets, such as they had never seen before, for they had large husky bodies as well as excellent fleeces. These sheep came from the estate of Baron von Homeyer of Ranzin, northern Germany, who did not care for the popular German Merinos of those days (they had no mutton form), so he went to France and brought back some muttony Merinos which changed the type of his sheep. That summer a financial panic came in the U.S.A. which almost broke the heart of the country. Wethers that were one week worth \$5.00 a head were sold the following week, if at all, for around \$1.00. Wool fell from 22 cents to 5 cents, and lambs from \$2.00 to around 75 cents.

In the opinion of the sheepmen, Free Trade had done its work. Sheep in the middle west were slaughtered by droves and fed to hogs as the best way of getting a little income from them. The western sheepman gritted his teeth and sought by every means in his power to live through this time of

dispair and hold his home and lands and what few sheep he could. The labor of man was begging for a means to exist and herders could be hired for board, and by so doing, along with the help of the owner, the pitifully poor ranch managed to hold itself together. The best rams and ewes could be bought for a song, and this fact had its effect on sheep husbandry in the west for every western flock was benefitted by this infusion of improved blood for fleece and meat production.

The King Brothers Begin Their Great Show Record

After this baptism of financial stress, the King Brothers, after weathering the financial storm, gradually improved their flock and in 1903 took some of their best sheep to the first show and won their first silver cup at a local show in Sheridan. The following year they took some of their best sheep to the World's Fair at St. Louis, and to the International at Chicago. From that year until the middle 40's, the name of King Brothers was ever in the forefront in the sheep shows of the nation.

Frank King Goes to Australia for Corriedales

In 1914, when the Bureau of Animal Industry was commissioned by the U. S. Congress to go to Australia and bring back some of their best Corriedale sheep and some Merinos if possible, it was Frank King who was selected as the sheepman to make the trip and the selections along with Fred Marshall of the Bureau. They brought back numbers of the best Corriedales from New Zealand and this new dual-purpose breed, bred for both wool and meat, was an immedi-



House and barns King Bros. Ranch, June 14, 1904. Summer headquarters.



King Bros. Ranch from east. June 15, 1904. Summer headquarters

ate success. In 1915 Frank King set up his own ranch at Cheyenne, called the Wyoming Corriedale Company, while the home ranch was taken over by Bert and Joe King who continued to raise Rambouillets and also raised some Corriedales.

Fleeces Win Many Prizes

The King Brothers Company showed wool as well as sheep at the leading shows and built up one of the outstanding show records in the history of the purebred sheep business in America for Rambouillets and Corriedales. In the wool shows the Company won gold medals at St. Louis, Portland, Seattle and San Francisco. They won the grand champion fleece award at the International show at Chicago seven different times and at Portland, won five out of seven championships.

Sheep Exported to Many Foreign Lands

As would be natural in such a fine flock, sheepmen from many parts of this country and foreign lands, came to Laramie to visit this outstanding flock. The Company made twenty-two shipments of sheep to Japan, five to Russia, two to Hawaii, as well as single shipments to Argentina, Australia, Uruguay, Chile, Cuba and Brazil.

Writer Sees a Descendant of the King Flock in Chinese "Corridor"

In 1946 when the writer was on the China-United States Mission he came across some grade Rambouillets raised by the Russians and it is not unlikely that some of the blood of the King Brothers and other western Rambouillet breeders' sheep flowed in the veins of this Rambouillet ram used in far-off Yungchang in the Corridor of Kan-

su Province in China, some 1500 miles east of Shanghai. The Russians bought some Rambouillet sheep and took them to Novorosisk, a port on the Black Sea, a few years previously and much of their sheep breeding and improvement work was done in the province of Kazakstan just east of Chinese Turkestan or Sinkiang.

The King Brothers Ranch Attains Fame

The fame of the breeding operations of this ranch is well attested by Col. Burch, owner and editor of the American Sheep Breeder and one of the outstanding agricultural journalists of his day. His style is so interesting and his enthusiasm so contagious that I am going to share some of it with my readers. Here is what he wrote in June, 1911:

"It was a great day and destiny for the F. S. King Bros. and Co., when the brothers Frank, Bert, and Joe bid adieu to their native England and cast their lot with the fine wool shepherds of the new world, as many of their courageous countrymen had done before them. They had fortune and friends of rank, had tasted the sweets of polite and refined social life, felt the years aglow with delightful memories of home and kindred, but turned their faces westward with hearts and hopes set on Wyoming.

"The 80,000-acre Laramie ranch, lying between the UPRR on the west and the Colorado Southern Railway on the east, an estate ten miles wide and twenty-two miles long and the fortunate owners could ship east or west from railway stations on their own land. . . . On the west the ranch reaches miles into the sage of the immensely rich Laramie Plains, which is simply a vast loess or lucustrine deposit of imperishable fertility, the wash of ages from rich stores of lime, carbonate, and phosphate, magnesia, aluminum, organic matter and rich



Vermont Merino Ram "McKinley". 1895.



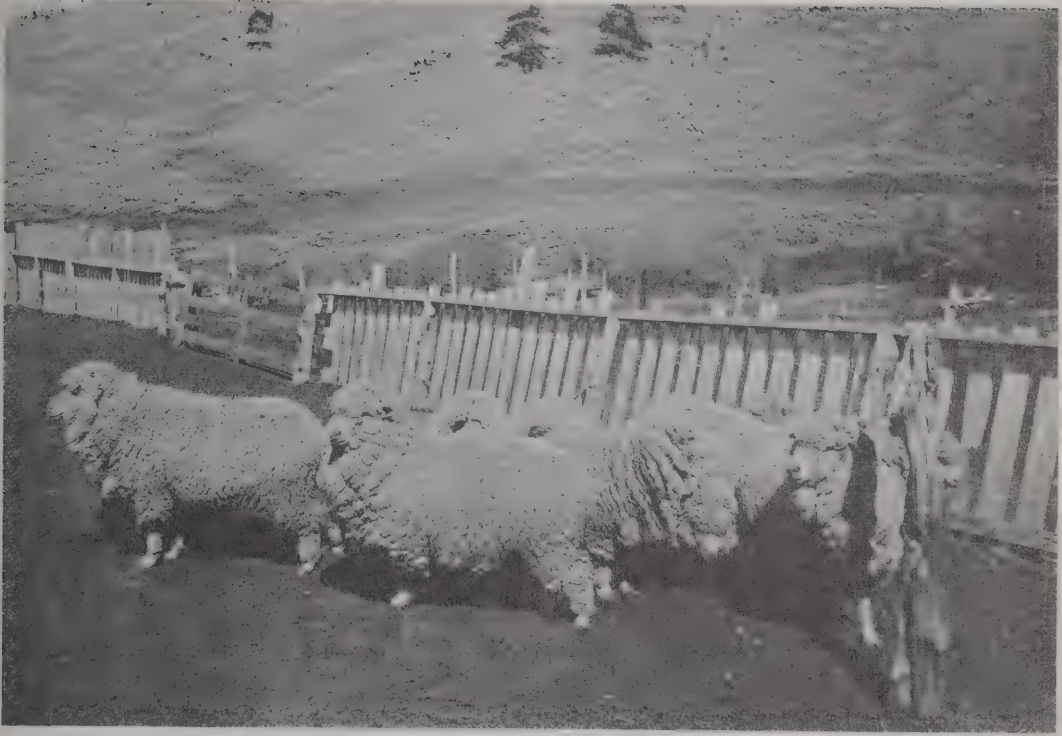
King Bros. Ranch. Winter headquarters on the Plains.

alluvials of priceless value. . . . The pastoral resources of this splendid estate are almost beyond computation. Great reaches of buffalo, grama, and bunch grass, sweet, nutritious and fattening beyond compare, cover the range like an all-embracing blanket. Indeed this range affords THE RICHEST NATURAL PASTORAGE the writer has ever seen, and surely there is no more perfect sheep range between the Missouri River and the Sierras. The cretaceous limestone gives perfect footing. There is not an acre of bog or spongy land in the entire tract. (Note by RHB: The writer, Mr. Burch, had not been fishing with me along at the beginning of the fishing season over on the Horse Creek meadows of the King summer range). The elevation runs from 7,000 to 9,000 feet, the atmosphere is clear, crisp and full of tone; there is no taint of malaria; the sun shines 300 days of the calendar year and everything, earth, air, sky, and grass and the clear springs, are all and singular ministrants to the perfect normal health of the flocks. In riding or driving with my good wife over these beautiful hills in the glories of a landscape as sweet and fair as the fabled Eden, I have many a time inclined to ask the Brothers King what impulse decided them to favor this part of Wyoming for a ranch or range neighboring to and in sympathy and fellowship with the charming University city of Wyoming, or if mayhap it were the University itself with its departments devoted to the promotion of advanced sheep husbandry. I have been a little curious too, to know their preference for the famed old national breed of France, for which they are making a destiny in this strange and alien land. For what matters it, my dear boys and gentlemen, since you are here for years in the very shadows and refining influence of the one University that stands for the sheep and wool industry of the foremost sheep state, and have citizenship and have brought the very finest sheep of your chosen breed, and this Sheep Breeder is glad to acclaim you. A GREAT ACHIEVEMENT to have massed and put

under splendid equipment 80,000 acres of the finest range land between the Missouri and the Pacific coast, and to have stocked it with the LARGEST PUREBRED FLOCK OF RAMBOUILLETS in the country in a brief quarter of a century, is a great destiny for the young men who have achieved it, not less than for the breed itself. The Kings lost no time in the earliest possible realization of their ambition to build the greatest ranch and flock of purebred sheep in the land of their adoption. They were not dreamers but men of action, clear-sighted, forceful, executive, confident, commanding. . . . they handled the entire ranch business with the precision of a watch factory. They do their own mating and fitting for show on the home ranch and are independent of striking shepherds and helpers. . . . It was evident even in this early period that they had THEIR HEARTS SET on a cosmopolitan race of sheep; an all-purpose sheep, large, strong, nervy, muscular, and decidedly wooly and muttony and adaptable enough for all countries and climates; not in any sense provincial sheep, but one with a world character and adaptation. In the Rambouillet they had found the true cosmopolite, which had a brilliant beginning in the fostering care and direction of the appreciative Frenchmen, and had risen to greater favor and higher excellence and fame on the German estate of the great Baron von Homeyer, and there was something that appealed to the Kings, who were born connoisseurs and with facile grace and quickness had come to be recognized as among the most critical and expert Rambouillet men of the country. . . ."

Again, in August 1915, the Field Editor of the American Sheep Breeder reports on the fine King Ranch and sheep. Read his crisp descriptions which I quote here:

"The mountains and plains on the crest of the continent up where the air is pure and invigorating, where the cool streams come down from the mountains where the sun shines and is cool, a country that



French Merino ewes from Glide Flock of California. 1894.



Rams and ewes from von Homeyer flock. 1893.

lures and inspires, not for its beauty but for its vastness and the majesty of its wonderful mountains—that's where the King Brothers' ranches lie, and the sheep are grazing over the plains environed on the south by the Snowy Range (Note by RHB: His directions are "haywire"), forever cold and white, on the north by the rugged Elk Mountains and the Laramie Plains. . . . Certainly it is the largest aggregation of Rambouillet breeding and show stock in America. . . . Thickset's record fleece, 43.75 pounds, and he is still carrying a fleece that will command the attention of the judges when they consider the aged class at San Francisco. . . . Although there are over 10,000 sheep on the ranch, including 1500 registered Rambouillets. Aside from these the United States Government has 600 ewes of choice blood at the Home Ranch with selected stock rams. . . . Eighty head of Corriedale ewes completing their long journey half way around the world arrived at the ranch just before we left. . . . They exemplify the combination of the general purpose sheep for wool and mutton and representatives of this flock will appear at the National Wool Growers' Show at Salt Lake, as well as the Panama Pacific Exposition at San Francisco. The cover illustration this month is King Brothers' ram Majestic, and this is his first public appearance. He is a two-year-old, and at present his weight is 290 pounds. He was scaled last week with the following results: Length 5'2", Girth, 5'9", Height, 2.9" at shoulders and height off ground 8".

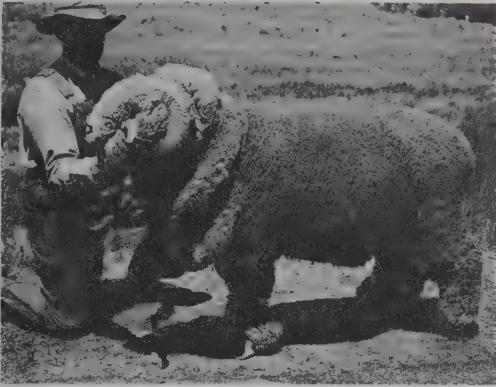
A writer for the same American Sheep Breeder visited the King Brothers Ranch in November 1928 and again is struck by the beauty and utility of the countryside and the sheep. Read what he says:

"Wyoming is a big state and ranches are laid out accordingly. The King Brothers ranch which starts in just northwest of Laramie, measures roughly about 15 by 16 miles, and in addition to that there are other farms and ranches leased and owned, which make this

ranch a large county in itself. On this ranch one finds approximately 4,000 head of Rambouillets and 11,000 head of Corriedales—by far the largest Corriedale flock in the United States.

"I had the opportunity of going over this ranch on September 1st of this year. J. H. King, known to sheepmen as "Joe," is Secretary of the King Brothers Company. He is one of the aldermen in the city of Laramie. Joe King is operating this ranch under scientific methods and is continually breeding for wool improvement and is making experiments of his own. Herbert J. King is President of the King Brothers Company, and is known to sheepmen as "Bert." Fred Barrett is the manager of the ranch and Tom Paramelee is the shepherd and looks after the show flock. As you come in from the road coming down from the northwest, you pass over two or three miles of the Laramie Plains and come to the winter quarters. There you find a lambing shed capable of handling 2,000 ewes at a time. While the entire flock of sheep on this ranch are purebred, not all of them are registered. The registered ewes lamb in individual lambing pens and after lambing they are thrown together, eight or nine, and after three days are put into bands of 100 to 120 head. The lambs are branded and docked at once. The main lambing shed is over 200 feet long, and has an alleyway 32 feet wide in the center and with individual lambing pens on the side, it has a width of 70 feet. These individual lambing pens are 4 feet square. For weak lambs and unclaimed lambs a heated incubator room is provided and with the heated hospital, as they call it, which is 60 feet long and has 38 pens in it, they can easily care for lambs in January, regardless of how cold it is. A Delco lighting system supplies light for the night force.

"Just outside of the large lambing house and other sheds is to be found a huge dipping outfit. They dip all of their sheep once a year, beginning about June 10th, just before they go on summer range, all sheared and ready for growing a new crop of wool. Cooper's



Von Homeyer Ram imported in dam in 1893. First ram used in King Bros. Rambouillet flock.



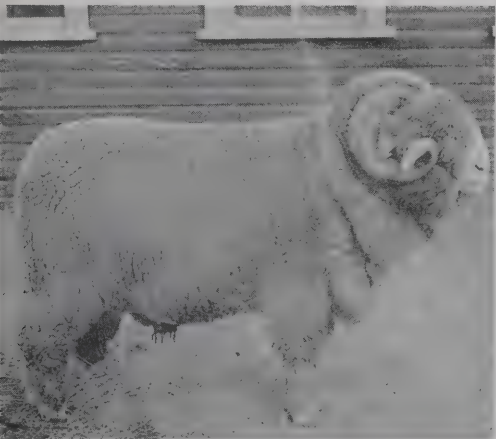
"Ben Hur", one of the great Rambouillet sires of all time. 1909.



Von Homeyer ram imported by Wyckoff of Mich. and purchased by King Bros. 1906.



"Lady C" Champion Rambouillet ewe and best of her time. 1909.



"Beaconsfield" famous early day Rambouillet sire. 1906.



"Pride of the West" distinguished in show ring. 1917.

fluid dip is used in this outfit and instead of dipping, it is sprayed on. This Australian spray system is operated by force with a rotary pump run by a Fordson tractor and with this outfit they can handle 6,000 head a day. The dip is heated with steam coils before it is used. The old dipping tank is used as a supply tank.

"With 15,000 ewes and their lambs it is necessary to handle the sheep in bands, which generally run around 2,500 head to the band in winter and 1,500 ewes with lambs in summer or approximately 3,000 head. The lambs are docked or tailed at ten days of age with a hot iron and they have become so expert at it that no losses occur. The ewes with their lambs, are thrown into small groups and still larger groups until 500 head are in a group and then three of these lots of 500 head are thrown together for a band to go to the summer range.

"In order that there can be no mixing up of ewes and lambs, they are all numbered or branded every 10 days. During the breeding season one buck is allowed for every 75 ewes. The 3,000 ewes are divided into small lots with one buck to the pen. The ewes are branded when bred and this brand "stays" on until lambing time. With this system they have never had a "dry" into the lambing pens.

"Most of the lambs that come are single, although they have frequently averaged a 120 percent lamb crop. They don't believe that a ewe can properly take care of twins and consequently prefer the singles.

"The feed or range is composed largely of Buffalo, Gramma grass and all different kinds of sage brush, of which the white and salt sage are considered the best. They feed salt at all times except when ranging on salt sage pastures. There are hundreds of tons of manure, just outside the winter quarters. It is of no value. They say when they put it on the land the wind blows it away and they simply haul it out far enough from the sheds and get rid of it.

"They buy many carloads of alfalfa.

Lots of it comes from Saratoga, and it costs around \$18.00 per ton delivered. Alfalfa is used extensively at breeding time.

"In the purebred flock they divided the ewes into bands and leave them on the range in the day time and have lamb wagons which go out and pick up the ewe and lamb and when the wagon is full it goes into the lambing sheds. The lambs come from the 15th of April to the 15th of June. A few of the registered ewes lamb early in March. At the height of lambing season they have from 250 to 300 head of ewes lambing every 24 hours, which is 10 or 12 per hour.

"The extent of this enterprise can be appreciated better in terms of acres. The deeded land approximates 100,000 acres and there are 25,000 acres under lease. It is roughly divided into two parts, a summer range and a winter range. The winter range might be called the Laramie River bottoms, while the summer range is up in the Laramie Mountains. (Note by RHB: The Laramie Plains can hardly be called the Laramie River bottoms, which are located a considerable distance from the King Brothers lands, although the analogy of lower lands for the winter range is certainly correct). On the winter range the corrals are provided at intervals of four to five miles apart, which are surrounded by high snow fences and are provided with three to four day's supply of feed. Snow may come any time after the 9th of September and continues up to the first of June. (Note by RHB: This agrees well with Bill Nye's three seasons for Wyoming, namely July, August, and Winter.) The last bad storm usually comes around the 10th of May and the first bad storm of the fall around the 20th of October.

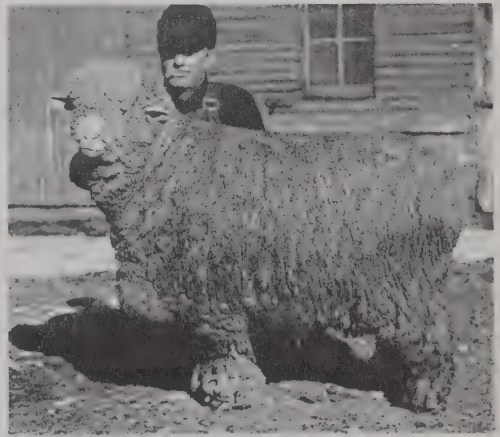
"In the bands are what the herders call markers or bell sheep and these number about one out of a hundred. It enables the herder to keep better track of his band. The herder counts his markers every day and counts his sheep individually once a week. At times it gets more than 30 degrees below zero at this elevation, which ranges between six and



"King's Big Chief," largest Rambouillet ram on record. 1917.



*"B 2517-451726" Champion Yearling Ram
Denver. 1945.*



*"FSK Co. 2528-451729" Champion Rambouillet
Ewe at Denver. 1945.*

eight thousand feet. At this temperature the herder must protect his sheep from frozen legs which is vital, and from wool blindness.

"During the summer and late fall ample feed supplies are laid in for winter months. The shearing shed is used for grain storage in the winter and is filled with cottonseed meal, barley, oats, pellets, and other concentrates. (Note by RHB: The large pile of hay used for reserve feed is a landmark of the winter headquarters and represented a large cash investment as it was all baled and usually brought over from the Platte River valley).

"At shearing time they pay 15 cents a head (1928) for shearing and each shearer furnishes his own shearing head. There is one man furnished to help every four shearers. (Note by RHB: Joe King told me that these so-called catchers saved him money by easy handling of the sheep in pulling them to the shearers). The shearers average from 150 to 200 head a day apiece. After the sheep are shorn they are placed on their feet and jump through an open door (toward the light) into the tally pen. Eight shearers work on the shearing floor. While this shearing plant was originally designed according to the most approved Australian system of wool preparation for market, only a portion of the system is now used. The sheep are sweated in special tight pens which make them shear more easily. In the Australian system the wool was baled but it is now sacked and throughout the years Joe King, and in some years John Hill, graded the clip.

"The King Brothers Company was established in the early 90s. In addition to the main ranch they have about 600 acres of alfalfa at Wheatland, where lambs are wintered from the first of October to the first of May. Wheatland is about 75 miles away and the lambs are trailed towards Wheatland at the rate of 10 to 15 miles each day, starting about the first of October.

"SHELTER CAMPS: On the main ranch there are about twenty camps. These camps are designated by various

names, largely from some geographic characteristic or by the name of the man who owned the land at one time. Most of the camps are provided with telephones (Note by RHB: Hardly all of them, only a few along the telephone line). They watch weather reports religiously, the radio and the barometer. When they are ready to make an important move and do not have sufficient weather data, they will call the rain dispatcher. Some of the camps are named: Two Bar, Timber Canyon, North Corral, Wyoming Camp, etc. Windmills are scattered over various parts of the ranch to provide water and nearly every camp has one. Posts are laid from the main camp towards the various winter corrals and these posts are used either for stringing telephone wires or for guides in a blinding storm. (Note by RHB: These posts from the highway to the winter headquarters can still be seen).

"THE SUMMER HEADQUARTERS IS THE ORIGINAL FRANK KING HOME-STEAD. Up in the summer camp, about 12 miles back on top of the Laramie Mountains, I found Tom Parmalee and the show flock. This show flock is always to be found at the American Royal at Kansas City and the International at Chicago, where the King Brothers' sheep are always prominent winners in the Rambouillet and Corriedale classes. . . One of the yearling Corriedale ewes was especially attractive. Her number was 646. She was blocky, had a back like a board, was made behind like a Poland China hog and had one of the most remarkable spring of ribs and development of chest to be seen in a sheep. The fleece was distinctive in its uniform crimp or waviness and had a fine quality (thickness of fiber), a length of 4½ inches and completely made up of closely-packed locks, each about the size of a lead pencil. The leg of mutton was equal to any to be found on any purely mutton breed of sheep. Joe King told me that he had two of the Boonoke yearling stud rams, which he purchased in Australia, and which were on the road at that time. These rams . . . are from the flock which bred the ram David which sold at the



Group of Rambouillet Rams and one UW Hampshire ram assembled at King Bros. Ranch for shipment to Russia in 1930.

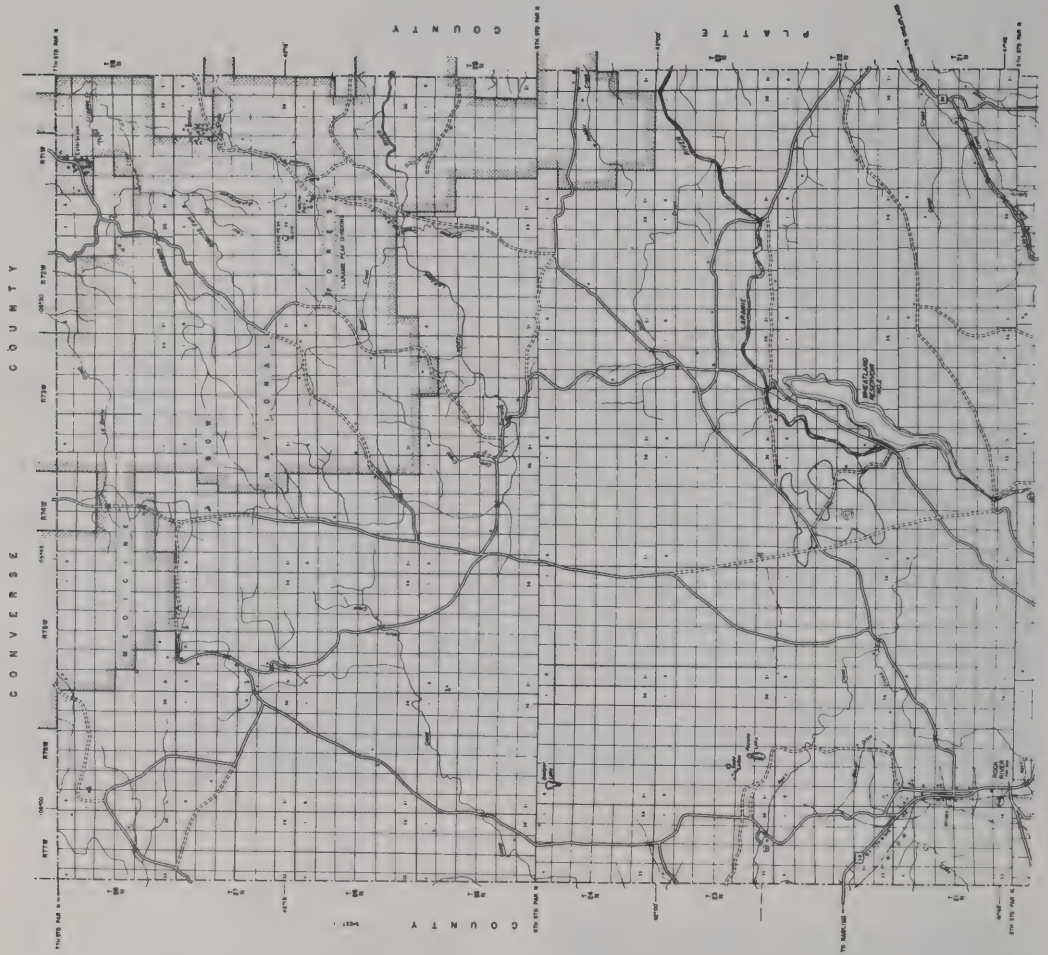


F/4 Rambouillet Ram No. 16 bred by Russians at Tihwa and brought to Yungchang Sheep Station in 1941. Kansu, China.



Australian Merino Ram R-60 imported in 1930 from Dalkeith Stud of Australia by King Bros. Note beautiful crimp and color of fleece.

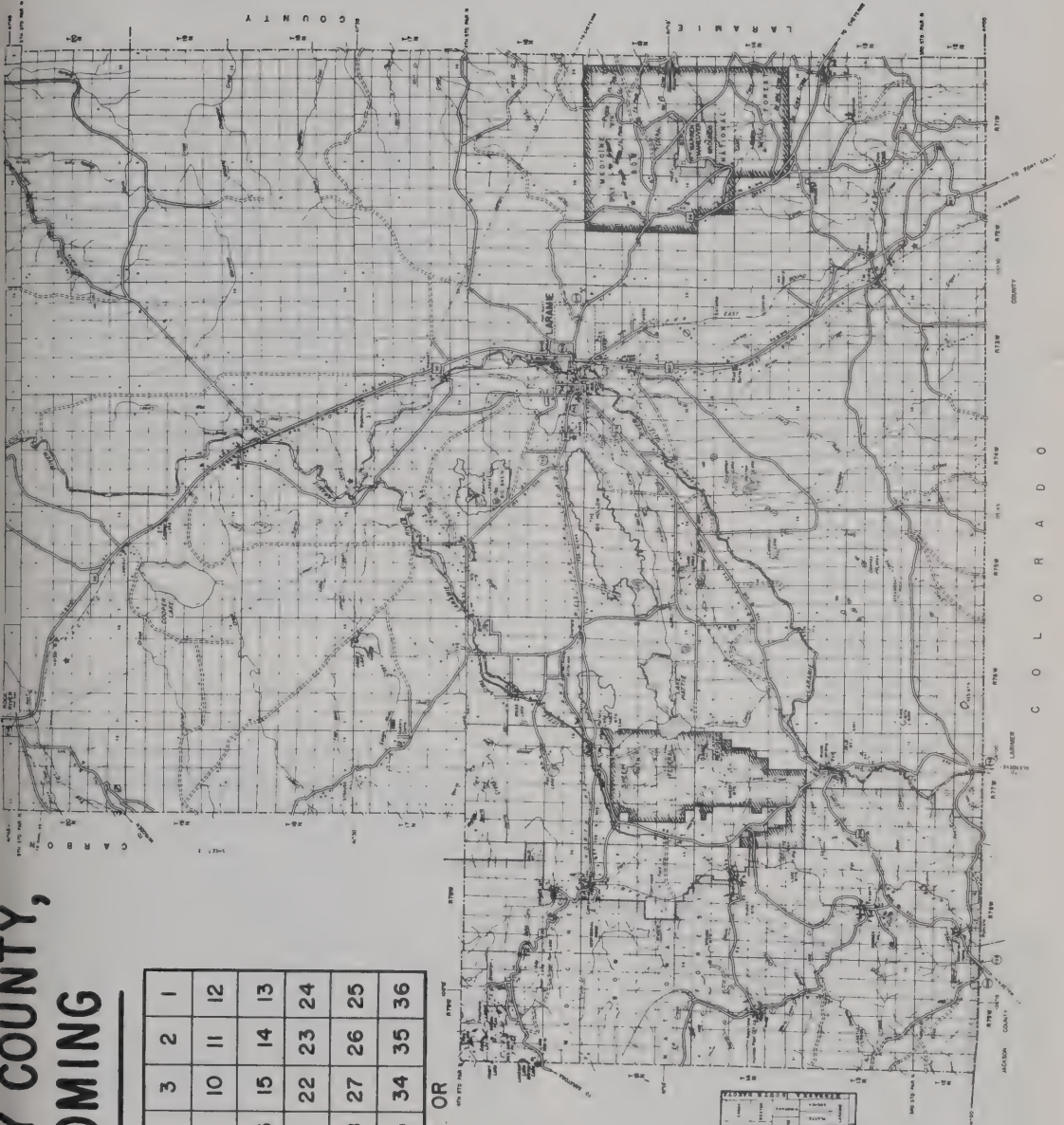
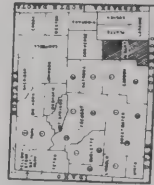
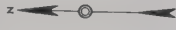
WYOMING'S PIONEER RANCHES



**ALBANY COUNTY,
WYOMING**

6	5	4	3	2	1
7	8	9	10	11	12
18	17	16	15	14	13
19	20	21	22	23	24
30	29	28	27	26	25
31	32	33	34	35	36

LOC. OF SEC'S. IN TWP. OR
LOC. OF LOTS IN SEC.



C O L O R A D O

Sydney Sales for \$30,000 and the ram Jean, which sold this year for \$25,000. The Boonoke Stud is the stud of F. S. Falkiner and Sons who have been a leading breeder of the Wanganella strain of Australian Merinos. (Note by RHB: These rams shown in the illustration had beautiful white fleeces of long staple and uniform size of fiber). After going from the summer ranch on down to Laramie, Joe King showed me several samples of Australian super wool. He said these were random samples taken from certain section in Australia and they correspond closely with many of the Merino fleeces which I found in Ohio on a recent trip. Joe King was very emphatic along the lines of improving wool quality and he is making every effort to improve the fleeces of his own flock. He thinks that we will never be able to successfully pool and sell our wools until we produce uniform wools."

In 1915 Frank King brought back a number of Corriedales from the leading flocks of New Zealand. He had been commissioned by the U. S. Department of Agriculture to accompany Mr. Marshall of that organization and select Corriedale sheep of the type adjudged to be best adapted to the western ranges. The uniform type of the Corriedales which were imported is shown in the illustration, which also shows in the background the summer headquarters of the King Brothers located some fifteen miles northeast of Laramie.

King Brothers have produced some of the outstanding Ramboulllets of the country and among these was one which is credited with being the largest Rambouillet on record. This was the ram "Big Chief" shown in the illustration, which was sold in 1917 for a good price. This ram showed that a large body could be combined with a good fine wool fleece. Joe King is

holding the ram in the picture, which was taken in Salt Lake City at the National Ram Sale barns.

For many years Fred Barrett, a fine sheep fitter from England, was in charge of the King Brothers flocks. A few days ago the writer had an interesting letter from Fred, who is now living at Hanover, Ohio. Fred told of the breeding work with early Rambouilllets in the Government flock while it was at Laramie. This flock was the foundation used in the development of what was later to become the Columbia, so ably described by Fred Marshall in a recent issue of the National Wool Grower. The writer remembers vividly many "sheepy" and "wooly" talks with Fred Barrett and Joe King and any wool lore about Rambouillet and Corriedale sheep which he may have is no small part due to these discussions.

Frank King set up a separate establishment in Cheyenne around 1917 and gave it the name of the Wyoming Corriedale Company. Frank King, as noted before, was the first of the King Brothers to come to the Laramie Plains. At the first Short Course at the University of Wyoming, in 1904, he gave a fine resume of the Sheep Industry of the Laramie Plains and some excerpts from this paper will be given here:

"The first sheep brought into Albany County were those belonging to Ed Creighton, bought in the South and brought here in the summer of 1870. They numbered about 3,000 head and were what are generally called Mexican sheep. These were placed in charge of Charley Hutton. They were run through the winter on Sand Creek on what is now the Lundquist ranch. They were run in an open corral, without any shed and



Group of Corriedale ewes imported by Dr. S. W. McClure. 1916.



"Greenwood Lad" imported from New Zealand.



"Double Brand" Corriedale Ram imported by Wyo. Corriedale Co.

no windbreak whatever except a small haystack. The corral was made of fence poles, the lower pole being about two feet above the ground, so as to afford room for the sheep to run under the fence and so go out to feed at any time. Strange to say, the sheep came through the winter in fine shape and the loss was practically nil. They had been tempted to try this experiment with sheep because the previous year some of the cattle in the bull teams of Ed Creighton, that had become footsore and too poor to go any further, had been turned out on the Little Laramie at the stage station there. They were not expected to live and had been practically turned out to die. In the following February the supply trains at Fort Sanders, having been stalled in the snow, the men at the Fort were in danger of suffering for want of meat. Remembering that some of the bulls belonging to the freight trains had been turned loose on the Little Laramie River, one of the officers rode out there thinking that a shadow would be better than nothing, and asked Charley Hutton who was at that time in charge of the station, if he knew whether they could get any that would do for meat. (Note by RHB: Charley Hutton was at the Big Laramie River station and not on the Little Laramie River). Hutton said that they had not been keeping track of them during the winter, but he would send the boys to round up any that they could find. Upon looking them over, they found that not only had the cattle pulled through the winter in good shape, but they were fat. I have been told these cattle brought over \$100.00 per head. The wintering of these cattle and this bunch of sheep convinced Dr. Latham, the Union Pacific Surgeon, that sheep and cattle could be run on the Laramie Plains with little cost and slight loss. He then wrote up a pamphlet describing the country and advertising the facts regarding the wintering of stock as they had come to his knowledge, and showing Eastern and Continental capitalists what a good investment it would be, producing an enormous interest with little risk. These

pamphlets were published by the advertising department of the Union Pacific Railroad and scattered all over the East and Europe, as it seemed a drawing card to dispose of their lands. Among those who were attracted here by this pamphlet were Mr. Homer, now President of the Albany County Bank, and his partner at one time, Mr. Sargent. The fact that stock could be run on free range the year round, without loss, was very attractive, and the following summer saw quite a number of outfits on their way to make a fortune. Messrs. Homer and Sargent brought in 2,250 sheep, investing all they had in the venture. Colonel G. W. Dana and N. K. Boswell brought in 3,500 which they located on Sportsman's Lake. Messrs. Molton and Weaver brought in 2800. Ed Creighton and Charley Hutton got several bunches. They ran one bunch on Willow Creek, where the McGibbon ranch is at present, located one at the Dirty Woman stage station, now the Maxwell ranch; one at Sand Creek, now a part of the Homer ranch, and one or two on the Little Laramie. These sheep were bought from farmers in the States of Indiana, Ohio, and Missouri. They were driven to Omaha and then shipped by rail to Laramie or thereabouts. The summer was a very dry one and feed was very short, and there was little of it. The sheep were not acclimated and only one outfit made any preparations for bad weather, viz. the Dana and Boswell Company. They had erected a good corral and sheds, and had put two hundred tons of hay at the Sportsman's Lake corral. On the 10th of February, 1871, the year that these sheep were brought in, a terrible blizzard started in. Mr. Boswell, who was at the camp, went out with the boys to try and get in the sheep that were near the corral. After a lot of hard work, they succeeded in working them to within about fifty yards of the sheds, but when within sight of safety they had to turn them loose, as no man, much less beast, could face it. It snowed continuously for forty days. This I have on the authority of Mr. Homer, who posted a diary every day, which he still has.



Group of Corriedales owned by U. S. D. A. at King Ranch. 1916.



First Prize Corriedale Ram "Combination" bred by Ensor and imported by Wyo. Corriedale Co., Cheyenne.



"Bold Brand" from Ensor flock. Imported by Wyo. Corriedale Co. 1915.

They found about one hundred of them the next spring near Virginia Dale. Most of them had been buried in the drifts the first two days of the storm. The trail could be followed by the skeletons in the spring, eight hundred being found in one bunch. Of the Creighton and Hutton bunch on Willow Creek, they made the corral all right, but they might have been better outside, as the corral was no protection, and they commenced to pile at once. Twelve hundred were piled and trampled to death before the rest could walk over the dead ones and get out. In the spring they were brought back from Fish Creek, after the April storm, by means of the horses that were on the plains around where Laramie now covers (I think that Mr. Strode, who was at that time foreman for Charley Hutton, gathered up about 300), a remnant of 600 left from 2,500. Homer and Sargent, who had 2,250 in the fall, when Christmas Day came, found themselves the proud possessors of six very woebegone and rather shaky looking sheep. As he was going into town that day to have a good time, Mr. Homer made up his mind to take his troubles with him, and so loaded the six veterans into his wagon and when he arrived in Laramie, he took them to Charley Hutton and offered them to him as a Christmas present in token of his appreciation of the part he had taken in persuading him to come to such a hospitable region, and I have knowledge that they were accepted. (Note by RHB: Frank Sargent in his letters about his early day experiences mentions that all sheep were lost during the severe winter lasting from October to April). Dr. Latham, Union Pacific Surgeon, the prime mover of these several ventures, had invested in 3,500. He took these through the winter in good shape, and about the 1st of April he moved them to Granite Canyon. On the 15th day of that month a severe storm came up and piled up fifteen hundred. He got out with 1,800 doing better than many of the others. Moulton and Weaver took 2,800 out to the Little Laramie, and the next summer they took about seven hundred down

to Colorado, all they had left. Dr. Winslow took about 3,800 towards the mountains and Centennial, and in the spring he found himself entirely destitute. He quit the flats and started a small store at Evanston later. Of the other bunches belonging to Creighton and Hutton, they lost about half of those on the Little Laramie, and practically all of those that they were running on what is now the Maxwell Ranch. I think it is worthy of mention here, that these men did not give the stock business up as a hopeless case, but, using their dearly bought experience, they built a large and paying business; Mr. Homer making, as he himself told me yesterday, over thirty thousand clear in ten years in cash, not counting the increase of the six sheep that he so nobly gave away. He accumulated a bunch of 20,000 sheep and cattle to the amount of 1,900 head of which he lost about 5,000 sheep in 1881 and about 1,000 head of cattle. That the loss of sheep in the winter of 1871-72 was due to dense ignorance, the men themselves say, and that even the sheep were not acclimated or in good shape to stand a bad winter, there is no doubt. The winter was one of the worst that has ever been known, which was shown by the fact that when the trains were snowed up throughout Kansas the buffalo went to the cars for shelter and were snowed under as they stood there, and many froze to death as they stood. I have mentioned these few facts to show the way the sheep business was conducted in its primary stages. It is typical of the West and an evidence of the character of the people who have built up their part of the country that the disaster of the winter of 1871-72 did not stop the restocking of the country. But, with the experience gained, they put forth new energy and made capital out of disaster. The Mexican has given way to the Shrop, Lincoln, and Hampshire; and the small and wrinkly type of Merino has been discarded for the improved Delaine and Rambouillet. Some of the sheepmen are raising bucks so as to save the loss from bringing them in from lower alti-

tudes; I might say that we have some very fair specimens on our ranch. We had at one time on the ranch a son of the champion Merino buck of the champion ewe at the World's fair at Chicago; a son of the champion Rambouillet out of von Homeyer's best ewe, who last year took the championship of this state. We had the first prize yearling of Michigan and the first prize ram of New York. Many other sheepmen of this state have prize-winning sheep of these and other breeds. We have a bunch of ewes that are as large as the usual run of sheep and perhaps larger than most, that turned out last year \$1.75 per head in wool. We have a small bunch of our best ewes that will all weigh over 120 pounds, and shear from 15 to 25 pounds per head. These have been developed by judicious breeding. On this subject of breeding Mr. Eykyn could give us some very valuable information. He has some very good sheep, as have Messrs. McGibbon and Vance, and numerous other sheepmen about the state, such as Bob Taylor, J. Morton, etc."

An anonymous writer in the Ranchman's Reminder in July 1904 gives the following information about the operation of the King Brothers Ranch:

"It never pays to keep a cow that costs more in labor and feed every year than she will produce, and a thousand sheep which present the owner with \$2.00 worth of wool per head at shearing time, are enough better than the same number which can grow only \$1.00 worth of wool in a year, to pay a good dividend on the kind of sires which will produce that class of animals. These things are rather forcibly brought to our attention during a recent visit to the King Brothers' sheep ranch, ten miles northeast of Laramie. It was shearing time. Wool buyers were numerous and on hand to bid on the clip. The lambs were three or four weeks old and the editor's camera (Note by RHB: Probably Prof. B. C. Buffum of the University of Wyoming) was snapped so many times that the photo material belonging to the proprietor

of the ranch was depleted after our own was depleted. In addition to the pictures taken on that occasion some of Mr. King's pictures which are as good or better than we can take ourselves, mysteriously returned with us. . . . The ranch is owned and personally managed by Frank S. King, Herbert, and Joseph King, and their scientific and up-to-date way of doing things is worthy of mention in this publication. We can not give a complete history of their growth and success in the sheep business, but a plain statement of all the facts in their experience would make interesting and instructive reading. The three young men started about twelve years ago with very small capital, but with energy and determination. They took a homestead on a little stream where the water supply had to be developed. They bought a few sheep, took a few on shares and began to breed for a type which would be big in body and carry a large fleece of the best quality wool. They began to acquire more land by entry, purchase, and lease. The original policy has been persistently pursued until today they are the owners of one of the best bred bunches of sheep in the state, as well as one of the best ranches for this purpose. They own their winter and summer ranges and have each of their outlying ranches connected with telephones so they can be at once informed of trouble from storms or other cause and send help to the herder if he needs it. They are now running about 12,000 sheep and their wool clip this year topped the market for southern Wyoming. The interesting part of the King Brothers' business to the scientist or to the practical stockman, is their method of breeding to produce a type of sheep which will return the greatest profit. They have not hesitated to spend large sums for blooded bucks to use on their flocks, at one time having more than a dozen prize-winning rams from the fairs at different eastern states and the Columbian Exposition. A single ram shown at the Albany County Fair and the Sheridan Industrial Convention last fall was valued at \$750.00. Not only have they purchased the best rams obtainable,

but they have also bought numbers of pedigreed ewes and by careful selection and elimination along with their breeding they have been establishing a type of animal which is more profitable each year. The sheep are large, covered with a uniform fleece, along with their breeding they have been establishing a type of animal which are more profitable each year. The sheep are large, covered with a uniform fleece, wooled to the feet, producing a large quantity of wool of the best quality. The lambs from these large ewes, either from Rambouillet or Shropshire sires, are the kind which the feeder can well afford to pay a large price for. Instead of trying to combine the mutton and wool qualities in the same sheep, they are using the mutton ram on the Rambouillet ewes for the production of those lambs which they expect to sell as feeders and keeping a high standard of wool sheep for the wool producers in the increase which is kept to build up the permanent flock. This season the wool clip will amount to more than 90,000 pounds and sold for fifteen cents. Single flocks of their sheep which have been most highly bred will average almost, if not quite, two dollars per head for the clip this season. The ranch is located in a valley of the Laramie Mountains, being protected by the surrounding hills. The summer range is in the hills which are well grassed and have numerous small water courses draining into Horse Creek and Chugwater. There is a large variety of grasses and forage plants on the hills, the more important of which are probably the blue grasses, wheat grasses, native clovers, lupins, etc. The winter range is on the Laramie Plains to the west of the home ranch, where the principal grasses are the wheat grasses, Koeleria, spear grasses or stipas, gramma grass and a small upland sedge or carex. Running the sheep on different ranges in the different seasons tends to keep the feed in prime condition and the sheep not only make large growth, but keep in good thrifty condition the year round. This has much to do with pro-

ducing a long, strong, clean and uniform staple of wool. This great business has practically been created in twelve years' time and shows what men who have the intelligence to take advantage of our natural resources and the energy to give their business close personal attention can do. Such men are good citizens who help to build a state. Mr. F. S. King is a member of the lower house in the Wyoming Legislature."

Frank S. King, the eldest of the brothers, founded the business and today it is his son and grandson, Art and Jerry King who are the sole members of the King family to carry on the sheep business. The King Brothers Ranch in Laramie has been sold and today black cattle from Aberdeen graze where former knights and ladies of the golden fleece gained their sustenance. Art and Jerry King are carrying high the banner their father and grandfather started with the Corriedale breed which he brought to America in 1914. After many vicissitudes Art King redeemed the ranch at Cheyenne which succumbed to the financial stress of the 1920's. He restocked it with the best of Corriedale sheep and today it ranks as one of the leading Corriedale establishments of the country.

In 1922 Frank King wrote an excellent article for the Casper Daily Tribune, Industrial Edition and his story of fifty years in the sheep business is so interesting that I am here recounting that article:

"The first band of sheep brought into Wyoming was a bunch, some 2,000 in number, that came from Ohio. Mr. Hollister, who occupied a farm in Ohio jointly with his brother, decided to separate from that association and sold out. He bought a band of old ewes and drove them through to California, wintering them on the Laramie Plains in the winter of 1850-1851. The story of these



Group of Corriedale Ewes at Wyo. Corriedale Co. Ranch in 1917.



Group of stud yearling Corriedale Rams at Wyo. Corriedale Co. Ranch about 1918.

sheep is told in the Memoirs of John Sherman, who was Secretary of State under President McKinley and Secretary of Treasury under President Hayes. Mr. Sherman states that he met Mr. Hollister in California in 1870 and recites that Mr. Hollister told him about the trip from Ohio to California with the sheep. In 1870 C. W. Riner and the Durbin Brothers bought a flock of sheep in New Mexico and drove them through Colorado to Cheyenne, where they were run until they could be slaughtered. The following year they brought in 1500 more that were run south of Cheyenne.

Lost Legs

"In the winter of 1871 one of the Durbins was caught out with the sheep in a storm and lost both of his legs through exposure. In 1876 Mr. Riner bought 6,000 ewes from an outfit that had brought them in and located at the head of the Muddy near Pine Bluffs. These were Mexican ewes and to them were added 1500 wethers that had been trailed in from Oregon. These were run on the Muddy in the fall and winter and summered on Crow Creek. Rugg Brothers had 3500 on the same creek and Tim Dyer, Chadwick and Shay were running bands on Pole Creek, Horse Creek, and Bear Creek. In the March storms of 1878, Mr. Riner lost 300 of his sheep and the other sheep men lost practically all of their sheep. In the fall of 1879, G. W. Snow brought in 2500 head of Mexican ewes, running them for awhile on Horse Creek, but in the fall taking them to Bear Creek, where he had started a ranch, since then improved so as to make it an up-to-date sheep ranch, which he owns today. In Albany County Charley Hutton was the earliest man to bring in sheep, as far as the records show. He had a ranch on the Big Laramie at the point where the Overland stage road crosses the river. In the fall of 1870 he sold a bunch of these sheep to Robert H. Homer. These sheep were caught in storms and drifted down into Colorado and the flock dwindled away so that by Christmas there were six left. These Mr. Homer loaded into a wagon

and sent to Charley Hutton as a Christmas present, with thanks. H. G. Balch started a flock of sheep, running them above the Hutton ranch on the Laramie River, in 1876. John McGill also started in as a Wyoming Sheepman in 1878, while Bill Reid who had purchased some 3,500 head in the fall of 1877 and taken them to Bates Hole country, had the misfortune to lose every head before spring. Deep snow covered the ground with no hay and the sheep starved to death. (Note by RHB: Frank Sargent tells of the loss of all of his sheep in 1870-71 when the storms began in October and held on steadily until April and Bill Reid, later the curator of the University Museum and fossil hunter extraordinary, was the one who had the misfortune to lose all of his sheep at Bates Hole). At this time California and Oregon were the sheep states of the West and a large number of sheep were being driven down from the coast country through Nevada, Utah, Idaho, Montana and Wyoming to Nebraska and other midwest points where they were either fattened or else shipped direct to Chicago for slaughter.

THE SHEEP AND WOOL INDUSTRY was firmly established in 1880. Naturally many sheep were sold to settlers along the trail, and by 1880 the running of sheep had become a firmly established business. In fact the late 70s and the early 80s was a period during which many men came to settle in Wyoming and have stayed with the livestock industry in all of its branches. Their sterling worth, perseverance, and grit have made Wyoming one of the foremost of the western states; in fact the leading state in many particulars, and their sons have materially helped to shape the destiny of the nation. About this time, Senator F. E. Warren in partnership with Miner, came west and close to Cheyenne founded the ranch that has since achieved national reputation. Wilkinson, Thomas Brothers, Bristol, and the Post Company engaged in the running of sheep in Laramie County. George Eykyn, Judson and Sutphin, Paul Pascoe, Thornton, Currier, Douglas-Willan and Sartoris, the Whitaker Broth-



Some of first Corriedales imported from New Zealand. 1914.



*Grade Corriedale ewes from Corriedale rams out of Rambouillet ewes.
View on summer range in 1920.*

ers, and Boughton, Lawrence and McGibbon, F. S. King, Collins and R. E. Fitch engaged in sheep breeding at this time around Laramie and Rock River, and Prager at Laramie Peak.

"J. D. WOODRUFF seems to have been the pioneer in the sheep industry in central Wyoming as he was in cattle. Building a house in 1878 he ran cattle exclusively until 1883 when he engaged in running sheep also. B. B. Brooks entered the ranks in 1883; W. W. Dale and J. A. Delfelder ran sheep in 1892 and in 1890 DeForrest Richards and Dr. Wilson agreed that if McKinley was elected president they would go into the sheep business, which they did, by organizing the Platte Valley Sheep Company and named their ranch McKinley. (Note by RHB: Today McKinley is the post office maintained at the Wilson Ranch now owned by Byron Wilson, well known figure in the sheep and wool industry, and is the most typical small country post office the writer has seen). By 1884 the number of sheep assessed in the state was 327,270, with the following distribution by counties:

Albany	115,800
Carbon	52,065
Fremont	33,000
Johnson	8,900
Laramie	57,987
Sweetwater	17,034
Uintah	42,484

"Albany County had the top assessed value of \$574,562 for its sheep, totalling about one-third of the value of all sheep in Wyoming at this time. Most of the ewes were of an Oregon Merino type, with some Mexican herds running throughout the State, some of which were being improved by eastern Merino rams. Every kind of ram was in vogue, many herds running Cotswolds, Oxfords, Hampshires, and Merinos in the same herd, but from this period many things occurred to cause Wyoming to become a leader in the production of the best sheep in the west. There is no doubt that previous to this time most men engaged in the running of livestock had looked upon it as a temporary money-making proposition

and everyone engaged therein looked forward to, as soon as possible, returning to God's country, a term usually referring to the place from which the person originally came. Even though discouraged by weather, privations and hard going, the stockmen began to look at the bright side of Wyoming. They realized that here was an ideal stock country, rough and rugged in many respects, but capable of becoming one of the most ideal places in which to reside. In Wyoming there was land in enormous quantities, much of which by the use of our bountiful supply of water, could be made to produce large crops. Our mountains were covered with timber and in the ground were coal, iron, and all minerals necessary for the upbuilding of a great state. Grass covered many sections of the country like a carpet, and what had been looked upon as a desert was found to be a great natural feeding ground, studded with salt sage, sage brush, and greasewood, all of which were naturally cured forage plants capable of supporting sheep through the winter in good condition even better than hay and forage in the eastern states.

Achievements Marvelous

"Glowing with the health bestowed by cloudless skies, and endowed with the energy and courage that is characteristic of a people living in a mountainous country, our stockmen bent themselves to the task before them, and marvelous have been their achievements. The land grants to the Union Pacific Railroad were opportunely placed upon the market, and the founding of large ranches took place by the purchase of these lands and the absorption under private ownership of vast tracts of government land under federal land laws. As was natural, foreign money was poured in lavishly, hoping to reap enormous returns from such a seemingly gratuitous opportunity. Many ranges were overstocked and the managers of concerns spent more time in spending money than in overseeing the production of it or looking after the safety of the investment, with the inevitable result, that with hard winters came great



U. S. Corriedale Ram No. 1 purchased from Ensor by U.S.D.A. 1914.



U. S. Corriedale Ram No. 23 born in 1915.



Corriedale Ram shows broad front and well set legs.



Corriedale Ram King Bros. No. 152. 1922.



Yearling Corriedale Ram, sired by Guthrie 177-1634 Champion ram of Australia imported by King Bros. 1920.



Corriedale Ram from Guthrie flock imported in 1929.

losses and with the depreciated market values, caused by this sudden enormous addition to the supply of meats, came financial disaster. These conditions were more prevalent with the running of cattle than sheep, but to some extent was common to both. But, in the main, the sheepmen were resident of the state, and the great majority were men who lived with their flocks, either on the range or on the ranch which was the headquarters of the outfit. Through the acquisition of land the control of water and range, all of the leading sheepmen commenced the building of a home and the improvement of their flocks; and as the demand for good purebred sheep increased, many secured the best rams that could be obtained both in the east and abroad. Many realized that sheep raised in the mountain regions would be better adapted for the range than those that were brought in from lower altitudes and different climates. This led to the founding of registered herds and as our men were satisfied only with the best, Wyoming registered sheep have made a name for themselves the world over. Massey, of Rawlins, can perhaps be given the credit of having the first registered herd, then Bob Taylor began to be heard as a purebred breeder, as his name as a breeder of Rambouillets and coarse wool breeds became known not only in the West but over the country at large. By 1890 the sheep in Wyoming had increased to over half a million, with Carbon County taking the place of Albany County in almost reverse numbers, Carbon having 170,000 and Albany 50,000. Uintah had 100,000 head and Fremont about 70,000.

All Sections Invaded

"The central and northern parts of the state were being occupied by sheepmen at this time, many being young men who had been in the employ of men in the southern part and who had been staked by having sheep given them on shares by former employers. About 1900 the Merino had been greatly developed in the middle west, the American Merino, a wonderful production in its way, which

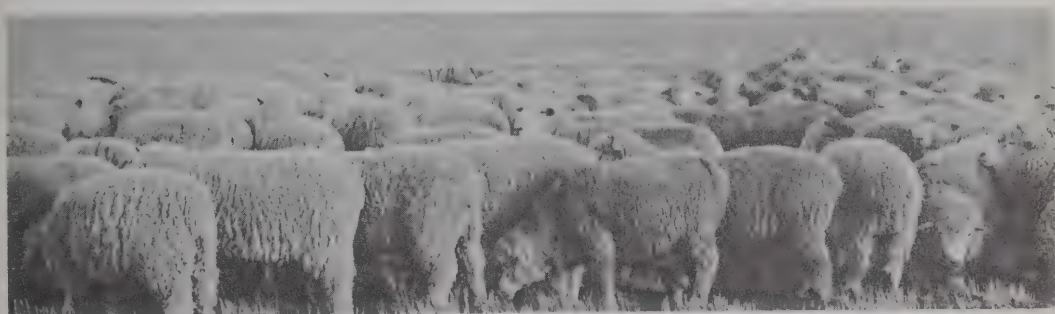
had been developed in Vermont, New York, Ohio, and Michigan was a great wool producer but a very poor mutton sheep. Its fleece, saturated with oil, rendered it unfit for range conditions, its small carcass rendered it unfit for mutton and its flesh was tough and wooly in flavor. Mr. Markham of Avon, New York, had imported some German Rambouillets as had Thomas Wycoff of Michigan; while Eager, Chapman, Lincoln and others in Ohio had been with them, developed an American Rambouillet type of Merino with a longer fleece, larger body and hardier constitution. The western flocks were the market for these rams bred in the middle west and their demands compelled the production of a sheep suitable for their needs. Wyoming alone was buying at that time some ten thousand rams a year, and at a cost of \$35.00 per head. This meant a sum of over a quarter of a million dollars, and without the western market the breeders of middle states would have been without a market for their rams.

Flocks Slaughtered During Depression

"The Worlds Fair at Chicago saw many momentous times for the western sheepmen. At this fair were some Rambouillets shipped over by Baron von Homeyer, that filled the eyes of the western sheepmen, but that summer came a financial depression that almost broke the heart of the country. Wethers that were worth one week \$5.00 per head, were sold during the following week for around \$1.00 to \$2.00 a head. Wool fell from twenty-two cents to five cents, and lambs from \$2.00 to seventy-five cents. Free trade had done its work, as it has done it in subsequent times since. Sheep in the middle west were slaughtered by droves and fed to hogs as the best way of realizing anything from them. The western sheepmen gritted his teeth and sought by every means in his power to live through this time of despair, and hold his home and lands and what sheep he could. The labor of man was begging for a means of existing and herders could be hired for their board and so by doing his own herding and doing with as little help



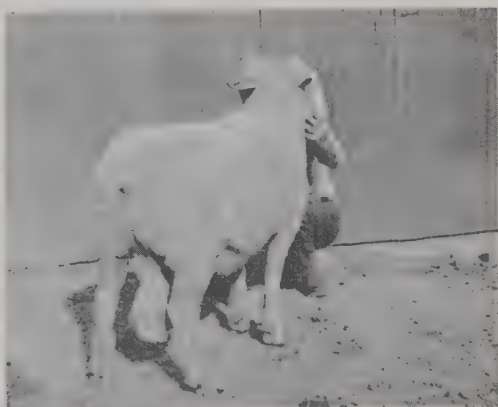
Corriedale Rams bred by Guthrie and imported by King Bros. 1920.



Yearling range Corriedale Rams. 1940.



Corriedale Ram from MacFarlane flock imported in 1934.



Corriedale Ram Guthrie C-28-10 imported in 1929. Real hindquarters.

as he could get along with, the owner was enabled to improve his flocks. The best rams and ewes could be bought for a song. Every western herd was benefited by this influx of good blood. The flocks of John Seeley and Hansen were admitted to the Rambouillet Association record. Bob Taylor was admitted to the Association and so was F. S. King Brothers. King Brothers started their herd of registered sheep by buying the son of the champion ram and champion ewe of the World's Fair, to which later was added the champion ewe of the St. Louis Fair, as well as the champion yearling ram. Robert Taylor had made quite a reputation at the Midwest State fairs and in 1903 King Brothers made their first exhibit, displayed at Sheridan, where they won their first silver cup. The next year several gold medals were won at the St. Louis Exposition. Later, at the Chicago International, they took five firsts and two second prizes, also champion ram, champion ewe and champion flock. In the state Fairs of Ohio, Michigan, Illinois, Iowa, Wisconsin and Nebraska, Wyoming stood at the head of the list. On the range great progress had been made in the breeding of sheep. By 1909 five million sheep were pasturing in Wyoming producing over forty million pounds of wool valued at \$8,536,000.00. The lamb crop was about two million in number and worth some eight million dollars. Thus, in one year the added wealth of the state yielded by the sheep was sixteen and a half million dollars, or one hundred and sixty-five dollars for every man, woman and child in Wyoming. This period was a high water mark of the nation, her range herds were more numerous than those of any state in the union and her sheep produced more pounds of wool per head than those of any other state and prosperity was universal throughout Wyoming. Soon a threat of reduced protection and the question of free trade began to be noised about throughout the nation with inevitable results. By 1914 our sheep had shrunk in numbers to three and a half million; wool production to 28 million

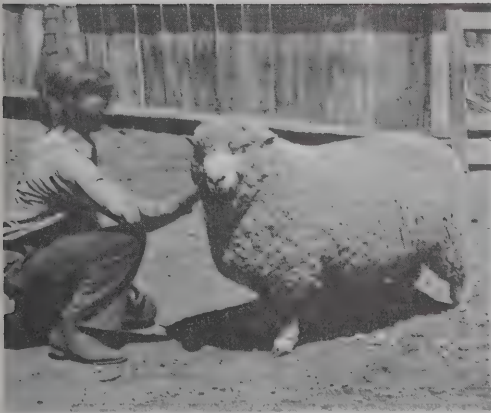
pounds and the lamb crop to a little over a million and a quarter, with a decreased value of over \$1.00 per head, making a revenue of \$50.57 per head of population compared to \$165.00 per capita five years previously.

Low Prices Bring Mutton Improvement

"One of the results of this shrinkage in values was the realization that some sheep must be found that would be suitable for the range, would produce a better crop of lambs, and these lambs to be of better mutton quality. It was known that New Zealand had been compelled to develop a cross-bred type of sheep on these lines and so at the request of the National Wool Growers Association and in compliance with an Act of Congress, F. S. King and F. R. Marshall went to New Zealand to investigate the breed and its suitability for the western range. Our western men had for several years been crossbreeding, trying to get a sheep that would have the best characteristics of both the Merino and long wool breeds, but no definite line of breeding had been carried on and no real results obtained. In fact the results had been that the herds contained sheep that varied from the Rambouillet type through every grade to a straight Lincoln cross. Some sheep carried a fleece that in itself seemed to have all grades of wool, both as to length of staple and coarseness of fiber. The result of this investigation by Messrs. King and Marshall was the introduction of the Corriedale. This breed had, by careful selection, been developed by the use of Lincoln and Leicester rams on Merino ewes and the resulting half blood lambs were carefully culled and then interbred for type. A stud book had been established and a registry kept for some fifty years shows that the type has been fixed and no mixed blood introduced. Wyoming as with the Rambouillet, has taken the foreground with Corriedales. The Wyoming Corriedale Sheep Company was incorporated by F. S. King and they at once proceeded to select the best that could be obtained. Five rams that have won championships in New Zealand have been imported year



Group of Corriedale Ewe Lambs. 1945.



Champion Corriedale Yearling Ewe at Denver in 1943.



Corriedale Ram. Champion at Denver in 1944.

after year and some of the best ewes from the leading flocks have also been brought over.

Problems in Control of Range

"There has not been space in this article to discuss the various struggles between sheep and cattle raisers for control of the range. Neither has it been possible to go into the many vexatious problems of the forest reserves as they arose, or discuss the final adjustments of grazing on what are now called the National Forests. As each problem arose the sheepmen met it as best they could and land problems, hard winters, and hard times have individually and collectively kept the stockmen in a worried state of mind.

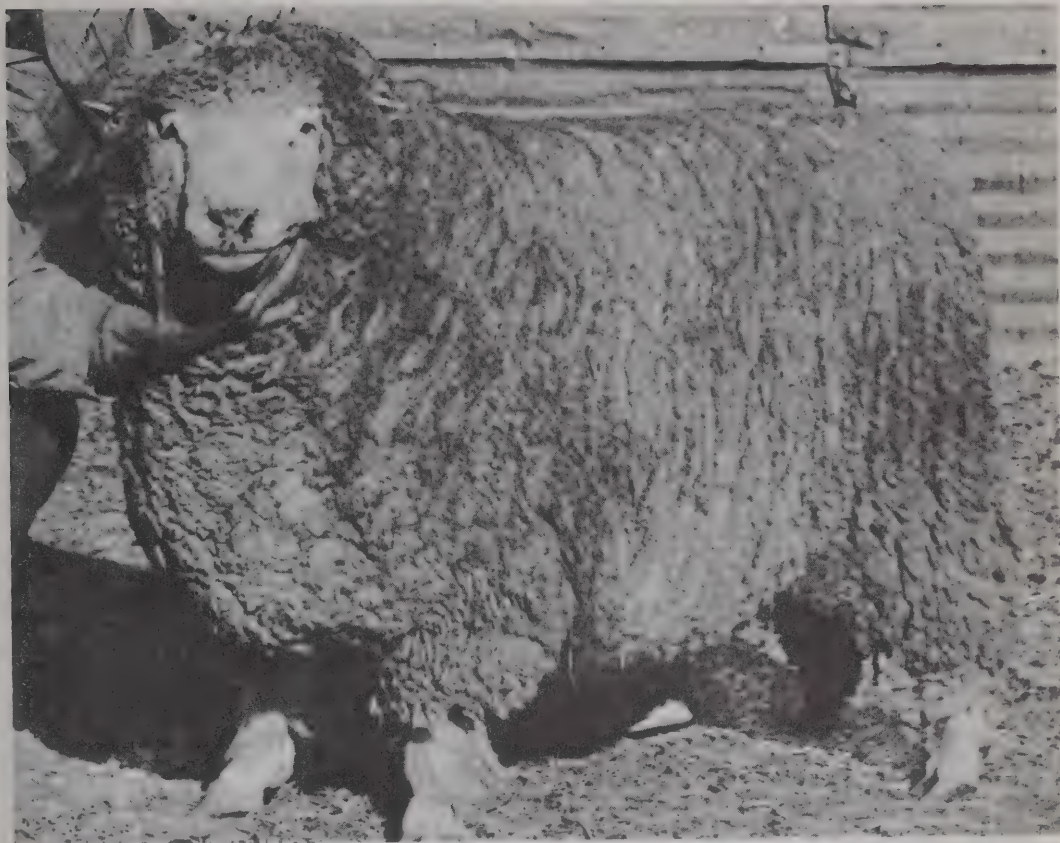
Dry Farmers Include the Range

"From 1910 onward the settlement by the dry farmer has helped reduce the amount of grazing land year by year and today, in many sections of the State, has made the running of sheep in large bands impossible. During the war period the costs of leasing range mounted higher and higher; feed became scarce, forage exorbitantly high and grain so high it was almost prohibitive. Yet, on the request of the government, the sheepmen stuck to their flocks and endeavored to increase the production of both wool and mutton. The summer of 1919 was one long to be remembered; drought was universal throughout Wyoming and in the fall at least one-third of the livestock had to be shipped out of the State. The remaining herds compelled the purchasing of hay and grain at prices that were appalling. Winter started from a month to six weeks earlier than the average and in October snow covered the State. Long cold months followed, ending with an April storm that has been unequalled since the March storm of 1878. This resulted in the loss of about one-third of the stock of the state and in many cases the cost of carrying through the winter was more than the sheep were worth in the spring. On top of this calamity came the depression in prices and sheep and wool were among the first to feel its

effects. In a week wool fell from 80 to 25 cents and sheep from \$18.00 to \$10.00 and then later to \$6.00. The price of lambs fell from \$8.00 to \$12.00 down to \$3.00. Of credit there was none and the stockmen were up against a stone wall. The banks of the west did everything possible and their exertions in behalf of the stockmen and farmer are an example of supreme effort against overwhelming odds that has seldom been equalled in the history of the country. Today the position of the stockman is similar to that of the allied forces when American troops began their arrival in France, their backs are to the wall. The Federal War Finance Board has come to their relief and long deferred legislation has at last recognized their helpless condition. Our government which has demanded that the farmer and stockman should produce all that was possible regardless of cost taking the produce at its own price for the benefit of the country had, at the close of the war, turned its back on them and regardless of the consequences closed its doors to their production and allowed foreign countries to dump their products on our markets, not even allowing them to pay income taxes on their profits made thereby. Shoddy was allowed to take the place of wool, even being permitted to be sold as pure wool, and frozen mutton from New Zealand was permitted to crowd out the native product and was sold as such. . . . Today the cloud has lifted somewhat, the winter is half over with no loss to date, and the range is at its best. Prices have begun to climb, credit is being re-established and although the number of sheep has shrunk from 5 to 2¼ million head, with good lamb crop in sight and prices of wool assuring a profit, the sheepmen of the State are looking forward to a new year.

Prospects for Sheep Industry More Hopeful

"A new year has dawned and it will take months of work and deprivation to recover, but the recovery seems certain. With a decrease in sheep throughout the world of over twenty-four per cent or some 66 million head, and a decrease in



Champion Corriedale Ram at Chicago International. 1946.



Champion Corriedale Ewe at Denver in 1945.



*Imported Corriedale Ram "Kerr C-404".
Beautiful crimp type.*

the United States of nearly ten million, the law of supply and demand must tell. There is no question that the day of large flocks is gone in many parts of the state, but in many places, as the land is settled and cultivated, the herds will be run on shares. Better sheep will be run and greater returns per head will be demanded. The great future of the sheep business lies with the young generation that is taking the place of the old timers. Most of these young men have been receiving or have University training and with the knowledge acquired in our agricultural colleges, together with the experience they have learned from their fathers, there is little doubt but that they will be equal to the occasion. Today the sheepman has a home instead of a wagon, lambing sheds to a great extent to protect the early lambs, owned or rented lands furnish the winter feed, and a permit in a National Forest assures a good summer range. The motor has replaced the broncho and the truck hauls the wool in place of the six or twelve-horse team. Shearing sheds equipped with machines have supplanted the open shearing pen and hand shears. Cotton cake and corn are ready to protect against starvation losses. Schools and highways help to bear higher taxes as well as to elevate the community, and these are sure signs of progress and advancement."

So Frank King wrote in 1922 and shortly after that time he hit other hard times and lost his wealth, his ranch, and eventually his life. His son, Art, after several years of untiring efforts finally redeemed the ranch and reestablished a fine flock of Corriedales and so the name of "King" is to be carried on in the sheep business through the efforts of Art King and his son Jerry, who now is about to leave to serve his country, as have several other generations of the King family.

The name of King has meant much to the sheep industry of the west in

the past, and it is indeed gratifying to know that Art and Jerry will carry the banner for the family; for a while it looked like the King name was to die out in the sheep and livestock business as have many other families of livestock breeders in the west. The glory that was in many famous flocks of the west has passed with the dispersal of their flocks with no interested descendants to carry on the family tradition. The King Brothers, Frank, Bert, and Joe, as well as their brother Ed, who had holdings in the San Luis Valley of Colorado, have written a fine chapter in the livestock history of the west. Of the older generation, only Bert remains and he has purchased the old homestead some eighteen miles northeast of Laramie along with five sections of land so that a King will have land on the Laramie Plains. Bert King has held many positions of responsibility and has now settled down to enjoy some years free of responsibility and spends the winter months in Arizona but returns to enjoy the salubrious sunshine of Wyoming's summer clime.

The fame of the King name in sheep circles is being maintained. In July of 1955 the second World Corriedale Sheep Congress was held in Laramie. The first one was five years ago in New Zealand. Art King of Cheyenne, a son of Frank King, and Jerry, a grandson attended both congresses and Frank King and son Art have been presidents of American Corriedale Association.

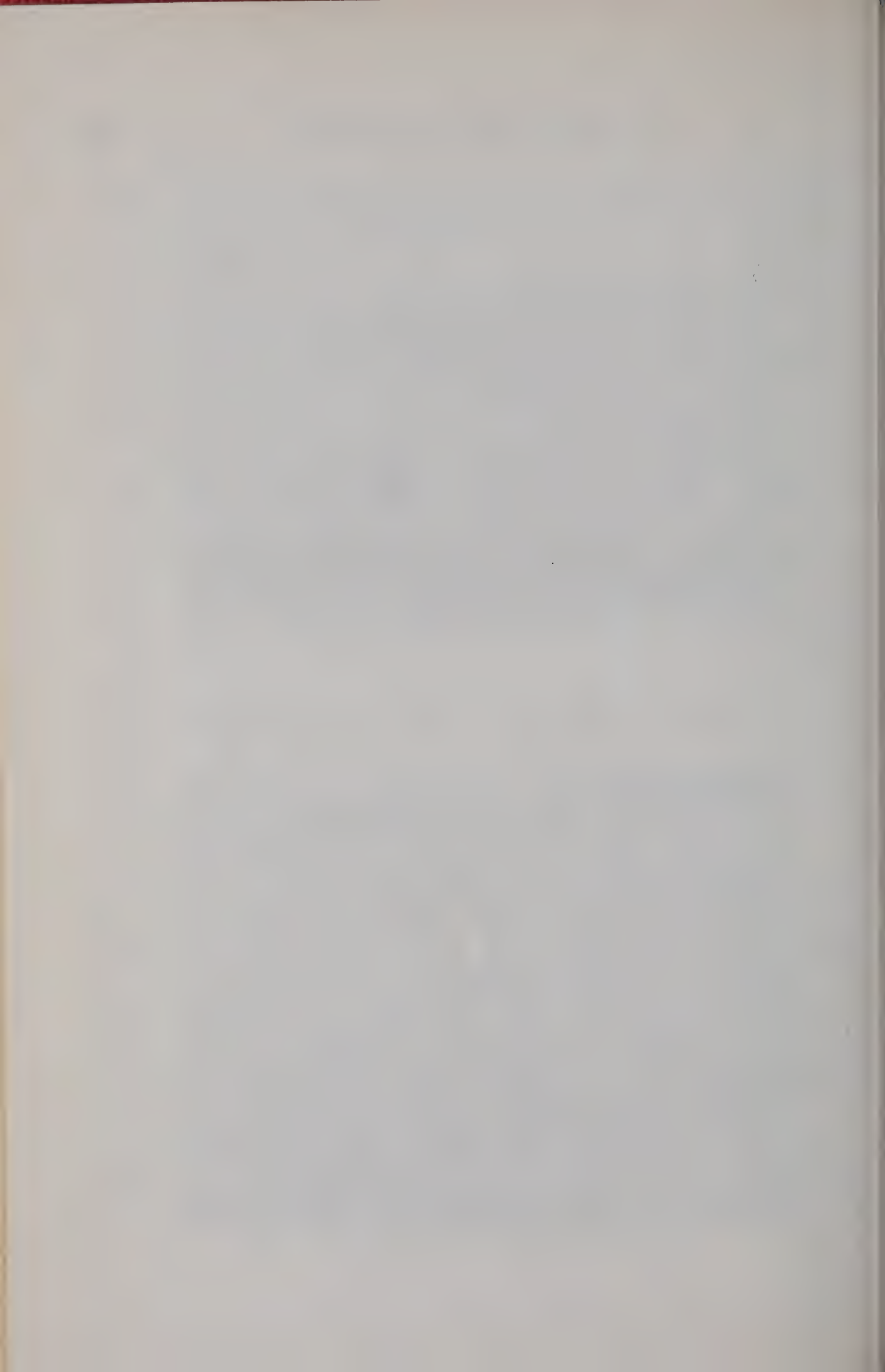
The late Joe King and his brother, Bert, have furnished the author with all of the material for this chapter.



Range Corriedale Ram Lambs in feed lot in 1947.



Corriedale Ram Lamb at Denver 1946.



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CHAPTER XIX

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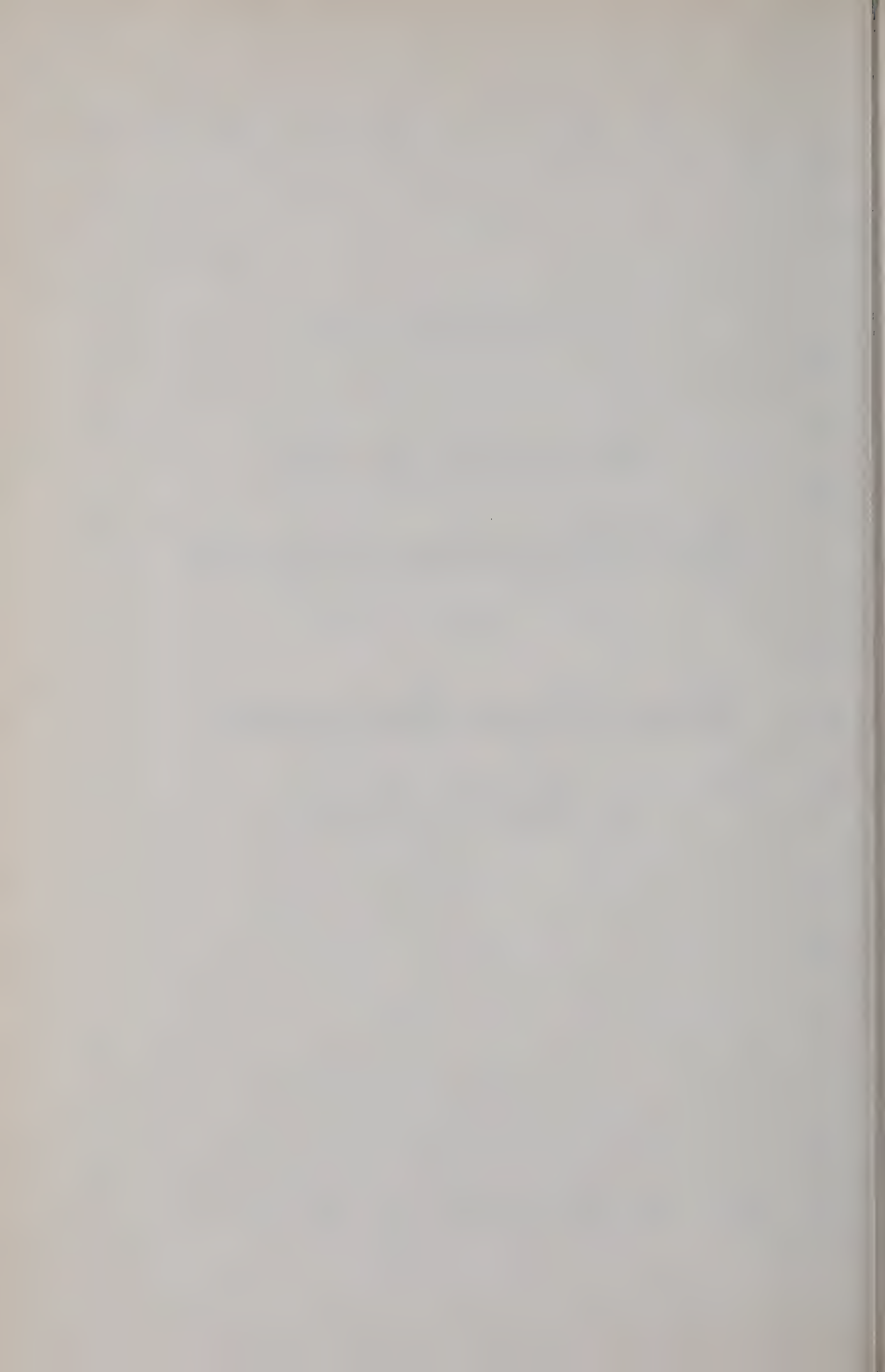
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CHAPTER 19

RANCHES OF THE ELK MOUNTAIN COUNTRY AND BOW RIVER BOUNDARY OF LARAMIE PLAINS

By Willing Richardson

JUST NORTH of old Rock Creek Crossing, now known as Arlington, is a portion of Carbon County which in a way is a part of the Laramie Plains which run to Medicine Bow and a little west and north. In fact the geographical boundary might be considered at the Dana Ridge west of Hanna. This is well shown in the physiographic map in Chapter 6.

Carbon County: Home of Coal

Carbon county in southern Wyoming, aptly named from its great deposits of coal, has some beautiful high mountains, lakes, and mountain rivers of crystal clear cold water winding their way through velvety green mountain valleys. There are some desolate looking alkali flats covered with greasewood and sagebrush too.

The Red Desert: Sheep Range Par Excellence

Then there is the Red Desert, once considered worthless but now one of the finest winter livestock ranges in the west, thanks to the low growing salt sage whose low clumps provide a feed equal in food value to high quality alfalfa hay. Again this apparently worthless barren land has untold and unfound riches underneath, in the form of precious and semi-precious minerals. In recent years uranium, a basic product of this atomic age, has been found in such desert country.

Old Trails Crossing This Area

This area is crossed by the following trails, roads, and highways. The Cherokee Trail, the Overland Trail, the Union Pacific Railroad, the Lincoln Highway, the Fetterman Road and the Fort Halleck-Percy Road.

Old Landmarks

Here are located the following historical places, now deserted, that took part in the building of the country such as: Fort Steele, Fort Halleck, the old towns of Carbon, Battle Lake, Rudefeha, Victoria, Dillon, etc., now ghosts of once thriving and prosperous communities. On the shores of Battle Lake in 1878, as a member of the Henry Draper Eclipse Expedition, Thomas A. Edison, aided by the frayed ends of his bamboo fishing rod, conceived the idea of a non-conducting, enduring carbon filament resulting in the later perfection of his incandescent electric lamp.

The towns of Dillon, Victoria, and Rudefeha among others, are reminders of past mining activity in this area.

Jim Baker had a log cabin on a site between the present towns of Dixon and Savery.

Some of the other communities lived on to the present time, preserving the history that goes with them, and can point back with pride to the growth of their communities with civic pride. In some cases the names have been

changed or dropped for reasons no one seems to know. Such cases are Rockdale, Medicine Bow Crossing, Ox Bow Crossing on the Platte, and Trabing City near Buffalo, Wyoming, which has a direct connection with the commercial history of Medicine Bow through the Trabing Brothers who had holdings in both places.

Mountain Ranges

To the south are the Medicine Bow Mountains, so named because the Indians, so it is said, found bow wood for their bows, and medicinal plants for their treatment at this location. Then to the south are the Sierra Madre Mountains, now known as the Hayden Division of the Medicine Bow National Forest. To the north are the Freezeout Mountains, the Pedro Mountains, the Seminole, Ferris and Green Mountains, all of which carry incidents of history, some disclosed and some secret, to be kept wrapped deep in the bosoms of the mountains, never again to be available to man.

Frontier Men

The Frontier Men who came west came as young men just for the adventure and "hell" of it, or to look for new homes or an opportunity to make a living, for the most part in honest toil, but in some instances a small number used any means fair or foul, which was at their disposal. These solitary and collective people built up what is now spoken of as the western personality. They were a lonely friendly sort who kept many things to themselves but were always ready to assist one through a wild, dangerous country and give every help within their power, which often consisted of a marksmanship respected by foes as

well as friends. Their marksmanship was an absolute necessity for they were dependent upon it for their safety and food. Its outcome decided whether you lived to tell the story or were left for wild animals to dispose of and digest your history.

These great names left by the pioneers and guides were never thought of by themselves, for they were modest persons who went about their daily tasks with little thought of public acclaim but their deeds of valor lived after them and today their names are carried on by statues and by mountains, lakes, rivers, etc. Some of the mountain peaks named after frontiersmen were not named by the climbers who had no other purpose than to climb the peaks to get a view of the surrounding countryside, reporting what they saw to the government. Then some government clerk, not knowing any name for the mountain, deemed it only logical to call it after the man who was seeking geological information for the government and not personal fame. There were some who built forts and road houses along our great emigrant trails to give protection and help to the weary travelers. Thousands and thousands of weary travelers passed by and rested in the shelter of these habitations. What was more natural than for them to speak of the place by the name of the operator. By operating such a place, he unintentionally built himself a monument.

The Old Scout

We speak of the old scout as one of the best travelers and trackers who ever existed. What is more necessary for a man in a wild country to learn,



Mrs. Wm. Richardson and two milk-fed colts in front of Richardson house in 1896. Willing Richardson Collection



Wm. Richardson and "Old Curly" Shorthorn milk cow and calf. Willing Richardson Collection.



One of first Hereford Bulls brought to Elk Mountain. Owned by Wm. Richardson. Willing Richardson Collection.

than to track, trail, and interpret all of the signs and actions of wild life? They had to learn to read by sight, all trails and tracks of roving bands of Indians or renegade Whites. They were not allowed even one mistake; if so they might not live to make another. The general practice was to back-track or hide out until the roving bands of Indians or outlaws were well out of that country.

Sometimes even the horses of the pioneers would be stolen and they were afoot for sure. Then it became necessary to trail and track to get back the stolen horses. It required every ounce of their knowledge to track and find their horses. They must watch for the least scratch on the dirt, a rock overturned to expose the unweathered side, a willow displaced, or, in the early morning they must look for spider webs broken up in straight stretches which lay close to the ground and with a little dew on them, and could be seen very plainly when they had been broken.

The Cherokee Trail

Let us start with the Cherokee Trail which has a north and south branch. One comes out of North Park, Colorado and down the North Platte River, skirts the east foothills of the old Sierra Madre forest and on to Twin Groves and is known as the south route. The north route comes east of the Medicine Bow Mountains and across the Laramie Plains. We will pick up this branch at "Rockdale" now called Arlington. Here it crosses Rock Creek, a beautiful fast-running mountain stream full of granite boulders up to two feet in diameter, hence its name. From the crossing the trail winds

northwest around some very large hills. This trail usually followed a straight line and did not contour hills unless they were extremely steep. Coming upon a small creek which carries a good deal of water in the spring runoff, or thaw and thence north through a sagebrush country to the north of a long hill running east and west; thence west in a straight line for a mountain pass some fifteen miles away. It goes up a gentle grade for some five or six miles and then drops down a steep hill about half a mile long down to the beautiful little valley of Wagonhound Creek, which winds its way through a dense growth of willows and disappears to the north, following below some high rugged bluffs. From here the trail leads over some gentle rolling hills for four or five miles west onto the Muddy Creek and coming up the west slope to the top of the hills. To the north of the trail is a primary Indian arrow-chipping ground, which the author has investigated several times. At this location they broke rocks to get suitable pieces to make arrow heads out of. There are tons and tons of broken rocks piled up here, which have been carried from near and far. This primary chipping ground is some two hundred yards wide and nearly half a mile long. Any piece that would shatter was discarded. The pieces that would break with the grain of the rock were taken. Why this one place was selected the author does not know nor did a curator that he took there, for you could find shattered and broken bits of rock from nearly every known hard variety that was useable for arrows. The curator looked at this scramble of rock for a long time and then turned to the author



Early spring grazing on the Richardson Ranch in 1896. Willing Richardson Collection.



One of the first hay sweeps in Elk Mountain Valley. Made by Dain Mfg. Co. Willing Richardson Collection.



Edward L. Richardson on his favorite mount. 1899. Willing Richardson Collection.

and said, "Now if you know of a sandy ridge somewhere in this locality we might find the secondary chipping ground." When asked why sandy ground he said the only reason he could give was that one must go to the Happy Hunting Ground to inquire, as they had taken the secret with them. Some quarter of a mile south of the Cherokee Trail there is a small sandy ridge where the Indians did some secondary chipping. Small fine chips of rock and some arrows can be found here, but it has been picked over quite thoroughly. Evidently most of the arrow material has been carried elsewhere to be worked on as desired. These chipping grounds can be found scattered all over the west.

The Medicine Bow Valley

From this point one travels over valleys, mostly covered with sagebrush, and dotted here and there with small beautiful aspen groves on each side of the trail. Coming to the top of the hill on the east side of the Medicine Bow River valley you behold a most wonderful sight; a valley some four miles wide of beautiful lowlands and benchland, stretching from south to north some twelve miles is visible to the eye from this point. This area is covered with a luxuriant growth of wild grasses and in the spring a veritable garden of wild flowers, of names too numerous to mention, and down through this lowland winds the Medicine Bow River, bordered with willow brush and groves of beautiful aspen. Here and there along the valley are scattered clumps of cottonwood trees, some sixty to eighty feet high with their wide, spreading shade-producing branches. These groves make

the most beautiful park to loiter in, the like of which no man can create and is due to nature itself. The willow growth is some half to three-quarter of a mile in width along the length of the valley and the willow bordered streams were the natural home of the beaver, which furnished a most important product for the early industry of fur gathering.

Beaver, the Master Builder

These beaver worked and played in these streams and their engineering work in dam building is among the wonders of nature and never equalled by man. A beaver can cut a log and take it to the bottom of the water, some eight to ten feet deep, place it there so it is anchored and never will raise to the surface again. A man cannot do this without tying a weight to the log.

The natural food of beavers is the bark of trees, aspen and willows preferred. They cut the trees in short lengths and place it in the bottom of their dams for winter food, when the ice gets too thick for them to break out—hence the necessity for them to leave the stick or log on the bottom of the pond. This is the little animal which was most responsible for the coming of the trapper and frontiersman, who were in search of beaver fur. These men learned the general terrain of the country and the easiest way of getting there. These old trappers naturally became the best guides of the early day west and became known as scouts.

From the Medicine Bow River the Cherokee trail leads on west, up over some high hills on the west edge of the Medicine Bow valley, over the Divide and down into Pass Creek, another



Dehorning chute at Richardson Ranch. Left to right: Joe Widdowfield, Tom Richardson, Wm. Richardson, and Willie Widdowfield. Early 1890s. Willing Richardson Collection.



Home of Chas. J. Vagner in Carbon. Later moved to Elk Mountain and was home of L. R. Meyer. Now owned by Wm. Burke. Willing Richardson Collection.



"Dudettes of the Gay Nineties." Two "dressed up" cow girls, one from Illinois and one from Iowa. 1898. Willing Richardson Collection.



Shipment of cattle from Richardson Ranch (Figure 8 Ranch) on way to Medicine Bow in early 1890s. Willing Richardson Collection.



Party of "mountain climbers?" in wagon on way to top of Elk Mountain in 1902. Willing Richardson Collection.

mountain valley, with a creek running through the lowlands. Now you come up against a narrow chain of mountains extending some eighteen miles north from the Medicine Bow range of mountains. The northermost one is Elk Mountain, so named on account of the thousands of elk that used to summer there. The next is Deer Mountain, so named for the deer that loved to stay in its beautiful aspen groves. Between these two mountains flows Pass Creek, which was so named because it is the only possible route that a creek could flow through between these mountains. To the south of Deer Mountain is Sheep Mountain, named because of the bands of Bighorn sheep that grazed its slopes during the 1870s through the 80s and early 90s, but have long since become extinct. The Cherokee Trail passed between Deer and Sheep Mountains and the pass has always been known as Cherokee Pass. On the east side of the pass an Indian battle was fought and all that is left to tell the gruesome tale is some scattered Indian beads. To the south of Sheep Mountain was Wood Mountain, given its name because of the luxuriant growth of pine and spruce that adorned its eastern slope. Between these two mountains runs Cedar Pass, so named for the straight-grained white mountain cedar, one of the few if not the only forest of cedar in this section. The Indian tribes went there for their bow wood. The author has seen one bow made from this cedar. The mountain cedar should not be confused with the crooked scrub cedar that grows in the lower country and is very brash and twisted in grain.

Indian Hunting Grounds Marked

On roaming the western hills if you look closely and know where to look, you can see rocks piled in long straight lines or making large bends. If the bend or line is long, the boulders might be from ten to fifty feet apart. Early frontiersmen say that these lines of boulders marked the boundaries of different families or tribes, for their hunting grounds.

Tepee Rings

At various places in the west one will find large circles of boulders in a series of circles marking the site of early tepee camps of Indians. These rocks had been used to hold the bottom of the tepee down and when the tepee was moved they must have pulled the bottom of the tepee out from under the rocks. These rock rings can be seen along the windward side of hills or ridges, usually back from the brink of the hill, a distance of from one hundred to two hundred feet. The wind hitting the face of the hill, jumps up over for a certain distance, leaving a calm space where the tepee was not buffeted so much. Another factor was the clear vision up wind where they could look over the edge of the hill for game without the human scent warning the game. When hunting by stalking it was just a game of wait until the unwary animal got within killing distance.

When the author was a boy living on his father's ranch on the Medicine Bow River he saw six Indians follow the Cherokee trail, three bucks and three squaws. Speed was not their motto and as for time they had that in abundance and there was always another day in reserve. The Cherokee

Trail passed through the Richardson Ranch and the Indians mentioned saw some deer go into a small aspen grove then proceeded to get them. The bucks went to the leeward of the grove and sat down with their guns. The three squaws began to set fire to the grass on the other three sides and sat down to wait until the fire "roasted" the deer out, which it did. They got all three deer and also destroyed the grove and considerable range land to boot.

We have been telling about an Indian hunting party. These Indians had the regulation traveling equipment consisting of two long poles joined together with a piece of rawhide, some 18 inches wide and six to seven feet long. One pole was placed on each side of the horse and the piece of rawhide holding the poles together rested on the horse's back holding the poles loosely together and fairly well up on the horse's back. A shorter piece not unlike a breast harness went from pole to pole in front of the horse's chest. Their belongings were put back of the horse, on the poles and the back ends of the poles dragged along on the ground. This constant dragging of poles, called travois, is what marked the Cherokee and other trails so plainly through a constant wearing down and dusting out of the soil along their route.

Indian Battles

Indian battles were fought along these mountains for they were the natural hunting grounds and different tribes came here for bow wood and game and met on a common battle ground. These battles were usually fought with much savagery, and one

side or the other was completely exterminated.

The Indians called anything they liked "good medicine." Thus came the name Good Medicine Bow, and the early frontiersman, not knowing any other name for the adjacent mountains and river, called them "Good Medicine Bow."

Picking up the Cherokee Trail at Pass Creek, it went on west to the top of the divide, then took a southwest direction from the mountain, down the steep west side, and on to a small creek, now called Lake Creek. Following this stream through sagebrush flats and luxuriant growths of range grass, one comes to the North Platte River, at the mouth of Lake Creek. The North Platte is a majestic river at this point, with willows and groves of large cottonwood adorning its banks. From here it went southwest, up another little creek through beautiful grassy hills and valleys to join the southern branch of the Cherokee trail close to Twin Groves.

Overland Trail

Now we will pick up the Overland Trail at Rockdale, now Arlington. At this crossing the road winds around some large hills and down to another little creek some five miles distant, later to be known as Foote Creek, where an Indian shot at and wounded Bob Foote who escaped into some bushes and lived to tell the tale. Bob Foote later moved from Elk Mountain to Buffalo and owned a store there which was headquarters for the settlers during the Johnson County Invasion. The trail runs in a northwest direction across a sagebrush flat to the high cliffs above Wagonhound Creek. Here is

the grave of Jake Schmere, a horse thief and murderer, who met the same fate he dealt out to others. He was shot through the head and all his belongings taken and his body covered with rocks. The person who perpetrated this crime was never known or captured. From here the trail goes down a steep hill to the creek where the wagons dropped into the bed of the creek. There was a large rock in the center of the road with sand all around it. A wagon driving in here would find its wheels sinking into the sand, letting the wagon down upon the rock and breaking the "hounds" of the wagon. Hence the name Wagonhound Creek.

Indian Raid on Wagonhound

There was a flash Indian raid here in the early days and several persons were killed. Their graves are on the west bank of the creek, on the south side of the road, as grim evidence of the short, hot battle. From here on the trail leads up over some steep rough hills to the top of a hill above another creek, where several emigrants took a shot at a grizzly bear, wounding him. He charged and clawed one to death, before he could be dispatched. His grave is there to tell of his mistake so the creek became known as Bear Creek. Thence the trail leads on over a rolling hilly country covered with sagebrush and you come to the top of a high hill looking down upon the Medicine Bow Crossing, now the town of Elk Mountain, which is a beautiful sight to see. The Medicine Bow River, a crystal clear stream, winds down through large groves of majestic cottonwood trees interwoven with willows and with little parks here and there

where the emigrants loved to camp for a few days and gain well earned rest for themselves and their stock. The Overland Trail leads on west across several miles of flats and rolling hills, coming to the northern foot of Elk Mountain, which is some 12,000 feet high and is well known as a landmark of southern Wyoming. Fort Halleck, an ancient protection for emigrants, is at this location; in fact it was just east of the Quealy Ranch. Numerous crystal clear and ice cold streams flow down from the snowbanks of the mountain. From there the trail goes on to the top of the divide, through Rattlesnake Pass. At this point, some two miles to the south of the trail was the spot where the Sheriff of Carbon County and his deputy were shot by a bunch of bandits who intended to rob a Union Pacific train. From here the trail goes down Rattlesnake Creek for several miles and goes in a southwest direction, across sagebrush country to Pass Creek, thence in a southwest direction across broad rolling hills covered with sagebrush and a luxurious growth of wild grass. We now come to a large rim rock and skirting this for some two miles or more, dropping down on the Platte River, at what was known as the Ox Bow Ford, or Crossing. This crossing is situated in a large bend on the North Platte River, running west some half mile or so and coming nearly back on itself and at the west end of the bow is the point where the emigrant trains going west entered the river to begin their swim or ford, depending on the amount of water in the stream; thus coming out on the down side of the bow. Those traveling east entered the river above the bow for the same protection. Here



Elk Mountain Saloon in 1900s. Willing Richardson Collection.



Sam Johnson of Johnson Bros. Ranch, Medicine Bow, Wyo. Brand abbrev. Johnson Bros. Courtesy Norman J. Eckerson.



Sam Johnson. A print from an old tintype picture. Courtesy Norman J. Eckerson.



First two-story building built in Elk Mountain. Put up by Vagner, Meyer and Olson as a store in 1902. Willing Richardson Collection.

we find graves of some of the weary travelers who never reached their sought-after destination. From here the trail leads up Sage Creek some fifteen miles through desolate greasewood flats, then into beautiful Sage Creek Basin, and on over Bridger Pass.

Tie Road from Ft. Halleck

The Fort Halleck-Percy Road was a busy thoroughfare over which were hauled thousands of ties from Elk Mountain's evergreen forests, for the building of the Union Pacific railroad. Other thousands of cords of wood were hauled to serve as fuel for the railroad engines, before the coal mines were opened up. Later these coal beds were found underlying hundreds of sections of land throughout Wyoming. The road leaving Fort Halleck went in a northeast direction across a grassy flat to enter the hills and then wound its way through the small valleys coming out at the south end of a very abrupt steep hill, some 800 feet high, which runs north from there for a mile or more. The road follows close to the foot of the hill, as there is a clear fresh water lake only some four hundred feet from the foot of the long hill. Along this road is where the Bloody Lake massacre took place, and some wood haulers were killed and their ox teams hamstrung. From here on the road leads in a northerly direction for some twelve miles across sagebrush country. The road can be seen where it runs in a straight line over hills and down through valleys, to end up at Percy Station, a very busy and lively place, as the trading center of this part of the country from 1868-70.

The Medicine Bow-Fort Fetterman freight road left Medicine Bow Sta-

tion, going in a northerly direction, crossing the Medicine Bow River some 3 miles north of the station, and then going north across some beautiful grass lands and some desolate alkali flats covered with greasewood. The road leads on to thirty-two mile, where the road crosses the Little Medicine Bow and from there it winds its way through the breath-taking Laramie Mountains, to the top of the divide to start down Box Elder Canyon to come out at Fort Fetterman and thence northward to Trabing City, Buffalo, Sheridan and other northern points. In those days there were no railroads to Montana and freight, etc., came south to connect with the railroad at Wyoming points.

The Life of William Richardson

William Richardson was born October 10, 1847 at West Aucland, Durham Shire, England, the son of a collier. He was one of five children whose father worked twelve hours a day, to make a meager living for his family. William went to school for two years. One day his father did not return home and his mother sent William to the pit to look for his father. Together with the mine boss he went to the place where his father was working and they found him dead under a massive rock fall.

William Leaves School for Work

William was taken out of school and set to work in the mines at the tender age of nine years. His job was to run a trap door which regulated the air to make circulation in the mine. Mine cars drawn by mules had to pass through the tunnel and it was his job to pull the door open when the mule and car came along. From this apprenticeship William gained promo-



Sam W. Johnson Ranch House on Medicine Bow River. Cement slab near gate bears year 1888, presumably year house was built. Courtesy Norman J. Eckerson.



Samuel Johnson is seated with his brother John H. Johnson, standing behind him. About 1888. Courtesy Norman J. Eckerson.



Saloon, store and parlour, all under one roof in Elk Mountain in the 1880s. Operated in turn by Jones, Bistorious, Pulman, Schoen, Morek and Evans. Willing Richardson Collection.



"Elk Mountain Social Center for Men." 1901. Left to right: Hans Glad, Grand P. Jones, John D. Evans, William Dickerson, William Carr, Henry Edfores, Cid Hastings and Fred Hansen. Willing Richardson Collection.

tions up through the mine to become one of the best miners of that time. He always resented the domination by the Lords, Dukes and Gentry, with their high way of living contrasted to the inferiority of the working class.

Hoped To Go To Canada

The one thought in his young mind was to go to Canada as soon as possible. It was a long, hard drag to save enough money to buy a steerage ticket to Canada on a sailing vessel. Finally, at the age of 22 years, he attained his goal. It was a long, wearisome journey, taking six weeks on the ocean from Liverpool, England, to Quebec, Canada, where he landed April 2, 1869. He had less than a pound sterling in his pocket but obtained a job as a deck hand for a few days. From Quebec he went up the St. Lawrence River to Montreal, where he stayed and worked until he had earned enough money to go on his way.

What Is Treacle?

An amusing incident took place on the ocean trip. Each day they posted the menu for the next meal. Among the various foods listed was molasses. Several of the people were talking about eating a lot of that. At the next meal he did not see anything new, so he asked for the molasses to see what this new food was like. When it was passed to him he said, "Ell, that is treacle."

All Aboard for Good Old U. S. A.

From Montreal he got a ride across the St. Lawrence River, going south to the coal fields of Pennsylvania, along the Monongahela River. From there he went down the Ohio River to Rush Run where he worked in

the coal mines, finally landing in Bevere, Missouri, still on his way west. While in Bevere he went to work on the section for the Hannibal and St. Joe Railroad. He told how much he enjoyed the outdoors. After eating his dinner (now called lunch) he sat on a log and listened to the birds. The old section boss, A Yankee, came along one day and said, "What are you doing?" Bill said, "Listening to those birds making that funny cracking noise." The boss said, "Why boy, you can't see them?" Then he took William down and showed him the frogs.

Bill Decides He Needs An Education

About this time, William Richardson became very perturbed about his lack of education. He said, "I saw small boys who could read and write, so I decided to improve my education." He went to night school as often as possible.

A Little Homesickness: Then He Came to Carbon, Wyoming

William, who was becoming homesick for his native land, went back to England. He stayed there less than two months and was glad to start for the States again. Going right across the continent he landed in Carbon, Wyoming, in 1872 where he began working in the coal mines.

He Squats On Some Land

In the summer of 1873 he took up a squatter's claim on Rock Creek at what was called Big Timbers. A squatter's claim was any 160 acres of land a man chose for a homestead and built a house on it, and began to improve it; until such time as he found it convenient to go to Cheyenne and file his claim before the U. S. Land



*An early log house on S. W. Johnson Ranch.
Courtesy Norman J. Eckerson.*



*Log barn on S. W. Johnson Ranch.
Courtesy Norman J. Eckerson.*



Original Log Cabin of Sam and John Johnson. Half hidden in undergrowth behind present ranch home. Courtesy Norman J. Eckerson.



The Richardson sheep with Elk Mountain in the background. By courtesy Record Stockman.

Commissioner. A squattor's claim was recognized by all frontier people and such rights were bought and sold. Some old timers had a practice of taking up squattor's claims, building a cabin, and selling out their claims, most settlers being glad to get the cabin.

Cost of a Squattor's Claim

The sale usually amounted to \$200.00 to \$500.00 which was a lot of money in those days. He built his cabin and barn out of cottonwood trees, and went back to the Carbon mines for the winter. He moved out to the claim the last of April, 1874 and worked with the large cow outfits. In this occupation he became acquainted with such men as Ora Haley, Currier, Harris, and Cooper. He also knew the Swan Land and Cattle Company, commonly known as the Two Bar, from their brand, which was two bars on the left hip.

He often told a story about Ora Haley at calving time in the spring. He and another man got into an argument about who owned a calf and finally came to blows. Richardson told them "I wouldn't fight over a \$5.00 calf." They said, "Hell, Billie, in another year that calf will be worth \$20.00 and it don't cost anything to raise him."

After branding in the spring, the cows and calves were left to roam any place they wanted to, as fences were not yet known on the range. Richardson went back to his claim for the summer. That fall, in September, he went out with the Haley outfit and rode with their herd, and also to pick up his cattle that had scattered far and wide. While with this outfit, he became acquainted with Sam Phillips,

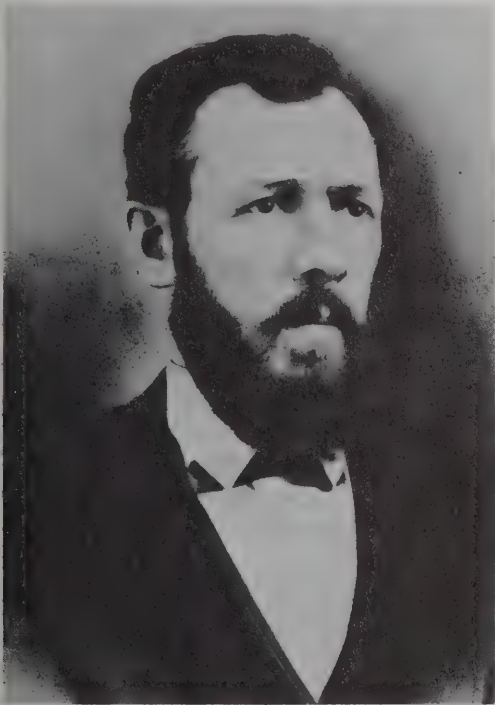
and this friendship carried on down through the years. Phillips was roundup foreman for Ora Haley.

Nigger Sam Comes to Wyoming

While camped on Cooper Lake a Negro walked up to the round-up camp and asked for something to eat, which he was given gladly, in the good old western fashion. He stood around the evening fire and slept on the ground that night. In the early morning he asked Phillips for some little job. When Phillips asked him where he was from, he replied, "From the south, Sir, you know of Texas?" Phillips said with interest, "Why that is my home State." They all looked at one another and grinned. Suddenly a bright idea came to Phillips and he said, "We need a cavvy wrangler." A cavvy wrangler is one who herds all the cow horses and brings them in so the riders can change horses at noon. They are brought in at evening and he picks up the afternoon horses and has them back at daybreak so the boys can get their mounts for the morning ride. This cavvy wrangling is a job that has to be done but nobody likes it. They asked the colored boy whether he could ride and he said, "Shore, a little." They had an outlaw horse in camp which was a mean buckner and all in true western style sensed a little fun coming up. They told him to take his pick of any saddle and he selected a good one. They saddled up the horse, put blindfolds on him and got the boy in the saddle. The blindfolds were yanked off and all expected to see the colored boy on the ground in a few minutes. However, he did not come off, and rode the bronco out and brought in the cavvy. Coming back he said to



Elk Mountain and Richardson Ranch form the air. By courtesy Gordon Richardson.



*Michael Quealy.
Courtesy Mrs. Lawrence Quealy.*



Louie McKnight Johnson, wife of S. W. Johnson. Louie and her sister Maggie came out from Bedford, Indiana to Carbon, Wyoming in 1890 to teach school. Both found husbands, Louie was married to Samuel W. Johnson and Maggie to R. L. McCarthy, a newspaper editor at Carbon. Courtesy Norman J. Eckerson.

Phillips, "Boss, that is one of the hardest trotting horses I ever tried to ride." This same Negro was one of the most colorful characters who ever rode the Wyoming range. He was round-up foreman for several of the large cattle outfits. He was no other than NIGGER SAM. He never resented his name, and was always welcome wherever there was a gathering of cowboys or cowmen.

Richardson made arrangements to live with one Pete Fisher during that winter. In return he was to round up his cattle and bring them home, which he did, but when he came back in the fall with Fisher's and his own cattle, Fisher would not let him stay. He took his cattle and moved down to his homestead claim, putting his cattle, which were few in number, on the nearby range. His cabin was not completed. As the winter with its cold weather moved in, he kept getting colder and colder. He had no floors in the cabin and the cold wind swept in through the cracks between the logs. Everything he had to eat was frozen solid and he did not have enough bedding to keep warm at night. Finally he froze both his feet and hands, and decided it was time to leave. He rode up to Pete Fisher's place and offered to sell him his cattle. After some bargaining the deal was closed. He loved the Rock Creek valley and hated to leave because he could see good possibilities and a promising future there, but the severe cold weather made the decision for him. The next day, wrapping his feet in burlap sacks to cover his shoes, he started horseback for Carbon and made the twenty-seven-mile ride in below zero weather, landing there a few days before Christmas.

He celebrated until after the New Year, then got work in the mines for the rest of the winter of 1874-75. He had a hard time finding a place to board. Finally Mrs. Robert Jack agreed to board him, with the consideration that he would pay two men's board. William Richardson stood 5 ft. 8 inches tall and weighed 180 pounds. He had health and endurance seldom given to any man and an appetite that would do credit to a wolf, and he was one of the hardest workers that ever hit Wyoming. During the winter he hung up a mark in the Carbon coal mine, which was far above what any other man could come up to no matter how hard he tried. He was working in a room with a 12-foot face, 7 feet high. He hand mined, shot and loaded 6 ft. 6 inches of coal in ten hours. His nearest competitor was Bob Jackson, who fell a few inches short. His greatest working partner was an Irishman named Pat Murphy, who was a very hard worker. They never spoke to one another during working hours and drew some of the largest pay checks that came out of the Carbon mines. Their monthly checks combined were from \$500.00 to \$900.00 evenly split on payday.

Richardson was a very popular man, having one of the best singing voices that man ever was gifted with. There was another man in Carbon so gifted, who was in the livestock and saloon business. Eventually they could always get together and sing, and wherever they were there would be a large crowd. He loved the outdoors and especially livestock, and was always ready to try it again. During the winter a partnership was formed to go out to Utah and buy horses. This



Samuel W. Johnson when about 70 years of age, and his dog "Fairy" in front yard of his ranch house. Courtesy Norman J. Eckerson.



Group of people in front of Virginian Hotel in Medicine Bow. Sam Johnson is under A in the hotel sign. Courtesy Norman J. Eckerson.



Group of "mountain climbers?" on top of Elk Mountain in 1902. Top row, left to right, both unknown; middle row, left to right: Roy Meredith, Willing Richardson; bottom row, left to right: Cuyler McAlester, Viva Dickerson, Annie Widdowfield, Bennie Alderson, Ruth McAlester and Walter Hastings. Willing Richardson Collection.



Catherine Keating Quealy (Mrs. Mike Quealy). Photo by Heather, Hanna. Courtesy Mrs. Lawrence Quealy.



Home in Elk Mountain built by Frank Hadsell, and later owned by Andy Olson and John Quealy. 1897. Mrs. Andy Olson on right. Willing Richardson Collection.

partnership consisted of William Richardson, Jobey Nixon, John Milliken, and Pap Amous. They left Carbon in the spring of 1875 heading for Utah, each riding a horse and leading his pack horse, and carrying his bed roll and cooking equipment. It was really a spring vacation, being enjoyed immensely by all, until they came to the North Platte, where much bantering ensued as to who should swim the river first. They made this crossing without any difficulty and journeyed on. When they came to the Green River they nearly came to grief as they forded just above a canyon and were almost washed into it. They followed the Overland Trail through the Wasatch Range and on into Utah, going down into the Ute Indian's country to a place called Cammis Prairie, so called because of the abundance of wild cammis growing there, which the Indians eat.

Have Some Cammis

They dug up the cammis roots or bulbs, then dug a hole in the ground some two feet deep and shoveled in a lot of live coals from their camp fire. They placed the cammis roots on these coals, covered them with more live coals and then buried all with wood ashes and left the roots there cooking for two days. When they were taken out and eaten Richardson and Milliken were very fond of them and would buy them from the Indians when possible.

The Indians were very suspicious and distant for a long time, and they could not buy any horses from them. Finally they came in contact with a half-breed called Half Moon, from whom they bought some horses. Half Moon asked Richardson to come up to his house,

which proved to be a real nice frame house. On entering he had all of his belongings stacked in the middle of the floor, such as saddles, pack saddles, ropes, hobbles, and all the other paraphernalis of his tribe. Richardson said it was just a wooden tepee. Anyway, Half Moon went with them and helped them buy some horses, and from then on they could buy all of the horses they wanted. The Indians would not accept anything but silver money and it was quite a problem to obtain silver in large amounts and to pack around the heavy metal. Later on they bought some more horses from Half Moon and he accepted paper money. This fact became known to the rest of the tribe, who soon came to accept and prefer paper money. As soon as an Indian received some paper money he would unbraid his hair, wrap the paper money in a strand of hair, and rebraid it. Richardson said one could not see any sign of the money since the braiding was done so skillfully.

Bargaining With Indians

When they bargained for some horses from an Indian they would have to go before the Chief, tell him how many horses they bought and the price offered. Then they would have a pow-wow and if all was satisfactory the chief would go outside and select a level piece of ground. He would gather a bunch of small sticks and begin placing them on the ground in different positions and rearrange them, finally sticking one upright in the ground. When he did so he would look up and grin and give the nod that the sale was made. The money had to change hands at this time. One of the partners thought he would pull a fast one on



*Quealy Home Ranch at site of Fort Halleck. 1946.
Courtesy Mrs. Lawrence Quealy.*



*Sheriff Frank Hadsell and his good harness
horse. Hadsell Scrapbook, courtesy Kleber
Hadsell and Bert Miller.*



Elk Mountain, 11,162 ft. elev. from Quealy Home Ranch. Courtesy Mrs. Lawrence Quealy.

the Indians and short-changed one of them. It soon got around through the tribe and they made several runs at the camp during the evening. They laid down that night with their rifles loaded and the hammers back, fully expecting to be killed before morning, but they were going to sell their lives as dearly as possible. However, nothing went wrong and when they arose the next morning the Indians had been all around their camp as the mocasin prints showed. The old chief came over at sun-up and notified them to move at once as he would not be responsible for what the young bucks might do if they stayed around. They left without breakfast and did not stop until noontime for a cold lunch. They kept going until sun-down, making some sixty miles but they did not feel any too safe for a couple of days. They skirted the great Salt Lake and went by Ogden, starting for the Wasatch Mountains. Wanting to keep off the Overland Trail as much as possible, they looked for someone to guide them over the range. Some place out of Ogden they picked up a guide who knew the country. They knew him only as "Tom." He proved to be a very pleasant companion and knew the country and trail work well. He helped them as far as Green River. On arriving there he helped them swim their horses across their first large river and left them at this point, heading south.

Richardson and Tom became good friends along the trail and rode together most of the time. Before Tom left, Richardson said, "Tom, what is your last name?" That name did not mean much at the time, but some days later Richardson was telling someone

what a good guide Tom McCarty was and they turned to him in amazement saying, "Why you had one of the West's most notorious and hunted outlaws for your guide." Richardson said, "What! Well he was one of the most pleasant men I have ever met and was very good company. He could talk about all the rivers and valleys in most of the western states, and knew the trail work better than we did."

From Green River onward it was a sandy, desolate country, until they came to the Bridger Pass, which Richardson liked very much. They came down Sage Creek to the North Platte at the Overland Trail crossing, where they forded it. When at this point, he met Ed Bennett and another man who were operating a ferry across the North Platte for the benefit of the Overland Trail travelers. He and Bennett became very good friends and their friendship lasted through the years. From here on it was only a matter of a few days until they reached their destination, Carbon, Wyoming. These horses were turned loose to graze on the sand creeks nearby. Along in the fall the horses were divided. Jobie Nixon and Amous kept their horses near Carbon and sold them out, piece-meal, but Milliken and Richardson trailed their horses to Nebraska and began to sell them at Ogallala, Nebraska. They traveled on eastward until they disposed of all their horses. Richardson did not like the job of a horse trader. He said one had to be pleasant all of the time, a glib talker, a fluent liar, and it was up to the buyer to know horses or take the consequences, which gave horse trading its name in the early days.

He came back to Carbon in Novem-



*Quealy Home Ranch at site of Fort Halleck. Copy of tinted photograph.
Courtesy Mrs. Lawrence Quealy and Stewart Quealy.*



Roping calves, Basin Land & Livestock Co. 1902. Willing Richardson Collection.

ber and found an old friend he had worked with in the mines in Missouri, waiting for him. It was no other than Charles Vagner whom he had asked to come to Carbon. Vagner became one of the leading men of the State of Wyoming. Richardsan and Vagner secured work in the Carbon mines, digging coal. That was the winter of 1875-76. That winter Richardson boarded with Mr. and Mrs. William Stimpson and paid two men's board as usual.

Stimpson and Richardson were always the best of friends and when Stimpson passed away, March 23, 1876, Richardson did everything he could to help the family in their time of sickness and sorrow. Mr. Stimpson was buried in the Carbon cemetery. Milliken, Jack Richardson, and Nixon were the pall bearers.

About the summer of 1875 there was a big Indian scare in Carbon. A band of roving Indians were out looking for trouble, killed a homesteader somewhere east of Carbon. His wife got away and came driving into Carbon in a buggy with her children, and reported the killing. This caused considerable excitement and fear in Carbon. They gathered up all of the women, children, and all the weak-kneed male sex and went into the coal mine for protection. About sundown they saw the Indians pass south of Carbon going west up one of the sand creeks. They camped that night at what was called Four Mile Springs. There was one man then known as desperado Jack Watkins, with a very shady character, and another Howard Michael, known as Mitch Howard, who tried all night to form a posse to follow the Indians. However, no one was

quite sure they wanted to go wild Indian hunting. They said that if they could just get one man to go along and hold the horses it would help. Richardson volunteered and they were off on the chase. The outcome of that chase was never told. Richardson in later life often spoke of what "damn" good shots Watkins and Howard were. The author only once heard his father say that "those d—— Indians would never molest any more settlers."

He worked through the winter of 1876-77 in the mine with his best friend, Vagner, and spent some of his time in Medicine Bow where Mrs. Stimpson was operating an eating house for Gus Trabing.

During the winter the "boys" had talked up another livestock partnership. This deal was to go west and buy cattle. The interested buyers were Richardson, Charles Vagner, Robert Jack, John Milliken and Edward L. Swazey. They started for Utah again, with all their trail equipment, and had distinct visions of being cattle barons someday. They went through the Uintah Mountains, and across Uintah Basin, where they started to buy cattle. From here they went into Strawberry Valley where they held their cattle as they bought them, and camped at Stinking Springs, reaching out from there to buy cattle and bring them back to their bunch. He said they could sit at the springs and see all of their cattle grazing in the valley below. They were not bothered because there was only one or two settlers in the valley at this early date. They kept this up until they had some 1200 head of cattle bought and were ready to start back home. Then, who should ride into their camp but the outlaw, Tom McCarty,

who had guided them over the Wasatch Mountains with their horse herd in a previous year. He said, "Bill, I heard you was in the country and I thought I had better come down and see you and see you safely out of here."

They did not realize they were in dangerous territory until then. While they were camped at Stinking Springs, one of McCarty's gang came riding into camp and told Tom, "The Law damn near got me the other morning." He said he was cooking breakfast when a bullet hit the campfire and went through the frying pan, kicking out all of the bacon. He made a quick dive for the nearby brush and got away. Richardson said he was a great big good-natured man named Berry. He said, "Tom, they will get me someday." They did, for some years later on another drive Richardson asked Tom about him and he said the law had shot him.

They had bought all of the cattle they wanted and were ready to start back, but someone had to go for grub for the long trail trip. No one wanted to go. Finally they talked Richardson into going. He asked McCarty how far it was to Heber and was advised it was some 17 miles if he went down through Daniels Canyon. Richardson started out, leading two pack horses. He forded the river about twenty times before he got out of the canyon, which was 22 miles from Heber, Utah. There he bought his supplies and started back the next day in a rain storm. He said the canyon just shook with the lightning and thunder, but he finally made it back to Stinking Springs. The rest of the gang had already started with the cattle so he followed them until he came to Spanish Fork at dusk. He

was puzzled about which road to take and was trying to track the cattle when he saw a forked stick along the side of the road with a piece of paper stuck on it. He got the paper and read it. It said, "Billie Richardson, take the left hand road." He soon caught up with the outfit and Bob Jackson, who was cook on the trip, made him some supper. McCarty managed to keep clear of Richardson for some time. When they finally got together, Richardson said, "Tom, what made you tell me that damned lie, that it was only 17 miles to Heber?" He replied, "Billie, someone of you had to go for grub, and if I had told you the truth there would have been a fight in camp. You are back, so why get mad about it." When they were at Stinking Springs, John Milliken whose greatest joy out of life was putting something over on someone, found out Bob Jackson was deathly afraid of Indians, Milliken talked a buck Indian into walking up behind Jackson when he was on his knees around the camp fire. He was peeling spuds when the Indian caught him by the hair from behind. Jackson looked up and saw the Indian with his dagger drawn to scalp him. He dropped both spuds and knife and sang out, "Oh, Lord, save me." This was too much for the solemn faced Indian, who laughed and ran. Jackson, who had a high temper, flew into a rage and gave everyone around a sound cussing out, but never knew who was responsible for the joke on him. They left that camp and started on, when they met some Indians. They recognized McCarty and began talking to him, finally telling him they had some bronco cows on Deep Creek and they did not want him to touch them when they passed

through there. All he said was "No, no, no!" That night they camped on Deep Creek, which is a very deep valley with very steep hills on each side. There they night-herded the cattle in in the bottom of the valley on water. McCarty left about sundown and went out and looked up the bronco cows and brought them back, putting them in with the herd of cattle. He asked to be put on the daylight swing, which is from 2 a. m. until the day's drive begins. At daybreak he started to look for his bronco cows, but they were long gone out of the herd. He began to ride for them and only found a yearling, which he brought back on the run, as fast as a wild critter could run along that steep hillside. When he got above camp he pulled his six shooter and fired one shot. The critter went rolloing down the hill into camp, and nearly into the camp fire. He said, "Now there is beef for you." When asked why he did this he said, "Damn it, the United States is feeding these damned lazy Indians and will do so as long as there is one living. Now we will be able to eat at their expense for awhile."

Trail Herd Behavior

All large trail herds have to be watched all night long to keep them from scattering. Two men go on the night riding at about 8 o'clock and bunch the cattle. Towards dark they lie down. These men stay on until midnight. One can sing, whistle, or talk, as long as you are on the move and the cattle know you are about. At or about midnight you can hear a murmur go through the bunch of cattle and some will get up and stretch, move a few feet and lie down on the

opposite side. The midnight shift is generally the easiest shift, yet the slightest false move or noise might stampede the whole bunch. A stampeding bunch of cattle at midnight or thereabouts is the most frightening spectacle that any person ever witnessed. The shift from 2 to daylight is called the daylight shift and then the bunch begins to trail again. They usually travel until eight or nine o'clock and stop to graze and lie down to rest until about four, when they start to move again. They travel until sundown, when they graze slowly and finally lie down. These cattle were bought and taken into the notorious Brown's Hole country, which was a fringe country in the 70s, where even the law seldom went into. The cattle were trailed out the east side, with Tom McCarty the top man of that outlaw gang acting as their guide. The only thing which saved them from loss must have been the friendship between Tom McCarty and Billie Richardson. This group of young cattle men did not realize the danger they were in, nor the reputation that Brown's Hole had. It was one of the best hideouts for the outlaw gangs. The trail herd outfit was camped for the night on the cedar ridges somewhere in the neighborhood of where Vernal, Utah is now located.

Match Starts Stampede

The midnight shift went on watch and everything seemed quiet and peaceful when one of the night riders sat down for awhile. Finally for want of something to do he decided to have a smoke. He filled up his pipe and struck a match. The flare of the match startled the nearby cattle. They jumped up and started to run through



House at Basin Ranch of Quealy Land & Livestock Co. By courtesy Mrs. Lawrence Quealy.



Quealy Sheep at Basin Ranch showing good size of sheep. Courtesy Mrs. Lawrence Quealy.



Haying at Home Ranch with Elk Mountain in background. Courtesy Mrs. Lawrence Quealy.

the bunch and in a matter of seconds the entire group of 1200 head were on the run. The more noise they would make the faster they would go on a wild and frenzied stampede. Any of the animals that stumbled and fell in the dark never got up again for they were trampled to death under those plunging feet. This stampede covered some ten or twelve miles, with the cattle finally becoming exhausted. Richardson said, "Those cattle tore down scrub cedar as if it had never been in their road." Some of the lead fell into small draws and were quickly trampled to death as the others passed over them. In fact it took six days to gather up the bunch and get them on the trail again. From there it was a dry, dusty, uneventful trip to Green River. Their first attempt to ford the Green River almost ended in disaster. As the cattle milled in midstream, which is where the lead cattle turn and try to swim back, making a churning, milling mass of cattle in the water, some were trampled under. These unfortunate bovines never came up again alive. Before this cattle jam could be broken up some forty odd head were drowned and floated down the river. Their second effort was successful but the riders got too close to the swimming cattle and one rider was dumped into the water. He floundered around in the water and finally straddled a big old cow and rode her out to dry land. From there on they hit some very dusty trailing and had to let the cattle drift slowly as any forced movement made the dust so thick you could not see the cattle. They finally came to a great big basin, some ten miles across with sheer dirt walls some 500 feet high, which they skirted around the

north side, now known as the Rangely Oil Field. They traveled on across the country by way of Elk Springs, where they camped two nights and let their cattle rest as they had made a fast drive over this dry country.

At this point, Tom McCarty took his leave saying, "I am getting into hot territory. The people of Colorado and Wyoming like me so well their sheriffs have followed me a week at a time wanting me to come back with them."

From Elk Springs they trailed some 20 miles to Big Springs, then took off trailing in a northern direction, heading for the Little Snake River. They were on their own now, strangers in a strange country, with only the simple directions that McCarty had given them before he left. On this lap of their trail they were out of water for three days and two nights. They did not know they were close to water, but the lead cattle broke into a fast walk as they could smell the water some three miles away. The closer they got, the faster they went, and on the last lap were on the run. The lead riders had a terrible time keeping them from piling up and getting killed, trying to get some water. The trail end of the bunch came in nearly half a day later. They slowly drifted up the Little Snake River, past Jim Baker's block house, up through the Savery, past Twin Groves, and started northeast for the Overland Trail crossing on the North Platte. They swam the North Platte there, where William Richardson renewed his friendship with Ed Bennett. They left there and started for lower Pass Creek and up Rattlesnake Creek, where they decided to let the cattle rest for a while, leaving Richardson and Duncan Jack to

look after them. Charles Vagner, Robert Jack and Edward L. Swazey went to Carbon, promising to be back the next day and bring them a grubstake. However they did not return.

A Train Robbery and Murder

There was big excitement in Carbon for some desperadoes had help up the Union Pacific train. Bob Widowfield, who was sheriff of Carbon County at that time, and his deputy, were out looking for the culprits. When Jack and Richardson were cooking breakfast one morning they heard a number of shots fired in rapid succession to the south on Rattle Snake Mountain, but thought nothing of it until a posse came out the next day looking for Widowfield and Vincent, who were overdue at home. They asked Richardson and Jack if they had seen them. They said, "No, but there was a lot of shooting up on the mountain the other morning." They were asked to go along with the posse to fix the place of the shooting which they had heard. After searching around for awhile they found the place where the desperadoes had camped and saw a great deal of blood in places. A closer search revealed the bodies of Widowfield and Vincent in some nearby bushes. The story as related later by one of the bandits, was that Widowfield had gotten off his horse and put his hand in the camp fire ashes, straightened up to speak to his deputy when a bullet entered his mouth and took the back of his head off. One bullet struck Vincent in the knee. He wheeled his horse to go when two more slugs plowed into his back. They fiendishly mutilated the bodies and threw them into the willow bushes.

When the bandits left they took Widowfield's and Vincent's saddle horses, and if Richardson and Jack had not heard the shooting it is doubtful if the bodies would ever have been recovered. Richardson and Jack helped the posse off the mountain with the bodies, and they were taken to Carbon and buried. Excitement and feeling ran very high in Carbon for both of these men were very popular.

At this point three of the worst outlaws the west has ever known, namely Big Nose George, George Perrot, and Dutch Charlie entered into the history of Carbon County. They met their end at Old Carbon.

The cattle were divided among the various owners. Richardson and Swazey took their cattle up the North Platte River in the neighborhood of the mouth of Brush Creek, where they owned a ranch in what was then known as the big bend of the Platte, and kept them there until the winter commenced to get quite severe. Then they drove them down the Platte to somewhere near the mouth of Pass Creek and wintered them in the adjacent hills. As spring came on they were moved back near the ranch on Brush Creek and carried through the summer. Sometime in the latter part of September or the first of October, these cattle were shipped to Chicago with E. L. Swazey accompanying the shipment. He looked after the sale and sent Richardson's money to the newly organized Carbon State Bank, of Carbon, Wyoming.

Charles Vagner formed a partnership with L. R. Meyer and bought a ranch on the Bow River, which was known as the R. O. Ranch since that was their brand. From this start they built up

one of the largest cow outfits in Carbon County. They wintered these cattle in the T. L. Hills for several winters.

Richardson went back to work in the Carbon mines again. He could not secure board, so he had to batch. His daily purchase of meat was four pounds, and everything else in proportion. In the summer of 1879 Richardson and two more companions decided to see the northern part of the State. Taking their pack outfits they started out. These trips were somewhat on the vacation side, and they camped and loitered around to their heart's content. After crossing the North Platte in the neighborhood of Casper they went on north. Somewhere on this trip they found the barrel of butter Mrs. Stimpson had dumped off from her freight wagon two years earlier. They examined it thoroughly, finally deciding it was a barrel of whiskey. They thought it was a good place to go on a bender and proceeded to break the barrel open. The first blow on the head of the barrel really burst it open and it sprayed rancid butter all over them. They smelled pretty loud, and something had to be done at once, so they took off by the shortest and fastest route to Salt Creek to get washed up. Richardson said it was the "d—nst" water you ever saw, for it had a thick green scum all over it. They boiled hell out of the water before they cooked with it or even washed their clothes in it. There was a known oil leak here at Salt Creek, where the pioneers gathered oil and took it to the Oregon Trail to sell to the emigrants. In later years this area was developed into one of Wyoming's largest oil fields,

known as the Salt Creek Field at Midwest, Wyoming. From there they finally made it to Trabing City, where Mrs. Stimpson was located. They stopped there and boarded with her, riding over the adjacent countryside. Richardson liked the country, especially Little Goose Creek. To his dying day he always talked about it and said he was a fool for not locating there. They finally made their way back to Carbon and went to work in the mines once again. Sometime in December 1879 Mrs. Stimpson came back to Carbon and started another boarding house. Richardson went to board with her again.

The following October 2nd, William Richardson and Mrs. Stimpson were married, in 1880. They made their home in Carbon for awhile and then took up a homestead on the Medicine Bow River. The rest of his life is covered in the articles on the Richardson Ranch following later in this chapter.

Pioneer Woman Loved Life And People

Let us now consider the early life of the woman who later became Mrs. William Simpson.

Mary Jane Morey operated the Dexter Hotel in Leavenworth, Kansas, in the early 1860s. She had a good trade and was doing well financially, but became restless and wanted to follow the other pioneers westward. Early in the winter she went to West Port, Missouri and made arrangements to go west with an emigrant train. She and her mother left West Port, sometime around the last of January 1868 and traveled by ox team across the Kansas and Nebraska Prairie, that part of the

trip taking twenty days or more. They suffered from the cold weather, which was pretty severe at that time of the year. On arriving at Brady's Island where the ox train crossed the Platte River and where their train awaited another ox-train coming from Council Bluffs, Iowa, they decided they had enough of such a cold trip and would go as far west as possible on the Union Pacific Railroad which was building at that time. They went to North Platte, Nebraska, where Mrs. Morey and her mother, Alice Willing Bloomer bought a ticket on the railroad. This was a slow, tiresome way of traveling but after days of travel they arrived at Laramie City, Wyoming on March 4th, 1868, by freight wagon as rails did not get to Laramie until May 11, 1868.

Here at Laramie was a large, two-storied, cheaply erected building, which was called the Frontier Hotel, and here they went with all of their personal belongings. They stopped over night and the owner employed her to manage the kitchen and dining room. There they had two cast iron cook stoves to cook on, heavy cast iron pots, tin plates, cups, iron knives, forks, and spoons. The bread was usually baked out back in dutch ovens placed around an open fire. The office had one large "Ruby Cannon" cast iron heating stove. The upstairs rooms had rough lumber bunks on which travelers could unroll their bed. At that time everyone carried their own beds. The meals consisted of wild meat, hot bread, beans, potatoes when available, and strong black coffee. Wood was the only available fuel and it had to be hauled some fifteen to thirty-five miles by ox teams which made it very expensive. While working here some

officials of the Union Pacific Railroad talked her into establishing an eating house at Percy Station, some sixty miles west of Laramie City. She let the construction to Jake Schmere, who went on west to Percy Station and employed John Sublette to help him. The last of July they notified her that her new building was completed.

Log Hotel at Percy

Arriving at Percy Station she was greeted with the sight of large hills to the north and a large valley covered with sagebrush extending as far as the eye could see. Some fifteen miles to the south was Elk Mountain, towering nearly 12,000 feet into the air and covered with evergreen timber. Mr. Schmere met them and took them to the log building near by, which was to be Mrs. Morey's place of business until 1873. She was confronted with a low log structure, some six feet to the eaves, twenty feet wide, and some forty feet long. The roof of the structure was strong, warm, and weather-proof as it was made of poles laid close together with some eight inches of soil on top. The cracks of the logs were filled with puddled clay. There were two window panes in each room for light. There were no wooden floors in the building as the ground served this purpose. The first room was the office and the next room the dining room. The tables were made out of split logs which were hewn to a fairly smooth surface. The next room was the kitchen. In the center stood another rough table, and in one corner was a large fireplace, built out of sandstone slabs from the nearby hills, and with the chinks filled with mud or clay from the nearby ditch.

Trains Stop At Percy

All trains stopped here for water and loaded up with cord wood, which they burned in the fire-box, as coal mines were unknown at that date. While the engine was being serviced, the train crew and passengers came in to eat, regardless of the time of day or night. She also boarded the agent and operators, and the section foremen, both east and west. Ed Kinney was agent, Peter Hansen and Tim Kinney were section foremen. Charlie Bloomer, who came to be with his sister, was hired by the railroad as night Indian watchman. His job was to patrol the little town and look for any Indian trouble, and report to the operator so he could call for help when needed.

The equipment consisted of several large cast iron dutch ovens, some eighteen inches in diameter, chiefly used to bake bread in, but also used for frying. By placing a lot of live coals on the ground and setting the oven on them and then covering the flanged lid with live coals, a good camp cook could bake bread to a delicate brown, which has a flavor unequalled by any other method of baking. Then there were the large cast iron round pots in which they boiled all vegetables. The coffee pot was a large sheet iron bucket. The coffee was ladeled out with a long handled ladle, which always stayed in the pot. The equipment in the dining room consisted of tin plates, some 8 inches in diameter and tin cups for coffee. The knives, forks, and spoons were iron and the sugar, salt, and pepper were in small cans or basins. A person wishing salt or pepper would take a small amount on the end of his knife and tap it gently with his fork to shake it off.

There was a lot of activity around Percy Station, caused by the unloading of railroad ties, and cord wood from the timber camp on Elk Mountain, located on the site of old Fort Halleck.

On the last days of the wood camp Mr. and Mrs. Stimpson and some more decided to go out and see the wood camp, and pick wild raspberries on the mountain. Arriving at the wood camp they beheld a very beautiful sight, some natural meadows through which ran several mountain streams which have their beginning high up on Elk Mountain and come tumbling and gurgling off its steep hill sides through large beautiful evergreen trees of several species. Lower down are aspen groves, places to delight the heart of any outdoor man. Further along are willow patches growing along either band and getting smaller as the stream approaches the prairie and finally they disappear entirely. Down the steep north face of the mountain was a log slide. Down this slide came logs and ties from a more level country above. It was some sight to see those ties and logs make that wild ride down that chute to hit the ground at the lower end, kicking up a cloud of dust as they did so. Farther to the west on the gentler slopes, cord wood was cut by the thousands of cords and hauled in to Percy. Much of this cord wood was never gathered and still can be seen in ricks but now is very much decayed.

Deer and Elk Plentiful

All around this mountain could be seen wild elk and deer, who would raise their heads, adorned with a great spread of antlers on the bucks and gaze in amazement at the intruders.



Sheep at Dana Shearing Shed of Quealy Land & Livestock Co. about 1918. Courtesy Mrs. Lawrence Quealy.



Gathering cattle for branding and dragging in calves for branding. Basin Land & Livestock Co. 1902. Willing Richardson Collection.

In those early days they were not afraid of man, and after looking at them for a few moments, they would bound away into the mountain wilderness. Timber or pine grouse were abundant along the small streams and sage hens and their young could be counted by the thousands. This wildlife furnished a plentiful supply of meat for the early settlers.

The Stimpsons roamed the mountain sides in search for the wild red raspberries which grow in abundance. After gathering all the berries they wanted, seeing the timber cutting and completing their mountain climbing, the Stimpsons descended the mountain to where they had left their teams. They cooked their dinner over a camp fire which was the westerner's idea of a good time, and after dinner laid in the beautiful tall green grass in the shade of the aspens listening to the babble of the brook and songs of the birds. Toward evening they hitched up and started back to Percy Station. When leaving the wood camp they drove northeast across a sagebrush flat, then entering some hills they wound their way down through valleys and turning north around the corner of a large hill they came to a fresh water lake some half mile long. The road ran along the edge of the lake and west of the lake some 400 feet from the water rose an abrupt hill some 800 feet high which extended north for another half mile. While passing here someone in the party said, "Wouldn't this be a bad place to meet a bunch of Indians on the war path."

The Bloody Lake Massacre

Sometime later the cord wood haulers were making their last trip with

four wagons heavily loaded with cord wood and hauled by mules and oxen; two wagons with four mules on each and the other two wagons drawn by four oxen on each. They left the wood camp and started for Percy Station. The mule teams were in the lead because they could travel faster. Coming down through these draws and valleys they rounded the hill to come alongside of the lake and hill to the west. They were about half a mile ahead of the ox-teams. When they arrived at the north end of the lake, where they had no chance to escape, some Indians raised up out of the greasewood hummocks and killed the two mule team drivers. When the ox teams rounded the corner of the hill, and saw to their sorrow what was taking place, they deserted their teams and took up over that steep hill and by so doing escaped being killed. They hid out in the sagebrush all night and made their way to Percy Station early the next morning and reported the Indian attack. At Percy a posse was organized as soon as possible and hastened to the scene. A gruesome sight met their eyes. The two mule drivers had been killed with arrows; one had been pierced with four arrows and the other with three. Then they had been carried down and thrown into the lake. The Indians had then gone back to the ox teams and had driven them into the lake and ham-strung them, leaving them there to flounder in the water and finally drown. On examining the mule wagons they found the Indians had cut all top straps on the harness, letting it fall to the ground, the tugs still hitched to the wagons. Apparently the Indians wanted only the firearms and mules. The bodies of the

men were recovered from the lake and the arrows pulled out. Two of the oxen had floundered to the edge of the lake, so they shot them as they were helpless after being ham-strung. The bodies of the men were taken back to Percy where they were buried. Charles Bloomer, brother of Mr. Stimpson obtained the arrows, which he gave to his sister. They were on display to serve as a fair warning to all to be on the lookout for Indians at all times. After the massacre these four loads of cord wood were hauled to Percy Station by John Sublette. Later on, in a dim candle-lighted room, someone stepped behind the counter and picked up the arrows during the time a passenger train stopped to refuel, take on water and let all the passengers eat their evening meal at Mrs. Stimpson's eating house. She did not miss the arrows until the next morning and they were never found.

One interesting person around Percy was a Mongolian who stood over six feet in height. Mrs. Stimpson said that all you had to do to make him fighting mad was to call him a Chinaman. He maintained that Chinamen were a small, inferior race, not anything like the proud and large Mongolians. (Bob Burns can vouch for the larger size of Mongolian people after traveling in North China in 1946). This man's name was Os Say, meaning Mr. Say. There was a station west of Rawlins called after him but the name was contracted to Ossay. He furnished Chinese laborers for railroad and section help, or any place he could get employment for a Chinaman. He collected \$1.00 a month from each Chinaman he obtained work for. He furnished Mrs. Stimpson with all the cooks and

kitchen help she wanted. In the five years she ran the Percy eating house she learned the Chinese language, for she was a natural born linguist. It was always her greatest sport to find a Chinaman who was not looking her way and talk to him in his native tongue. He would look everywhere for the other Chinaman and of course could see no one of that appearance. Some even thought they were being spoken to by their ancestors, in which case she had to keep still.

Opening Up a Coal Mine

In 1869 Mr. Stimpson started to open up a coal mine some nine miles east of Percy. He went back and forth on a hand car. This was in the vicinity of what was later the site of Carbon and was located in Stimpson Ridge, which was later known by that name or as Saddle Backs. One morning when he returned to his mine he found everything destroyed, his blasting powder gone, and nothing left for him to look at except moccasin tracks. After this he decided it was too lonely a place for two men to work alone and gave it up as too dangerous. Sometime later it was reported, possibly by Jim Baker, that some Indian's guns blew up trying to use blasting powder for gun powder. They went to his camp and showed him their guns with their barrels burst, and also showed some of the coarse-grained powder, and asked him how the white man used it. Baker told them to tamp it tighter, and that was all he would tell them. He said he knew of no better way of getting rid of Indians. The second winter, 1869-1870, that Mrs. Stimpson was at Percy, the cold weather set in early and the trains had a hard time getting through.

Finally the railroad was blocked completely about the middle of December and two trains, an eastbound and a westbound, were stalled there and she had all of them to feed. At first the passengers would go hunting antelope on the nearby hills and passed the time to good advantage, but as time passed and Christmas got nearer, they became surly, especially one man who was very wealthy. When Christmas morning came he went over to the eating house and said, "Here I am in a country with snow as far as the eye can see and here my wealth is worth no more than the snow, and not a drop of whiskey in the whole place to celebrate on." Mrs. Stimpson cooked the best Christmas dinner she could under these severe and trying conditions. She placed two tin cups at each place and when all were seated she brought a bottle of brandy which she kept on hand for medicinal purposes, and poured a small amount in each extra tin cup. The New Yorker was so pleased that he took up a collection, that brandy bringing \$127.00. These passengers had a cold time of it for they had to sleep in the coaches which were heated, if at all, by wood stoves. The prices for provisions climbed to outrageous heights at this time, with flour selling for \$25.00 for a 50-lb. sack. Potatoes went up to \$50.00 per hundred and coffee was \$1.00 a pound for the green beans, which had to be roasted prior to use. The usual way of grinding it was to put it in a cloth sack and pound it with a hammer until it reached the fineness desired. While Mrs. Stimpson was living at Percy her mother, Mrs. Alice Willing Bloomer, died and was buried on the highest nearby hill close by a huge sandstone rock which

looks like a huge turtle and is known as Turtle Rock. She loved the west and wanted to be buried on a high place and her wish was fulfilled.

The Stimpsons became restless and tired of the routine drudgery at Percy and decided to move. They had been out to Medicine Bow Crossing several times, at the point where the Overland Trail crossed the Medicine Bow River. This is now known as Elk Mountain. They drove over there and purchased everything, "lock, stock, and barrel."

Elk Mountain

The toll bridge, which consisted of two spans each some forty feet long, was built with round poles laid close together for the floor and the poles were fastened down with wooden pegs. It was a crude, rough affair which would wiggle up and down as the teams crossed it. In the middle of the bridge was a gate securely locked and not opened until the toll fee had been paid. The buildings were further north; to the west of the buildings ran the Overland Trail, and across the trail was the beginning of an aspen grove, some three to four feet high. To the west was the steep timber covered slopes of Elk Mountain, with its snow-capped peak known all along the trail as the landmark of southern Wyoming. A close view of the buildings showed them to be the low kind constructed of logs and the ground plan was in one long building with a sod roof and the customary fireplace chimney rising above the kitchen. The doors were made of pieces of split logs hewn smooth, the hinges were pieces of rawhide, and the customary wooden latch with the leather latch string



Branding Scene at Basin Land & Livestock Co. in 1902. 1700 head of cows in bunch. Eight hundred calves branded day picture was taken. Left to right: Man standing unknown, Man on horse Top Herd, Leaning over Hans Olson, Leaning over slightly Joe Graham, Unknown, Unknown wrangler, Walt Cothun, Bill Sodergreen, Rider on horse is Ed Richardson. Willing Richardson Collection.



House at Seven Mile Ranch of Quealy Land & Livestock Co., formerly Eykyn Ranch. Courtesy Mrs. Lawrence Quealy.

hanging on the outside. When one wished the door locked all you had to do was pull the latch string to the inside. The windows were the usual two panes of glass placed horizontally and the opening was never made large in the event of an Indian attack, or for protection from any other tough who might come along as they often did. If no glass was available, greased paper was put in its place and let through a rather feeble yellow light. The first room to the south was the saloon, the one in the middle was the dining room and then the kitchen with customary fireplace built out of rocks and mud. In one corner of this room was the owner's bed and trunk. Along the wall on wooden pegs hung their clothing, their shoes, and other belongings were put under their crudely built bunks. The bunks were filled with grass and leaves to make a soft pad to roll out your bed on. Here the Stimpsons lived for the next two years.

While living here they met all of the heavy freighters such as the Johnsons, Waddells, Trabings, Holidays, and others. They also met up with all the "toughs" and would-be "toughs." The emigrant trains passed through here and during the high water they did very well with their toll bridge, but as the water went down the toll bridge was not used. They did a good business both in the store and the saloon. They kept their eating house supplied from the town of Carbon, which was becoming one of the largest towns along the railroad.

Emigrant Trains

Some of the emigrant trains took hours to pass and they came and went

all through the spring, summer, and fall. Some were drawn by mules, which made the fastest time and were able to make up to 35 miles a day if loaded lightly. Horse drawn equipment would make up to 20 miles, and ox drawn wagons would average 10 miles a day. The Overland wagon trail boss was someone who had been over the trail several times and was picked up at the starting point, where there were always a number of frontier men who were looking for these jobs. Their job was to be head guide. They would hold a meeting and appoint wagon bosses whose job it was to see that no one got out of line, or were left behind. On flat level country they would travel three or four wagons abreast to shorten up the train, and when they came to narrow rough roads it was up to the wagon boss to say who should go first. They used a system of rotation; the first wagon today would be the last tomorrow. In this way every wagon got its turn in the clear atmosphere at the head of the train, and also at the dust laden air at the rear of the train, and of course the rotation system eliminated quarrels as each took their turn. Mrs. Stimpson said there were around twenty wagons to each boss. This larger number was to have sufficient wagons to form a corral at night, making a circle of wagons, leaving one out for a gate. After putting the work stock inside the enclosure, the last wagon would be pushed into the space left for a gate. This corralling was done only in hostile Indian country.

Indians Blamed Wrongly

The Indians got the blame for the disappearance of numerous mules,

horses, and cattle which they had nothing to do with. There was a well-organized band of outlaws who worked the western trails and ran off all of the stock they could stampede or obtain by other means. Any stock they obtained on the Overland Trail was transferred north to the Oregon Trail and sold to emigrants sorely in need of fresh work stock, and vice versa from the Oregon to the Overland Trail. Then there was the legitimate dealer who would buy up the tired and worn-out stock, keeping them on good pasture until they were rested up and in working condition. They made a good profit and were looked for along the road when travelers had stock to dispose of which could not travel.

Saturday a Day of Rest

Usually on Saturday they took the afternoon off to rest, and do any repair work on the wagons and harness. The last wagon in the train was usually a blacksmith outfit which carried all necessary repairs for both wagons and harness. However, the stops depended on good feed and water as well as the supply of fuel. They had their funerals when death overtook travelers on the trail and these departed people would be left along the road in a lonely grave wherever they happened to die. There are many of these marked graves along the trails. There were weddings which usually were celebrated with a dance. They would select a level piece of ground, bring out their musical instruments, which were always found in these wagon trains. To the strains of the violin, guitar, and banjo they would dance the Quadrille, Virginia Reel, and Money Musk and

all figure-dancing rendered under the moon and stars.

The Stimpsons described a wagon train in the following descriptive sentence which is short and to the point: "Just a city on wheels, on the move." Each train had their scouts, who reported back every half day by messenger and slept in advance positions when the train was not corralled up. They usually rode in pairs for protection from Indians. One rode ahead and the other stayed back so he could make a get-away and report back to the train should the first man be molested. During the night one would sleep and the other would be on the lookout for any trouble that might come up. Hunters who supplied the train with wild meat were always courting death, as they ranged far from the wagons in search of wild game, and many never returned. Some would get lost and return to their wagons many days later. This account of the wagon train is as told the author by his mother, who lived and breathed it until her dying day. All frontier men speak of the beautiful mountains, valleys, clear mountain streams, and the silver gray sagebrush flats which after a shower gives off a piquant fragrance which once noted is never forgotten.

Great droves of horses and cattle numbered in the hundreds were driven along the Overland Trail. The moving of these droves of livestock was a slow, tiresome task. As they were on the move they would raise huge clouds of dust, which would drift across the herd and on with the wind. The unlucky rider who had to ride the lower side as it was called, would tie a large red handkerchief or cloth over his nose and face to keep as much dust as pos-

sible out of his nose and mouth. When he came out four or five hours later, when the horses were stopped to graze, he and his horse would be so covered with dust that the horse lost his color and the man his identity. Their eyes would be red and watery and if in an alkali country, would be sore for days.

Pioneer Childbirth

While living at Medicine Bow Crossing a daughter was born to the Stimpsons on July 8, 1874, without the care of doctor or midwife but they carried on. They had a large St. Bernard dog given to them by some emigrants because the dog got sorefooted and could not travel. Anyway the dog took charge of the baby and would not let anyone come near it other than Mr. and Mrs. Stimpson. There were several people there and none could get into the kitchen and of course strangers were persona non grata and the baby was safe from harm no matter where the Stimpsons had to go.

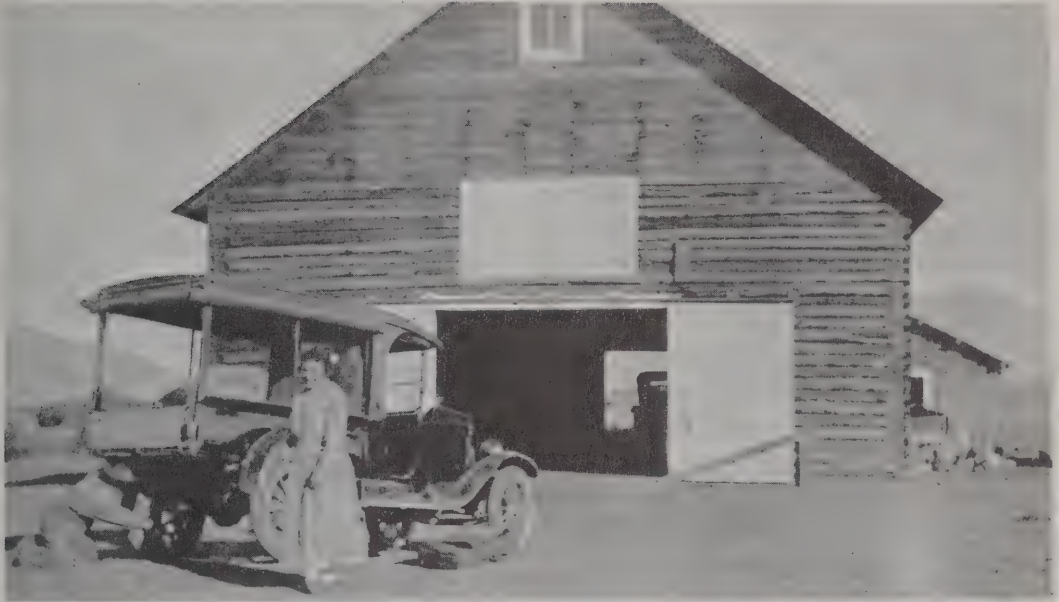
Soldiers and Whiskey

There was a company of soldiers passing who camped nearby and started to hang around the saloon. Knowing that it was against the law in the early days to sell whiskey to soldiers they watered it down to a pretty weak solution. Finally the captain heard about it and came over, and in rather rough manner asked if they were selling whiskey. He asked if he could buy a drink, so they sold him one. He looked up and said, "Sell the boys all they want. I know they will be sober when we are ready to move on."

Mr. Stimpson's health began to fail, so they sold out to Louis Sederlin and

Chris Johnson and moved to Carbon, Wyoming in the fall of 1875. He died the following March 23, 1876. Mrs. Stimpson ran a boarding house in Carbon for a little over a year. Sometime in 1877 she moved to Medicine Bow Station and ran an eating house for Trabing Brothers who had a store at that place. They also had a large freight outfit which hauled provisions north to Fort Fetterman and beyond to Buffalo, Sheridan, and other points to the north.

While Mrs. Stimpson was at Medicine Bow, John W. Stryker came to work for Trabing Brothers as their bookkeeper. He admired Elk Mountain, some thirty miles to the southwest, which looks very close in this high rarified atmosphere. He kept telling people what a beautiful mountain it was and that he was going to walk out there someday, but no one paid any attention to the statement. One Sunday he did not come in for dinner or supper and about 10 o'clock that night he came to the eating house and asked for something to eat. Mrs. Stimpson asked him where he had been. He said, "I started to walk out to the mountain but when I topped one ridge it looked just back of the next, so I kept on walking. When I quit it was still just back of the 'next hill.'" He stayed on and became one of Mrs. Stimpson's best friends. He moved to Laramie and went into business under the name of Holliday and Stryker. Mrs. Stimpson later in life married William Richardson, but Mr. Stryker's friendship still lasted. When Mrs. Richardson passed away in 1910 Mr. Stryker sent one of the best caskets he had in his undertaker's shop.



*Big barn at Basin Ranch of Quealy's near Elk Mountain which was burned.
Courtesy Mrs. Lawrence Quealy.*



*Group of cowboys at Basin Ranch near, Elk Mountain. All Unidentified.
Courtesy Mrs. Lawrence Quealy.*

Mrs. Stimpson Goes North

In the spring of 1878 Gus Trabing talked Mrs. Stimpson into going north and taking over a small freight station on Crazy Woman Creek, south of Buffalo. It was only a place for his freight outfits to get new and rested teams so they could move on. He wanted a store and hotel operated there. He told Mrs. Stimpson there was great opportunity in the northern part of the state and it would attract a lot of home seekers. He wanted to be established there when they came. Gus Trabing had fair visions into the future. In the latter part of May or the first of June 1878 with her son Frank and her little daughter, she started north driving four mules hitched to a heavy freight wagon loaded with store and hotel supplies. Her first night out was spent at "32 mile" where the road running north crossed the Little Medicine Bow River. She was very disgusted after driving all day over a barren alkali flat and seeing thousands of wild antelope who would run circles around the wagon in wide-eyed wonder and curiosity. She thought of turning back at this point, wondering if a woman and two small children should drive alone into so wild a country, but her courage and will power carried her on. The next day she started out and travelled along the Fetterman Road and on into the mountains. She had to camp that night in the heavily timbered mountains on Box Elder Creek running to the north toward the North Platte. She put her mules out to graze with their hobbles on, cooked supper and sat around her campfire under a clear, starry and moonlit sky. Looking down the road as all early-day travellers did (they never spoke of looking back), she saw

a black bear coming into the road with two small cubs. The little fellows would run, wrestle and play with one another. If one got too rough and the other would cry, the mother would swat him or her with her paw. Mrs. Stimpson watched the performance until they started toward her camp. She very quickly kindled up her camp fire into a huge blaze and Mother Bear left with her two cubs. The mules never did get a scent of the bears or they would have left the country. The next day she camped close to Fort Fetterman. The Major saw the lone wagon and came over to see where the rest of the wagon train was. When he saw it was a woman alone with two small children he said, "Good God! What are you doing out here alone with two children?" She told him she was headed for Crazy Woman Creek to take over a stage station and start a store and eating house. He said, "From here until you cross the North Platte, the Oregon Trail and Fort Casper and on beyond in the open country, I am sending four soldiers to see you through," which he did. When they came to the Platte in June it was a raging torrent which they had to swim. The two soldiers cut two large cottonwood logs and tied them to the wagon box. Then they ran ropes from these to the axle of the wagon on each side, so the box would not wash away from the running gear. The soldiers then hitched their ropes onto the wagon to give all the pull their swimming mounts could add. Many a person lost their life in large rivers when the running gear came away from the box and the box and its load went down the river to either sink or be shattered to pieces on rocks, stumps, or sand bars.

From here on her trip was practically uneventful, with the exception of a barrel of butter which got rancid from the heat of the sun. She dumped it off somewhere in the Salt Creek region. She finally reached her destination on Crazy Woman Creek and took over the management of the Trabing Freight Station and turned it into an eating house and store. During the summer she had the store enlarged and when it was finished Trabing Brothers began to stock it by sending heavy loads of freight by bull teams. She did a thriving business there with prospectors, emigrants, homesteaders, Indians and outlaws as well as the large cow outfits of which there were many in that area. Trabing sent up all of the help she required and both the store and eating house thrived. She had Chinese cooks, the same as at Percy. She could talk Chinese fluently and also German and some Indian dialects including Sioux. She was well contented and liked the country. That fall a cowboy by the name of Long Shorty was brought in with a broken leg. The plan was to put him on a freight wagon and send him to Medicine Bow, which would have been a murderous ride of at least five days. Mrs. Stimpson would not let him go, but she set the bone herself and tied it up with splints and waited for time to do the rest. His bunk was in one corner of the store building. He was there some six weeks and walked away without a limp. Sometime during the late fall a bunch of men rode up to the store leading pack horses. Mrs. Stimpson thought they were prospectors coming in for a winter's supply of provisions. When they entered they wore masks and they told Mrs. Stimpson,

"Now don't be afraid or start anything. We won't hurt you. We want a winter's 'grub supply.' Here is the place to get it, and we won't run much risk of being located when we leave here." Then the leader happened to see the man lying on the bed and said, "Who is that and what is he doing here?" Mrs. Stimpson told him it was Long Shorty with a broken leg. He turned to the rest of the gang and said, "Give the poor fellow the best there is in the store, but keep an eye on him. He can still shoot for he has both arms." After they left Long Shorty told Mrs. Stimpson, "That is the Frank James gang, who operate from here north and they have a hangout to the west in the Big-horn Mountains somewhere."

From there on things moved along in a normal pattern, until her small daughter came down with scarlet fever and died at Trabing City on October 7, 1879. She was buried there.

Trabing City was located about 22 miles southeast of Buffalo on Crazy Woman Creek. Bob Burns visited the site a few years ago and some of the foundations of the buildings and shearing shed are still visible but all buildings have disappeared. The author located the grave of Alice Stimpson on the bank of Crazy Woman Creek.

Mrs. Stimpson turned the store and hotel over to her helper and left there about the first of November and took that long, cold ride back to Medicine Bow. She was snow bound for six days in the mountains on the Fetterman Road. She went back to Carbon Wyoming and started a boarding house where she fed from forty to fifty miners. She carried on this business until she married William Richardson October 2, 1880, at Carbon, Wyoming, where

they made their home for the next year. Their oldest son, Thomas D., was born there September 20, 1881.

In the spring of 1881 they took up a homestead in the upper Medicine Bow valley and hired some timber workers to build a two-room log cabin. This consisted of the customary pole roof covered with dirt. They went to a little expense and had three double windows put in and the logs hewn, which was considered far above the average. Here they moved in the fall of 1881. They had the usual dirt floor, a small cast iron wood burning cook stove to keep warm with and cook on. They really did not have enough bedding to keep warm with and they suffered through the winter, with Mrs. Richardson having a siege of rheumatism and was practically an invalid until spring when her health improved. During the fall and winter Mr. Richardson cut out logs and poles from the nearby timber and constructed a barn and large corrals. The double windows caused quite a controversy because of the fear that the Indians would break the windows and gain easy access to the house. To make the home safer the bottom window was taken out and boarded up until a safer time, when they were finally replaced. Then began the development of the homestead, the breaking up of ground for gardens and potato patches. Irrigation ditches were made which was slow, hard work with light horses and an Oliver cast steel plow. Any time the plow hit a boulder the plow point would shatter. These points were quite expensive, costing \$1.75 each and were hard to get. They were some two years making a mile of ditch, doing so in their spare time from many other duties

around the ranch. During the summer months they would go through the brush bottoms, or any boggy place and cut the native meadow grass with a scythe, and rake it by hand. They packed it out on their backs to a waiting wagon and it was hauled to a suitable place and stacked for winter use. Any surplus they did not need for their stock they found a ready market and was eagerly sought. People travelled far and wide in search of wild hay, which was placed under cover and closely hoarded. There were fences to be built, which were constructed of pine poles, some three or four inches in diameter and sixteen to eighteen feet long. To hold these up they made a buck, formed by two pieces of timber eight to ten inches thick and six feet long which were notched and fitted together at right angles about sixteen inches from the top end, forming a crotch large enough to hold the top pole or rail. This crotch was fitted and fastened together by boring an inch hole through the crotch and cutting a wooden peg to drive through the hole, fastening the buck together so it was ready for use. The lower poles were fastened to the buck in the same manner by pegs driven through holes in the poles and into the buck. These wooden pegs were used prior to the availability of spikes and then the square Iron spikes were available. Sometimes it took a year to make a mile of fence of this type.

Primitive Surveying of Ditches

As there were few surveyors in Wyoming Territory, all ditches were surveyed in a rather primitive manner. The pioneer would buy a good 1" x 6" board 16 feet long with a straight edge.



Pack horses going to sheep camps on the Snowy Range about 1917. Basin Ranch near Elk Mountain. Courtesy Mrs. Lawrence Quealy.



"Lad" Lawrence Quealy driving team on slide stacker at Home Ranch. Courtesy Mrs. Lawrence Quealy.



Mike Quealy home from north. Left to right: Mike Quealy, Sr., Mrs. Mike Quealy, Sr., Mrs. Mike Quealy, Jr., Miss Siltamockey, Miss Annie Quealy now Mrs. Bob Jack of Rock Springs, and Niles Quealy. Willing Richardson Collection.

On this board was nailed a 30 inch leg on each end, and a carpenter's level was fastened to the middle of the board. This brought forth the job of adjusting the level so when the board was reversed several times in the same position, the level gave an accurate reading. The usual procedure was to cut a half inch off one leg, marking that end **rear** and the long leg the **front**. You would start from your water supply and drive a stake at the front leg and bring the rear leg to the stake and swing the board up or down hill until the bubble was centered in the level and continue until you came to the point of water distribution.

You could begin at the highest point on your land and survey to the point of water supply. When surveying a ditch in this manner one drove a peg about every sixteen feet and there was usually a bend in the ditch within this distance. It was almost an impossibility to make these bends if too short, with six head of horses hitched to a plow. The driver usually caught "heck". The sods were cut in two foot lengths with a shovel or an ax and pulled out by hand with a grab hook.

Then came the back breaking job of shoveling all loose dirt out of the ditch by hand and squaring up the banks and cutting out what the plow had missed. But what miracles this water accomplished when it was turned onto this virgin soil for a month or more.

Haying

It produced the most luxuriant growth of wild hay. The hay that was produced on this homestead was cut with a scythe and raked by hand, loaded on wagons with pitchforks and hauled to the stack where it was

pitched into place. Any two men who could handle four loads of hay in one day were considered top men and were paid \$15.00 to \$20.00 a month with their board. There were no balers in the early days and all hay which was sold was hauled the twenty-odd miles to Carbon in a hayrack, which was a frame some eight feet wide, sixteen feet long, and around three to four feet high. This rack would hold up to a ton and a half of hay. Then began the long hard trip behind four horses and the trip took the better part of a day. Upon arrival at Carbon it had to be unloaded and stacked. This hay was in demand by the people working in Carbon, as nearly everyone there had a saddle horse and/or a driving team for their pleasure and for hunting trips. Hunting and camping were about the only and the popular recreation of those days. Those who had horses or cattle on the range had to have a good string of cow ponies on hand to ride when looking after their livestock, to know where it was and to keep it on known pastures. The everlasting job of cutting, hauling, and delivering hay took up nearly all of the summer and fall days and the monetary return was not startling. By the time the help was paid and their board taken care of the rancher was usually financially embarrassed.

Living In Winter Months

A rancher's living through the winter months was a meager affair. Wild meat was of course plentiful and if the garden was good, he had a plentiful supply of vegetables in his cellar. Enough Supplies such as flour, coffee, sugar and syrup were hauled in in the fall, to last through the winter. This

same plan is used in northern Albany County today where ranches are fifty or more miles from Rock River or Douglas, the nearest towns.

A Milch Cow

The Richardsons were on the ranch three years before they were able to buy a milch cow, and what a wonderful treat it was to have milk, cream, and butter. However, they used milk, cream and butter sparingly as the dairy products had a ready sale, and they were always short of cash, so a little spending money was diligently searched out, and they gladly did without dairy products to obtain a little pocket money.

Soon a man named Barkley moved in and bought the section of land south of the Richardson homestead. He started in the timber business, cutting ties in the nearby forest and hauling them some two miles to the bank of the Medicine Bow River. He kept hauling the ties to the river through the summer, fall and winter months, and when the spring thaws came the flood water carried the ties downstream and they were taken out of the water at Medicine Bow Station and sold to the railroad. Here was established the first postoffice in the Medicine Bow valley and it was called Pine Top. Mail was brought from Carbon once a week. It was a shock and a chill to the Richardsons when someone else had gotten hold of Section 29 adjoining them, as they had a fond hope of owning it someday. On May 17, 1883 a second son was born to the Richardsons and he was named Edward L. A neighbor, Mrs. Boyson, came over some twelve miles and stayed

with the Richardsons to take care of mother and child.

Hardships On Ranch

The year 1883 was another year of heartaches, denials and hard work. Richardson would have quit the ranch and returned to the coal mines if it had not been for his wife's persistence that someday things would be different. They cut their hay and sold it, raised a large garden and sold most of it to the new Timber Company, consisting of Levi Carter and Isaac Coe, who had succeeded in getting a tie contract from the Union Pacific Railroad for ties to be delivered at Medicine Bow Station. This was the start of one of the largest businesses in the country. Richardsons would haul hay to Carbon, and bring back supplies for the Timber Company. Accordingly the Richardsons did well financially in 1884-5. In the fall of 1884 he made arrangements for a man named Ed Stanton to come in and trap beaver. Stanton stayed there that fall and up to the first of December. He sold some \$1200.00 worth of beaver fur, but Richardson could not see trapping as a trade, and never did to his dying day. About this time other homesteaders began to move in and choice pieces of land, which Richardson someday hoped to own, were taken up. Then began the bickering and struggle to see who would get the most and best land and of course this situation did not stimulate friendships. Then Richardson's stepson took up a homestead to the south of the Barkley's and the race went on.

In the winter of 1885-6, Richardson, John Milliken and several others decided to get some more horses. Mrs. Richardson tried to talk them into

getting more cows from Utah, which would have been the wisest, but she was overruled and in January they left old Carbon by train and went to San Francisco. Here they were met by "Coffee Johnson," who was out on one of his vacations. He showed them all over San Francisco with its beautiful gardens and parks, and the night before they left he treated them to a Chinese dinner in Chinatown. When asked how he liked the Chinese dinner, Richardson would say, "D—m it, it was good but they had too many small bones in it, and I kept thinking of mice."

From here they left by boat, went up the coast to Portland, Oregon, and then took a smaller boat up to The Dalles, and always talked of the beauty of the Columbia River. There they bought some saddle horses and pack horses and took out across country, heading for the Owyhee Valley in Oregon. From their conversation it was a glorious outing and beautiful trip. They so admired the Blue Mountains of Oregon, and dearly loved the Owyhee Valley. Bill Richardson would have settled there but he always said "Those d—n redskins controlled it at the time and the white man didn't have a chance."

Richardson, Milliken, Nixen and others soon became acquainted with the Nez Perce' Indians and purchased some 2000 head of Indian ponies. Richardson bought one pony from Chief Blackhawk. How well the author remembers this horse in his childhood days, for then he was his constant companion and it was on his back that he learned to ride. While they were buying horses from the Nez Perce' Indians, an Indian agent went the rounds with

them. He was a half breed named Half Moon, and if they went into remote valleys they would bargain for the horses delivered at a certain location, pay the money to the agent, and leave for safer territory. Usually the ponies would be there the next morning, the agent paying each Indian for the horses he had sold. This kept up from day to day, going out during the day and coming back at night. The Indians never failed to show up the next morning with the horses.

Difficult Ford

After they had purchased all of the horses they wanted they followed up the west bank of the Snake River to a place called Harper's Ferry, and tried to swim their horses across, but could not push them into the water. They had had no previous experience on such a large river. Thoroughly discouraged they stopped on the bank of the river and wondered how it could be done. Just at that time along came a man and asked one of them if they wanted some help. He said go see Bill Richardson, who was running the outfit. When he arrived there it was no other than Tom McCarty, the outlaw. They talked for a while and took the horses back and made a run for the river, Richardson on the upper side of the lead and McCarty on the lower. When the horses entered the water they went with them, shouting and encouraging them on in mid-stream. From there on it was each horse and man for himself all the way to the opposite bank. They had all of their beds and equipment brought across on the ferry. From there they travelled up the north side of the Snake River. At places they had beautiful

valleys to travel in. Some of the valleys had sagebrush, some of which was four to five feet high. In these places they had a hard time forcing the horses along through it and it was very easy to lose small bunches of them. Somewhere along the Snake River they were travelling close to the banks when a settler's horse commenced to run up and down the opposite bank and finally swam over. McCarty ran him into the bunch, taking him along, much against the wishes of the owners of the herd.

At certain places coming through Idaho, it was so dry and dusty one could not see other riders nor even all of the horses. The only thing that by this time the herd of horses were trail broke and stayed close together. Thirst from the choking dust drove some of the men to near-panic and made them all short-tempered. The only thing that saved the day was that Tom McCarty dared anyone of them to quit the outfit, saying that if they did they would never quit again. Finally they got up into the American Falls country and apologized to McCarty for their quarrelsome disposition. At American Falls, McCarty said, "Richardson, I want to sell you that horse." He refused to buy it. McCarty said, "Oh, yes, you are going to buy it and I do not want anymore said about it." Richardson knew what that meant and made no more objections and paid the price asked. McCarty helped them swim the Snake River, at or close to American Falls. There he said, "I will leave you here, as I am going south." When they awoke the next morning, they found McCarty had vanished. The owners of this herd had some uneasy thoughts fearing the

McCarty gang might come and take over, leaving no one to tell the tale. On this trip Richardson asked McCarty how he got from place to place, without being caught. The reply was easy—just drop in with some trail herd, and work as one of them. They will never suspect anyone with the trail herd, for it travels slowly and they expect us to be on the run.

The herd came by way of Soda Springs, Idaho where all hands stopped and bathed in the fine springs. The rest of the trip was uneventful. Richardson brought his horses home and kept them on or near the range close to his homestead. On reaching home in May he found that the past winter had been one of the most severe ones in the history of Wyoming. He also found a new son to greet him, Willing G. (the writer) who was born Feb. 20, 1886 in their log homestead shack with four feet of snow on the level all over the country. No one could reach the ranch on the appointed day and Mrs. Richardson brought this baby into the world alone without assistance of anyone and carried on at the ranch, looking after the other two older sons and the chores around the place. From here on for the next three years, things moved along rather uneventfully except for neighborhood bickering and hard work. The timber business of Coe and Carter took over all of the timber work, and the Barkley's left. In 1889 Richardson bought Section 29, owned by Barkley's for \$500, which was a great addition to the homestead and gave him a lot more hay meadow. The extra hay and the sale of a horse or two, gave him additional income and he was prospering a little. In the summer of 1890 a man by the name of

Jack Garner disappeared between dark and daylight with 190 head of Richardson's horses and took them to Montana. Richardson never knew until several years later who got them and where they were taken. The purchase of the Barkley section caused much enmity by the neighbors.

Start Cattle Business

Richardson's decided to go into the cattle business and bought a few head here and there. Hearing of some cattle for sale north of Medicine Bow he went over to buy them in September. While he was away, someone set the tinder-dry brush on fire in hopes of burning everything he had, and was almost successful. Mrs. Richardson left her babies at home and fought the fire as best she could saving the haystacks and buildings but could not have done so, had not the elements come to her rescue with a hard-driving rain that saved the day. Her face, hands and hair were badly blistered and singed. That winter Richardson had to trail his cattle some ten miles every day for pasture but managed somehow to survive the winter. For the last two years, he had a neighbor some 12 miles away come to the place and bale his hay with a horse power baler, which was known as a half-circle press. The horse would pull the sweep in a half circle to push the plunger in, turn around and repeat the process, and in a ten-hour day could bale four tons of hay. In 1890 he bought his own press, a great big heavy oak concern weighing 2 tons or more. This was known as the P. K. Didrick baler, was made in Albany, N. Y., and cost \$250. When it landed at Carbon, Wyoming there was a \$257 freight bill on it. It

took two days to bring it to the ranch some 20 odd miles out and four horses were required for the job. The baler was a big unwieldy outfit but it was a full circle press, and on a good day would bale 8-10 tons of hay. The author at the tender age of six went to work on this press doing the back-wiring, and to this day despises the hay baling operation.

First Mowing Machines and Rakes

In 1889, two wonders of wonders came to the ranch. These were two 3½-foot horse-drawn mowers made by Walter A. Wood and despised by all laboring men who figured it would put 6 to 8 men out of work who formerly cut hay with hand scythes. Nevertheless the mower stayed on the job. Other ranchers soon saw its value and mowing machines soon became standard equipment on ranches. Another improvement was the 8-foot Hollensworth hayrake with hand dump. This was generally operated by a boy for it was easily run and no man wanted the job of driving a single horse and being alone all day long. The author maintains it was a man's job and Bob Burns also started his hay-making experience driving horses on a rake. The author had the job for 32 years. The hay was raked into long windrows and then bunched or shocked. Then the hay wagons came along and the hay was loaded with pitchforks by hand and hauled to the stack. On the small meadows of that time the author has seen as many as 17 men working in the field to put up 50 to 100 tons of hay, which took from 30 to 45 days. Those were great days for the author, following the hay outfit, chasing but-

terflies, and spending most of his time with the old horse "Blackhawk." He relates, "I would run all around him and hold to his legs, and if he laid down, I would get on his back and go to sleep. He would not get up until I got off. We were taught that a horse was our best friend and our mode of travelling and how to ride and handle him to the best advantage."

A Tragic Accident and Pioneer First Aid

It was about this time when the Richardson's eldest son was sent out to close a bar gate, where someone had left the bars down. He got on an old gray horse and started away on the gallop. When near the destination, the horse stumbled and fell in a boulder patch, throwing the rider into the boulders. He got up and walked toward home, but was going on past the house when his mother stopped him. She saw in an instant that he was badly hurt. He complained of his head hurting him, so she took him into the house and put him to bed, where he lapsed into unconsciousness. She located the skull fracture. She rolled up some rolls of cloth, an inch or more in diameter, tying some string to the hair in the center of the broken skin on the scalp; then tying this to a small stick. She put a roll of cloth under each end of the stick, to hold up the scalp and broken skull, and waited for nature to do the rest. It was seven days before he regained consciousness and he was in bed nearly a month before he was allowed to sit up. There was no noise or commotion allowed anywhere near him. With her constant care and nursing she brought him

out of all danger and he has lived a normal life.

Learning Use of Guns

All of the youngsters were allowed to handle all kinds of firearms and learn their mechanism. When a youngster became too familiar the folks would put in a large charge of powder and shot in some old muzzle loader and coax the youngster to shoot at some target. The kick or recoil would usually turn him around several times and his interest in guns hit a new low point until the sore spots healed, and from that time on the boy always had a lot of respect for a gun. If any of the youngsters were careless in handling a gun, they had a nice lesson ready, which consisted of waiting their chance and sometime shooting a wild chicken or other game with the muzzle of the gun over the youngster's head. The roar of an old black powder gun would nearly deafen the youngster and then the parents would apologize for being so careless with a gun and give a good lecture on the "Do's and Don't" when out hunting.

Things went on as usual on the ranch as more land was added, with an increase in the work with additional cattle to care for. The Richardsons went into the dairy business in a small way, milking some 17 cows and making butter. In the summer the butter was taken to Carbon every two weeks, and when the weather got cold it was taken once a month. It brought from 17 to 25 cents a pound which was a top price at that time. Then Coe and Carter came to the Richardsons in November and asked them to freeze their milk and save it. They paid 3 cents for a pan of frozen milk. The milk was set

outside in a large milk pan and left to freeze. In the morning they would pour hot water over the tin pan and slip the frozen milk out and pile it up. The author has seen it go away by the wagon load. On reaching the tie camp the milk was piled in some outside cool place and presto they had fresh milk. The Richardsons could not supply the demand for the camp and other ranches sent a supply of "frozen milk" to Carbon. This, of course, was before evaporated milk came into common use. There was a condensed milk by the name of Rose, which was used for coffee, but it was very thick, heavy, sweet and expensive. Things rolled along day after day with long hours of hard work and discouragement. Richardson made some three miles of new ditch to irrigate the bench land he had bought from Barkley. It took some two years before he completed the ditch but it added about 350 acres more of meadow land, which soon began to return hay crops in return for the work invested.

Improved Wood Mower: Dain Stacker

An improved Wood mowing machine came to the ranch in 1892 which had some improvements including a 4½-foot cutter bar. That was the standard for nearly 10 years. That same year came the biggest wonder, an overshot stacker made by the Dain Mfg. Co. and also a hay sweep, locally called a "Go-Devil." These took all of the wagons out of the field and all of the neighbors were laughing and saying it would not work, but it did with a vengeance. The prejudice against it was so great that no other sweeps or stackers were brought into the country for several years.

A New Home Built

About this time the Richardsons built themselves a new home in a new location on their homestead. They did this to get on higher and drier ground so as to get a drier and better outlook. This is the home best remembered by the youngsters. The two older sons were working in the hayfield and doing other jobs. The youngest son was coaxed to ride horseback and was laughed at by everybody, if he would not try. The first job he had was getting in the milch cows. Mother Richardson would put the bridle on the horse and he rode Injun style—bareback. Saddles were scarce, expensive and hard to get and anyone who owned one would not loan it out. When riding bareback there was no danger of catching a foot in a stirrup, and getting dragged to death—the fear of all frontiersman. Sometimes if the horse stumbled or fell, we were unseated and if we did not grab the reins and get back on the horse we had to walk home to our shame and disgust. At six years of age the youngster's job was to get in the work horses every morning for the hay outfit. He was called at 4:30 in the morning and went a mile and a half for the horses and had to have them in the corral by 5 o'clock or there were a sour looking bunch of men around the corral when he did get in. For it was their job to have their horses in the barn, fed and harnessed and be at the breakfast table at 6 a. m. The next brother, Edward, called Ted by everyone, heard his father talking about his trips on the trail and how everything they had was carried on pack horses, so he and his brothers decided to have a pack outfit. Mother and Dad Richardson

had always kept their boys well supplied with 1/4-inch rope and encouraged them to rope everything they could see. There was method in their kindness, as the boys soon became experts with a rope. It was the biggest ambition of a frontier boy to ride and rope. All hoped someday to be as good as the cowboys they knew or heard of, such names as Hans or Emil Thode, the West brothers, Worthen, Mole, Dude Round and Percentie Bill were the ultimate in cowboy perfection around those parts.

So the boys got the milch cow calves in the corral, and cinched Dad's old pack saddle on the largest of the bunch. After much hard work getting him tied up, they then tied everything on him that struck their fancy, including gunny sacks, powder kegs, tin cans, and numerous other trinkets—in fact everything that could be tied on with their 1/4-inch ropes.

Fun With a Calf

They turned the calf loose and what a rip-roaring time they had watching that calf buck and run to their whooping, but when they wished to quit they found to their dismay that they could not catch the calf and their ropes and paraphernalia were tied hard and fast to the calf. They knew they were in for a scolding and perhaps a whipping. They became frightened of the consequences and turned the calves into the pasture and hid out. When Dad came home to do his chores and milk the cows they heard some first class cussing. Father and two men were trying to get the calves back into the corral and when they did he took out his jackknife and cut all the ropes and let the pack saddle and odd items fall to

the ground. The boys did not get the scolding they expected. Mother said, "Billie," as she always called Dad, "You talk pack outfit all of the time. What more can you expect of the boys." He said, "They did a d— good job, but they should have used a diamond hitch." The following Sunday they were given new ropes and were taken to the corral and made to do it all over again and tie everything with a diamond hitch. They never did forget this forceful lesson and have used the diamond hitch throughout their lives.

Country School Life

The school life was very simple and short each year. There was one month of school, beginning in May and ending in June, so the older boys could help on the ranch, herd cattle and help in the hayfield. The first teacher married a local man and together they built up one of the largest ranches in Carbon county. In the fall of 1893, the three sons rode some seven miles to school every day, not on busses but on horseback. It was nearly a two-hour trip both ways. The youngest one (the author) would go to sleep upon reaching school and his teacher would let him sleep. This procedure continued for nearly three months, when the boys were caught in a blizzard and were lost for several hours. Their horses brought them to a neighboring ranch, 4 miles away and the owner started home with them. On getting within a mile of their home he found their parents looking for them. They were taken home and thawed out, as they were thoroughly soaked and chilled by the rain, sleet, and snow. That ended school for that winter.

Homemade Articles

The children were dressed rather primitively. Nearly everything was homemade and handmade. Anything that could be made out of fur or hide was eagerly made. Mother Richardson used to make moccasins out of deer hide or buckskin, the hair being on the inside for winter use. These moccasins were tall ones and laced well up on our legs. These moccasins were very warm and comfortable. In the spring, when the snow was wet we got a larger pair to pull on over the others, these with the hair on the outside. The hide was so cut that the hair all sloped back from the toe and this made a moisture-proof overshoe, provided you did not scrape your foot backwards. These were worn by the youngsters every winter, until the youngest was nine years old. Then the old one-buckle stogey shoe came into being and could be bought for 50 to 75 cents in boys' sizes. At this time the boys obtained their first overalls, which became available for the first time. Mrs. Richardson tanned all of the game hides she could get, which she made into buckskin shirts, vests, trousers, coats and caps. No coonskins were available in this area for would-be Davy Crocketts. These buckskin garments were windproof and much prized by all outdoor men and timber workers, and she could not keep a supply of buckskin on hand. She was very thrifty and saved all beef fat, wild game fat and rendered it all. It was put away until cold weather when it was melted and the dipping of candles started. They would get several sticks, some 12 inches or more long, and twist several candle wicks on each stick and make a rack to hold up each end of the

stick. These were dipped in the hot tallow and placed on the stand to cool, picking up the next and repeating the process until the candles reached the desired thickness. They made candles by the hundreds, perhaps thousands and sold them to the mines in Carbon and the timber camps. Some years later they got tin candle molds and the work was much easier and faster. These candles sold for a nickle each and provided another boost for their meagre income. All deer, antelope, and elk legs were broken open and the marrow rendered down, making a very fine oil, called neatsfoot which was much sought after for softening all leather and to soften home-tanned hides. Winter rolled into spring, then summer and the beginning of haying in 1894. Mrs. Richardson decided her young son could help in the kitchen and save the expense of a hired girl, which amounted to \$10-\$15 a month. Son (the author) packed water from a nearby ditch, brought in the firewood, set tables, washed dishes, and learned small duties about cooking, which he picked up fast. The next summer he was taken back into the kitchen and asked to take over the cooking job under the watchful eye of his mother. She would go picking wild berries but would return about 11 o'clock to see how things were coming along. In due time the cooking was turned over to him entirely and Mrs. Richardson would ride for cattle or go picking wild berries. After this apprenticeship he learned to be a good camp cook and could bake bread in a dutch oven and cook over an open fire. Lots of her cooking was done over an open fire in the yard; in dutch ovens and large black cast iron pots.

In the summer months there was always a campfire built out in front of the house, and evenings were spent there, where the older folks sat talking and the youngsters played on the grass nearby. We were always encouraged to sleep outside, as it was considered much healthier and the smoke from the fire kept away all mosquitoes and gnats.

English Gentry Arrive

About this time a nearby ranch, some 15 miles distant brought over some English gentry who "Doncha know" wanted to learn something of the principles of ranching through practice. Dukes, Lords, and gentry made up this group of scholars. They were charged \$500 a year as "learners" to learn by doing. This ranch was that of Richard Brackenbury, which is now owned by Christine Cronberg and will be described later in this chapter. Some of these young men became good ranchmen and good American citizens, who were a joy to know. Among them was one Lord Roy, known to us as John W. Roy, who bought Richardson's step-son's land and became a neighbor about 1890. John was a good neighbor, gifted to drink and a good time and was not very fond of hard work. He hired out to do Richardson's stacking some years later, and he never made a great deal of work out of it. If he could climb the pile of hay and sit on top, that was where you would see him. When living on his claim or homestead he came into a monthly allowance from England. The amount was not generally known, but the time of its arrival was, for he would send away and buy a 5-10-gallon keg of whiskey, and all of the gentry would

know, for they would all pay him a visit, spending several days with him. On their way home they would speak of the "blooming good time" they had up at John's place. Lord Roy lived up his place by borrowing on it, until Richardson bought him out for the balance due. Lord Roy then moved to the North Platte valley.

A Country School Marm Arrives

The winter of 1895-96, the Richardsons decided that their children should have more schooling, so they hired their own school teacher, a red-headed girl named Florence Edith Pane. They paid her \$10 a month and board. Things began to pick up about this time at the Richardson ranch and Richardson did not have much trouble getting his winter feeding done, for there was always some young, hopeful "moon-eyed" young man coming around hoping to spend a little time in the teacher's company. That winter was a lively, pleasant one, with parties nearly every weekend at some neighbor's house. Winter rolled into spring and cattle were to be moved to the East Fork flats, so the Richardsons decided their two youngest boys could herd the cattle—the youngest 10 years of age and the other 13. Again the youngest was the author, and looking back today it just seems a crazy dream to be allowed the things we had. We were set up in the cowboy business, seven miles from home with two good horses, saddles, ropes, and all of the other equipment needed in our trade. Our abode was a 12 x 14 brand new wall tent, set up in a small grassy park, in a jackpine grove, with a larger park out in back in which to hobble our horses. In front of our tent, we had

our camp fire and cooking utensils, consisting of two dutch ovens, two frying pans, a coffee pot and the necessary tin plates and cups, which were kept in the tent along with our provisions. We had enough guns to supply any outlaw, consisting of two rifles, two muzzle loading shotguns, and two six-guns, 25 pounds of black powder and 50 pounds of shot with bullet molds for loading. These firearms enabled us to supply ourselves with wild meat, such as grouse, sage chicken, and duck, but we were told never to kill large game, which we never did. Nor did we shoot at larger game, as the early westerner would only kill what he could eat and take care of. A game hog was held in the lowest contempt. The only scare we ever got in that camp happened a little after midnight on a beautiful moonlight night. We were awakened by our tent just shaking and trembling with a most peculiar roar. We both grabbed our pistols which were under our pillows and breathlessly awaited events. There was not much suspense, for it soon came again. We saw a shadow along the ridge pole of the tent. Ted aimed and fired, and the object came rolling off the tent. We found out later that the male grouse struts and drums the same as a tom turkey, but their strutting is usually done on a log, but this one chose the ridge pole of our tent and ended up in our frying pan. Our day's work consisted of keeping the 300 cattle between two rivers, on several sections of land, and we did the job proudly and were praised for our good job.

The Stanton Place Purchased

This same spring, Richardson closed

a deal for Section 30, owned by Jack Stanton, with ditches and fences for which he paid \$1,200. The purchase was financed by a loan from the Carbon State Bank at an interest rate of 12 per cent. The cattle were brought back at the beginning of the summer and placed on Section 30, known as Stanton Flats and always spoken of as such. A man by the name of James Mullen came and bought our 3-year-old steers. He and Richardson looked them over and were within 50 cents a head of making a deal on the first look. They tossed a coin to see who would win and the first coin was lost in the tall grass. The second toss was called by Mullen and he obtained some 70 head of 3-year-old steers for \$22 per head which was a top price for those days. Richardson found the other coin sometime later and if he had found it at the time of the toss he would have won and would have obtained 50 cents more per head for those steers. Late that fall Bill Richardson saw a trail herd coming round the south end of his place. He and his youngest son went to look it over. On riding up to the herd Richardson asked for the foreman and was directed to a rider at the rear of the herd. When they arrived there Richardson recognized Nigger Sam. They shook hands and began to talk. His son, the author, took one look at the colored man and left for safer places, for he had never seen a black man. Later he asked his father how that man got bruised up so bad, because his lips were all swollen up. This incident was always a source of a good laugh for Mrs. Richardson, as long as she lived.

A Man School Teacher

That fall the Richardsons hired a man teacher in the person of Harry Gobelman and another neighbor named Meredith made arrangements for his children to come to the Richardson school and paid the teacher \$15 a month so he was making \$25 a month and board, which was top wages for a teacher at that time. The winter rolled into spring, along with the customary work and denials. As haying came around, Richardson and his three sons and one hired man put up all of their hay. Being at no expense, he cleaned up all of his debts and reached out for more land. He bought Section 31, a railroad section, which has always been spoken of as the railroad section. He then leased two more sections from the State of Wyoming, and this completed his land holdings. He was then able to run 450 head of cattle on his own ranch. That winter Mrs. Richardson and her three sons moved to Carbon, so the boys could go to school. The principal called her in one day and told her that her boys would not amount to anything, which hurt her feelings greatly. They never obtained the education she wanted them to have, but all prospered and owned good ranches.

Hard Winter of 1897-98; Snow Shoveling and Hay Pitching

The winter of 1897-98 started with a very open fall with no cold weather or snow and everyone was looking forward to a mild winter. The Christmas Holidays passed with exceptionally mild weather and then on January 16, 1898, winter hit in all of its fury. What a time Dad Richardson had on that ranch alone. The winter feeding was all done with hay wagons and when

the snow became deep and drifted, it was necessary to shovel a path through the drifts to the hay stacks, which sometimes took several hours of hard work, before any hay could be loaded on the wagon to feed the cattle. On a blizzard day the path would blow full of snow before the loading was finished and more path shoveling was necessary before the load of hay could be pulled away from the stack and fed to the hungry cattle. It would take until late in the afternoon to finish up with the feeding. His sons objected to shovelling snow and when they took over the feeding job they made some sleds so they could slide the hay wagon over the drifts rather than clearing out a path before and after loading. Dad Richardson did not think much of their ideas as he figured they were just too lazy to shovel snow.

A Spoiled Kid Learns a Lesson

Winter rolled into spring and work began anew. Along in May Mrs. Richardson's nephew came to stay awhile. It was her brother's boy, who had lost his father some years earlier and the boy had more or less run wild. What a problem he was. The Richardsons tamed him down to some extent and made him work, to which he objected strongly. He was sent to help the Richardson boys and some neighbors who were working cattle. He was put at the beginner's job of holding up the main bunch of cattle, but like all beginners he wanted to get in the main show. He kept getting in the road and scattering the herd, so finally the three "cut-out" men took down their 12-foot bull whips, and started after him. They cut him out of the bunch and started him for the ranch, giving his horse

several good lashes with the whips. It was a funny sight to see that horse making for the ranch with the would-be cowboy bouncing up and down, hanging on to all of the straps and leather strings he could get ahold of, to keep from falling off. He was too busy holding on, to even pick up the bridle reins and stop his horse. On reaching the house he went to his aunt and said, "Aunt Mary, the boys cut me out and started me for home, gave the horse a good lashing and I could not stop him." His aunt told him he had not done what he was told to do. She said, "When you got in the road, rather than create a fight, they got rid of you quickly and easily."

Requirements for a Cowboy or Top Hand

The word cowboy covers a lot of requirements, which not many men can do and qualify. He had to be an expert horseman, a good judge of horse-flesh at first sight, so he could tell upon inspection the good cow horse or pony from a plug. Then he had to be an expert handler of horses, with enough firmness and kindness to gain a horse's respect and confidence. Cruelty and whooping had no place in the art of horse breaking, and in most cases when such procedures were followed the horse so-treated never amounted to much. To break a good cow pony, he was never allowed to buck if it could possibly be avoided and was handled kindly so he was not afraid and never had any inclination to buck. When handled kindly and never abused he would never lose his life and spirit. A top cow horse is always a one-man horse, used to his master's kind of riding, and he responds to every move of

his rider. A well broken cow horse responds immediately when he feels his rider lean this way or that and he turns with the movement of his rider's body. When he feels his rider brace himself and sit back, he will stop short. In the early days an expert rider was one who was one and part of his horse, who from the waist down moved with the horse's body with no bouncing and who carried most of his weight in the stirrups. From the waist up the body was allowed to sway with the motion of the horse and when the rider leaned either right or left, the horse was trained to turn that way to keep the rider balanced. These movements were called for in rapid succession in cutting or roping cattle. The bridle reins are drawn gently across the left side of the neck to turn right and across the right side of the neck to turn left. This is why a slender-necked sensitive horse makes the best cow pony, and conversely a high-headed, nervous, head-flopper is a poor one. A good cowboy must have a quick brain with split-second judgment and good timing. When a horse starts to fall on a fast run, and most cow work is done at top speed, a good hand must have his feet out of the stirrups and fall clear so the horse will not fall on him. A good roper has to use split-second timing to throw his rope at the proper time and to lay his loop in such a manner that it will catch the critter he wants. If he is roping an animal by the feet, his loop must be in position at the split second when the animal's feet are off the ground, so they will enter the loop at the forward movement of the feet.

The Art of Cutting Cattle

In cutting out cattle, the timing of the rider and horse must work as one, and keep up and dodge with the animal. They must be able to anticipate the next move of the cow critter so they can be there first and prevent his dodging getaway. This calls for rapid thought and coordinating action when working a wild bunch of cattle. Any good cowman will take one good look, or sometimes a fleeting glance at a cow, horse or sheep and obtain a subconscious picture of that particular animal and can recognize that animal later in the herd, should he want to separate that animal. Of course this is a gift, and it was said of Thornt Beggs, a famous colored cowboy who worked for Ora Haley, that he could pick out the calf which belonged to each cow, when they became separated. Other good cowmen could cut out beef steers and get practically 100 per cent accuracy on "the fleshing" of a trainload of "beeves." Fat cattle on the range reach their bloom, usually between the time the grass is green and when it starts to dry out in the fall. This fat is perishable, similar to fruits and vegetables. Over-excitement, travelling too fast, being too far from water and other factors tend to take off fat. The less the cattle move or trail the better. Many cattle when trailed become restless after midnight and fret and walk off fat. A good cowboy is usually midwife to 600 or more head of cows and must be well versed in animal complaints and sickness so he can take immediate action when the occasion arises. He must be able to tell from a distance whether all is well and if not, on closer examination, he must know whether the trouble is bloat,

poisonous plants, blackleg or other diseases and what to do about them. In the early days it was cheaper to let an animal die than to call a veterinarian, for his fee would perhaps take the income from two or more cows and by the time he covered some 50 to 100 miles to the ranch his services were no longer required. A good cowboy had to be an expert in reading brands. Under good conditions anyone can read brands, but under bad conditions when brands are dim and covered with shaggy hair and the hide is wet and covered with snow or ice, when it is necessary to catch and throw the animal and shear or cut the hair off with a jack-knife and then feel for the brand marks with the fingers. A good hand must remember some hundred or more brands and their owners. Don't be surprised when you meet some cowboy and he talks in circles in trying to get some clue to your name or get you to mention it. His job is not to remember names and his "noggin" usually contains only a variety of cuss words which come out readily when he needs to address an honery critter which does not cooperate. But remember this same hand will never forget your face or build and he will recognize you two blocks away and name the place where he saw you. He will distinguish between different ones of you by the clothes you wore and how you looked and acted. It is often said you can tell a cowboy by the way he dresses,—boots, spurs, chaps, jacket and ten-gallon hat. Anybody can buy these items of clothing in most western mens' furnishing stores, and sit on the fence at some rodeo and whoop, holler and cuss in western fashion. The real "know how" can not be bought at any

stockman's store. It is gained through years of hard work, denials, and cussing out for the mistakes made. A beginner is generally started as a hold-up man, that is helping hold the main bunch of cattle together, while the top hands do the cutting out work. Their first promotion is to hold up the "cut-outs," and from there they act as pick-up men who pick up the critter as he is brought to the edge of the herd by the top hand. Fast thinking and acting is required as he relays the cut-out critter to the cut-out bunch held separate from the main bunch. The top hand has to be a good judge of beef, as to age and condition of the animals and know how to quietly and effectively cut the "beeves" out of the main herd. A top cowhand is usually a quiet unassuming fellow who lets his work prove his ability and worth and will usually shun you if you start to praise him. All early day cowboys rode with the low-heeled boot, and flat-crown, wide-brimmed hat. The first pair of high heeled boots that came into the Medi-Bow valley were worn by a would-be cowboy of those days who later became a wonderfully skilled cowboy. His boot heels were the size of a dime, and from that heel came the western expression, he can turn on a dime, and that expression was aptly applied to the qualifications of a good cow horse, which could turn on a dime. These heels did not stay in fashion very long, for they had a bad habit of turning the wearer's ankle and laming him. They became lower, 1½ inches high and broader, which made them "ground worth." Some of the die-hards who insisted on wearing the tall, small-heeled boot would say that a cowboy's

place is in his saddle and not on the ground, and let the flat heels do the wrangling and branding.

Haying, a Ranchman's Harvest

Spring moved into summer and the Richardsons did the haying themselves, with the help of one additional hired man. They baled 26 tons of hay and hauled it to Carbon and gave the proceeds to their sons, the youngest (the author), buying a camera with his money. What fun there was in taking pictures and doing all of the finishing work. Some of those negatives are priceless today because they show the early ways and conditions of that time.

A New Schoolhouse: Symbol of Opportunity

Then a new schoolhouse was built, closer to home, in the river bottoms where the children of the valley had six months of winter school and could stay at home. Then they obtained better teachers and these children really advanced fast. Spring came with all of its work.

New Mower and Rake

Then came a new wonder, a McCormick mower with a 5-foot cutter bar. How that machine clipped the hay so it fell in clean, smooth swaths. A new Hollingsworth rake, 10 feet wide helped to get the hay in windrows in jig time. Then the old Wood 4-foot-cut mower was used and with the two mowers the hay was cut in quick time.

Beef Shipping

Then came the shipping of beef in September. The Richardsons were now in good financial condition and they could put in a considerable amount of supplies such as a ton of

flour, 600 pounds of sugar, quantities of dried fruit, and some canned vegetables, mostly corn and tomatoes. They would haul these supplies to the ranch in September and were supplied for a full year. They also hauled their coal at this time, and as the saying went, "pulled the hole in after them." No ranchman made a trip to Carbon except for a dire emergency. They went to Elk Mountain for the mail once in two weeks. They had kerosene lamps and what a beautiful white light they gave and were much admired. The one which hung in the kitchen wall had a large polished tin reflector was the favorite and prize, for the reflector directed the light onto the table and you could see the fellow's plate across the table from you.

College Education

The oldest son was sent away to the University of Wyoming. He had a hard time with his studies but made good grades in Mechanical Engineering. He was allowed only six months of school and had to come back to the ranch in time to help with the spring ranch work. The other two boys went to the rural school and all took hold of the ranch work in the spring, and put up the hay without any hired help. This year some more haying machinery was purchased including a McCormick mower with a 6-foot cutter bar, a 10-foot McCormick self-dump hay rake and another sweep, all of which helped to make haying move along much faster and easier. That fall the younger two boys entered the University. They travelled the 70-odd miles to Laramie in a wagon and had to camp overnight on the way. Two greener country boys never entered a Univer-

sity. The teacher we had during the school year of 1899-1900, Miss Birdie Robenette, was one of the finest teachers that ever came to Wyoming, and how she did work with all of her pupils. Her record in Carbon County, Wyoming still stands as a monument in her honor.

Mrs. Richardson felt like she had really completed the first part of her ambition when she saw her two younger boys enter the University. But the price of cattle and other expenses cut down the available cash and the boys could spend only the one year in school. Came spring and the usual ranch work including horse breaking. A lot of young horses had grown up on the place and were more salable when gentle and broke to harness or saddle. The three boys had a pair of half-broke broncos, which they hitched up sometime the latter part of May, and had driven a half-mile from the barn, when they turned around and started back to beat a rainstorm which they saw coming. They urged the team as fast as possible but one of the horses decided they were cruel and balked. No amount of coaxing or persuasion could move her.

A Wyoming Cyclone

The rain struck, and it started to hail and the hail stones became larger and larger until they were the size of hen's eggs with a few the size of baseballs. The boys had to duck under the wagon for protection, while the horses just put their heads between their front legs and groaned from the terrific beating. After about five minutes the size of the hailstones decreased and then they heard a roar in the sky. On looking out from underneath the

wagon they saw what was the makings of a cyclone coming toward them from some two miles away. It came through a post and wire fence, twisting the posts off and tore the wire fence in pieces. The air was full of circling poles, some high in the sky. The poles would enter the vortex of the funnel-shaped storm and would be thrown out of the circle and then dropped to the ground some distance from where they had been picked up from the ground. It sucked water from a ditch and the appearance was like a large tin funnel. From there it kept going west and while passing through an aspen grove, it stripped the leaves off the trees. A large cottonwood tree some 20 inches in diameter was twisted off from its roots, and carried about half a mile away. When the storm had passed some badly scared but uninjured boys crawled out from underneath the wagon, spoke to the team and did they take off for a wild ride. On reaching home they found all of the windows broken out of the house, some 140 young turkeys killed, all shingles stripped from the roof of the house and destruction everywhere. It took some three weeks to repair the damage.

Haying Comes Again

That year three new Milwaukee mowers with 6-foot cutter bars were put in the field. Richardson and his three boys could now mow one day and stack the next, which was a great source of envy by neighbors, because no hired men were kept. That fall, Richardson lost one of his beloved neighbors in Callie Jessup, whose lease expired on the adjoining ranch and he was forced to move away.

Nevertheless their friendship lasted throughout the years, and still exists today in their children who are now in their 50s and 60s.

Youngest Son Attends University

This fall of 1902, the youngest son (the author) went back to the University and worked his way through school, as a pastry cook in the leading hotel in Laramie. He left Laramie at the end of the winter semester and was coming home to the ranch. He met a friend at the station, in the person of Charles Vagner, who asked him if he would look after a small satchel for him. He was very glad to oblige his father's best friend, who walked away and sat down. When the train came, he picked up the satchel and got on the train, Mr. Vagner following and sitting in another seat. They got off the train at Como and started to walk some 5 miles to Carbon, when they picked up a ride for the rest of the way. When they got to Carbon, Vagner said, "I will take the satchel now. You have been packing \$97,000 which is on its way to the Carbon State Bank." On reaching home he found a lot of changes. A new store had been built at Elk Mountain, measuring some 40 by 100 feet and having an upper story. A neighbor had built himself a new two-story brick house. But the Richardsons never changed, and kept their normal way of living without much splurging. They were never very popular because they did not drink or gamble. These were forbidden by Mother Richardson.

The Richardson bunch of cattle had been built to 500 head and kept at or near that point, and some of the best registered bulls that ever came to the

valley came to their ranch. The Richardson steers were always shipped to Omaha and sold by the Woods Bros. Commission Co. for over 30 years. One feeder in Iowa bought them for 17 years in succession. The sons as young fellows had good driving teams and the very best of riding horses.

Ranch Parties

The ranch parties lasted until daylight, so the people could see to go home and they arrived in time to milk the cows and do the other chores. About this time some people by the name of Morkey purchased the store, saloon and post office at Elk Mountain and made a summer resort out of it. They gave a picnic every other Sunday and the author has seen as many as 200 teams tied up in the neighborhood, with 700 odd people there from the towns of Carbon, Hanna, Medicine Bow and Saratoga as well as from nearby ranches. Music was furnished by Billie Wilcox's orchestra. What a time everyone had and they came early and stayed until the following morning. To this day the country dances at Elk Mountain pavilion are renowned and the dance floor mounted on railroad car springs gives a distinctive sensation to the dancers' feet and has a distinct vibration to the time of the dancers' feet particularly in the square dances.

Branding Calves on the Range

This spring the Richardsons decided that their two younger sons should brand all of the calves out on the hills where they were born. They equipped themselves with good horses, saddles, and ropes, with the branding iron tied under the fender of the saddle. They

were told to go ahead and get the job done. This job taught them the value of their past training in play with the small lengths of ¼-inch rope. Roping from the back of a running horse was something very different from what they were used to. The horses were not trained to follow the running calves closely, so they learned much. After much hard work they managed to catch and brand 192 head of calves. They kept at this work for several years and became quite adept. The main bunch of cattle were never coralled and in a few years were known as the wildest bunch of cattle in the country.

Texas Steers Brought In

Speaking of wild cattle recalls an incident in the 1890s. Two men named Mullison and Beal went to Texas and bought some 1,000 Longhorn steers, which varied in color from deep black to white. These steers had likely never seen men more than twice in their lives, once at branding time and again at shipping. They unloaded them at Rock Creek Station in early May and started to trail them to the North Platte valley near Saratoga, Wyoming. These critters were very poor and some of them played out and would be left behind to be picked up later in the fall when they would likely be fat. However, they never gathered more than half of the critters left behind. They would charge anybody afoot or on horseback on sight. They were the bane of a ranchman's life. When working or gathering cattle everybody carried a good rifle and usually left a Texas steer lie where he had made his charge. It used to be good sport on a Sunday for five or six

men to go out and hunt "buckskins" as these steers were called, and when one made a charge, turn the horse and run as fast as he could go. When the steer got close, turn in the saddle and shoot him in the nose. Sometimes the other riders would have to come in on the sides and kill them. They killed and crippled several men. There was some talk of suing Mullison and Beal, but nothing could be done because their brands were never put on the critters. They just kept the bill of sale to show if they could ever gather any of these wild steers to ship. Lots of these steers had a spread of horns measuring 4 feet from tip to tip.

The Richardsons stuck together and worked to the best advantage and became financially independent. Mrs. Richardson would go away during the winters and spend her time in a pleasanter climate, but Mr. Richardson was well satisfied with his ranch and home and refused to leave. He was a great reader and loved his papers and magazines, and read them from cover to cover. He could talk on any subject and had a wonderful memory. If anyone told him a story or a business deal, he could repeat it, word for word ten years later. If the author came back and started to tell the story in a different manner, Richardson would catch him up. As for dress and fine clothes, he did not care for either. He was the old west type of man. His vacation was at shipping time, in the fall when he went to Omaha with his cattle. Walter Wood, of the Wood Bros. Commission Co. would always take Richardson out for a big supper at some large hotel. Richardson always ate with his knife, but Mr. Wood was never daunted. He used his knife too. His

annual visit to the Omaha yards was always looked forward to by the people there, and when he got too old to make the trip, the Woods Bros. would always send him a greeting card at shipping time, regretting that he could not make the trip to Omaha and they really missed him.

Omaha Experience

Once Richardson went to Omaha with a shipment of livestock, dressed in his customary manner with flannel shirt, overalls and rough work shoes. He was sitting on the yard fence looking at his six carloads of steers, when the yard "Bull or stockyard detective" walked up and nudged him with the toe of his boot and said, "Move on. We do not allow loafers around the Omaha yards." Walter Wood, the salesman happened to be in the pens and overheard the remark. He said, "Let that man alone. He owns the six cars of fine feeder steers." The detective said, "If I had those cattle, I would not dress like that." Wood said, "The way you live and dress, is perhaps the reason you do not own six cars of steers which are for sale."

Richardson's special delight was going to the Brandeis stores in Omaha and buying his wife or three daughters-in-law some of the finest dress material he could purchase. If he heard them speak of some color they liked during the following year, he never forgot. When they remarked that was the color they liked, he would tell them the day and the conversation in which they had told him about it.

First New-Fangled Lamp and Phonograph Comes

It was during the winter of 1903-04 that the first wonder light came to the

valley in the form of a gasoline lamp that hung from the ceiling giving a brilliant light and sizzled constantly. It did not take readily as most ranchmen were afraid of it exploding. The Richardsons were the only ranch to adopt this light, and one of the three sons had to handle and light them. They often wondered what the next big invention would be. It soon came when Mrs. Richardson in March sent away and bought a key-winding, wax cylinder phonograph and twelve records. The price was \$6.65 and what a splurge it was. It was talked about all over the community. People came from as far away as 20 miles to hear the records play. And that meant a day's drive by team. The old wax cylinders would melt if they became too warm. If they were touched by a warm finger, a silent place would result. The records had to be kept in felt-lined boxes so they would not be scratched. That little old talking machine was in service for over 12 years.

Richardson a Pugilist

Richardson, in his young days in England was somewhat of a pugilist and he was delighted to put gloves on his boys and insisting that they box a little every day. He also furnished them with punching bags and all the athletic equipment they wanted and often put on the boxing gloves with his sons just for the sport of it. As for other athletics, he drew the line, as a waste of time.

Pioneer Forest Ranger

The years of 1904 to 1907 were rather uneventful, except for the usual ranch work, dances, parties, and rodeos. However, in the spring of 1908 the youngest son took the Forest Ranger's exami-

nation, and went to the Hayden Forest for awhile, but he could not see this work as a life vocation and did not stay with that job. However, he thinks it was one of the most worthwhile projects the Government has carried on. In past years he has seen thousands of acres of the forest burn with no one to try and stop the flames. The fires would rage for days and weeks unchecked. Now this waste is stopped and the forest is the playground of the nation. The grandeur and beauty of the mountains, forest, rivers, parks, lakes, and groves should be cherished and protected by everyone who enters the forest. He quit the Forest Service and came home to the ranch to help put up the hay crop, but was still restless and went back to the University at Laramie with the intention of studying commercial law. He played football and came home at Christmas with a bad dose of the flu and gave it to everyone at the ranch. He had to stay home and look after the sick family and feed the 500 head of cattle, which he did for a month and that was the end of his schooling.

In the spring he took the job of Deputy Assessor. He learned more about human nature and its zealous and selfish nature. The oldest son married and moved to a house of his own. That summer Dad Richardson and his three boys did their own haying, with each one an expert in his particular job. They were putting up more hay than a 12-man crew in the neighborhood. One night the neighbor's crew all went to a nearby saloon. When they started home to their bunk house he commenced to shoot "30-30 bullets" over their heads and kept them out all night. They all reported

to work two days later and really put up hay. The fall and winter of 1909-1910 passed without anymore ado.

In the spring of 1910 the youngest son took up the Deputy Assessor job again. Mrs. Richardson's health began to fail, so she had a girl to help her through haying. She never recovered her health and passed away Dec. 21, 1910 and was buried in the Carbon cemetery, one of the coldest, stormy days in the history of Wyoming.

On January 31, 1911 the youngest son was married and moved into his own home. Dad Richardson and his second oldest son kept bachelor's quarters but they all carried on as one, prospering more as the years went by. They accumulated a fortune in cash as well as in the ranch. This continued through the succeeding years until 1917 when the last son got married and built his own home. Richardson lived alone in his bachelor's quarters. This went on until 1924, when his grandchildren began to grow up. There was not enough income from the ranch to keep four families on the ranch, so the youngest son sold out and bought the adjoining ranch from the Widdowfields and his son owns this ranch today.

A Model T Ford: Masterpiece of Transportation

Let us now go back to 1914, the year each one of the Richardson boys bought a Model T Ford. How proud they were! They could go whizzing around at the unbelievable speed of 20 miles per hour and all buggies were sold. Father Richardson disapproved of the d—d gas wagons and said there would never be any ranch work done. The boys kept the cars out of his sight as much as possible. They were only

taken out on Sunday and sometimes of an evening because they had lights on them and such lights were bright enough at 20 miles per hour but rapidly dimmed out at slower speeds. Richardson did not ride in one of them for some two or three years. When the first snow came in the fall they were driven into the garage and put on blocks, the tires removed and placed in the cellar where they spent the winter.

The Richardsons carried on their ranching operations on the adjoining ranches, carrying 40-50 head of horses for their ranch work and during haying employing some 12-17 men in their haying crew. Just before haying there was a busy time breaking horses to use in the haying field. Two good horsemen were hired some three weeks ahead of haying to handle the little-used horses so they were tractable so that they could be handled by an average teamster during haying.

Haying Crew and Procedure

It took five of the 6-foot horse drawn mowers, drawn by 2 horses and a new team was put on duty at noon. This made 20 head of horses for the mowing crew and five teamsters, who were a ticklish bunch to handle for they were ready to quit at once should anything displease them. They demanded highest wages because they usually drove the wildest horses. Every so often, the owner would see one of these teams run away, scattering a \$125 mower along the way, ruining a \$125 set of harness and often injuring if not killing \$200 worth of horseflesh.—All of this because of a moment of carelessness by a hired man. Then there were two \$100 buck rakes or sweeps and 8

head of horses to pull them along with 4 hay rakes with 16 lighter horses to draw them. In addition 4 head of heavy horses were required to handle the plunger pole on the "beaver-slide stacker." It took some \$8,000 worth of horses, harness and equipment to put up the hay and a total of 12 men working for six weeks.

Changes In Hayfield Machinery

Times are changing and already the old horse-powered hay baler which put up an average of 8 tons of baled hay in a day, has been replaced by the first power baler, which Fred Hansen brought into the neighborhood, which in a day with the same crew put up 20-22 tons of hay. Today self-tying balers with pickups make even faster time.

One of the neighbors bought a Dodge truck and hauled his hay to Hanna and everyone said he could not afford to do it, because the cost was too great and they predicted that the "green kid" would soon go broke. He made two trips a day and delivered some six tons each day and completed a job in a week that would have taken six weeks with horse and wagon. So time and improvements keep moving. That fall he hauled his winter's supply of coal in two days with his truck, a job which required ten days with a horse and wagon. People talked so much about it that the poor kid reverted to horses to haul his coal the following fall. The old die-hards and the bankers said he could not afford to use such expensive equipment to haul coal, but time proved the value of his judgment.

The Slide Stacker Arrives

Just before this, the slide stacker, often called the beaver-slide stacker

came into use. It was made of small logs and long poles and was a most useful piece of equipment, with replaceable parts easily made from extra poles and logs. It has remained through the years a most useful piece of equipment in handling large amounts of hay in a short time.

The Tractor Mower Comes

Things moved along about as usual until 1928 when the first tractor-drawn mower came into the valley. The following year when Bill Richardson and his oldest son were haying, the mowing horses wore down and were unable to keep ahead of the stackers. The oldest son who was now operating the ranch bought a tractor mower. When it came into the field Bill Richardson was so mad he would not speak to Fred Hansen, the tractor agent, nor look at the equipment. He and the other son were mowing with two horse-drawn mowers. They put an 18-year-old boy on the tractor-drawn mower and he started on a land as large as the one the two-horse mowers were working on. The tractor mower went around and around, Bill Richardson kept watching it out of the corner of his eye, and pretty soon he and the other driver of the horse mowers kept urging their teams to more speed but they could not keep up with the tractor mower and it easily finished its land well ahead of them. Two days later, a trail mower was added to the tractor and they talked Bill Richardson into riding on it. He finally admitted that it had the horse-drawn mower bested and that one tractor and two men could do more than five horse-drawn mowers with half the money invested.

Revolutionary Machines in the Hay-field Replaces Horses

The youngest son bought a tractor for his ranch the following year and used a stripped down car to pull his rake, which replaced three horse-drawn rakes in the field. The following year he bought another tractor and put a sweep on it but it was too slow and unwieldy.

The following year he took a Dodge car and stripped it down, reversed the differential so it would run backwards, and attached a sweep head. This power sweep handled hay at a top speed of 40 miles an hour. Then he had to put another rake into the field, and the youngest Richardson, his son, daughter-in-law, grandson and 3 girls put up the hay in 12 working days without a single horse in the field. Everyone said it could not be done, but it went along year after year. In 1946 a new 16-foot hay rake was purchased and a new power sweep was constructed. A truck was rigged up to furnish the motive power for the plunger pole on the beaver-slide stacker. Richardson, his son, daughter-in-law and the 10-year-old grandson put up all of the hay in 17 days with equipment costing \$3500. Four people with POWER equipment did as much in 17 days, as 14 working with horse-drawn equipment completed in six weeks. Now there are only six head of horses on the place, where there used to be 60 or 70 and leaves room for 60 more cows to bring in revenue. Cars and trucks now run summer and winter, where they used to be tied up in the winter. It just proves that one must keep up with the changing times, growing young in the ways of doing business as you grow older in age.

Remarkable Changes In Ranching In 67 Years

This history covers 67 years of ranching on the upper Medicine Bow River and here are the remarkable changes which have taken place and are taken for granted. Lights—from candle to kerosene to gasoline to electricity. Haying machinery—from scythe to horse mowers and then to tractor and trail mowers. Hand rakes—from hand ones to wheel rakes from 6 to 16 feet wide. From horse-drawn sweeps that traveled 5 miles an hour to power sweeps that can bring hay at a top speed of 40-45 miles an hour. Communication—from word of mouth to letter, telephone, telegraph, radio and television. Transportation—from horses to trains, autos and planes, both commercial and private.

Richardson Day Book Entries

The Day Book kept by William Richardson gives us some interesting sidelights and insights to the everyday deals in the early days. Most of the following items are self-explanatory and a few extra notes have been added by the author.

Oct. 9, 1886—Sold to John Parker, 3 tons of hay @ \$16 a ton, delivered 16 miles to Carbon	\$ 48.00
Total income from hay sales	463.50
Cost of baling and hauling	117.50
Net Profit	345.90
March 22, 1886—Sold one yellow cream mare to Herman Morck. Branded Right thigh M. Also 8 on shoulder. For Cash	50.00
May 29, 1886—Sold one bay gelding to York Nichols. Branded 8 on left shoulder. Also branded CS	42.50
June, 1886—Sold to Young Carson. One grey gelding branded 8 on left shoulder, for sum of	40.00
Aug. 1886—Sold to Chas. Neff. One steel grey gelding branded CS also 8 on left shoulder	40.00

Mar. 13, 1887—Paid Chas. Nichol for 300 ft. lumber.....	4.20	Dec. 22, 1888—John Carlson paid board Beef 21 lbs. @ 6c.....	7.00 1.26
Mar. 18, 1887—Sold to Wm. Fisher, load loose hay.....	12.00	(John Carlson was in timber business at Medicine Bow Crossing, the present town of Elk Mountain).	
May 11, 1887—Sold hay, 5 tons to Wm. west @ \$16.....	80.00	Sept. 28, 1889—Johnsons. 361 lbs. potatoes @ 1½c.....	5.41½
Sold hay, 3 tons to Robt. Booth.....	48.00	100 lbs. turnips.....	1.00
Sold hay, 2 tons to Joab Nixon.....	33.00	Nov. 1889—Joe Robson 20 lbs. butter @ 30c.....	6.00
Sold hay, 1 ton baled to Christian Madsen.....	17.00	(Joe Robson was an old timer who with a partner ran 3,000 horses on the Basin Ranch. He took up a homestead where Ollikkla's live now).	
Sold hay, 1 ton loosed to C. Madsen.....	11.00	Apr. 2, 1890—Coffee Johnson for boots and Tom's stove.....	5.55
Sold to Coe & Carter 10 tons baled hay delivered to timber camp.....	320.00	(C. W. "Coffee" Johnson came to Old Carbon in the early 1870s. He worked in the mines and started selling coffee. Gradually he worked up until he owned a general store. His hobby was sightseeing in foreign countries).	
May 14, 1887—Sold one Blue Roan horse to James Parr. Age 8 yrs. Branded right shoulder (triangle). Also 8 on left shoulder, for sum of.....	40.00	Apr. 5, 1890—One keg nails.....	5.75
Dec. 31, 1887—Received from Al Roberts for boarding his horse for 2½ months.....	2.50	May 10, 1890—2 bundles barb wire.....	9.39
(Al Roberts was a boatswain on the Mississippi River and came to Wyoming in early days. He filed on land which was later owned by Basin Land & Livestock Co. consisting of Messrs. Vagner, Meyer, Olson and Cortes).		Freight on barb wire.....	1.06
Feb. 9, 1888—Received from Mrs. Stephenson for half a beef. 371 pounds @ 6c.....	22.25	15 cans tomatoes.....	2.00
Feb. 21, 1888—D. W. White and Gill Kerr for meals.....	3.00	May 20, 1890—820 lbs. corn.....	8.20
D. W. "Dave" White was Supt. for Coe & Carter timber camp.		June 19, 1890—One sack oats.....	3.15
Feb. 29, 1888—Sold 9 doz. eggs @ 35c dozen.....	3.15	July 15, 1890—Recording Deed and Patent.....	4.00
Apr. 3, 1888—Wm. Pelton started to work by the month @ \$25. Due Will Pelton for digging post holes 77 holes @ 7c.....		Sept. 18, 1890—Paid taxes for 1890.....	55.30
Nov. 6, 1888—Beef Sales. 1 hind quarter to John Milliken 140 lbs @ 7c.....	9.80	Paid to Coe & Carter for land.....	127.20
1 hind quarter to John West 135 lbs @ 7c.....	9.65	Dec. 4, 1890—Expenses proving up on land (Homestead).....	46.50
1 front quarter to Michael Cummins 141 lbs. @ 6c.....	8.46	(These expenses consisted largely of train fare to Cheyenne at the rate of 22 cents a mile).	
Nov. 16, 1888—Frank Morey, Board while hauling ties, 3 wks @ \$5.....	15.00	Dec. 31, 1890—Total Expenditures for 1890.....	1,039.34
Dec. 3, 1888—Walter Beeson. Baled hay 7 days @ \$1.35.....	9.45	Apr. 29, 1892—Dain Mfg. Co.....	97.50
Dec. 5, 1888—Hay Sales: 1 bale to Andy Olson, 125 lbs.....	0.80	(This was for the first stacker and sweep to come into the Elk Mountain country).	
2550 lbs. to Creeley.....	20.00	June 23, 1892—Freight on stacker and rakes.....	53.69
2 tons to Griffith.....	32.00	July 22, 1892—Freight on mowing machine.....	58.47
3 tons to Evans.....	48.00	Jan. 2, 1893—Cartridges.....	0.85
2 tons to Robt. Booth.....	32.00	May 18, 1893—Fruit Trees and Berry Bushes.....	19.00
1,000 lbs. to Jas. Finch.....	8.00	July 4, 1893—Paid Jean Skiver for breaking two horses.....	10.00
1 ton to Wm. Bruce.....	16.00	July 9, 1893—Bought saddle from Yakey.....	15.00
2 bales to John Fisher.....	1.60	Oct. 4, 1893—World's Fare Expenditures.....	175.00

WYOMING'S PIONEER RANCHES

Evidently the Richardsons went to Chicago for the World's Fair.	
Dec. 23, 1893—Goose for Christmas from Vagners	2.00
Dec. 23, 1893—Took mortgage on J. W. Roy's place for 12 months secured by note for \$250. Interest 1% per month until paid.	
Apr. 11, 1894—Raw hide rope.....	6.00
Apr. 11, 1894—Fixing buggy wheel.....	5.00
April 28, 1894—Shot and Powder.....	1.00
April 11, 1895—Bull of Hadsell.....	100.00
Bull of Wagner's.....	48.00
May 6, 1895—Set of harness.....	40.00
June 19, 1895—Land bought from Coe & Carter.....	600.00
Oct. 15, 1895—1 keg spikes.....	5.50
Dec. 9, 1895—One pig (222 lbs.) from Harding	17.75
Dec. 21, 1895—Two turkeys from Vagners	5.27
Organ from Jackson.....	40.00
June 29, 1896—Paid Evan Veitch for 6 wks. herding.....	7.50
Sept. 16, 1896—Pitchfork at Pullman's	1.25
Sept. 23, 1896—Paid Jundquist for mowing machine.....	64.40
June 19, 1897—One pig from Wilkinson	3.50
June 21, 1897—Rent for school land...	16.00
Oct. 2, 1897—Taxes on property and Roy's	141.89
Oct. 9, 1897—Flour from Peabody's in Laramie, 1,000 lbs. @ \$2.25.....	22.50
Oct. 9, 1897—100 lbs. sugar.....	6.00
Oct. 9, 1897—100 lbs. graham flour.....	2.30
Oct. 9, 1897—100 lbs. yellow corn meal. Peabody's	1.10
Oct. 12, 1897—Paid Chas. Sublett 3 months work at \$25 per month...	75.00
Nov. 2, 1897—Cattle salt 50 lbs @ 1c lb.	0.50
Nov. 18, 1897—Lumber, Plain 1000 ft. @ \$13.....	13.00
Scantling 28 ft.....	0.25
Nov. 29, 1897—Rock Salt at Trabings 520 lbs. @ 1c.....	5.20
Dec. 7, 1897—Freight on salt 500 lbs. @ 37c rt. (rate).....	1.85
Feb. 7, 1898—Sent cash for suit clothes to Sears, Roebuck Co. Chicago.....	4.25
June 24, 1898—Lumber from Harnden 721 ft.	7.21
July 13, 1898—Rake and repairs from Holliday's	43.70
Aug. 8, 1898—127 lbs. beef from Harnden @ 8c.....	10.16
Sept. 7, 1898—Paid Mrs. Markey for shot gun shells.....	0.90
Sept. 17, 1898—Check to Mrs. Richardson to go to Fair.....	245.00
Check to Mrs. Richardson to go to Fair	52.00
(Mrs. Richardson and two sons attended Trans-Mississippi Fair in Omaha).	
Feb. 13, 1899—Made check for Casten Christian for land, E½ NE¼, E½ SE¼	500.00
May 13, 1899—Bought a team from F. E. Coe	85.00
Sept. 8, 1899—New Saddle.....	55.00
Sept. 12, 1899—2800 ft. lumber from Harnden	28.00
Nov. 5, 1899—514 ft. lumber from Harnden	4.50
Jan. 8, 1900—Paid Michel Quealy for two bulls @ \$150	300.00
Aug. 3, 1900—Sent to W. H. Holliday for two mower wheels.....	18.00
Sept. 16, 1900—2 pair spectacles for wife	12.50
Oct. 1, 1900—Taxes	71.46
Jan. 19, 1901—For one ton corn to M. Quealy	19.00
Aug. 4, 1901—Repairs for McCormick mower	5.70
Nov. 8, 1901—Taxes on all property	145.08
Dec. 20, 1901—Paid Jessup. Breeder's Gazette	2.00
May 24, 1902—Graveyard fence	3.00
May 30, 1902—Sent check for lease on school land	16.00
June 30, 1902—One set of harness at Laramie plus freight of 50c.....	40.00
June 7, 1902—Mowing machine at Vagners	63.00
July 18, 1902—Rope 22½ lbs. ¾ at Vagners	4.15
July 18, 1902—One 6-foot sickle	1.75
Oct. 31, 1902—To W. H. Holliday for 3000 shingles	9.00
Freight on shingles from Laramie ..	1.46
Mar. 4, 1903—Sent Willing Richardson to Laramie	50.00
(The author goes to the University)	
Nov. 19, 1903—Taxes	156.86
July 15, 1904—Laramie Hardware Co. for McCormick rake	36.50
Oct. 27, 1904—Taxes. Carbon County	156.45
Nov. 26, 1904—Breeder's Gazette (A wonderful buy).....	2.00
July 15, 1905—W. H. Holliday Co. for one mower.....	63.00
Oct. 19, 1905—County Treasurer for taxes	153.48
Oct. 16, 1905—Andrew Cortes for pasturing 100 cattle. 4 months at 30c month	120.00

Oct. 22, 1905—Taxes paid. Carbon County	153.77
Apr. 8, 1907—One saddle. Knox & tanner	43.50
Apr. 10, 1907—Express on saddle.....	0.45
May 28, 1907—40 acres under Timber & Stone Act. Filing & Publishing	22.00
July 1, 1907—Seabury Spraying Co. Spraying 451 large cattle.....	67.65
Oct. 28, 1907—Taxes for 1907.....	144.79
Nov. 11, 1907—One Hereford bull from Robt. Neilson	60.00
Apr. 11, 1908—Paid Andy Nelson for breeding 3 mares	25.00
July 26, 1909—One Milwaukee mower; Gear 6 foot	57.50
Freight on mower.....	2.25

Annual Expenditures for the ranch run remarkably close.

Dec. 1890	\$1039.34	1899	2145.24
1895	1786.49	1902	1180.48
1898	1233.02	1907	1821.56
1901	1669.16	1894	1174.98
1906	2121.80	1897	1146.85
1893	1081.29	1900	1443.20
1896	2066.95	1905	1826.33

Here are some interesting figures on the purchase and sales of cattle.

1890—Bought 45 head of cattle: 40 mature and 5 calves from C. H. Archer. Principal \$544. Interest 65. Average cost per head 609/45 or \$ 13.53	
Aug. 15, 1891—Sold 9 Archer steers.....	344.21
1892—Sold Archer cattle 23 head	692.21
Deduct cost	609.00
Clear Net Cash	83.21
Sept: 7, 1892—Sold 39 head of cattle \$1003.18	
Dec. 23, 1893—Sold 14 hides to J. A. Jackson	5.00
May 17, 1895—One beef by quarters to Coe & Carter 128 131 129 129 Total 517 lbs.	28.43
May 23, 1895—One beef by quarters to Coe & Carter 139 178 146 148 Total 605 lbs.	33.27
Nov. 12, 1895—Sold 14 steers to C. L. Vagner at \$35	490.00
May 16, 1896—Sold to C. L. Vagner 16 Steers @ 35	560.00
May & June, 1896—Sold beef to tie drive	210.50
Oct. 2, 1897—Sold to Richard Bracken-bury 26 steers 3 years old; 5 steers 2 years old @ 40 total.....	1240.00
26 cows and heifers @ 25	650.00
Total	1890.00

Oct. 18, 1897—Sold to E. O. Olson one milk cow & calf.....	45.00
Sept. 10, 1898—Sold to C. L. Vagner 29 steers @ 42.50.....	1232.50
14 cows @ 30.....	420.00
Aug. 13, 1899—Sold to James Mallon 49 steers @ 43.....	2107.00
Nov. 2, 1899—Sold 20 cows to C. L. Vagner @ 30.....	600.00
Sept. 2, 1900—Sold to M. Quealy 11 cows @ 30.....	330.00
44 steers @ 43.....	1892.00
3 "big jaws" @ 35.....	105.00
Total	2327.00
1905—Bought of Hebel & Murray. One bull calf No. 175668. Pedigree: Name Angus, calved Nov. 6, 1903. Tattoo No. 81. Sire: Breast-plate Lad No. 70093. Dam Cherry Pie No. 104819. Kansas City, Mo., Nov. 16, 1903. (no price stated).	

From 1891 through 1909 a great number of cattle were sold as "quartered beef" similar to the sales reported above in 1895. The Rockdale Hereford Association was the firm name of Hebel and Murray which has been described in detail in Chapter 15. Let us end up the day book entries with a couple of interesting ones.

Dec. 23, 1895. Miss Florence Payne started to teach.	
Feb. 22, 1896—Paid Miss Florence Payne for two months.....	\$ 20.00
May 22, 1896—Miss Payne stopped teaching. Paid for 3 mos.....	30.00
Aug. 10, 1896—Earn Meede started work at \$25 a month.	

So times have changed since 1895 and teacher's and ranch hand's wages today are in the three figures instead of two, per month.

Sam Johnson and Family Establish An Empire

Samuel Johnson was born June 26, 1862 near Knoxville, Tenn., son of John R. and Sarah Owens Johnson. When he was a child his parents came west to Colorado, staying there a few years

and then coming to Laramie where they lived the rest of their lives. The father John R. came to Wyoming in 1877 and with his brother John H. started in the freighting business. They drove bull teams from Medicine Bow and Rock Creek to Fort Fetterman and other places. Sam Johnson related the following incident to the author.

The Johnsons were coming west with four heavy loads of freight. Each wagon was drawn by four oxen. They stopped at Rock Creek Crossing (now Arlington) to rest their stock and eat dinner. Sam Johnson stood on this spot where they had cooked their dinner many years before and told the author the following story:

"After crossing Rock Creek, there is a small open place or park and another small creek between the two where we had cooked dinner. There was thick brush on both sides of the road so thick one could not look to either side. Some Indians came up the north side of the creek just over a small hill and started to shoot at the Johnsons. As they ducked behind their wagons for protection, John R. grabbed his rifle. He took aim and shot and wounded one of the bucks. The buck was about to fall from his horse when another Indian caught him by the hair and dragged him out of sight. The Johnsons hitched up and left. They were afraid the Indians would return so they kept moving all night until early in the morning when they reached Medicine Bow Crossing, before they gave their stock or themselves any rest.—Sam Johnson said that was one of the hardest trips we ever made. None of the kids had any shoes on their feet because everything we had was in the outfit, which was lost previously when

the Indians raided the camp and all of us were forced to sneak away during the night and the next morning the Indians burned everything in sight and killed all of the oxen."

The Johnsons made several trips over the Overland trail and finally came back to Carbon County and settled on the Medicine Bow River. Records at the County Clerk's office in Rawlins show that the original filing by Sam Johnson was on the SE $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 6-19-79. The filing on this 160 acres was dated Apr. 27, 1887 and Jan. 14, 1892. Their first home, a small log cabin on the Bow River, is still standing and can be seen half hidden by the thick undergrowth back of the present ranch home. John R. and John H. were in the cattle business until 1882 when they switched to sheep. They bought their first cattle from Fred Hee who had a place on the Little Medicine Bow River. They bought his brand (17) along with the cattle. In 1882 they trailed sheep overland from Melton, California to Medicine Bow. This trip took from May 18 to October and the route was over the Nevada mountains where they spent three days in the snow. In the Carson desert they were without water for three days and two nights during June. Their route came over the mountains to Carson City, Empire, Carson desert, Humboldt River, Golconda, Tuscarora, southeast to the Goose Creek country, across the Bannock Mountains to Green River and then on east to Medicine Bow. The sheep grazed all the way and from this and other trail herds came the foundation stock for all of the early outfits in Carbon County. The entire country was open at that time. Sheep left a nasty taste in the cowmens' mouth and

the situation became critical in 1890. John Johnson Sr. died of inflammation of the bowels, the forerunner of modern appendicitis, in 1878 and was buried on the hillside north of their home. Two years later his wife and son John died of pneumonia. They were buried in Laramie and John Johnson Sr.'s body was removed to Laramie. The family plot and large spire-shaped monument is a prominent one in front of the sexton's house.

Now Sam Johnson was on his own. He was a large, good-natured man who was well liked by all people and especially by his hired help. They would go all the way for Sam and work night and day for him. They would take up his side in any fight. If Sam did not like you that was all there was to it. He left you alone and wanted you to do likewise. Sam had a forceful way with the push and determination that not many men have and he stuck with any job he set out to do with no let up and usually was successful.

Sam Johnson bought his first piece of land, already mentioned as on Section 6-19-79 in April 1887. This was the beginning. Then in 1889 he bought another band of sheep from Miss Owens numbering 1500 head. On this deal he borrowed money from the Carbon State Bank at 12% interest which was taken out of the amount he borrowed before he got the money. This was a common practice in those days. On Oct. 3, 1896 Sam Johnson bought Section 7-19-79, the land which he used for his home place. About this time, 1894, he met and married Miss Louise McNight, a school teacher who had come from Indiana. She proved a most wonderful partner and

helper. Then he bought the Chapman place from the Quealys and this piece of land is now spoken of as the Quealy meadows. He then bought land in Section 8-19-79, known as the Larsen homestead. He started working up the Bow River for summer range. Several cattlemen bought and leased a number of sections running in an east-west direction and would not let him cross their land. He tried to cross in several places but always met with the same determination—guns! The last time he tried to get through was by the school house where the author was attending classes. The man teacher went out to see what was going on and told the children to say in the school house. They did not stay long as most of their fathers were out in that group. The author got out in time to see Sam Johnson and his camp mover ride up with red flags on their hats. They said that if they couldn't get through, guns might be used. The ranchmen scattered to various places and it looked bad for awhile. All of the children started home and Sam moved his sheep back.

Through the years Sam Johnson developed three to four hundred acres of hay meadow for winter feed. He also plowed up several hundred acres of land and planted alfalfa. He obtained a wonderful stand and it was the first alfalfa planted on the Bow river. About this time he decided to build himself a new home. It was a frame building in a grove of cottonwood trees. He decided to have running water, so he put in nearly a mile of two-inch pipe and obtained his water supply out of the Bow river. He was a great lover of horses and raised some of the best work horses in the country, and also

some wonderful saddle horses. He kept around a hundred breeding cows for the purpose, so he said just to see them around. Neither he nor Mrs. Johnson went out for society but they loved to go on picnics and attend country dances. They also went to Old Carbon to meet old friends and visit but he never stayed away from the ranch for very long.

By leasing and buying land, he managed to trade with some of the ranchmen so that he had a sheep trail up to the edge of the timber. Finally he went farther and farther up the mountain each year, until he was summering in the Snowy Range country. In 1898 Thos. Boyland and Bob Ellis took some sheep belonging to Sam Johnson to the Sand Lake region. He carried on in the general ranch and livestock business until he saw several more sheepmen moving in on his winter range. He then bought up some 20 sections of range land north of his home to protect his winter range. He built about 12 miles of fence along the north boundary. This enclosed a number of Government sections of land. This situation lasted for several years until several people complained about Government land being fenced in and he was forced to take down all of his fences. It always made hard feelings when someone bought up a large block of railroad land. Sam Johnson first leased land near his ranch from the Union Pacific Railroad and was later offered land for 35 cents an acre but refused to buy it. Later this land was sold to another party and Johnson eventually had to pay 95 cents an acre for it.

Later Sam was having financial trouble. Then World War I broke out

and prices went up. Sam hit the peak financially and paid off all of his obligations and had money in the bank. He and his wife went to Nebraska and put money in several banks to take advantage of the deposit insurance there covering deposits up to \$10,000.

On December 7, 1916 he bought a ranch on the upper Foote Creek about a couple of miles north of Arlington, containing some eleven or more sections of range and meadow land. He was not in shape to drop his grazing permit in the Medicine Bow forest. He always maintained that, with the grazing fee and the loss of sheep in the timber, it did not pay to go into the Forest.

From 1918 and down to the early 1920s the price of livestock gradually hit the downhill slide. He told the author that with the prices of labor, equipment and supplies being so high, he had to take a \$20,000 annual loss for three years to keep the ranch going until prices of the things he had to buy came into balance with the prices of things he had to sell.

This balancing used to be called a panic in the old days but later was called a depression or recession. Then his ranch business came back on a paying basis. On March 23, 1926 he bought 13 sections of land from the Colorado Fuel and Iron Co. He told the author that he now had all of the land he wanted and it was a small empire in itself—some 100 sections of deeded and rented land. Bob Burns spent the summers during World War II doing his bit in the hay field at the Johnson ranch and what a delight it was to be out in the sun and wind on the Harnden place. In these meadows up near the mountains the air was a

continual tonic every day and the fellowship and food of the hayfield crew have left never-to-be-forgotten memories.

The College Prof Rides a Sweep Into Elk Mountain

One incident created quite a stir in Elk Mountain. The power sweep had to be transported by its own power from the home ranch on the Bow River up to the Harnden place. The direct route was so rough and steep that the longer roundabout route totaling some 20 miles was much more feasible. So Bob Burns, the college prof on vacation, took off with his power sweep, with the bedding and supplies packed on the teeth of the sweep. There was a Farm Bureau meeting in Elk Mountain and he stopped a few moments to visit. Everyone was amazed at the "College Prof" being at home on a power sweep and using and navigating it with ease. But they forgot that he was raised on a ranch, the Flag Ranch of Robert Homer, and was returning to the job of sweeping hay after 25 years. There he had served his apprenticeship in the hayfield starting out by driving a rake team and then in turn operating the mower and sweep.

The Quealy field on the Johnson ranch is one of the finest pieces of meadow land anywhere, lying as it does, on the thick sodded land along the Bow river and surrounded on all sides by thick timber which provides excellent shelter during the winter months when the livestock is being fed native hay there. Many times while haying in that field, deer have come out of the timber and startled the rake horses but of course the power

sweep just goes chugging along.

At the Harnden ranch there are some very long hauls but the power sweep transports the hay along these mile-long "necks" in amazingly short time, and at a speed of some 30 miles an hour. At other places on that ranch the meadows are boggy and the power sweep and even the horse-drawn kind have plenty of trouble.

So the Johnson empire extends now from the Medicine Bow River and the land to the north almost to Hanna as far south as Shepherder's Hill just north of Arlington, as far west as the Wagon hound and as far east as the TL Ranch of the Horne Brothers. The 100 odd sections of land contain grazing and meadow lands in abundance and the hay crop is ample to carry livestock through severe winter storms.

The many buildings on the ranch show the influence of the early day freighting experiences of the Johnsons, for there is a well-equipped blacksmith shop with all types of equipment including the seldom-seen equipment for wagon wheel repair. The old homestead cabin is almost hidden in the heavy undergrowth along the river but a glimpse of its heavy rough-hewn log exterior and port-holes tells without mistake of its ancient lineage and useage in a day when Indian raids were common. There is a cement block in front of the Johnson house which bears the date 1888 commemorating the year the house was built. The large two-storied house has the many rooms found on many of the early day ranches, which were built in prosperous times when the industry emerged from its spartan simplicity and began to splurge a little with the hard earned

money now coming in from a well established business.

Sam Johnson, during his entire life would always visit every herder and band of sheep once or twice a year and most of his help came back year after year for they liked him and knew he was interested in them. During his last few years of life he could not get out from the house very much but until his death he maintained a lively interest in everything connected with the ranch. He passed away in 1930 and for several years the ranch has been leased to Lembcke and Hermberg. Recently it has been sold to a party in Texas, Fred Amschutz, and no doubt it will always fill its rightful place as one of the finest ranches on the Bow River and will continue to be a monument to the vision and perseverance and ability of the Johnson family and in particular of Sam Johnson who developed it.

TL Ranch Founded by John Connor

Just below the Sam Johnson ranch is a small ranch the RO which has been a part of the Johnson ranch for several years. The next large ranch is the TL ranch located on Section 10-20-79. The TL Ranch was settled by John W. Connor who was born in Syracuse, New York, June 4, 1835. He moved to the ranch near Medicine Bow about 1880. In 1906 he moved his cattle to Belvidere, S. D., where he had land leased from the Indian Reservation. Ernest Thode was in charge of these cattle. John Connor joined the army several years before the outbreak of the Civil War. He participated in the Apache War and later became a government teamster and came to the Laramie Plains. He left

the Government service in 1865. He obtained a government tie contract and was associated with Cheney in the lumber business, but sold his interest and invested in the cattle business. He was interested in many business ventures—First National Bank, Pioneer Canal, Wyoming Central Land and Improvement Co. He was caught in the earthquake in San Francisco in 1906 and received the injury which caused his death some months later. Mrs. Connor was a member of the Chamber of Commerce in Laramie and was quite successful in business affairs. She built the Connor Hotel which is still owned and managed by her daughter, Mrs. Murrell. In March 1906 John Connor sold his ranch to the Horne Brothers, who operated it for many years until their deaths. Recently the ranch was sold to a new owner from Texas, Fred Amschutz, who has also purchased the Sam Johnson ranch.

Brackenbury Ranch to Train Apprentices

Just below the TL Ranch is the Christine Cronberg Ranch which was originally the Brackenbury Ranch. Richard Brackenbury was born in England in 1864 and came to Wyoming in 1884. He left Wyoming in 1898 but sold the ranch later. The original holding of land stretched along the Medicine Bow River about 4½ miles and the filing was made in 1893. The principle house on the Anchor Ranch was built in 1893 while the first log house was put up in 1887 and a barn was built also at that time. He started to raise vegetables for the Carbon City market and had a partner named Dick Bowles. He began developing a herd of horses in 1888 and in 1890-91 had a

few cattle and sheep. In 1888 he brought in one of the first Belgian draft stallions. The ranch was not a modern type Dude Ranch but did take young English lads who paid a premium as apprentices to learn ranching and stock improvement. The ranch was sold to Cronberg Brothers about 1905 and Mr. Brackenbury went to Denver where he operated a commission business at the Union Stock Yards for many years. Mr. Brackenbury states that the young fellows who came out to learn ranching were called pupils or apprentices rather than Dudes and they tried to learn to ride, to rope, to brand and read brands, to shoot game, to handle irrigation, build fences and log buildings and to cook. Brackenbury states that according to his memory Thornhill, Hebler and Murray who later had ranches on Rock and Dutton Creeks were pupils of his. Other pupils were the Horne Brothers who settled on the Medicine Bow River and B. Schoonjans of Elk Mountain. Mr. Brackenbury mentions an interesting incident about a wool crop which he raised. In 1893 he shipped his wool to Silberman Brothers of Chicago and drew a cash advance of five cents a pound and had to meet a back-draft to Silberman Bros. as the wool did not bring as much as the advance.

Horne Brothers Ranch

The lower ranch was the home of the Horne Brothers, which they obtained from J. W. Johnson, who later became Vice-President of the Albany National Bank in Laramie. The Horne Brothers came from England and as mentioned above were pupils of Richard Brackenbury. They were always great horse lovers and breeders and to this

day any horse bearing their Spade brand on the left hip is sure to be among the best. This ranch along with the TL was recently sold to a Texas man. For several years Albert (Ab) Irene has managed the Horne Bros. ranches and is to handle the new spread for the Texas owner. Ab Irene will maintain his headquarters at the TL Ranch.

Cronberg Brothers

Chris Cronberg, with his brother the late R. N. Cronberg, founded the Cronberg Brothers Ranch about 1895, with headquarters seven miles northeast of Medicine Bow. Chris Cronberg was born in Denmark Dec. 19, 1869 and came to Wyoming from Nebraska in the late 1880s to work for his brother on the ranch. This ranch grew to around 50 sections of land and ran some thousands of sheep, developed from an original flock of 3400 head. Mr. Cronberg came to the United States in 1881 with his maternal grandfather and later lived with an uncle in Potter, Nebraska, prior to the time when his parents emigrated to the United States. He married Miss Estella M. Bennett, daughter of the pioneer Carbon county merchant, J. A. Bennett. Mrs. Cronberg died in 1915. Mr. Cronberg during his long and active career in Medicine Bow had been President of the Medicine Bow State Bank and the Virginian Hotel Company, Director of the Medicine Bow Mercantile Company and president of the Medicine Bow Oil Company. Chris Cronberg died in February 1952. Three sons, Fred, Edwin, and James survive along with a brother Albert and a sister Christina, all of Medicine Bow.

The Quealy Ranch

The story of this ranch is closely intertwined with a lot of shrewd business ability, Irish wit and heartaches along with banter, horse trading and heart-warming friendship. Horse trading in the early days was any kind of transaction with a good deal of doubt as to whether the article offered was sound or genuine, and the buyer should know the horse he was bargaining for. The seller would do his level best to make it look 100 per cent perfect and sometimes put in a quick disappearance when he got his money.

The Quealy Home Ranch

The Quealy Home Ranch is located at the site of old Fort Halleck at the north end of Elk Mountain and at this spot a great deal of early day history of Wyoming was made. Some of this history is remembered but unfortunately a lot of it has disappeared along with the Fort and never will return.

Let us consider a few of the old days at Fort Halleck when a Scotchman named Robert Foote was the sutler at the Fort. He cut some hay on the nearby natural meadows and sold it to the Fort where it was used to feed the cavalry horses stationed there. This hay was cut with a hand scythe and raked with a fork by hand and hauled in the loose form to the stack where it was built up into a stack. Robert Foote married Mandy Sublette, sister of John Sublette, old time pioneer. This was during the wood and tie cutting days when the Union Pacific Railroad was under construction. Hay was increasing in demand not only for the cavalry horses but also for the mule and ox teams needed to get out the timber and haul it to the railroad

some 15 miles away. Now Bob Foote could see that if he could get water on the land he could raise a lot more hay close at hand. Accordingly he and his wife made the first ditch and later built several more to take water to the land adjacent to the original creek bottoms. These water rights were filed later by Mike Quealy for the ditches Bob Foote made. These five water rights were filed in 1866 and covered 38.6 second feet to irrigate 3,380 acres of land. The ditches were made with a team and plow with a considerable amount of hand work.

Like all early day pioneers, Bob Foote squatted on the land and made a filing sometime later on January 17, 1881. The patent on the filing was made sometime later on March 2, 1891. The land would not go on the tax rolls until it was patented so it was a common practice to procrastinate on obtaining a patent. Bob Foote filed on some more land on Aug. 14, 1891 and so it went on. Some land nearby was owned by a man named W. A. Nichols who patented it in 1891. He may have been the man that built a two story brick house there during the wood cutting days. This house was later bought by James Fisher and was torn down and hauled to Old Carbon where Fisher built a saloon and dance hall which became a popular recreation center of the town.

Herman Morkey came into possession of some of the land on Apr. 4, 1891. Michael Quealy lived in Old Carbon in the 1880s and became superintendent of Mine No. 5 which was located some five miles north of Carbon on a railroad spur which left the main railroad at Allen Junction.

A small town was established there

and Mike Quealy started up some business places and put his oldest son John in charge. The coal in this mine was soft and unfit for use in the early day engines as it set fire to the countryside with the excessive amount of sparks spouting from the smoke stacks of the engines. This left Mike out of a job and he began to look around for some ranch property. He leased most of the land around Fort Halleck from Morcke and Foote on April 6, 1891. This was the home ranch and headquarters from which was built a small empire. The first deeded land shown on the Carbon County Records was for Section 8 from S. W. Downey to Michael Quealy dated January 6, 1897. Like all beginners in those days he started out to acquire more land holdings and such procedure did not promote good will among the neighbors who were in severe competition for land and holdings. However, Mike was a good natured competitor and was always friendly and did not hold a grudge against anyone who might beat him to a piece of land. Mike would just look elsewhere for another suitable piece of land.

The meadows which he acquired from Bob Foote in 1888 and others gave him many duties in the spring and summer to irrigate and harvest the hay crop.

Irrigating and Haying

The irrigation of the land was always a problem for one could not be sure whether the water would go where it was wanted and it was "by guess and by gosh" whether it worked or not. In his early hay making venture he used Walter Wood and Emerson mowing machines and the old wooden-wheeled

Hollingsworth hand dump rakes which were standard equipment at that time. The hay was windrowed up and then bunched and finally was pitched by hand on to wagons and hauled to a sheltered high spot where it was stacked. This operation required from 30 to 40 hired men during the haying season. This haying operation was a wild affair for it was all carried on with broncos and half-broken horses which had not worked since the previous haying. During the year they had been on the range and were as wild as bunch grass would make them. Standard wages at that time were \$30 a month for experienced help and \$15-\$20 for beginners. Experienced help was a man that could hitch up a team of wild horses and go out and mow hay. He could guide them but could not stop them. Mike had a standing offer of \$15 for anyone who could go through haying without a runaway. The best teamsters always had first call on the new mowing machines.

A New Stacker

The author and his father Wm. Richardson took over some steers which Mike Quealy had bought from him. Mike was telling Wm. Richardson all about haying and his newest pride and joy, an overhead cable stacker with a large mechanical fork which would unload the wagons and put the hay in long stacks, which were 20 or more feet wide and 100 feet long and about 24 feet high. Mike had ladders at each end of the stack, and escorted his visitors up the ladder at one end and along the long stack and down the ladder at the opposite end to impress them with the size of the stack. Bill Richardson spotted some

foxtail in the stack and called Mike's attention to it. He replied, "Well, Billy, it will be better than snowbanks to lie in next winter."

Easy Way To Clean Sheds

During the rainy spells when they could not work in the field, Mike would take all of his hay hands and move cattle sheds as he felt it was easier to move the sheds away from the manure on their floors than to move the manure out from under the sheds. He had the men build ditches and fences and do other little jobs that needed to be done. Mike would say, "Bejabers, that will keep them buissy and they won't be quarreling or taking off to some saloon."

A Ranch Blacksmith

He always kept a blacksmith, Bill Hickman to repair machinery or harness after a runaway or other mishap. Finally little Mike, the second oldest son was put in the field with a good horse and rope to take after a runaway team and rope them, if necessary, to bring them back. Then there was the wreck wagon, the forerunner of the present-day auto wrecker which would go out and bring back the wrecked machines and take them to the blacksmith shop for rejuvenation.

Poor Credit Risk Almost Ruins the Ranch

Early in 1890 Mike sold 200 tons of baled hay to a man that owned a livery stable in Rawlins. This required a lot of extra work and expense to bale and move the hay to Percy Station where it was loaded on the railroad cars for shipment to Rawlins. After all of this trouble and expense the buyer never paid for the hay which

was a severe loss to Mike Quealy and nearly put him out of business, but he had the strong will and determination to overcome this severe setback. This hay sale was during the same year that the Union Pacific built their water line from Rattlesnake Creek to Hanna. Mike took the job of back-filling the pipe line trench. He bought six teams of mules, fixed up a cook tent and camp outfit and put men on the job. However, Mike was not there all of the time and the work slowed up and it looked like Mike would lose money on the contract. Mrs. Quealy was a hard working and good business woman and when she learned things were not going well, she bundled up and went out on the job, leaving her oldest daughter Maggie to look after the children at home. On reaching the camp she fired the cook and all of the men that were loafing around the camp. She took over and kept things moving until the job was completed and came out well financially clearing some \$2,000 or more. This money carried them through the winter and cleared up the bad summer reverses.

Some time in the 1890s his brother Pat came to his assistance and bought 400 head of cows from Barney Hunter and turned them over to Mike. This was the start of Mike's cattle business and it put him solidly on his feet so to speak. Mike was feeling pretty good on his good fortunes and figured that he needed a fancy driving team to transport him around on his numerous trips. So he goes to his friend Frank Hadsell who had some 500 head of fine driving and work horses. After a good deal of bickering and dickering, Mike purchased a wonderful-looking, high-stepping team, which Hadsell promised

were well-broken and gentle—in fact they were not even afraid of a train. Mike drove them about the country a great deal and loved to show his team to all of his friends. Finally he went to Carbon and the team became frightened of a train and ran away, piling Mike up in the sagebrush and wrecking his fine new buggy. He went back to Medicine Bow Crossing looking for Frank Hadsell to give him a going over about selling him a presumably gentle team which were not afraid of a train. This fact was forceably and quickly explained to Hadsell, who just as quickly came back with the retort that the team was not afraid of a train when there was no puffing engine pulling it. So another fast deal and some sharp horse trading was consummated.

Land Control Not Necessary In Open Range Days

There was not much use to grab for range land at that early date for there were no fences anywhere. Cattle were turned out onto the open range in the spring and the owners rode herd as best they could. Mike hired various men to help little Mike to do the riding after the cattle and among these helping hands were Charley Wortham, Thode Brothers, Dave West and various others.

Herefords With Their Robe of Courage Come West

In the early days there would be several roundups going through the country each year and he would send a "Rep" (Representative) to look after his interests. Sometime in the late 1890s Mike went east and bought a carload of Hereford bulls and sold them to all of his neighbors. These white-faced bulls were supposed to be very

rugged and could stand the hard winters better than the Shorthorns which had been used up to that time. The author's father, Bill Richardson, bought one of these aristocrats which was a beautiful specimen of "cow flesh" and something to be proud of. These were the first Hereford bulls to come to the Elk Mountain valley. Like all other ranches in the raw, several men were required to work all of their time building fences, corrals, sheds and other buildings, along with irrigation ditches and laterals as well as cleaning out old ditches. There was the job of cutting and hauling timber. Building logs and large timber were available right in the back yard, on the slopes of Elk Mountain, so to speak. However corral poles and fence posts had to be hauled from the Sublette place some 18 miles away.

Bunkhouse Humor and Banter

There was always banter in the bunkhouse, as to who was the best bronco rider or teamster. The question, with the pole hauling job coming up, was what could one do with a wild team especially a "four-up". There was one Johnny Sublette who spoke up and said that he could take four broncos and get a load of poles, by golly. So the bet was laid and Johnny was given the choice of any of the horses that had never had a harness on them. The four of his choice were hitched to the running gears of a wagon and took off on a high run across whatever was in front of them, be it ditches, rocks, or other hazards. However, Johnny went on to the Sublette place, loaded up his poles and returned home about midnight. No one else ever made and completed a trip under the same conditions.

Railroad Land Acquired

Mike Quealy began to acquire railroad land to the west and around the foot of Elk Mountain, as he had big ideas for larger holdings in the future. About 1900 he bought a lot of 10-foot props from the owner who was driving the ties down the Bow River. He took them out of the river at Elk Mountain and hauled them by wagon to the ranch some ten miles away and erected a large barn which is still standing on the home ranch. Bob Burns recently added a cow bell to his collection which he obtained from the present ranch owner, Norman Palm. This bell was hanging on the corner of the old Quealy barn and was an ordinary type of bell, except it had half of a horseshoe for a clapper. When the barn was finished Mike Quealy gave a barn dance there about the end of June. The barn warming was well attended by people from the entire countryside including people from Carbon, Hanna, Rawlins, Laramie, Shirley Basin and all of the neighboring ranches. Saratoga can not be left out for Billie Wilcox from there furnished the music and the mention of Billie and his music at the dance brought out everyone who knew him.

Quealy Hospitality

The Quealy home was the scene of many a happy gathering and the author always attended if at all possible. Mike would sit back and watch the youngsters with that big smile of his and a twinkle in those Irish eyes and watch for a chance to "devil" the younger folks, and then he was always at his best. Duties on the ranch ran along similarly to those on any ranch with haying, branding, shipping and winter feeding to be done. As new land was

acquired extra duties such as fencing and extra help was hired. At the same time the sons were growing up and were ready and able to take on the work jobs as they came up.

Quealy Generosity

Mike was a man of many kindnesses which were often unknown to others than the recipients. He had a close neighbor who was starting up in the ranch business and had to work out a good deal to make ends meet and consequently he did not get home often. Mike heard that his wife and children did not have much to eat, so he hitched up his team to a buckboard, loaded it up with a lot of groceries and drove over to the neighbor's house. He asked the lady of the house whether he could leave some supplies for his hired men. The lady was glad to do something for Mike, so he unloaded the groceries and took them into the house and then went out and crawled back into his buckboard. Then he looked at the lady with that mischievous Irish twinkle in his eyes and said, "Mrs., if you and those children go hungry, it is going to be your fault."

The Basin Ranch

One of Mike's long time dreams came true when he purchased the Griffin ranch on May 9, 1904. The Griffin place was established in the early 1890s by the Griffins who squatted on some homestead land and did not prove up on it until some years later. They moved onto this ranch with a bunch of Holstein milch cows, with intentions of selling milk and home-made butter in the town of Carbon. This adventure in business was satisfactory in the summer time, as they could make the 25-mile drive to Carbon in one day

and back the next, but in the winter weather it was nearly impossible to make the trip once a week. He crossed these Holstein cows with Shorthorn bulls and in a few years he was shipping or selling some of the biggest roan Shorthorn stock that ever came out of the country. The first land they obtained title to was a patent from Uncle Sam to William H. Griffin on Nov. 27, 1893. He also obtained a water right on Feb. 1, 1893 for 3.42 second feet to irrigate 240 acres of land. On March 16, 1904 Griffin sold all of his holdings to Michael Quealy. Mike's oldest son John had been working for his Uncle Pat at Kemmerer. He now came home and took over the Griffin Ranch. The neighbors were jealous of Quealy's moving into the upper Pass Creek Basin but they were set and stayed put. The Harden Ranch is located at the edge of the Medicine Bow Forest in the upper Pass Creek Basin, in the heart of one of the best grazing districts in the county. This ranch had a water permit issued Apr. 15, 1891 covering 13.71 second feet to irrigate 960 acres of land. Another water permit or right was dated Nov. 20, 1895 and covered 2.21 second feet to irrigate 155 acres. Mike Quealy purchased this ranch with all improvements in 1906. This ranch was established by Charles and David Harden who took up homesteads and acquired other holdings. After several years Charles bought out his brother David. Charles built up a herd of cattle numbering 500 head or more, all Shorthorns which were the popular kind at that time. In 1892 Charley Harden bought a registered Shorthorn bull from Frank Hadsell who had brought out some of the "roanies" from Iowa. Now Mike

had a wonderful ranch set up in the upper Pass Creek Basin with plenty of hay and pasture to run some 7 or 8 hundred head of cattle and the Home Ranch at the north end of Elk Mountain could take care of a similar number. This was one of the best ranches in the area, but had severe winters. However there was plenty of hay and the ranch turned out some of the best of beef cattle with lots of weight. The buildings were long low log affairs which were torn down and replaced with a modern ranch house, with a kitchen and dining room to accommodate some 25 to 30 men during haying. From this time on Mike Quealy had some ready money on hand and began to make loans to his neighbors and acquired some loan business with all the attendant headaches.

Quealy a Lover of Horses

Mike loved horse races more than anything else, particularly if he had one of his own horses in the race. He and his friend John Milliken were always "pulling a horse race," and finally got down to real betting with a sidebet of \$500. This race was well advertised for a certain Sunday at Elk Mountain. Several hundred people were on hand to see the race and a lot of money changed hands on the outcome.

A Keen Business Mind

Mike was a sharp business man and was always watching what the other fellow was doing. He noted that some sheepmen were making more money and faster than he was and was immediately interested in buying some sheep.

Sometime about 1910 he bought one and a half townships of land in the Big

Ditch country north and west of Hanna. He located his sheep headquarters near Dana station on the railroad and went into the sheep business. The management of this part of the Quealy outfit was taken over by Lawrence "Lad" Quealy, who was interested in sheep. He operated this end of the outfit for many years until the Quealy ranches were sold out.

Keen Insight Into Sheep Business

Later on, the author asked Mike how he liked sheep by now, for he had made a derogatory remark about sheep and the author considered himself a cowman. Mike looked at the author with those Irish gray eyes that just about drilled a hole in him and said, "Young man, if the blat of a sheep is not music to your ears, I advise you to stay out of that business."

The Ups and Downs of Ranching

Their earnings went up and down with the swing of the times. Mike always said that ranching was a war baby which grows and prospers during war years, but that it takes a real man to nurse it along and keep it healthy and working for you. If you get discouraged or relax it will deteriorate and eventually slip from your grip. It takes a real ranchman to take the hard bumps of depression and one that is willing to do without things and make the old equipment do and smile if he does not make a profit. Pioneer ranchmen who stayed in the game through thick and thin were the ones who could do these things to make the best of adversity.

The Quealys took their ups and downs in the sheep business including low prices for wool and lambs and the losses caused by winter blizzards and

what have you! They lost several hundred yearlings in a severe May storm just after shearing. They finally obtained some Forest permits for summer grazing for the sheep which allowed them to nearly double the number of sheep they were running which helped immensely in their overall ranch business. Quealy Lake in the area north of the Gap in the Medicine Bow Range is in the allotment made to the Quealys for sheep grazing. The Quealys always gave out a helping hand including a loan of money to those just starting in the ranch business. Mike always said that it was well to keep the little fellow going for he pays most of the taxes and the assessor can see all that he has.

In one of his financial deals something went wrong and he had to take over the Basin Land and Livestock Company which had a large spread. With this ranch Mike had one of the largest holdings in Carbon County countaining some 96,000 acres of deeded and leased land. The Basin Ranch was made up of several good sized ranches, which included what was the Gill Kerr or Basin place, the Haglund ranch, the Hadsell ranch at Elk Mountain and the Eykyn Ranch on Seven Mile just above the present Quealy Dome oil field which gets its name from the Quealy (Eykyn) Ranch.

The O. G. Kerr place was undeveloped when the water rights were taken up out of Turpen Creek. Permit No. 968 taken out Apr. 17, 1895 covered 31.43 second feet of water for 2200 acres and another water right dated Dec. 19, 1895 covered 11.28 second feet for 790 acres. He built many miles of ditches and laterals and started some hay. The Basin Co. made many im-

provements and built a house, barn and corrals. The Haglund place was taken up by two Swedish bachelors and consisted of some 1200 acres in all. They made some fine improvements putting up buildings, fences, ditches, and took out water rights from 1890-1896.

The Frank Hadsell Ranch

The Hadsell place was at Medicine Bow Crossing now the town of Elk Mountain. Frank Hadsell located there around 1879. He built himself a two story house and in the late 1880s built the first large barn which was the talk of the whole country because the floor in the hay loft was made of 2x4 lumber laid on edge. Here is where Frank Hadsell spent some of the happiest days of his life and raised his family. Kleber Hadsell, his son, and prominent wool grower of Rawlins still calls Elk Mountain his home. Like all other men who came into the valley Frank Hadsell spat on the piece of land he wanted and lived there some years before making a filing on Feb. 27, 1887. The Patent from the United States to Frank Hadsell was issued Jan. 14, 1891. Frank went into the horse business and built up a fine outlet in many states far and near. The last shipment of horses he made, went to Paris, Texas, and in the Hadsell Scrapbook is a clipping from the Paris paper, "The Dinner Horn," dated Mar. 2, 1895, telling about the shipment of horses. He had a wonderful bunch of work and coach horses and next to his family he loved a flashy driving team. He shipped in the first rubber-tired buggy, which all of the local gentry thought would not stand up on the rocky country around his ranch. If you were not driving a Hadsell team

or riding one of his saddle horses you were rather "small potatoes" in the community. Frank had confidence in his wares and every buyer when the deal was closed went away with the feeling that he was the proud possessor of the finest team that Frank had ever sold. Then in 1895 Frank sent back to West Liberty and Traer, Iowa and bought a carload of Shorthorn bulls and shipped them out and sold them. The Saratoga Sun of July 4, 1895 tells of this shipment and states that they were bought by Michael Quealy, Joseph Widdowfield, William Richardson, Charles Harden all of the Medicine Bow country and W. B. Hugus, Haines Bros. and many other prominent cattle breeders of the Saratoga valley. Frank was in need of a milch cow and went to his old friend Mike Quealy, to make the purchase. He asked for a nice gentle cow which he could milk, or the boy could milk when he was away from home. The deal was made and Mike delivered the cow. He demonstrated to Frank that the cow was gentle by sitting down and milking her. The next morning Frank went out to milk the cow and had not any more than taken his seat on the stool, when the cow cut loose with a right "footer" and kicked Hadsell out of the stall end over end. Frank was looking for Mike and when he found him words passed which are better not in print. Mike listened patiently and his retort was, "Bejabors, Frank that cow was as gentle as the team you sold me which ran away and smashed my buggy not to mention my feelings." Mike and Frank were the best of friends even though they got into some great arguments and became quite mad at each other. How-

ever, the heat wore off and they soon made up and would be riding around together in a few days. The last time the author saw them together they came to the Richardson ranch to go fishing. The writer went with Hadsell on the fishing trip and was shown all the craft of fishing and when they got back to the ranch he gave the writer a bamboo pole and line with bait hooks and everything necessary for successful fishing. The bamboo pole and line was the writer's most prized possession and he will never forget Frank Hadsell.

Frank Hadsell always remembered all of his friends on the Bow River and was glad to see them when they came to Rawlins, especially one old timer, Charles Bourk, whom he kept supplied with groceries and clothes as long as he lived. Frank A. and Mattie Hadsell transferred all of their holdings to A. B. Connaway in the late 1890s and the land passed to his sister Elizabeth Wilkerson and in turn to Andrew Olson; Vagner, Myer and Olson; L. R. Meyer and then to the Basin Land and Livestock Company. In 1916 a court decree transferred all of the above ranches along with the Eykyn Ranch on Seven Mile to Mike Quealy. After this transfer Mike Quealy had to raise some money in a hurry to satisfy some of the other creditors of the Basin Land and Livestock Company. To raise some money he put on one of the largest horse sales that was ever pulled in this community up to that time. He gathered up all of the surplus horses on all of the ranches as well as any on the range which carried their brands. Some 500 head were brought in and the sale lasted three or four days and was a great success. The

little town of Elk Mountain was filled with horse buyers from far and wide. Some of the horses were trailed to their new homes and others went to Medicine Bow and thence by rail to places as far away as Alabama.

Mike Quealy Passes Away

The excitement and work of taking over the Basin Land and Livestock Co. and the big horse sale coming up so soon after was too much for Mike Quealy and he passed away from a heart attack on September 20, 1916.

During some 20 years since his first purchase of land on Jan. 6, 1897 he had gathered together some 150 sections of leased and deeded land along with some 4,000 cattle and 12,000 sheep. The huge holding passed to his sons, daughters, and grandchildren. John, Little Mike (Mike Jr.), Lawrence (Lad), Tom and Niles (Babe) were all brought up in the business and knew how to carry on without any waste motion. John took over as General Manager and Mike operated the Home Ranch.

Little Mike (Mike Jr.) was the only one in the family who inherited the wit and humor of his father. One time in January he went to the Elk Mountain Saloon when it was some 20 degrees or more below zero outside. He ran into a big Swede who was half drunk and on the fight and he picked a fight with Mike. Mike looked at him awhile and said, "All right, Mandy, come outside and I will draw a ring and the first one who is knocked out of the ring is licked. But you will have to take off your coat and shirt." Mike really had the Swede stripped down for action when they went outside. Mike took his time drawing a big ring

in the snow. Mandy got into the ring and said to come on. Mike looked at the ring and said, "We canna fight in that as it is not round," and proceeded to draw another ring which still was not to his liking. Every time Mandy got into the ring, Mike found fault with the ring and drew another ring, until they were some 200 yards from the saloon. By this time the big Swede, Mandy, was nearly frozen and forgotten that he had ever wanted to fight.

Lawrence (Lad) stayed with the sheep operation and was a very busy man looking after that end of the business. He took care of the sheep business for many years until the outfit was sold.

Tom and his wife Edna took over the Basin Ranch which was a very large spread in itself. There were some 2,000 head of cattle run on this place in summer and winter and it was also the summer sheep headquarters, from which supplies were hauled to the several bunches of sheep on the Medicine Bow National Forest allotments. This alone was no small job with all of the details and bookkeeping involved. They also had 10 or 12 sections of hay meadow to look after and put up the hay. This required a large force of extra men during the haying season, in addition to the hands they kept the year around. Tom was a good natured, easy going man, but he had what it took to get along with his help and get the work out of them. Edna was a power house for good management and business ability and kept things running smoothly. She ran the cook house on a time schedule with breakfast at 6 a. m., dinner at 12 noon, and supper at 6 p. m. This meal schedule was strictly followed year in and

year out, during both summer and winter.

Give Ranch Women Credit

As we look back over the successful ranch operations and hear people say that he was surely successful, let us pull the curtain aside and see what his wife did, for she might well furnish the push and drive behind the successful ranch operation, not only on one ranch, but on all of them. We take off our hats to the fine women who have been such fine helpmates and driving forces on the ranches of the area.

Niles (Babe) took over as general stock foreman and during his life did a fine job for he really knew cattle.

Quealy Ranches Sold

The stock of the Quealy ranches was sold, after the deaths of Little Mike, John and Lawrence (Lad), and the ranches passed as a unit to the present owners, the Palm Livestock Company who run both sheep and cattle on their large holding of land extending from the Basin Ranch on the south to the railroad at Dana.

In conclusion the Author would like to salute the FORGOTTEN MAN, who had a most important part in winning the west and has been forgotten in the glamour of the Indian fights, and bar room brawls of the more questionable characters who followed the cowherds, railroad gangs and others who were more content to live off the efforts of others than that of themselves. Here are a few of the operations of this important personage in the making of the established livestock and other industries of the west.

THE FORGOTTEN MAN

By Willing Richardson

He came westward searching for better hunting and trapping or followed the Texas trail herd.

Along the many westward trails he came and claimed his bit of land by stream, spring or lake and there he built his home. Perhaps it was only a cabin or a corral surrounded by this beautiful grass land.

His start was modest and usually without capital, but the yearling without a brand (called a "slick") was there for the taking and all that was required was for someone to put a brand on him and give him an owner.

Now with the water holes fenced in, he was in control of the surrounding range land for miles around, and he, the Forgotten Man began raising cattle to produce beef for the nation.

With the fencing of the water holes, the wrath of the cattle baron was piled onto all of us, and they used every violent means they knew to drive us out. But even though they burnt our cabins, ran our stock away, and even shot us down, we still clung to our bit of land which we called home and a **NEW ERA WAS BORN.**

Now many years later we are still here with meadows and pastures for several hundreds of cattle. We survey our work and holdings with pride.

We are not seeking notoriety or praise but are satisfied with our accomplishments.

All that we ask to to be left alone so we can live the life we have chosen and when we cross the Great Divide the God of us all will give the praise that is due.

These ranchmen came from England and Ireland too. There was the

Scotchman and the Jew, the Swede and the Dane and the Germans too. The Lanky (native of Lancashire, England), and the Yankee also settled on this virgin soil.

His name never did get into the Hall of Fame, for crossing the Missouri and coming west to farm. He never left a mark in Washington or Cheyenne for being anything great. But he left his mark on our State for the wonderful things he did in its development.

The ranchmen molded an industry out of the raw and left their children with a fine heritage of the knowledge and improvements it takes to run a livestock business.

The younger generations, now two of three generations from their pioneer progenitors are carrying on in a fine way and are proud to be living in Wonderful Wyoming and are a great credit to their home state.

These are the monuments to the Forgotten Men who came west and built an empire out of the wilderness. They in some cases have their names passed on by lakes, streams and creeks but for the most part their own families are the ones who remember them for the heritage which they have left behind.

LET US REMEMBER THE FORGOTTEN MEN.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS AND SOURCES

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CHAPTER XX

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Famous Cowboys:

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Top Hands of the

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Laramie Plains

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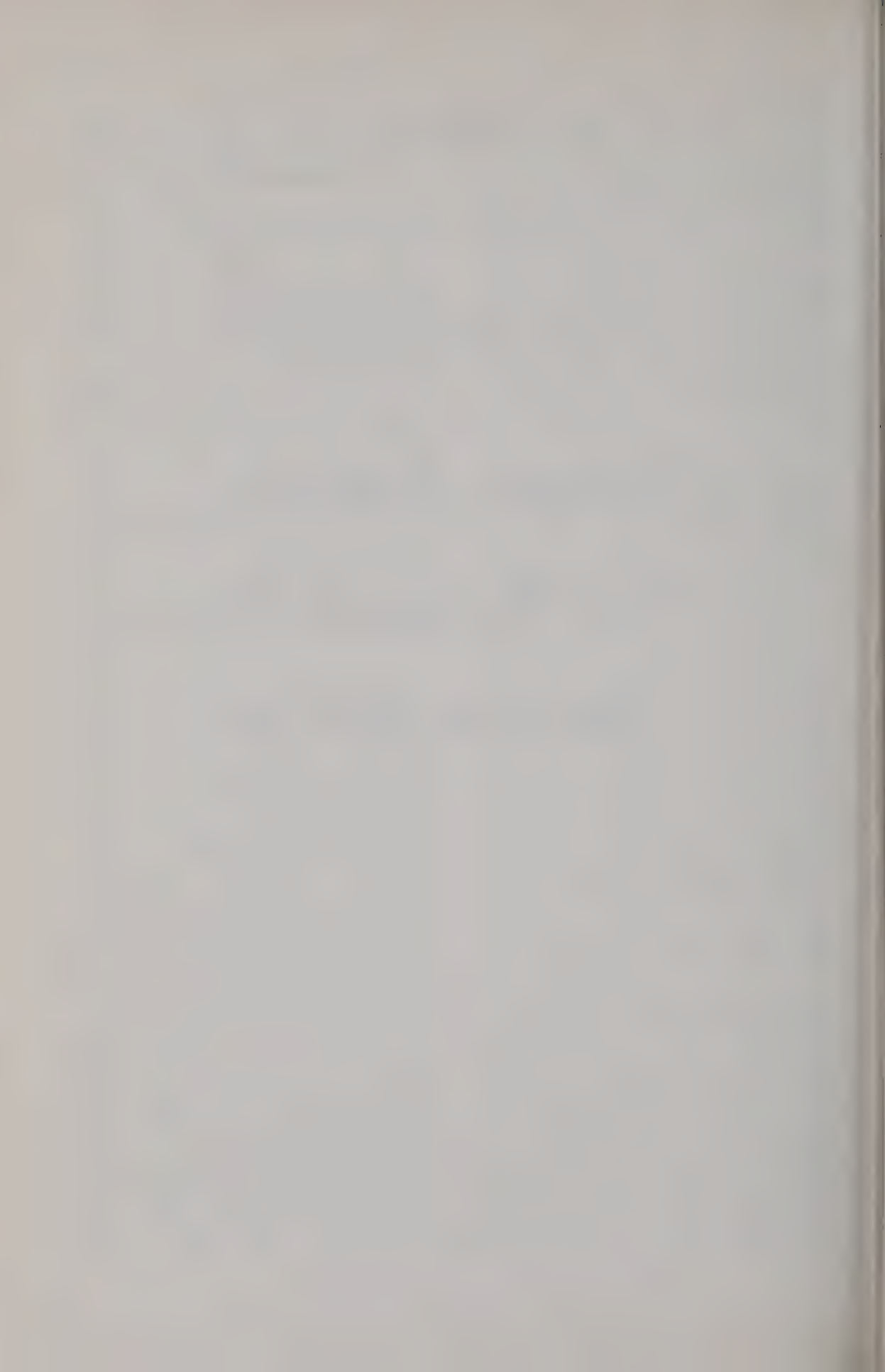
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CHAPTER 20

FAMOUS COWBOYS: TOP HANDS OF THE LARAMIE PLAINS

By A. S. "Bud" Gillespie and R. H. "Bob" Burns

COWBOYS have been glamourized and the expertness of their everyday tasks has been lost in the silver screens of movie land which have not forgotten the appeal of this knight of the range.

Thornt Biggs All-Around Cow Hand

Thornt Biggs has gone to the "Great Beyond" but his memory lingers as a fine example of the old-time cowpuncher who had so many outstanding qualities that he stood out among his fellow workers. Thornton Biggs, a Negro with olive skin and kinky hair came to Wyoming about 1890 from the same area in Pennsylvania as Jim Hoge. He worked a few years as a cook but took naturally to cowpunching and soon was known as one of the best cowhands in the country. Physically he possessed the power of a gorilla and he did not hesitate to use this power when breaking broncos. Thornt went to work for Charley Hutton as a "rep" to visit the various roundups and claim any Hutton cattle that showed up. After Thornt left Hutton he went to work for Tom Alsop, who had a large number of horses and needed several riders and "bronc busters". Thornt was just the man to handle those horses. He had an easy way of going around a bronco and could always break the broncos to saddle without them bucking. Thornt's next job was with Dr. Whitehouse at the Oxford Horse Ranch at Red Buttes. He was

getting much experience and was fast becoming an outstanding hand who knew how to ride after horses, bunch them and corral them. Whitehouse raised the type of horses that became very wild on the range, as they were Thoroughbreds, the so-called "hot bloods" and Thornt's skill was indispensable.

Thornt Goes With Ora Haley

Thornt went to work for Ora Haley and stayed with him for the rest of his cowpunching career. Ora Haley became one of the wealthiest cattlemen in Albany County. Although Thornt was never called the foreman for Haley, nevertheless he was the man responsible for getting the cattle work done. He was a natural leader who "led" the men with him through a job and was never known to be resented by anyone working with him. In fact he was so well respected that he was never called or known as a Negro (derisively), for everyone respected him for what he was and did and the "color line" just did not exist in his case. He was conscientious and had the "know-how" and ability to get the job done and he was always in the lead and never shirked his duty. During Governor Brooks' administration a general dipping order was distributed compelling all cattlemen to dip their cattle with crude oil to control mange. Haley took all of his cattle to the vat of the Diamond Cattle Company near Bosler, to run them through the dipping vat

there. It was in the spring and the calves were small and the oil dip killed the animal scent and the cows could not recognize their calves. Thornt took out four or five men every morning. When they would come to a cow without a calf, he would say to one of the men, "Just take that cow to such and such a place where you will find a little calf lying, and that will be her calf. Just keep them together for awhile and if the cow fails to 'mother up' with the calf take them to a small pen and make the cow own the calf even if you have to tie her up." He would keep sending the men away until each of them had a cow and a calf to watch. As soon as a man finished with one cow and calf he would go back to Thornt and he would have another cow picked out to take to a prospective calf. It took about five days to get all of the calves mothered up. Thornt seemed to have a mysterious instinct for matching up cows with their own calves. Larger numbers did not bother him and if he ever saw a cow with a calf at side he could always remember that they belonged to each other no matter how far away they got from each other. When other cattlemen lost any livestock they would wait to see Thornt and ask him if he had seen the lost ones. When described he would answer immediately and usually could tell them not only that he had seen the wanderers but could describe the place where he had seen them. Thornt, along with other cowboys, used to frequent Susy Parker's establishment on Front Street and the testimony in the Bussard murder trial in 1904 shows Thornt testifying at the coroner's inquest. Thornt worked for Haley until

the latter sold his ranch interests in Wyoming around the turn of the century, and then went to work for the Pacific Market Company owned by Ed Hartman. He worked for them for a few years and then worked for Holly Hunt as long as he (Thornt) was able to work. Thornt never took a vacation and his chief amusement was "shooting craps" at which he was a master and he usually ended up with his opponent's cash. He used to carry his money in a long buckskin pouch which was large enough to "choke a cow." There is little doubt that a good part of Haley's success in the cattle business was due to Thornt's natural "cow sense." It is reported that Thornt received a legacy from Ora Haley. Thornt died in 1941. Thornt Biggs and his memory will be cherished by many who knew and respected him; as a real cowhand whose leadership and natural ability with livestock made him outstanding among many cowboys.

Broncho Sam a Real Hand

Broncho Sam was another one of the colored broncho busters of the early days. He came to this section of Wyoming Territory prior to 1874, from near San Antonio, Texas. He had been brought up as a slave and that early training made him particularly obedient and faithful to his boss. He was not afraid of anything and had an ambition to better his lot as a slave. After the Emancipation Proclamation he dropped his hoe in the cotton patch and took off for the cattle country. At that time he was a mature man with a keen mind, robust body and willing to learn. He, in common with many others of his race, started out at the cooking profession but soon decided



Roundup of 1893 at Gilmore Ranch. Left to right, seated: Gus Palmer, Fred Hansen, Frank Gilmore, Charley Hansen, —— Radock. Dan Livingston standing at right. Names of two men standing at right not known but were riders for Dan Livingston. Courtesy Amy Lawrence and Axel Palmer.



Thornt Biggs at right holding down a horse at Terry Fee Ranch 1922. Courtesy of Holly Hunt.

that he wanted to herd cows and ride horses rather than pots and pans. Like other hands, his first job with the outfit was as a "horse wrangler." He proudly took that job and soon became proficient at it for he gave the best he had, and a promotion was not long coming his way. He soon learned to round up cattle and work the herd when the time came. In making these drives to gather cattle he had to ride the horses that were given him in his string.

Expert Rider

Like all other fellows working at the ranch, he was soon able to ride any horse that was given to him for his regular string and he thought that it was fun to ride a bucking horse. He became such an expert that he finally went to work as a "horse breaker." This job gave him his nickname, "Broncho Sam" which was an accurate description of his chosen vocation and skill.

Broncho Sam was a man of average height and was very muscular and rather heavy set. His skin was not jet-black, indicating that he probably had some white blood in his veins, which was likely Spanish. He could speak Spanish fluently as did many of the cowpunchers in those days for they had come up the trail from Texas.

Broncho Sam Works for Tom Alsop,

Pioneer Cattleman

Broncho Sam's third job was a long and lasting one. He broke horses for a part of the year and followed the roundup. Tom Alsop had some mighty fine saddle stock and Broncho Sam was in his glory. He was an artist, not only in riding a "bucker," but also in handling and gentling these nervous "hot-

blood" horses. He was easy and quiet with a horse and never in a hurry. His quiet manner and speech quieted the terrified horses and they gained confidence in him almost immediately and he could do anything with them. Broncho Sam was always humming or singing in a low tone of voice which seemed to charm the wild beast in the untamed horses and sooth the frightened ones. He gentled the horse while it was laying on the ground after being roped; when roped the horse would usually choke and throw itself. Then he tied up one hind foot and commenced to pet the sweating, panting beast. He would work all around the horse, pulling his tail and running his hand over its body. When the horse had gotten to its feet he would work himself around it further and pull himself up on its back and slide off the other side or in back. After the horse responded to all of these maneuvers, Broncho Sam would ease the saddle up on the horse's back and then he would mount; sit on it; pet it some more and slide off on either side or over its rump. Then he would untie the horse's hind foot and ease himself into the saddle before the horse knew that he was untied. Then he would urge the horse to move off and before anyone including the horse knew just what was happening he would be riding the horse around the corral at a walk, trot or gallop. He would teach the horse to turn quickly like a top. After a few of these workouts the horse was ready to be put to work.

Always Ready for Any Emergency

When Broncho Sam was riding a bad horse on the range he was always prepared for any emergency which might



Group of cowboys eating lunch on roundup on Laramie Plains in 1880s. 1. Jake Farr; 2. Denny Fee; 3. John Barth; 4. Al Bath; 5. Neal Matheson; 6. Herb King; 7. Grant Harnden; 8. Tom Carroll; 9. Joe McNealy; 10. Unknown; 11. Unknown; 12. Billy Ferguson; 13. Unknown. Courtesy Elmer Beltz.



Three Two Bar Riders of Swan Land & Cattle Co. in 1903. 1. Ben Smith; 2. Charley Body; 3. Jimmy Danks. Courtesy Harry Robb.

come up. He rode with extra long and heavy bridle reins. He made a loop with the two reins and kept that loop over the saddle horn, and held on to the loop with his right hand. If a horse got scared and started to buck, Broncho Sam would let go of the loop around the horn which he was holding with his right hand and then he would pull his quirt off the saddle horn and commence to whip the horse on the head and rump so hard that the horse would generally throw up his head, quit bucking and start running. Broncho Sam seldom, if ever, got bucked off and believed in riding a horse straight-up when he was bucking: that is he rode sitting straight up in the saddle without holding on to anything. When he saw one of the other boys "pulling leather—holding on to the horn," while the horse was bucking he would ride up alongside and start whipping the offending "hand on the horn," with his quirt until the rider let loose and rode like a man should.

Rescue of Youthful John Alsop

While Broncho Sam was working for Tom Alsop, an exciting and never-forgotten incident occurred. The Big Laramie River was in flood stage. Little John Alsop, a 3-year-old toddler at that time, was pulling his little wagon around the yard near the river. He started down an incline toward the river and the little wagon was too heavy for him to stop and it pushed him into the river. Observers called for help and Broncho Sam came a-running and jumped off the bridge fully clothed to rescue little John. He made one grab for John in that whirling, deep mass of water and luckily was able to get hold of him. The Alsop

family always had a deep, tender love for Broncho Sam after that feat. As long as they live the Alsop family will remember that incident. Only recently, John Alsop, now a man of 81 years, mentioned Broncho Sam in tender memory in a letter to Bob Burns.

A letter from John Alsop to Bob Burns dated April 27, 1951 gives first hand information about Broncho Sam and the above incident:

"Yes, Broncho Sam saved me from drowning and as long as he lived I could talk Spanish as good as English. Sam talked Castilian Spanish, or the best Spanish and he was half Spanish and Negro. But he had an English name, Sam Stewart. I believe Sam was a fine rider when he came to the Laramie Plains for he rode one of those Longhorn steers from Texas, through the streets of Cheyenne at one of the Stockmen's Shows in the 70s. He was a wonderful six-shooter shot, for I remember him bringing in an antelope or coyote now and then! As I remember him he was about 6 feet tall and very straight and weighed 175 to 180 pounds. I was about 10 years old when he shot his wife and the man with her and then shot himself through the breast, but lived for nine days and I went down to see him every day and remember Dan Bacon saying, 'Why did you shoot yourself, Sam? We would see you free.' The picture is a good likeness of him and the four riders in the other picture are Sam, Rod McKay, Dayton Hendricks and my mother's brother, John Bringolf. Dayton Hendricks is the man who drove a bear into the ranch and Dan Bacon's man shot it. I can't identify the cabin . . . I have thought of some stories about other men, as Tom Dayton, Al Houston and a man by the name of Frank Prager, who lived away down toward Laramie Peak. He came to that country in early days and when he came to Laramie he stopped at the Kuster House. After a few drinks he told us many funny stories."



Jimmy Danks on Red Bird. Jimmy, an old Two Bar hand. Courtesy James Danks.



Johnny Robb on Yellowbelly. Chugwater, Wyo. 1904. Courtesy Harry Robb.



Charley Body on Tracey. Photo by Geo. Milne.



Jim Sloan riding Ribbon, a Pothook horse raised by Billy and Rod McKay on Four Mile. 1902. Courtesy Harry Robb.

John Alsop is the son of Tom Alsop, pioneer ranchman of the Laramie Plains. John was born and reared on the Laramie Plains and is now living at St. George, Utah. Needless to say Broncho Sam's credit was always good with Tom Alsop.

An Unfortunate Marriage

In the meantime Sam married a woman of Spanish descent with a ready-made family. It was not long until he could see that he could get along with a bucking, striming, kicking broncho better than he could with his wife. His family affairs were not so pleasant. They lived on the corner of Second and Garfield in Laramie. Broncho Sam met death by his own hand at an age of around 60 years.

Two Bar or Swan Hands

The cowboys who worked for the Swan Land and Cattle Company were the best fed men of any of the cow outfits. It was often said that the cow-punchers worked hard and received only bacon and beans to eat. That was not true with the Swan outfit. The senior author had first hand information and the Swan hands had one of the best cooks that ever presided over a roundup wagon. This was Ed Held who was a tall athletic type of man who could "swing his dukes" as well as handle pots and pans and could also handle four horses with the best of them. Before the horses were hitched to the wagon, Ed would take his place on a spring seat bolted to the bed of the wagon box, near enough the front end so he could brace his feet against the end gate. Ed took the lines as they were handed to him and the last tugs were hooked; the men jerked their

ropes out of the halter rings and the horses took off on the run. Ed often left the brake shoe set on the hind wheels so the horses would have plenty to pull with the wheels sliding instead of turning. This would soon tame down the horses and he could guide them along the road or trail. He never had but one runaway. The outfit was coming up Tower Canyon, a tributary of Halleck canyon along a narrow, rocky road when the "nighthawk" who was driving the bed wagon ran over an empty four-gallon syrup can which was mashed down and clamped around a felloe of the wheel. At each revolution of the wheel this can made a racket and scared the team on the bed wagon and they ran away. They tried to pass the mess wagon in front of them and the front right wheel of the bed wagon caught the right rear wheel of the mess wagon and turned it over, breaking a wheel and a reach on the latter. This "precipitate" action spilled Ed out of the mess wagon and the four horses streaked over the country with the running gears, heading for the Laramie Plains.

Mess Wagon Victuals, Chow, or Grub

The Swan Company furnished Ed Held about everything he wanted to cook for the boys. They butchered their own beef whenever they ran out, which was usually around once a week. Just imagine the value of that beef today. Besides beef the chief bits of "grub" were potatoes, rice, canned corn, and tomatoes and every kind of dried fruit. One of the choice desserts was made of rice well mixed with raisins. Ed did all of his cooking in dutch ovens, even to baking light bread and biscuits.



The Crazy Swedes show off their mounts. Axel Palmer on left and Gus Palmer on rearing horse. Courtesy Amy Lawrence and Axel Palmer.



*Broncho Sam.
See picture in Chapter 1, Page 9.*

Two Bar Hands

The Swan outfit who owned the Two Bar brand certainly had a fine group of men and boys. They had certain rules of decency in camp. These rules were written on a slip of paper pinned on the grub box door and any offender was quickly warned. If he committed the offense twice he was tried by a "Kangaroo Court", and if found guilty, four men would stretch him face down on the ground and the fifth would administer as many licks with a pair of chaps as imposed by the court. Sometimes the offender was thrown off a high bank into a deep hole in the creek or river for a "ducking," and left to clamber out as best he could. If he could not swim, he simply had to hold his breath and walk on the bottom of the hole until he could get his head above the water.

Water Supply for Camp

Where the distance was too far from water, the outfit would often make a dry camp between water holes. They moved the outfit along so as to keep up with the beef herd. They had a water barrel fastened on to a frame attached to the mess wagon, which held drinking water for dry camps.

Fun and Pranks

Those boys made their own fun, and there were always some natural-born clowns and pranksters in the group who kept the bunch entertained and someone the "butt" of the many pranks. One night the senior writer (ASG) was pitching his teepee after dark; the cook went to the neighboring teepee close to the writer's, awakened the boys sleeping there, and asked one of them if he would get up early the

next morning and slice the steaks for breakfast. The cook really only wanted to know if the boys were in the tent.

Skunk for a Bedfellow

In about ten minutes, two men came carrying a skunk by the tip of his tail. For the skunk cannot use his lethal weapon when suspended by his tail. Another partner in the prank opened the flap of the teepee and the skunk was dropped in. No sound came from within for what seemed ages. Later the occupants said that at first they thought the visitor was a pup from a nearby ranch house. Then all at once the writer could see fingers rapidly untying the teepee door. Both the skunk and the boys inside the tent were in a panic. At last, the fellows got the teepee door open and they came out running. There was no sleep in camp that night. That was one of the meanest tricks the writer ever saw played in the Two Bar camps, but he could relate many other pranks equally as funny to everyone except the "goats."

Fun and Pride

Those boys and men worked mostly for the thrills and spills of their trade. A boy of 18 who went to work for the Swan Land and Cattle Company received the munificent sum of \$20 a month and grub, and he of course, had his own bed roll. After a year or sometimes two of serving time, he would be raised to \$25 a month. After another year or two he would be raised to \$30 a month, so that by the time he was getting to be a good rider, roper, and commenced to know the range, he received \$35 a month. As he became more proficient, he re-

ceived \$40 a month, and by the time he could work a herd and cut out fat steers he would receive \$45 a month.

These "top hands" would lead the drives and they did most of the roping during the branding jobs. They could ride almost any horse in the cavy without being bucked off. At that age, these men were really educated in the cattle business. Cowhands usually worked at that job from five to fifteen years, and by that time the good hands had foreman jobs. These were the men who made the Swan Land and Cattle Co. and kept the vast herd of cattle properly cared for. None of them ever received any pensions, and neither did they become independent financially, as long as they worked for the big outfit.

Not one of these men, who always had the company's interests at heart, and rode thousands of miles looking after them, ever had his name mentioned in the home office at Edinburgh. The senior writer never knew the salary of the foreman of the outfit:

Pride In Outfit

Every cowpuncher was intensely proud of his outfit and much good natured rivalry resulted. They had a pride in their work which is reflected today in the high skill shown by different rodeo contestants, particularly in the steer roping, calf roping, and cow cutting contests. They were a hardy, self-reliant crowd who had a large part in the development of the west, and the utilization of its large resource, the short, nutritious grasses.

Charley Body, Typical Two Bar Cowboy

(Courtesy of Harry Robb of Dinuba, Calif.)

"A good-sized book could be written

about any of the Two Bar boys, but let us take Charley Body as typical of the fine group who did the riding for the Swan outfit.

"The best way to introduce Charley is in his own words, to-wit: 'I'm a sona-vagun from Bate's Hole.' While Bate's Hole is not as prominently known as Jackson Hole, and Hole in the Wall, it was nevertheless one of Wyoming's last holdouts and a boy growing up there was pretty sure to be a wild one who would tackle anything that looked like fun and excitement, and excitement it was, mingled with a big cloud of dust, when I first saw Charley.

Roundup

"The Two Bar roundup with which I worked, pulled into camp for the night, across from Old Rock Creek and the cloud of dust rolling up from the big stockyards, told us that something was really going on. When our supper was over with, it was still going on . . . some of us more inquisitive fellows caught horses and went over to have a look, and the fun was so good that we helped with it until the sun disappeared, and the long twilight of that high country faded into darkness.

Texas Cattle Require Dipping Vats

"Ever since I could remember when some malady showed up among Wyoming cattle, Texas got a good cussing by Wyoming stockmen and it just about included the cowpunchers who worked for them. We didn't like the extra and disagreeable job of dipping cattle, and at that time we were up against this problem, for a new state law read this way . . . until the prevalent mange scourge is done away with . . . Dipping vats were con-

structed by the company and the stockyards at Rock Creek got a vat. It was completed and in the process of soaking up when we pulled in there with upward of 9,000 head of steers to be dipped. The general manager obtained a dip expert to come the next day to charge the vat, (as the dip man called the mixing of the dipping liquid.)

Range Horses

"In the meantime, the Moore horse roundup was using the stockyards and were there with about 600 head of range horses. They were branding colts, castrating young studs and gathering mature geldings that were ready for market. Hence, the great dust cloud that was part of the unscheduled work, when a bunch of over-ambitious young fellows, after regular work hours, decided to put some of those old snorty mares through the vat. The ensuing mele in trying to scare the mares down the chute into the vat, was excitement at its best. They'd put about 40 to 60 head in the close-pen; get up on the footplanks along the sides, make all the noise possible to try and rush the horses down into the water-filled vat. This vat was some 50 feet long and 12 feet deep. Such high diving one never saw before, with horses landing in all positions in the vat, and it is a wonder that any got untangled enough to swim to the end of the vat and clamber out up the cleated incline. When the laughing was easing up slightly, some of the boys would get on their saddle horses and lope down the long alley and come back with more frightened horses for the next splash, and the big noise was on again. With each group going through the vat, the surrounding area

became wetter and wetter with the constant splashing and the level of water in the vat lowered.

First View of Charley Body

"Right where the splashing was the largest, was the place where I first saw Charley. His face was dirty from the dust, tobacco juice and the splash from the vat, but he was wild-eyed, and having the time of his life.

A Good Egg

"He looked like a good egg to me—the makings of a cowboy or nothing, I guessed. He was taking lots of chances of falling in the chute as he leaned over and fogged those squirming horses with a piece of what I supposed to be his slicker. I told him so, but he said, 'I couldn't fall in there, it's too full of horses. Anyway, I'd like to ride one of 'em through. I will if I get a chance at one coming alone.' I knew wild kids well enough to think he might try if some old filly hesitated for a moment before she took the high dive, so I told him I had been called crazy lots of time, but was never crazy enough to try a fool stunt like that. 'You'll be better to wait anyway,' I told him, 'until your boss gets back to fish you out, or when that dip man comes to load his vat he won't want dead folks floating around in it.' The next day as scheduled, the vat was charged, but to us unwise guys, it seemed like pouring dip out of 5-gallon cans into alkali water that wouldn't mix with it. The water turned sort of pinkish as the dip settled to the bottom. Satisfying grins showed among the fellows who were going to have to do the dipping for they hoped that the bottom of the vat would fall out or something

worse. The dip expert rushed around and got some long pieces of board and put cowpunchers to work stirring, but the dip refused to mingle with the water. The dip man was really puzzled, but had dip to sell, so he got some laundry soap and had cowboys whittling soap flakes into the vat and others stirring. Someone wanted to know why the hell he didn't put his soap in the day before so them snakey old mares could kick the bubbles out of it. It seemed everyone had something to say that didn't need saying.

Unmixed Dip

"We finally got a little suds on top, but the stirring sticks brought up unmixed dip. However, the steers didn't belong to the dip man, so he suggested we try a small bunch. Sam (the foreman) sent some boys out and they came back with 54 head. That was too many, for they all died, but four or five, some in a minute or two, and others a little longer as they staggered around. That was hard on the steers, but good for the cowboys, for the general manager said, 'Mange or no mange, law or no law, we're not going to dip these steers.'

"I saw Charley that afternoon as they came in with another batch of horses to corral in the stockyards. He told me he was all fed up with the horse outfit, that he'd like to get on with the Two Bar. 'Slim chance,' I told him, 'for all these horses you've been chasing all summer belong to our foreman's father, and he'd likely consider that even if he was short-handed, and we shouldn't be now, with this dipping job off our hands, and still a little early to begin shipping beef. I'll ask him, though, and you'll know

pretty quick, for we move camp after supper.' Sam could pick a good cowboy as readily as he could a good horse, and when I told him there was a good kid over there across the creek that wanted a job, Sam didn't even hesitate. He said, 'There's only one over there who can work with this outfit. Take a couple or horses over for him and his bed, and if you bring the wrong one you can take him back.'

Judgment Correct

"I knew I was right and we dumped Charley's bed off by the bed wagon, and he threw his saddle down along the corral ropes just as the cook backed away from his row of ovens and told us to eat it up. Charley was a nice looking boy and fit right in with the outfit where most cowboys couldn't get a job and many a fellow was not cowboy enough to stay on with the Two Bar when he did get a job. Like most kids his bed wasn't very fat and his saddle had seen lots better days, and he wore store boots (not made to order). 'Lucern Specials,' he called them. I didn't know that Lucern was all-same alfalfa, and I doubt that Charley had ever seen a stack of alfalfa in his life, but somehow he had gotten a farmer name for his boots. I could understand later on for he'd pull them off with his spurs on most every horse that bucked, while when they were wet he'd have to go to bed wagon and hook his heel in between the spokes and almost pull his leg off to get un-booted. Then the next morning he would be all over camp stomping and pulling to get them on again.

"As scheduled, we moved after supper over to the Laramie River, about 15 miles and caught horses early the

next morning to make a drive. Sam roped out a horse for Charley, and as I had gotten him on with the outfit, I figured it was somewhat my job to help him where I could, for many of the horses were tough ones, and it took a cowboy to ride them. The horse snorted and ran back when Charley came with his bridle, but I could see he wasn't bluffing Charley, even if he'd been big as a boxcar. I helped him saddle up, anyway, and told him the horse's name was 'Sitting Bull.' 'He's been rode two summers now, and is on his third and he's doing pretty good. He'll be all right if you're careful with him, but keep him from bucking if you can, for the first two summers he really bucked. This summer it looks like he's going to make a right nice little horse. I'll twist his ears for you to get on, and you can likely hold him up from bucking.'

Twisted Ears

"I did twist his ears and he stood perfectly still until Charley threw his leg over and hung a spur in Sitting Bull's neck. I didn't see them go, but when I got up, I knew I had been in the way, for I could hear Sitting Bull squeal as he left the ground, and grunt when he hit it again. As soon as I got some of the dirt winked out of my eyes, I could see Charley still on top and the horse was doing about all he could think of to get the spur out of his neck. I had noticed Charley's saddle horn had just the iron part left and the way he sat up there squeezing that little chunk of iron, I guessed he had clawed all the leather, rawhide and wood off riding other horses. The next horse Sam gave him was a very useful black horse caller Carter; gentle

enough if one was careful with him and most fellows were, for he was plenty hard to ride when he did blow up. I told Charley that, also that he'd get bucked off if he touched that horse off. He went out on herd that afternoon with two other fellows, and not too long afterward here came Carter over a rise just quitting the earth. Charley was still on top, but I'd hardly call it riding. His hat was gone, both bridle reins flying in the air, both his boots pulled off until his feet were in the legs; he was hanging on with both hands and trying to get his flopping boots in the stirrups. Les, the horse wrangler saw him coming, and hurried around his bunch of horses to help him out. When he came to supper, Sam asked him what he thought he was doing out there on that hill. Charley said, 'Harry told me if I touched that horse off I couldn't ride him, and I rode over that hill out of sight and thumbed him to find out, and I didn't know whether I had or not until Les handed me my bridle reins.'

A Good Cowboy

"From that time on, Charley was a Two Bar cowboy and a good one. If a horse had a drop of buck in him, Charley could get it out. He didn't get bucked off, for he didn't take chances. He nailed that iron horn and when the dust settled he still had it. Whether his boots stayed on or not, he did. But Two Bar pride got him in a year or two. He rode a good outfit, wore good clothes, and he wouldn't have pulled leather, if he got throwed over the moon. Still, he was on top when the dust settled, if the horse stayed upright. Everyone liked Charley, even the womenfolks, but he was shy of

anything with a dress on, so he wouldn't dance with them. But, about horses, he was agreeable to the last jump. If anyone said, 'Let's buck 'em, Charley,' he'd have his horse at it right now. If it was 'Let's jump 'em off that bank into the river and see if they'll swim,' Charley would try and be the first one over. He would drink with anybody and the last drinking bout he had with the Two Bar wound up with him leaving the roundup with Jimmie and Ben. Might have been fighting whiskey . . . I don't know . . . anyway, they had their necks bowed, and in the notion to quit. The boss told them to go on to bed, and he would give them horses in the morning. Jimmie being older knew that nothing's as good as a bed to smooth out firewater, but Ben and Charley were quitting quick, and headed out through the sagebrush on foot. We were a good 60 miles from the home ranch, but they took off anyway, cussing a damn outfit that wouldn't give a man a horse to ride away when he quit. They both got tangled in the sagebrush and upset and couldn't both get up at the same time to go on. We let them sit and holler and cuss until dark, then helped them back into camp, and bedded them down. Ben went right to sleep, but Charley was sobering up and said to the boss, 'I'll be all right in the morning and be sorry I quit, but don't you let me stay. I like all the boys and know the Two Bar is the best outfit in the world, but when morning comes you kick me plumb out of camp. I've been a damn fool and don't deserve a good job with a good outfit.' They rode out of camp the next morning and the Two Bar was short three good cowboys."

A Cowboy Who Could Do Anything: A Real Top Hand

The old timers of the 1880's on the Laramie Plains remember one man in particular for his riding and horsemanship. This man was Jack Hill. He came to Wyoming from California and preferred to work for the horse outfits, for he liked to work with horses and break broncos to ride. When he was with one outfit he was put at the job of herding the mare bunch through the breeding season, after the spring horse roundup was completed. After he got the bunch well "herd-broke" he spent much of his time playing with the broncho he was riding. When he got it to respond to the reins in good shape he would take down his rope and ease around the edge of the herd of horses until he came to a spot which suited his purpose. Then he would suddenly throw his rope like a bullet and catch a wild unbroken mare. He would choke it down and then tie his bridle reins to the rope to keep his mount in line and would then run to the struggling mare and tie three feet together (hog tie it). Then he would unsaddle his mount and turn it loose and saddle the mare that was tied down. He would tie a rope to the cinch and then he could put a rope under the mare's neck and with that rope he could pull the cinch into place, place the saddle and cinch up. He would put his feet in the stirrups after pulling them free and would then reach over and untie the mare's feet. She would struggle to her feet and the lonely excitement would start. As soon as the mare looked up and felt him on her back she would either buck or run. If she ran and he could not turn her he would lean over to one

side, reach down and take a close hold on the bridle rein. With his knee against the mare's shoulder he would pull up her head so suddenly and to one side, which would throw her off balance and she would fall to the ground. Jack would stick out his feet and keep his balance, like one stepping off a board plank.

Jealousy Among Bronc Riders

Another bronco buster named Wallis Link was working for the outfit which employed Jack Hill. Wallis came on to a bronco that bucked him off and that was something that seldom happened to him. He made the remark with some vehemence that "Jack Hill could not ride that bronco either." Jack Hill had never been thrown since coming to Wyoming. Jack overheard the remark and immediately announced that he would ride the mare the following Sunday. In the meantime the news travelled around about his plan and a good crowd was on hand to see the fun. Jack took the mare into a corral to saddle her. When he had her saddled, he pulled the "off" rein over her neck and took both reins and the cheek of the bridle in his left hand. He caught the horn with his right hand and mounted and just as he caught his right stirrup he jerked the bridle off and whipped the mare over the head at each jump. At the same time he raked the mare with his spurs from the point of her shoulders to the edge of the saddle skirt with every jump. Thus he added another superb ride to his string of victories over bucking horse flesh.

Jack Hill a Fine Roper

Jack Hill rode into a cow outfit one time just in time for dinner. The out-

fit was all set for a big afternoon of branding on the range. After they ate he asked the foreman if he needed any help. The foreman said he could use a man who could rope. It was customary in those days to give a newcomer a proper initiation by giving him the worst horse in the outfit, and such a "lemon" was caught for Jack. He was a well built man, six feet tall and was good enough horseman to take that bad horse and ride it right out along with the rest of the fellows. On the way out one of the fellows confided to Jack that none of them had dared rope from the horse he was riding, for he was the meanest horse they had ever seen, for he had killed a man the week before. Jack handled the outlaw horse with ease and roped calves from him all that afternoon.

Foremen of the Two Bar or Swan

In the famous Two Bar or Swan outfit, a man had to prove his skill and judgment before he could become a foreman on the range. He would need to have around fifteen years of experience to get that job and the seniority plainly showed his worth to the outfit. All of the many hands in that outfit, which owned from 200 up to 600 head of horses to use in its cattle work, learned the business from the ground up, starting at an early age. Most of the boys started there around 18 years of age, to learn to ride, rope, and other skills and sound judgment in picking good and poor cattle, locating them on countless hills and coulees and seeing that they were kept in good health.

Rufe Rhodes was the first roundup foreman for the outfit. He did not get the job by seniority, for the Company was young and had not trained any

capable men so had to go outside for a man with the qualifications for this responsible position. Rufe owned one of the early pioneer ranches known as the 49 Ranch on Sheep Creek. The Swan outfit had to buy his "spread" including land and livestock, before he would take the job they offered him. He ran the roundups in good style for several years and then resigned.

The next man in line for the foreman job was **Stoll Yankee**, who had a wonderful reputation for handling men and cattle. He was one of those dignified sort of fellows and kept his thoughts to himself and his orders came quickly, without hesitation.

Rhody Adams was the third man to take the roundup foreman job. He was a fine looking fellow who had many friends and was as good a cowboy as any who were working under him. He had previous experience as he had run the Bar M outfit, located on the creek of that name, a tributary of the North Laramie River. This experience was valuable to him and the Swan outfit as they bought the Bar M land. Adams was very accommodating to visitors. One time the senior author's father and uncle rode down to join the Two Bar outfit just in time for dinner. They tied their horses to the bed wagon during the meal and afterwards untied their horses and when the uncle mounted his horse bucked viciously, threw him off and took off toward Sybille Springs. Two riders took off to catch the runaway buckler and caught him at Sybille Springs and turned him back towards camp. The bronco was in sight for four miles as it ran from camp to Sybille Springs. Adams realized that it was not going

to be easy to catch this runaway and accordingly he changed his plans and turned his round-up wagons around and established camp for the night. He spread out his men and horse cavy like a football formation to attempt to guide the runaway into the cavy. He had reserve riders catch good horses from which they could rope, to be ready to take up the chase. The runaway was getting madder each time he was turned around and was lathering so much that one could not tell his true color. After several trips between the camp east to Sybille Springs and back through camp to a point near Harper, the runaway out dodged and outran all horses and loops and Rhody Adams saw that a new strategy was needed. He thought that a runaway horse could not run and dodge in deep water. Accordingly on the runaway's fourth trip through camp, he was riding one of the best horses the Swan had for speed and roping. The bronco came close to the river and Rhody was hot on its tail and as it plunged into the river he was close enough to make a long cast and dropped his loop over the bronco's head. Thus the runaway was brought to camp after a chase of some 64 miles at a rate of around 45 miles per hour.

When Rhody Adams resigned he was followed by **John Bowie** who was a good man for the job. He had worked up by seniority and had reached the age when he wanted to quit cowpunching so after a year at the job he resigned. He was a brother of Al Bowie, who succeeded John Clay Jr., as manager of the entire Swan outfit in 1896.

Dave Morris succeeded John Bowie

as roundup foreman. He was the hardest working of all the foremen. He drove his men to the limit and was a favorite employee of John Clay. Dave had the world cheated when it came to chewing tobacco. Many a stiff starched shirt front was stained while riding toward the wind, for he never turned his head. He resigned in 1898 to go into the cattle business for himself on the Sybille.

Sam Moore was the next foreman. He was a real cowboy from the word go, as he could ride, rope and handle cattle in skillful manner. He was quick witted and had bright, lively eyes. He served in the job until 1903.

Billy Wilde was the last foreman that worked the entire range of the cattle outfit. He was probably the best foreman the Company ever had, and was with them from his early years. He put in more time with the Company than any other cowpuncher. He rode every horse that was ever put into his string and went places on them and made them work. After he was made foreman he still rode some of the meanest horses which by rights should have been "topped off" by some of the younger men. The best cowboy stunt the writer (A.S.G.) ever saw him do was when he roped a big steer one morning while he was riding

a mean bucking horse. He had his rope tied fast to the saddle horn. The horse started to buck and swap ends. To avoid being jerked off sideways, Billy ducked under the rope each time the bucking horse came around to it. In the writer's opinion, none of the present day professional rodeo hands could duplicate Billy Wilde's skill in riding and roping and he roped a cow brute from any horse that he happened to be riding.

A nucleus of these good cowboys stayed with the Two Bar until the cattle were sold in 1905 and thence they were sold in 1905 and thence they drifted to other climes and jobs. They were a self-reliant crew and intensely proud of their outfit and it is a real treat to sit in with some of the old hands when they get together and reminisce.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS AND SOURCES

The writers wish to acknowledge information from Holly Hunt, Owen Hoge, John Alsop, and Harry Robb.

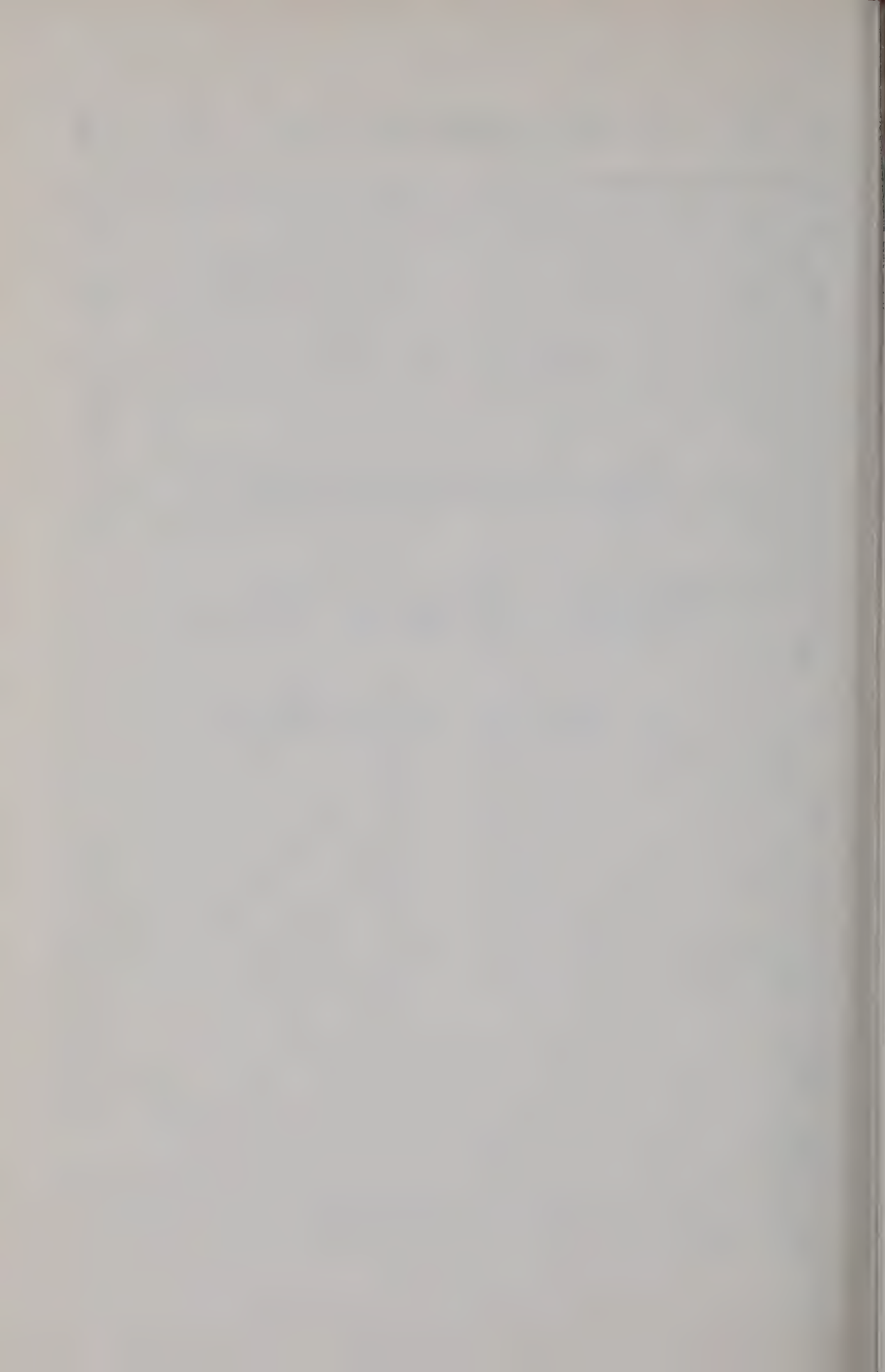
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CHAPTER 21

THE INDISPENSABLE HORSE—ALLY OF MAN AT WORK AND PLAY

By A. S. "Bud" Gillespie

THE HORSE is the most valuable animal who has served mankind during the entire development of the country. In the early days when the horse came to America with the Spaniards he enabled them to cover large distances and the Indians for the first time obtained a means of transport and rode as with the wind. The horse was used to till the soil which produced the crops of food which fed his master's family, as well as the power to plant and harvest the crops which were fed to livestock to keep them alive and to fatten them to produce food in the form of meat. The horse also furnished motive power for the early-day street cars which were called horse cars.

Beast of Burden

The horse was the beast of burden for pack trains which transported food and supplies to inaccessible places in the high mountains. He was used for riding under saddle and put to harness to drive and draw wagons and carts. The Indians used him in many ways to help in their daily tasks. His use helped to win their wars and played a big part in subduing the marauding neighboring tribes.

Helped To Find New Lands

The frontiers of this and other lands were expanded by the pulling of thousands of emigrant wagons and in furnishing mounts for the early trappers and explorers. Thus he played a vital part in the exploration and settling of this and other countries. His hoofs

have trod and made the trails of this country from the extreme parts, ocean to ocean and north to south.

Built the railroads

The horses pulled the dirt-carrying devices which built the grades of the railroads and the epic of the Union Pacific, the first trans-continental railroad is closely tied in with the "drawers of the slips and scrapers" who furnished the motive power by which the railroad grade was thrown up with feverish haste in those adventurous days of the 60s.

Trailed Cattle

The great rolling grassy plains were stocked with thousands of cattle, trailed to new grass by cowhands who could do little without their trusty steeds. The cowboy and his horse made a fine combination, both interdependent upon each other and both of them indispensable to the early cattle owner. Their activities were necessary to the development of the western states and in a sense they kept the peace. Put a cowboy on a horse and he was unafraid of anything. He would rope a bear from his mount and the horse knowing the task at hand would turn to the side and "bust" the bear and choke it to death. The wolf, the most destructive of all predatory animals was roped and dragged to death by these cowboys riding their best mounts.

Cowboys Feared By Indians

The Indians feared the cowboys

when mounted and went to government officials and asked for guns and ammunition. The officials answered, "You will kill our soldiers." The answer was, "No, we will kill the soldiers with sticks, the guns are to kill cowboys."

Value of Properly Trained Horse

After a horse is properly broken and trained, he is always ready to lend all of his strength, speed, and skill to his rider. He is a lifesaver in many instances. When a rider gets lost in a blizzard, darkness, or a fog, all he needs to do is give the horse his head; perhaps we should say the bridle reins, and the horse will go in a "bee-line" to his home camp or ranch. A horse has a natural instinct for directions and many a rider owes his life to the instinct of his mount.

The Pleasure of a Good Horse Under You

To me there is no greater pleasure than to get out and ride a good horse across the prairies and perform the various tasks of the range country, such as rounding up cattle, roping and dragging calves to the branding fire, roping, throwing, and examining cattle for their brands, injuries, etc., and the many other tasks on the ranch.

Mechanized Power Replacing Horses

It is true that mechanized power has rapidly taken the place of horses on farms, in the hayfields and in construction work, but a jeep or pickup is a poor "cutting" agency in handling cattle on the ranch. As long as there are cattle there will be horses to handle the cattle, and even the sheep herder needs a steed and when ranges are fenced the sheep herder is replaced by a pasture rider to watch the sheep.

Horseflesh Treasured

Although draft horses and fire engine horses have been replaced by tractors and trucks, the replaced horses have been pensioned and placed on lush green pastures. In driving through the midwest the former stronghold for draft horses, one sees tractors everywhere performing the work while the fat old pensioners who have served their time enjoy their declining years on lush pastures under spreading shade trees.

In recent years riding clubs have sprung up all over the country and in the largest cities there are many riding clubs and horse trails, even in the parks of New York City and other large cities. Fine saddle horses of many types and kinds are in demand everywhere, both for ranch and riding club use. In the West the horse is widely used by big game guides in getting hunters and their supplies in and out of the rough mountain country. Sheepmen use pack horses where pickups and sheep wagons cannot be used in rough mountain ranges.

A well-trained horse has, for a century, been worth plenty of money and will continue to be "worth his salt." The replacement of draft horses has resulted in little demand for this type of heavy horse, but the esteem of the people of every class for fine horseflesh is well illustrated by the crowds at the National Stock Shows, who never fail to thrill at the sight of the well trained six-horse teams of heavy horses and ponies and the light horses under saddle and between the shafts of the zephyr-like rubber-tired buggies.

The Delight of Every Youngster

Fortunate are the youngsters who have their oft-repeated requests grant-



*Group of Cowboys at Albany County Fair Grounds. Sept. 1904.
Courtesy Wyo. Agr. Exp. Station.*



*Model of Steamboat Monument.
University of Wyoming.*



*Steamboat held by A. S. Gillespie in 1904.
A. S. Gillespie Collection.*

ed and are the proud possessors of a pony to ride and call their own. This innate desire of every youngster has been the background of many profitable businesses in furnishing pony rides for youngsters at public playgrounds and elsewhere. The country youngsters always have city cousins who delight in going to the country weekends to ride and play with the ponies available there. Then, some city cousins have ponies which they keep at their country cousins' place for pasture.

Indispensable On Ranch

Thousands of dollars worth of newborn calves have been saved when the horse and rider carried them to shelter out of the cold and stormy weather. They have made it possible for the cowman to carry on his cattle work, which would have been impossible without the help of a horse. Mechanized power has not been too satisfactory for working cattle although a pickup can round up the milk cows. Many ranches still keep horses for feeding hay in deep snow, where trucks are not satisfactory.

Horse Useful for Recreation

The skills of the rangeland depend largely on the use of the horse as an irreplaceable part of these procedures. A rodeo would indeed be a "flop" without horses, for they enter into every event. Even a large part of the spectators at the rodeos spend their time atop a favorite mount as they watch the events. And how the public loves the rodeos from the small local ones where the spectators know a large number of the contestants personally, to the largest ones whose names are known from coast to coast. Names

like Cheyenne Frontier Days, Pendleton, Calgary are the big time rodeos, and every county and community has its little shows on the Fourth of July, and other times during the summer and fall months. Even Madison Square Garden, the sports center of our largest city, recognizes the importance of the rodeo and puts on such a show each year.

Buffalo Bill's Wild West Show

The world-wide popularity of the rodeo and the use of the riding horse is well illustrated by the renown of Buffalo Bill's Wild West Show, which was exceptionally well received by everyone in staid old London, from the king to the laborer.

Rodeo Horses

Just as there are many kinds of people, each performing a distinct part in our society, so there are many kinds of horses in a rodeo. The meanest and wildest ones, who are often the craftiest ones, usually are used in the bucking contests. Their skill is to unseat their riders and give the spectators a masterful performance of spirited competition between rider and buckler. The trained horses are important in all phases of the rodeo, be they for "pickup riders," "hazers for bulldoggers," buckers with and without saddle, for trick riding and for roping calves and steers. Then there are the exceptionally well trained horses used in the newly introduced cutting contests, which can almost cut out a quitter from a bunch and keep him separated from the bunch without the neck-reining of the rider. The roping horses need to be exceptionally well trained to time their every movement



Morris "Dutch" Corthell on Steamboat. Albany County Fair 1910, by courtesy Morris Corthell.



Guy Holt on Steamboat. Photo by B. C. Buffum, Albany County Fair, Sept. 1903. Courtesy Wyo. Agr. Exp. Sta. Burns & Gillespie Collection.



Steamboat, the Unconquered!

By Les Wallace

Of Steamboat's, done dashed in his sleep at last,
 Altho a name what will do'nt steamboat pass—
 Picked up perhaps, he had better country, knowed
 O' him, 'n' of Corthell's backen' team, done showed
 Dignity all th' backen' on what ever need
 T' had him one thouten, they could bid!

As, from he, and it's up 'n' Chrysope
 T' rick up th' way, best she can
 Because ever by attraction of her show,
 In gallopation, man-eaters done below,
 A backen' little death, like as not,
 An' helpen' 'Satan jump off' 'Midas, had!

For thebe Heaven's what he's in by name,
 (I'd like t' see him 'n' see a goat—wound)
 But any, th' Steamboat team, yuh did knowed,
 An' all Wyoan's 'ground' in you, an' had—
 Proud, an' sorry, too, because, I guess,
 We loved yuh for yer very owness!

*In Memory of Steamboat, the Unconquered.
 Courtesy of Denver Post, June 6, 1915.*

in getting the rider quickly to the side of the steer or calf for the cast, and then after the catch, to throw the roped animal and keep the rope taut so the calf or steer cannot get up.

Steamboat a Bucker Symbolic of Wyoming Spirit

This is a short summary of the story of Steamboat, the King of Buckers, whose peerless performances in rodeos have become a tradition among the cowboys of the west. The full story is given in the brochure published by the University of Wyoming and listed at the end of this chapter.

A Native of Wyoming

Steamboat was born near Chugwater, Wyoming, and spent his entire life in Wyoming although touring other states. When he was a colt his unconquerable spirit caused him to injure his nose, and after that time he snorted like a steamboat.

Made Debut in 1901 at Denver

Steamboat, a jet-black gelding with two rear and one front stocking feet, became king of the bucking horses as soon as he performed at the Mountain and Plain Festival at Denver, Colorado, in October 1901. Steamboat made his second appearance in August 1902 at the Wyoming Frontier Days in Cheyenne.

A Long Distinguished Career As a Bucker

From 1902 until 1915 Steamboat made appearances at the leading rodeos from Denver to the Pacific Coast and his name became legendary as a fine buckler who did his utmost to unseat his rider, and was generally successful. In the early days there was no

ten second rule and it was a battle to the finish between rider and horse.

Best Bucking Picture

At Laramie, in September 1903, the arena was cleared to see two champions perform. Guy Holt had built up a fine reputation as a broncho rider and he had the power and skill to ride Steamboat, although the jolting he received left him with body injuries which stayed with him for the rest of his life. While he was riding Steamboat, Professor B. C. Buffum of the University of Wyoming, took a picture which was destined to be the finest bucking horse picture in existence. No other picture shows so clearly the "battle to the finish" between horse and rider and in the picture Guy Holt is twisted grotesquely by the vicious bucking of Steamboat, and is holding to the saddle horn to keep his seat, which was allowed in those days of a battle to the finish. Steamboat's posture and his head and mouth show the strenuousness and determination in his effort.

Taps for the Old Campaigner

Steamboat appeared for the last time in a rodeo in Salt Lake City in the fall of 1914. He was injured shortly after that contest when he was frightened by a thunder and lightning storm. He was badly torn by a splinter when he ran against the fence, and was taken back to Cheyenne where the vets gave him up and advised that he be put away. Paul Hansen, Floyd Irwin, Bob Lee and Johnny Rick had the sad task of putting him away. So passed a great campaigner.

The Horse Indispensable Ally of Man

So, history records the value of horses to man in both peaceful and wartime pursuits. From the day of the first world conqueror, the renowned Genghis Khan, who came out of Asia, and as the saying goes "conquered the world on mare's milk," the horse has been man's indispensable ally. These Mongolian pines of Genghis Khan were and still are their master's right hand allies in furnishing dependable and fast transportation and at the same time carrying a ready and rich food, mare's milk.

The cavalry, until recent years, has been a most important mobile unit of the armed forces and has played important parts in all of the wars of man. The horse has always furnished transportation and power to man and in this mechanical age still finds ways in which to help his master.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS AND SOURCES

The writer is indebted to many old timers for information about Steamboat. He is particularly indebted to Morris Corthell of Laramie, T. Joe Cahill of Cheyenne, and Jimmy Danks of Ardmore, S. D.

ANONYMOUS 1914

Old Steamboat, world's worst bucking broncho mercifully shot today.

Cheyenne: Wyoming Tribune October 14-15, 1914.

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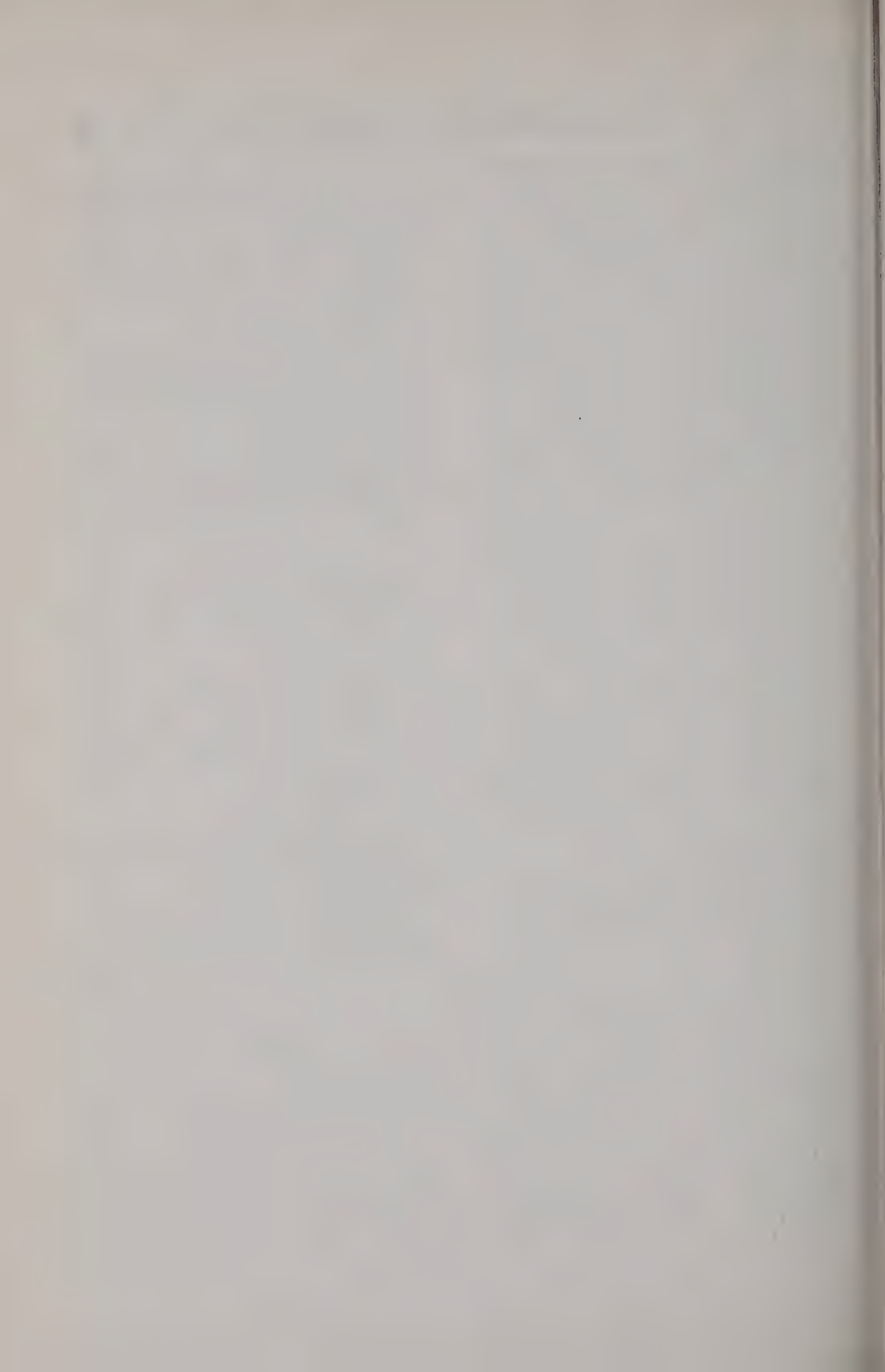
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CHAPTER 22

WATER VITAL TO MAN AND BEAST THE LIFE-BLOOD OF THE LARAMIE PLAINS

By R. H. "Bob" Burns

SINCE the dawn of history water has been a vital factor in man's success in Agriculture. Man's physical requirements in this world are based on food, raiment and shelter, and agriculture has a vital contribution to these primal requirements. On the Laramie Plains, high on the continent's backbone, water is a vital necessity as elsewhere on the world's surface.

One of First Chores for Ranchmen

The importance of water on the Laramie Plains was early in evidence for some of the first chores for the ranchers of the early days was to obtain land titles to key property and then to develop water rights, dig ditches by hand and horse scrapers, and file water appropriation rights. The importance of irrigation to native hay meadows was early proven and the story of its discovery was an interesting one.

Value of Water for Hay Meadows

Among others, Ralph May has told the writer the story of the flooding of Little Laramie meadows in the early days, by the tie jams which occurred when the tie drives came down that river to Old Wyoming Station, where they were taken out of the water and loaded on the cars. These tie jams dammed the river and forced the water out over the surrounding lands, and the owners of these lands were not slow to notice the increased growth of the hay crop on these locations and

took steps to make their own dams of rock, sod and manure to spread the water out over the land.

Water Rights Recorded

The decade from 1880 to 1890 was a very busy one for the ranchmen were making water filings continually and digging ditches whenever the ground was not frozen.

Willan or Loback Ditch

The Willan or Loback ditch was one of the first larger irrigation enterprises, although the Pioneer ditch was contemporary and outlasted the former. The Willan Ditch is the large one you notice on top of the plateau on the way to Quealy Dome. The large ditch, with wooden flumes to break the swift grade, can be seen along the left side of the road as the ditch is crossed. The water right on the Loback Ditch was entered by the Douglas Willan Sartoris Company in May 1888, and this ditch started on the north fork of the little Laramie River at the north edge of the so-called Rainbow Lodge or Nelson's Resort, north and east of Centennial. This ditch ran around the edge of Corner Mountain and its banks washed out continually. Eventually they were forced to build another ditch, the Bellamy, whose headgate was lower down on the Little Laramie on the Wright Ranch (now Hein place). This ditch joined the Loback in the Mill Creek area. The ditch ran over

to the benchland known in the early days as the Willan farm, and later as the Blackburn farm or flats, after the man who developed farm land there in later years.

Blackburn Flats

Roland Blackburn had a meat market and coal office in Laramie around 1900. He bought the Willan Farm and developed it. This land was located in Township 17, Ranges 75 and 76, and the buildings were on Section 25-17-76. It was later owned by E. J. Bell, A. W. Augspurger and Pat Hiland and Jim May is the present owner.

Pioneer Canal Company

This irrigation system is one of the earliest in the Laramie Plains as it was organized in 1878. The minute book, loaned to the writer by Mr. L. J. Holliday, gives some interesting information. The call of the first meeting was sent out September 12, 1878, with J. W. Donnellan, Chairman, and H. Myrick, Secretary. S. W. Downey, early day lawyer, was instructed to draw up articles of incorporation and J. W. Donnellan was instructed to contact Mr. E. Whiting, engineer, and have him run a survey of a ditch to deliver water to the highest point on Section 18-16-73. On September 26 of the same year, the following trustees were elected: D. J. Pierce, W. H. Holliday, D. Nottage, J. W. Donnellan, S. W. Downey, M. J. Myrick, and J. H. Hayford.

Bids Asked for Ditch

This group voted to advertise for bids to construct a ditch twenty miles long, more or less, six feet wide at top, four feet wide on the bottom and

eighteen inches deep. On October 28, 1878, the trustees let a contract to Wm. Crout to construct the ditch—the bid amounted to seven cents a cubic yard through level country, with rock work extra, and excluded the first two miles of the ditch, which was let as a separate contract to P. G. Murphy for \$200.00, the ditch to be six feet wide at the bottom. In May 1879 the contract for the headgates was let to Peter Gunery in the amount of \$300.00. In November 1879 the trustees settled with Wm. Crout on his contract for 30,363 cubic yards of dirt moved in making the ditch. This made the ditch, at that time, cost \$3088.44.

In April 1880 the annual meeting gives a list of stockholders for 370 shares and in July 1883 there were stockholders for 767 shares. Between 1879 and 1884 some water was furnished by the Pioneer Canal, but considerable difficulty was experienced in keeping the upper part of the canal in serviceable condition. The stockholders and directors of the Pioneer Canal Company, in casting about for ways and means to improve the canal and to extend the area of irrigated land, conceived the idea of purchasing from the Union Pacific Railroad Company those lands granted to the Railroad by Congress, to aid the company in constructing its track. This grant included land to the amount of something over 600,000 acres of land in Albany County. Carrying out this idea the Wyoming Central Land and Improvement Company was organized in 1884 by some of the leading business men of Laramie and ranchers on the Laramie Plains.



Mr. and Mrs. E. J. Bell. Picture taken at Millbrook Ranch around 1903. By courtesy of J. F. Wilson.



Seven spans of oxen used to dig ditches and haul supplies by E. J. Bell. By courtesy of Bert Wallis.



Fine grain crop at Blackburn farm about 1908. By courtesy of A. W. Augspurger.

Wyoming Central Land & Improvement Co.

The first board of directors of the Wyoming Central Land & Improvement Company were the following people: John H. Douglas-Willan, Henry G. Balch, Robert H. Homer, John W. Donnellan, Robert Marsh, Stephen W. Downey, Hartman K. Evans, August Trabing, and Thomas Alsop. This company acquired the stock of the Pioneer Canal Company and immediately began the enlargement and reconstruction of the Pioneer Canal and entered into a contract to purchase the lands from the Union Pacific Railroad Company. During the first year of its operations, the Wyoming Central Company entered into contracts of sale of Union Pacific lands for an average of \$2.41 per acre for some 200,000 acres, receiving down payments totalling \$107,000.00.

Enlarged Pioneer Canal

The Pioneer Canal when enlarged, was 16 feet wide on the bottom from the river to Sodergreen Lane, and carried four feet of water. Its total length was about 35 miles and extended to a point some three or four miles northwest of Laramie near the Laramie River. The company also established a model farm on Section 31-16-73 (now comprising the town of West Laramie). During the ensuing 20 years or more, water was furnished to some 12,000 acres of land to settlers under the Pioneer Canal.

In 1891, the directors conceived the idea of expanding the enterprise and ordered a survey of what was designed as the "High Line Canal" to be made by William Owen. It was proposed to take out this canal high enough up

the river to carry water out along the front of Sheep Mountain and then out onto the plains area north of the Big Hollow, west of Laramie. In subsequent years re-surveys were made of this High Line Canal but it was never constructed.

In 1908, during the period when new irrigation projects were being started in various parts of the state and other western states, a group of men from Pennsylvania, later known as the "Shamoken Group", became interested in irrigation and started a study of water storage possibilities on the Laramie Plains. The Shamoken Group, along with another group of men from Albany County, Wyoming, and later some people from Colorado joined forces. They acquired the stock of the old Pioneer Canal Company, increasing the capital stock from \$10,000 with a par value of \$10.00 a share to a total of \$210,000.00 with 21,000 shares of a par value of \$10.00. They thereupon began the construction of what is known as the Lake Hattie reservoir system.

The Pioneer Canal was enlarged between the river and Sodergreen Lake and a canal was constructed along with the North and South canals to distribute water from Lake Hattie reservoir and Pioneer canal. Storage rights for Lake Hattie reservoir were obtained to the extent of 68,500 acre feet. Something over two million dollars was spent on the project and it was still uncompleted. A part of the plan called for the construction of a canal to divert water from Douglas Creek to the Little Laramie River and thence to be distributed through the Stewart and North Canal to lands within and on both sides of the Big



Fine crop of field peas at Blackburn farm about 1908. By courtesy of A. W. Augspurger.



*Grain field at Blackburn farm in 1911. Yield 85 bushels per acre.
By courtesy of A. W. Augspurger.*

Hollow. Some \$80,000 was expended in the construction of these two canals before the promoters ran out of funds and neither of the canals were finally finished.

The Lake Hattie reservoir was supposed to furnish adequate storage for sufficient water to irrigate all of the lands lying under the Pioneer canal, consisting of some 49,000 acres, as well as an additional 50,000 acres of land lying under the North canal, the South canal and the Stewart canal. From 1908, when the Lake Hattie project was started, until 1932, there was a gradual extension of the irrigation and there appeared to be an adequate supply of water both direct and in storage for about 20,000 acres of land. However, the expanding demands of the Wheatland colony which had both direct flow and storage rights of earlier priority than the Lake Hattie right, demonstrated that the available water would not be sufficient for the project as originally planned. From 1932 to 1947 there was a severe drought and Lake Hattie reservoir was unable to obtain water for storage. During the last four or five years there has been some water available for storage and irrigation under the Lake Hattie irrigation project and the North canal has run water to the area west of Howell Station some dozen miles northwest of Laramie.

Why Named Lake Hattie?

The writer was interested in the derivation of the name Lake Hattie and was unsuccessful in his quest for information until the late Mary Bellamy came to his rescue, with the information that Lake Hattie was named for Hattie Andrews, daughter of Jude

Andrews, prominent early day citizen of Laramie. She was married in 1876 to Charles F. Phillips, and they had three children. One of these, Mrs. May P. Reece lives in Hollywood and in a letter to the writer, she corroborated the information given by Mrs. Mary Bellamy. A sister of Hattie Andrews, Cora, married Daniel H. Brees and their son Major General H. J. Brees is one of the famous alumni of Wyoming University. He also gave information to the writer about his mother and Aunt Hattie. Hattie Phillips died in 1904 and Cora Brees died in 1935. Judge Andrews came to Laramie in 1871 and was appointed U. S. Commissioner shortly after his arrival. He was elected to the first two Territorial legislatures and served as Speaker of the Second. In 1879 he moved to Buffalo, Wyoming, and took up a ranch on Shell Creek and helped to organize Johnson County. Here he practiced law, was prosecuting attorney, peace judge, and was elected Mayor of Buffalo in 1885. He served on the school board for many years and was twice county superintendent of schools. He was serving in that capacity at the time of his death. His three attractive daughters were the belles of Laramie in 1871. Mrs. Reece gives the following story of the naming of Lake Hattie. "The name Hattie was given to the lake by a surveyor, a friend of my mother. As I recall her telling about it, a party of men were surveying somewhere outside of Laramie, and when they discovered this lake, which was without name, one of the men suggested naming it 'Hattie' in honor of Hattie Andrews (my mother)."

The Shamoken Group, in 1917, sold the project to D. C. Buntin and James



Visitors' Carriages in E. J. Bell's Oat Field. Photo by Bufum. Aug. 20, 1905. By courtesy Western History & Archives Department, University of Wyoming Library.



On the hill overlooking the Little Laramie Valley. Party visiting E. J. Bell Farm Aug. 29, 1905. 1. Unknown; 2. Unknown; 3. R. H. Homer; 4. E. J. Bell; 5. W. H. Holliday; 6. Unknown. By courtesy Archives and Western History Department, University of Wyoming Library.



E. J. Bell sheep at Millbrook. The long ditch he built to get water from the Little Laramie to his Bellvue Farm north of Millbrook station is shown and in the background is Centennial Ridge. By courtesy of Agnes Wright Spring.

E. Caldwell, a banker of Nashville, Tenn. Buntin was a land promoter here and the son-in-law of Caldwell. In 1925 Caldwell decided to dispose of his interests. The Laramie Rivers Company was organized by business men of Laramie and ranchers in the vicinity of Laramie, with the purpose of purchasing the Lake Hattie system and the Pioneer Canal Company, owned by the Laramie Water Company.

About 1920 a brochure was published by the Laramie Water Company, describing the Pioneer Canal and the Lake Hattie reservoir water rights for the fine farm lands in the Big Laramie River valley. About 1917 Secretary of Agriculture, Hon. James Wilson, praised the Laramie Valley in a speech at a dinner given in Laramie in his honor. He states, "Almighty God knew what He was doing when He placed this soil in the Laramie Plains and covered the State of Wyoming with a natural resource possessed by no other spot on earth, and I hope the good people here appreciate it—This beautiful valley of yours cannot long remain sparsely settled as good lands are rapidly growing too scarce to permit of such fertile soil to lay practically idle. Lands that will grow such an abundance of fattening grasses as these lands cannot fail to produce abundant and profitable crops of grain and fodder."

This brochure gives the following plans for the proposed irrigation system. The water supply is obtained from the Big Laramie River through Lake Hattie supply Canal No. 1. From the Little Laramie River the water supply is obtained through the Lake Hattie Supply Canal No. 2. Lake Hat-

tie distributing canals are the North canal, the South canal and the Pioneer canal. Lake Hattie supply reservoir has a storage capacity of 68,500 acre feet at the outlet gates. At the outlet gates it carries 1,500 cubic feet per second and gradually diminishes as it flows through the canals. South canal receives its water from the North canal at a point about four miles from the outlet gates of Lake Hattie reservoir, and has a capacity of 160 cubic feet of water per second for its entire length. This canal is operated as a feeder to convey water from Lake Hattie to the Pioneer canal and to carry overflow back to the Big Laramie river. The original plan for the South canal contemplated a flume across the Big Laramie river some 12 miles above Laramie and a continuation of the canal on the east side of the river to a point east and not far south of Laramie. No work was ever done on the construction of the flume or the canal on the east side of the river.

The Pioneer canal has furnished water to its users continually since 1879 and is now in its 76th year of operation. Perhaps a Diamond Jubilee is in order for this canal, a Pioneer in reality as well as in name.

E. J. "Colonel" Bell: Sponsor of Water Development and Crop Raising

In the late 80s, E. J. Bell came to the Laramie Plains from the Rio Grande Valley of Texas. He had been a leader in Texas and had acquired the name of Colonel from his qualities of leadership. This name stuck with him after he came to Wyoming. He was a brother-in-law of Ed Morgan, cow foreman at the Willan Ranch. The writer remembers the reminiscences of



Where Gov. Brooks of Wyoming spoke to the ranchmen at E. J. Bell's farm on August 29, 1905. By courtesy Archives and Western History Department, University of Wyoming, Library.



E. J. Bell on his favorite gaited saddle horse at County Fair, Sept. 15, 1905. By courtesy Archives and Western History Department, University of Wyoming Library.



Alfalfa field on E. J. Bell's farm. August 1905. By courtesy Archives and Western History Department, University of Wyoming Library.

the late Jabe Smith, a typical little Englishman who came over from England with a shipment of Herefords for the Wyoming Hereford Ranch and then came on over to Laramie and was foreman of the Fleming Ranch of the Willan outfit under Ed Morgan. The writer's father, Otto Burns, also worked for the Willan Ranch, driving their "six-in-hand" to the tallyho, which transported visitors from Laramie to the Willan Ranch on the Little Laramie and to other ranches of their friends, such as the Whitehouse and Stokes Ranch at Red Buttes, and the Flag Ranch of Robert Homer. Otto Burns also drove freight teams for the Willan outfit when they hauled the heavy machinery from Wyoming Station to Keystone for the Sartoris Brothers, who were partners of Willan in the ranching business, as well as carrying on their mining operations.

Colonel Bell was foreman for Dr. Harris who had leased the Millbrook ranch. This ranch was owned at that time by the creditors of the Douglas Willan Sartoris Company. In 1899 E. J. Bell was still at the Millbrook ranch with Dr. Harris (Laramie Boomerang March 24, 1899). Ed Morgan was a son of George Morgan, Gen. Mgr. of the Willan outfit and was also connected with the Wyoming Hereford Ranch at Cheyenne.

The following letter to the writer from Jim Wilson, a friend and colleague in the wool specialist field, who has been at California University many years, gives an intimate picture of E. J. Bell. "My father, Dr. J. B. Wilson (M.D.) moved his family to Laramie in 1899. We got acquainted with E. J. Bell during the winter of 1900 or 1901 when Bell's two daughters came down

with a severe form of Scarlet Fever. My father went to the ranch in mid-winter and stayed with the girls about ten days. They both pulled through. After that nothing was too good for my father; in fact not even good enough in the opinion of Mr. Bell. He entertained our whole family lavishly on the ranch, putting on home talent rodeos with his own cowboys. He was more adept with a rope than any man who ever worked for him. Following my father's death in 1902 Mr. Bell continued to take my mother and her three children to the ranch each summer for a vacation and showed all of us many kindnesses. I could write a small book about E. J. Bell, his explosive character, his unbelievable expertness in the use of invectives. As you said, however, most of it could not be printed. One or two instances may pass the censor, if the censor's mind is as broad as Wyoming's plains. On one trip to the ranch the buckboard in which we were riding suffered a break in the rear and one or two things were lost. Almost simultaneously it began to rain. The old man cut loose in front of his wife, my mother and the kids. He everlastingly damned everything he could think of in language that made the air blue. Finally, when he ran out of everything else he could think of he wanted consigned to the fires of hell forever, he hurled invectives at the Creator for allowing the rain to fall on us and ending up by taking a 30-30 and shooting half a dozen times at God. Once he hired two cowboys through an employment agency. Two or three days later he asked the hostler to saddle his Kentucky gelding and bring him to the house. The hostler soon



Group of prominent guests of E. J. Bell at his open house to show his famous grain and crop fields. August 29, 1905. 1. Chas. J. Oviatt; 2. Unknown; 3. Unknown; 4. Eli J. Crumrine; 5. Unknown; 6. Unknown; 7. Gov. B. B. Brooks; 8. R. H. Homer; 9. C. P. Arnold; 10. ——— Dickinson UPRR? 11. J. M. Carey; 12. T. Simpson; 13. E. J. Bell, host; 14. Howard Ingham; 15. F. Eggleston; 16. Edward Ivinson; 17. Unknown; 18. Unknown; 19. Fred Miller; 20. Unknown; 21. Charley Irvine; 22. Wm. McCune; 23. Ora Haley; 24. Unknown; 25. Frank W. Mondell; 26. Otto Gramm. By courtesy C. D. Spalding.



Marguerite Bell, daughter of E. J. Bell on saddle horse at Albany County Fair Sept. 15, 1905. By courtesy Archives and Western History Department, University of Wyoming Library.

reported that he couldn't find Mr. Bell's saddle. Then it was discovered that the so-called "cowboys" had stolen two saddles, including that of the boss and two bridles, and had departed. Mad!!! He was so mad he shook. He damned the canine ancestry of the thieves for countless generations past and their heirs and assigns for generations to come. But the old boy was smart. He walked around awhile and picked the trail of two horses, both shod and headed in the direction of Brooklyn Lake. This was country he used as a summer range and he knew every foot of it. 'I'll get 'em,' he said. A big half-Indian, Frank Dureer, who had worked on the ranch for years, remonstrated with him and told him what a foolish thing he was doing, going out alone after two men, both of whom were probably armed. But he would brook no suggestions. He got another saddle out of his house, threw some grub in a gunny sack, tied a pair of blankets with the saddle strings, strapped on his old Colt .44 and away he went. Two days later he was back, leading the two stolen horses. They were ridden by the two thieves, each with his hands tied behind him. Questioned as to how he had done it, he said he figured about how far they would go and where they would stop for the night. He had surprised them when they quit to cook a meal. Bell was in an expansive mood, happy and singing. He took the culprits to town in the buckboard, still trussed up, and in a short while they were on their way to Rawlins. On another occasion when I was twelve years old, we were about ready to return to Laramie following a vacation at the Millbrook Ranch. The buck-

board was ordered delivered to the house. The man who brought it over made a flippant and caustic remark to Mr. Bell, and aroused the old man's ire. He leaped to the whip socket, grabbed the buggy whip and started after the man, who was high-tailing it as fast as he could go, not even waiting to collect his pay. Bell raced after him for fifty yards, as fast as his short legs could carry him, popping the whip and yelling at the fellow to come back and fight. Of course he was quickly out-distanced and soon returned. An hour later, when we were driving down the road to Laramie, Mr. Bell spotted the man about two miles out of town. He was taking a direct route, walking as the crow flies, and when seen was about 200 yards from the road nearing a thicket of willows. Bell turned to his wife. 'Mama,' he said, 'I wonder if I was to shoot right close to that fellow if it would scare him some.' Mrs. Bell was horrified, 'Now dear, you mustn't do that; you might hit him, the bullet might hit something else and ricochet right into him, etc., etc.' The old man just grinned. He stopped the team, pulled out the Colt and fired. The bullet went into the willows about four feet from the man's head. He dug out of there like a frightened coyote. Of course in these days of enlightenment and culture, the discharged employee would have the man who fired the shot arrested. He would be convicted of attempted manslaughter and given an extra two months for carrying concealed weapons. But, at that time, the victim didn't even report the incident. He was probably just simply vexed at being shot at. Needless to say the episode put E. J. in rare good humor and



An outstanding agricultural exhibit made up of products grown in Albany County. Trans-Missouri Dry Farming Congress 1909. Colonel E. J. Bell sits by the exhibit he supervised.
By courtesy of J. F. Wilson.



Oats grown on old land on the E. J. Bell farm. Photo by Buffum. August 1905. By courtesy Western History & Archives Department, University of Wyoming Library.

he laughed and sang all the way to town. The old boy had a diamond horseshoe stickpin for his cravat. One day he was driving alone to Laramie, all dressed up, going in to catch a train for Denver. On the way he got to worrying for fear some thug in the big city might hold him up and take his stick pin, which, in addition to being beautiful, had cost him \$600.00. He stopped the horses, stuffed the pin in a crack in a fence post way out on the plains, and collected it when he returned the following week. After Mr. Bell bought his town house he employed me to look after his lawn and the four horses he kept in the stable. Mrs. Bell had a penchant for collecting handpainted china and had many sets of china salt and pepper shakers most of them the artistry of Mrs. Downey. E. J. complained bitterly that everytime he wanted salt he got pepper, and vice versa. He opined that nobody but a damned fool would buy such stuff; that people should be restrained by law from making salt shakers out of anything but glass; that anyone who made 'em of China ought to have his head examined. The nth time he got pepper when he wanted salt, he blew his top, leaped from the table, grabbed all the hand painted beauties in the house and smashed the works with an axe in the back yard. Then he dared his wife to buy another set.— My father predicted in 1900 that Mr. Bell would die of appoplexy brought on by his violent temper. While he outlived father, the prognosis proved correct. Bellvue Farm (Note by RHB: Bell's farm near Millbrook Station, known in late years as the Lee Hart place and now rapidly disintegrating) was a failure and took

\$50,000.00 of Bell's money, most of it in an irrigation canal. He died broke."

Others who knew E. J. Bell tell of his lavish parties and his violent temper and at one dance at the Millbrook Ranch he served the guests oysters, which were quite a rarity and a delicacy. Bert Wallis tells the writer of an interesting incident. In the fall of 1903 E. J. Bell bought a bunch of steers from Mads Wolbol of Centennial and fed them on hay that winter at the Millbrook Ranch. He hired Bert to take two and a half carloads of these steers to the International Livestock Show in Chicago in 1904. Bert took along a carload of baled hay to feed them enroute and fed the last of it at Omaha. The steers were sold at Chicago for \$7.10 a hundredweight, a fancy price in those days. The steers that were entered in the show did not place, but weighed around 1500 pounds each.

E. J. Bell, Pioneer Grain Grower of the Laramie Plains

The Willan farm, later called the Blackburn, started to raise some grain crops but no cropping on a large scale took place until E. J. Bell came on the scene.

A descriptive folder of the agricultural resources of Albany County gives the following information about oats. "Oats have been more largely grown than any other crop. For our conditions oats and flax are the best crops to grow the first year after breaking sod land. The yields obtained, the quality of the crop and the length of straw have often been a matter of surprise to our own farmers. While the Experiment Station has investigated the oat crop by growing many varieties,

testing nearly all the sorts known and trying various amounts of seed, etc., no special report has yet been made. A banner crop of oats was produced last season, 1905, on the Millbrook Ranch. Mr. E. J. Bell gave a ranch dinner which was attended by the United States Senators, the high officials of the State, the County and the Union Pacific Railroad. No one of these men, who had been interested in farming all of their lives, ever saw such a crop of oats as that growing on seventy acres of the older cultivated land. The oats stood higher than the backs of the horses and were very thick and heavy. A section of the field measured and harvested to determine yield, gave a crop of 107 bushels per acre, machine measure. Computed from the weight of the crop at 32 pounds per bushel, the yield was a fraction more than 132 bushels per acre. An interesting account of Mr. E. J. Bell's ranch party to look over these crops is found in the Laramie Boomerang for August 29, 1906. The group that attended this festive occasion is shown in the picture which accompanies this article.

The efforts of E. J. Bell were fruitful in showing that grain crops grow very well on the Laramie Plains, but he, like others, found that extensive farming operations were often stymied because of lack of water, and the high elevation and short growing season. The large ditch which he built was to irrigate a large part of the flat north and east of the present Millbrook Station, never had water in it but a shorter ditch irrigates some of the meadows north of that country. He built the large frame house, now in ruins, just north of Millbrook Station. The large

ditch he built wound around in the hollow just west of the present Miller Brothers junction (old Millbrook Station road).

Explosive Temper and Vituperative Language

One of the many stories told of his explosive temper and vituperative language concerns a time when his sheep shearing operation was interrupted by rain and he "told off" the heavens and the powers who operate them, in no uncertain terms. In the midst of his tirade, a bolt of lightning struck very close to him and although it did not injure him, it did knock his glasses to the ground. It is said that for once he was struck speechless.

Colonel Bell loved publicity and Mrs. Ernest tells of the time he attended the premiere of the "Virginian" at New York. From his box he astonished New Yorkers with a cowboy yell.

His daughter Edna died at twelve years of age. Later he had a painting made at a cost of \$500.00 and the painter did his work from Mr. Bell's description and the result was a splendid likeness. He had two daughters, Edna and Marjorie, and the latter ran away and married one of the hired men.

Colonel Bell Gave His Life for Laramie Plains Development

The Colonel, as E. J. Bell was known, was a forceful, enthusiastic, energetic and unforgettable personality, who will long be remembered. He foresaw the farming possibilities of the Laramie Plains in raising fine grains to feed the livestock and to supplement the rich short native grasses. He saw that water development was needed and was ever at the job of promoting and

constructing ditches and dams. He brought in the first steam tractor to replace the multi-team oxen with which he plowed up the rich ground that raised bounteous crops under irrigation as shown in the illustrations of this chapter.

His last years were rather bitter for he saw his dreams disappearing because of the lack of water to place on the land and he died in 1912 at the age of fifty eight, a disillusioned man who felt that his irrigation projects were not appreciated. However, the success of the Pioneer canal through the years indicates that when water is available, good crops of grain can be raised. The long time record of the Agronomy Farm of the University in West Laramie, which is under the Pioneer Canal, shows remarkable yield of grain and other crops.

Mr. A. W. Augspurger has furnished the writer information concerning the Laramie Development Company which was organized by himself and L. R. Herrick who started by taking option on the Millbrook Land and Livestock Company with which Colonel Bell was connected. They later obtained other land including the Judson Ranch. In about two years the company had under cultivation around 2000 acres of land and were running at times, 10,000 sheep and raised about 600 hogs per year. Prior to coming to Laramie, Mr. Augspurger had been handling feed grain and in 1908 he, along with Herrick and N. E. Corthell, organized the Overland Cereals Company and built a 50,000 bushel elevator at Laramie and remodeled the old flour mill at that time. By 1915 most of the land had been disposed of, and as with other water development schemes the short-

age of water resulted in the failure of the cropland development.

Later the James Lake development of Talmadge & Buntin and the Rock Creek Development by Frank C. Bosler flourished for awhile, but eventually most of the land went back to grass and weeds as there was not enough water to go around, particularly when the Wheatland priorities were taken care of.

About 1908 many fine agricultural exhibits were put up with products raised on the Laramie Plains. One of the best exhibits was that of the Sixth Albany County Fair in 1908, which is shown in one of the illustrations. Colonel Bell had a large part in this exhibit and in the illustration he sits there "proud as punch" of his fine products raised on these Laramie Plains.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS AND SOURCES

The writer is indebted to the following for information used in this chapter on Water Vital to man and Beast on these Laramie Plains:

Messrs. Morris "Dutch" Corthell, Evelyn C. Hill, L. J. Holliday, the late Mary Bellamy, Major Gen. H. J. Brees, Mrs. May P. Reece, A. W. Augspurger, D. O. Herrick and J. F. Wilson.

ANONYMOUS 1878-1909

Minutes of the Pioneer Canal Company, Laramie, Wyo. Courtesy L. J. Holliday.

ANONYMOUS 1899

Albany County, Wyo. Reliable information regarding one of the greatest stock growing districts of the Northwest. The Irrigation Era. (Denver, Colo.) Vol. X No. 10 Pp 5-22 Oct. 1899. Courtesy Evelyn C. Hill.

ANONYMOUS 1899

Mr. and Mrs. E. J. Bell have come in from Millbrook Ranch. Mr. Bell says that stock at the ranch belonging to Dr. Harris looks fine. Laramie Boomerang March 24, 1899.

ANONYMOUS 1901

Industrial Edition, Laramie Republican
Pp. 52 Dec. 1901. Laramie, Wyo.
Courtesy of Bert and Martha Wallis.

ANONYMOUS 1905

Colonel E. J. Bell's guests all arrive except Mr. Jensen of Nebraska. View 800 acres of crops. Col. E. J. Bell host at "Farmers Dinner" at Union Pacific House. Laramie Boomerang August 29, 1905.

ANONYMOUS 1906

Albany County, Wyo. Agricultural Resources, Livestock and Mixed Husbandry. Pp. 80. Laramie Commercial Club 1906. Courtesy Elmer Beltz.

ANONYMOUS 1908

Ohioans like Laramie Plains.
Semi-weekly Boomerang (Laramie)
Aug. 27, 1908 P. 1.
Semi-weekly Boomerang (Laramie)
Sept. 3, 1908 P. 2.

ANONYMOUS 1908

County Fair Greatest Ever. Sixth annual exhibition surpasses all others in point of excellence.
Semi-Weekly Boomerang (Laramie)
Sept. 17 & 21, 1908 P. 1 on both.

ANONYMOUS 1908

Bell's Guests Boost Wyo. Senator Warren and others laud Wyo. at Banquet Board at which Col. Bell is host. 45 guests at Union Pacific Hotel.
Semi-Weekly Boomerang (Laramie)
Aug. 13, 1908 Page 3.

ANONYMOUS 1908

Rich Bosler Lands thrown open to settlement on Friday. 14,543 acres of land under James Lake Ditch. Filings limited to 160 acres and filing fee is 50 cents an acre. Perpetual water rights available at \$350.00 per acre, one-fourth down and balance in ten annual payments.
Semi-Weekly Boomerang (Laramie)
Oct. 8, 1908 Page 1.

WHITING, J. A. 1910-1911

Report on The Laramie Development Company's Irrigation Project. Cheyenne, Wyo. Pp. 19 1910-1911.
Courtesy of A. W. Augspurger.

ANONYMOUS 1911

Trip planned to Blackburn Sunday. Invitation extended by Chamber of Commerce and Laramie Development Company. Laramie Boomerang, August 4, 1911 P. 1.
Laramie Boomerang, August 7, 1911, P. 1.

ANONYMOUS 1911

Oats at Blackburn are threshing out 65 pounds to the bushel.
Laramie Boomerang Sept. 22, 1911 P. 4.

ANONYMOUS 1911

Official inspection of Ditch into Lake Hattie yesterday.
Laramie Boomerang July 17, 1911.

ANONYMOUS 1912

Last Remains of Colonel E. J. Bell taken to cemetery. Hundreds sorrow.
Laramie Boomerang August 13, 1912.
P 4.
Laramie Republican August 13, 1912.

CHAPTER 23

CHANGES IN RANCHING

By R. H. "Bob" Burns and A. S. "Bud" Gillespie

AN ART AND A SCIENCE

THE ART and Science of range livestock production has changed markedly since its origin in the Intermountain Area in the 60s. At the beginning all one needed was the cattle and horses and a squatter's or other right on the water holes which controlled the adjacent free grass lands. The inimitable Bill Nye described it beyond compare, when he was making out a partnership paper for the early day firm of Rand, Briggs and Steedman. In the book by Steedman it is reported that Nye remarked with his usual levity, that all that was needed was some cattle to become cattle barons for they had all of the prairie at their disposal.

In the early days they may have put up enough hay for their saddle horses but the lesson of the winter of 1887 taught them that cattle needed hay and that was the first big change in the range livestock business. It is a big change in seventy-five years from the time when hay was cut with a scythe and raked by hand to the present time when hay is cut in seven to twenty-one foot swaths by power mowers and raked by a mammoth reticulated rake some thirty feet wide, which fits into all of the uneven places in the meadows. The hay is then gathered by power sweeps and hauled to the stack at a speed up to 30 mph.

Modern Hay Raising and Harvesting

At the present time the care of the meadows is undergoing a revolution, for they are now broken up with disc plows, levelled and reseeded with grass and clover. This mixture has given exceptional yields and has paid the high cost of plowing, levelling and seeding in three years, by the increased yields of fine quality hay. When the winter feeding season comes on the rancher now has power equipment in the form of grab hooks and slings which facilitate the "pitching" of hay from stack to wagon to the "feed line."

From Texas Hides and Horns to Hereford and Angus Loins

The improvement in the cattle has been most startling. In fact the change went to the extreme of all body and no legs and the attendant disadvantages made a reconsideration necessary. Now the type of beef cattle is more balanced between the legs and body and the result is a type of cattle which will rustle for grass, stand the climate, and still make superior use of the rich feeds of the feed lot. At the same time they will do well on the range, give good calf crops and be a thrifty tribe of meat-makers.

From Sod Shelters to Electrified Homes

Another revolution has been going on in recent years which has to some

extent stemmed the movement from country to city and has encouraged the ranch-raised boys and girls to stay with the life in the country. This has been the advent of REA electric power and phones to a large percentage of the ranches even in the most isolated parts of the country. This electric power, at a price which the ranchers could afford to pay, and under their own boards of control, has made marvelous changes in country life. It has made possible the modern conveniences and relief from drudgery in the country home and has given the women folks more time to exercise their talents in social and community affairs. At the same time it has given the men folks many convenient, time-saving electrically driven tools which have made minor repairs to ranch machinery possible, and have saved much time in trips to the machine shop in town.

Modern Care of Grass Lands and Fencing

Range livestock men have learned that it is absolutely necessary to conserve their grass resources in these days of high cost. It is indeed a far cry from the free grass lands of the last century to today when grass land is costly and meadow land is at a premium which is more comparable to cultivated crop land. For hay land and pasture is approaching the day when it needs the care of cultivated land, as indeed it is today. Fencing has come to stay and even in the sheep country much experimental fencing has been done at what was thought to be prohibitive costs per mile. The difficulties have been mostly in land control and game management and the increased costs have been amortized in

good shape by increased production of meat and wool.

Supplemental feeding on the range is developing into a science of furnishing in the supplemental feeds the nutritive factors which are absent in the natural grasses and brush. The various brushes are important to ruminants as a filler, as well as for the nutrition in the buds and small branches. In late years there have been great advances in the harvesting of alfalfa hay which is dried quickly to preserve its highest nutritive qualities and is then passed through a pelleting plant and the resulting pellets are most palatable and nourishing to the livestock fortunate enough to receive them.

The Modern Ranch

The modern ranch is indeed a far-cry from the early day open range propositions. It is an efficient factory for the production of food and fiber, largely through the medium of livestock. Modern electric power and community spirit and enterprise have made it a nice place to live and as always, it is the best place to bring up a family. The roots of American leadership have always stemmed from people close to the ground. Now that ranch lads and lassies are remaining on the ranches and those from other walks of life are in many cases going to ranching, there is a healthy future to the life in the open and the continued development of modern ranch life.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS AND SOURCES

STEEDMAN, Charles J.

Bucking the Sagebrush or the Oregon Trail in the 70s.

New York: G. P. Putnam Sons.

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The spell of the high plains of Wyoming is well expressed in the following lines, the author of which is unknown:

HIGH WYOMING PLAINS

Have you ever seen the sunrise,
From a high and rolling plain?
Have you ever smelled wet sagebrush,
After a sudden spring-time rain?
Have you ever felt the smart and sting,
Of gravel in your face?
Then you've never known the glamour
Of the God-forsaken place—WYOMING.

Have you ever seen the clear-cut skyline,
When the evening shadows fall?
And the mountains look like cardboard,
And you hear the coyotes call.
Have you ever seen the painted badlands,
With their yellow, red and blue?
Then you'll never know how lonesome life can be,
Until you do—in WYOMING.

Have you seen the sand and sagebrush,
Stretch for miles and miles away?
While down the hills, and across the draws,
The cooling shadows play.
It's lonesome and it's desolate,
And off the beaten track.
And once you've caught the lure of it,
You're lonesome 'till you're back—in WYOMING.

There's no more appropriate closing verse than the unofficial Wyoming State Song—

In the far and mighty west,
Where the crimson sun seeks rest,
There's a growing splendid State that lies above,
On the breast of this great land.
Where the massive Rockies stand,
There's Wyoming young and strong—the State I love.
Wyoming, Wyoming, land of the sunlight clear,
Wyoming, Wyoming, land that we hold so dear.
Wyoming Wyoming, precious art thou and thine.
Wyoming, Wyoming, beloved State of mine!

—Charles E. Winter and George Knapp.

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By R. H. "Bob" Burns

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ADDENDA

R—Right Column L—Left Column

- Page 5 Line 35L, should read: Lake City, Utah.
- Page 8 Line 14R, should read: Lillian Robbins Amende.
- Page 12 Line 32R, should read: the brand T Open A connected, became famous.
- Page 14 Line 11L, should read: with Hi Kelly and others . . .
- Page 57 Line 29L, should read: by the Dankowski family.
- Page 77 Chapter VI. Omit bottom line "Part 1."
- Pages 82 & 83. Map by courtesy Wyoming Highway Dept. and U. S. Dept. Commerce; Bureau of Public Roads.
- Page 85 Line 34R, should read: low valleys surrounding it and
- Page 87 Line 45L, should read: Long Canyon Peak, is some . . .
- Page 101 Line 29R, should read: From 1807 to 1847 Congress
- Page 105 Add to Sources this reference:
KILLOUGH, Harry 1907
Redeeming the Desert West. The story of pioneer homesteaders.
Chicago: Breeder's Gazette
Page 1189 Dec. 4, 1907.
- Page 116 Line 28L: Should read: ranch and about half a mile north
- Page 141 Line 16R. The Riverside Company had no land on Rock Creek.
- Page 169 Upper right hand picture by courtesy of D. Burns of Pitchfork Ranch, now owners of Flag Ranch.
- Page 178 Both pictures by courtesy of D. Burns of Pitchfork Ranch, now owners of Flag Ranch.
- Page 179 Line 18R: Denny Fee originally had a ranch on Four Mile, now owned by Miller Bros. He later had a place east of James Lake, now owned by Holly Hunt.
- Page 192 Lower Picture. Chimney Rock can be seen dimly in the left background.
- Page 196 Line 35L, should read: first on the Heart or Hutton ranch as
- Page 197 Lower picture title should read: Jim Hoge's Ranch . . .
- Page 202 Line 5L, should read: leased by Cole Abbott, while the Hoge
- Page 205 Top picture is by courtesy of Mrs. John Goetz.
- Page 206 Add Acknowledgment and Sources this reference:
WHITEHOUSE & PALMER 1901
Making Bulls for the Range.
Chicago: Breeder's Gazette
Page 879. Nov. 20, 1901.
- Page 212 Line 32L: E. E. Fitch's father was R. E. Fitch.
- Page 213 Line 21L, should read: H. Holliday and J. W. Stryker and
- Page 213 Line 15 R, should read: T. G. "Tom" Abbott and it was . . .
- Page 219 Line 14R: Coble and Bosler used two separate brands, the half diamond E and the half diamond Z.
- Page 224 Line 5L, should read: Land and Cattle Company.
- Page 226 Line 34R, should read: killing the boy Willie Nickell, in
- Page 228 Line 3L: Quotation marks should be added after, their heads . . ."
- Page 228 Line 5L, should read: G half circle on the right side, and . . .
- Page 230 Add following name to Acknowledgments and Sources:
Charley E. George.
- Page 234 Lines 5 & 6L, should read: John Conners for several years . . .
- Page 234 Line 43L, should read: blooded Shorthorn and Hereford
- Page 238 Line 18L, should read: . . . in 1873, and Mr. Lovett, a
- Page 240 Picture in lower right hand corner: Wm. Irvine standing by car.
- Page 252 Line 28R: is a duplicate line and should be omitted.
- Page 252 Line 39R, should read: Sanders 91 or old Gresley Logan place.
- Page 254 Line 39R, should read: of Section 1-17-77 in the 80s.
- Page 256 Lines 9 & 10R, should read: by George Hutton a son of Charley Hutton.
- Page 259 Top picture is by courtesy of Frank Croonberg Jr.
- Page 259 Bottom picture is by courtesy of Bert L. Wallis who with his brother

- Oliver "Ollie" has furnished the following identifications:
 One of the last Roundups between the Laramie Rivers about 1916. Left to right: Barry Ryan, Jake Farr, Bill Dalles, Unknown, Boots Smith in white shirt, Ed McNealey, Tom Carroll, Unknown, Unknown, J. Kennedy?, Oscar Olson, Unknown, Thornt Biggs, Martin Kisen, Unknown, Ralph May in black hat, Bill Irvine on white horse, J. M. May, Otto Pahlow leading pack horse, Unknown, Wm. Rathje with white chaps, L. L. Laughlin in straw hat, Dennis Ryan and unknown. Photo taken by Bert Wallis on Wm. Rathje Ranch, now the John McGill Ranch.
- Page 261 bottom picture: Third from left is R. H. "Bob" Burns.
- Page 271 top picture: Bert Wallis is mounted and holding the rope.
- Page 278 Line 1R: The swinging doors on the Mandel barn, shown in the picture on Page 281, open up for a driveway so loaded hay wagons can drive through and stop inside and unload directly into the hay mow on the sides.
- Page 279 Add to title of top picture: Born 1834, died 1917. Photo from obituary in Laramie Republican (1917).
- Page 281 Title of top picture should read: The ruins of the Willan ranch. Ruin of big barn is in foreground and in the background at the left is the blacksmith shop and on the right the bunk house and cook house. Identifications by Eli Peterson.
- Page 284 Line 27L, should read: Augspur-ger and Herrick, bought the
- Page 284 Line 41L: The word Dalles is mis-spelled Dallas throughout this entire paragraph.
- Page 285 Add to title of upper left hand picture: The ruins of the buggy used by Motley for his elk team are lying on the ground and largely dis-integrated, at the right hand side of the wagon wheels and up against the board windbreak.
- Page 286 Line 3L: Fred Greaser never owned the Judson sheep camp on Dutton Creek.
- Page 286 Line 16L, should read: made to A. W. Augspur-ger and L. R. Herrick.
- Page 287 Top picture identifications: Mrs. Robert Burns just behind car, Bert Wallis at right with hand to cheek, in middle foreground is R. H. "Bob" Burns, in light suit.
- Page 299 Line 36R, should read: by Robert Garton and Albin Plaga
- Page 299 Line 37R, should read: mile south of the Martens place.
- Page 300 Line 31R, should read: Some quotations from the Brisbin
- Page 306 Line 26R, Additional information: Terry Fee had a place south of James Lake which now belongs to Holly Hunt. (See Addenda notation for Page 179).
- Page 312 Line 4L, additional information: THE 1949 BLIZZARD AT THE THREE BAR RANCH. A number of the family and friends were helping put up ice at the ranch and although the weather had been cold and windy it was no indicator of the terrible blizzard to come. After the ice was put up, the group enjoyed some coffee, cake and "chit-chat" and started to town. Fortunately Tom Page decided to come with us in his pickup. As usual the chains on the car broke and started flopping and we stopped to tie them up. Then the car refused to hit on all cylinders and we decided to return to the ranch, in the pickup, which was only a mile away. Then the blizzard hit in all of its fury and the snow came so thick and so fast that it soon snowed up the road and the pickup burned out its clutch and had to be abandoned. By this time the wind from the north had reached blizzard proportions and a real old time "norther" was upon us. All of us had on warm clothes but Betty Myers. We decided to walk to the ranch but had not gotten 50 yards from the Ford when we realized the difficult task we had. Bobby and Mildred Burns had struck out for the ranch in a straight line and the rest of us started south to hit the fence and follow it the quar-

ter of a mile to the ranch house, for we could not see ten feet in front of us and could not face the driving snow which swirled past in magnificent, snowy and perilous splendor. We momentarily lost our bearings as Betty was suffering intensely from the snow and cold we retraced our steps to the Ford which we found without difficulty. Jay stayed with Marg and Betty while Tom and I set out for the ranch as we now had our bearings. We had a most difficult time walking in the powdery snow with a wind of gale force beating us in the side of our faces. We soon however were within sight of the ranch and how nice it was to see the gasoline lantern show up intermittently through the storm, which momentarily was becoming more severe and perilous. I do not know of anytime when it became more difficult to lift each foot to take a step than during the last few hundred yards of that walk through that terrible driving storm. We were extremely worried about Mildred and Bobby as we were not sure they had arrived at the ranch house, but were overjoyed to find them safe at the house, thawing out beside the fire. I had no sooner got into the house, than my face and neck began to throb and hurt intensely and when I reached up and felt my face on the side which had faced the storm, it felt like a "board of stiff beefsteak." Then I realized that frostbite had sneaked up on me. I had felt the "sting" of the driving snow which had melted and frozen on my face but in the tension of the walk to the ranch had never thought about a frozen face. I stayed at the house and warmed up while Tom went and harnessed the team. Then I felt better and put on a big muffler: how necessary and warm is the wool of the sheep in our garments; and went out and helped Tom hitch up to the big hay sled. We threw in a large canvas trailer cover and some blankets and took off in

the blizzard. We had little trouble following the car tracks but soon lost them and went by instinct and then Jay, Marg and Betty heard the squeak of the harness and turned on the lights of the Ford to guide us. Marg and Betty bundled up in the canvas and blankets, snug as a bug in a rug and we turned our backs to the raging blizzard and the husky Clydesdale mares took us back to the ranch house in "jig time."

We were resigned to being snow-bound until the wind went down but did not realize the storm we were in for. The blizzard raged all night Sunday, all day Monday, all night Monday and on Tuesday was even stronger. The snow sifted through the window frames in the back room and formed drifts a couple of feet deep on the floor, even although we chinked the cracks as best we could. The high wind blew the fine powdery snow everywhere. Strings hanging from the rafters of the room were festooned with snow and the back room looked like the fairyland of white one sees in children's books.

We were worried about the livestock but could do little about it. Tom, Jay and Bobby tried to hitch the team to the hay sled, but the storm was so intense they could not face it and Queen, one of the horses, with balky tendencies, stepped in a big snow drift, broke through and promptly threw herself. We had plenty of food but on Tuesday evening we ran out of fuel oil and had to get stoves out of storage in a machinery shed which was filled with drifting snow. It was quite a job to get the stoves dug out and the wind was so strong, even in the shelter of the shed, that we could not face the snow as it hit your face, melted and then froze.

This blizzard had the ultimate of effectiveness for the discomfort and peril of both livestock and humans. It had plenty of snow driven by a wind of high velocity approaching 50 miles an hour and accompanied

by the unbelievably low temperature of 10 to 20 degrees below zero.

After the storm blew itself out in the dark hours of Tuesday night, we were expecting to find tragedy among the livestock on the meadow pasture but in the bright, clear morning we fought snowdrifts on horseback and to our amazement all of the cattle were in excellent shape with no casualties after two days and nights of the worst blizzard within the memory of many and possibly as bad as has ever struck the country. The natural willow shelter and a peculiar condition which blew the snow from two year's growth of long meadow grass which had been uncut in that small area, had given both shelter and feed to that small bunch of cattle. They were about the only stock in the country which had not drifted for miles with the storm.

We spent Wednesday making a sled for our transportation and on Thursday made the 4½ miles over to the county road which had been opened by snow plows. On the way we saw some of the tragedy of the storm. Some fields entirely cleared of livestock which had drifted many miles in the storm. Some standing with their eyes and mouths frozen shut so they could not eat. Some lying against fences where they had drifted with the wind and had frozen to death.

The car was snowbound in the field for exactly six weeks before a road was cleared by it to take out hay to feed cattle where hay was not available.

- Page 306 Line 43L: For information on Fee Ranches see correction given for Page 179 in the Addenda.
- Page 309 lower right hand picture, left to right: Mrs. Otto Burns, Agnes Marion Burns and Otto Burns, at Three Bar Ranch.
- Page 310 Lines 27 L & 10R: The Stickneys were the original owners and L. L. Laughlin bought it from them. Then the Yarbroughs obtained it and the present owners are Jim and Leonard Johnson.
- Page 318 Line 25R, should read: Hechard was his separator man.
- Page 323 Lines 14 & 15L, should read: . . . cows from F. J. Ihmsen in 1900.
- Page 325 Line 18L, should read: feet for one acre of land and for his drinking water.
- Page 329 Line 27L, should read: bought 9,000 acres of deed land and
- Page 338 Line 37L, should read: RANCHES ON MIDDLE CROW CREEK.
- Page 339. Left hand picture shows Steve Frazer and his driving horse at the Albany County Fair.
- Page 346 Line 21L: Kennedy realized that he could not continue ranching in the face of such opposition and misfortunes and sold his ranch and let out his foreman, Fred Snider, a local man.
- Page 368 Line 3L, should read: Sybille was Chris Christensen who
- Page 369, upper left hand picture: Otto and Albin Plaga in background.
- Page 371 Line 3L, should read: Thelma and Robert L. Garton in the
- Page 371 Line 19R: Additional material. William Taylor, an Englishman filed on a homestead in Section 2-20-71 about 1905 and married Florence Taylor, a daughter of William Taylor (no relation) who resided on Deadhead Creek, a tributary of the Sybille. It was a natural to call the resident on the creek by its name, "Deadhead" Taylor. He wore a long beard. That location was known as Grant Flat. The family raised on the ranch consisted of three girls. William Taylor died about 1925 and Mrs. Florence Taylor continued the ranch business with the help of her daughters. One of the daughters married "Red" King and he took over the management of the ranch and his mother-in-law retired and moved to Wheatland. Their brand was an O Bar open A placed up and down on the left side of cattle and left shoulder of horses. They were among the last of the ranchers

- to start dehorning their cattle and it was a curious sight to see all of the big steers and cows carrying their horns.
- Page 380 Line 17L, should read: Blevins the present owners.
- Page 380 Lines 19 & 20R: Albert M. Phelps is the uncle and not the father of Mrs. J. Raymond Baker and Mrs. Frank Baker. Three Phelps brothers came to the Wheatland area around 1905. Albert M. and William W. settled on the Sybille. Later Albert M. sold out to Wm. W. and he in turn sold out in 1916 to Wm. Radichal. The third brother, Henry Phelps settled northwest of Wheatland near the Tom Shaw ranch. He is the father of Mrs. J. Raymond Baker and Mrs. Frank Baker of Laramie.
- Page 394 Line 42L, should read: Johnson and now by James Dankowski.
- Page 396 Line 23R, should read: place now owned by the Dankowskis.
- Page 398 Line 19L, should read: Dankowski who came from Sedgewick,
- Page 401, top picture: Second from right is County Attorney Groesbeck.
- Page 405 Line 13L, should read: came through Virginia Dale, Willow Station . . .
- Page 409 Line 23L, additional information: The following reference:
HEBELER & MURRAY
Making bulls for the range.
Chicago: Breeder's Gazette Page 666.
Oct. 23, 1901.
- Page 410 Line 6L & 7L, should read: Messrs. Hebel and Murray will . . .
- Page 412 Line 2R, should read: Creek Station to Fort McKinney and
- Page 412 Line 11R, should read: in 1944 aged 76 years and a review of
- Page 415 top picture caption: Omit bottom line.
- Page 419 Line 43R, should read: Banzhaf. The land east . . .
- Page 422 Line 23L, should read: large hay meadow totaling around 1400
- Page 423 Line 22R, should read: . . . promoters of the Rock Creek Conservation Company . . .
- Page 425 Line 28L, should read: man and kept the woman with her . . .
- Page 430 bottom line on right: The Louisiana Purchase ran along the crest of the Rocky Mountains north of the 42nd degree of parallel.
- Pages 439 & 443: Pictures of the Sybille Valley Horse & Cattle Association were taken in about 1920 instead of 1905.
- Page 448 Line 39L, should read: . . . "The Eagle Mountain Cattle
- Page 456 Line 15R, should read: BLICK or GARLOCK PLACE
- Page 457 Line 31R, should read: John Blick settled north of Batty on
- Page 459 Line 39L: The Little Medicine Area is mostly in Albany County with a small area in Carbon County.
- Page 464 Line 16R, should read: about 3 feet wide, 20 feet deep and
- Page 466 Line 19R, should read: RED LANDS DITCH
- Page 467 Line 15R: five bands of sheep, totaling 10,000, which were free of
- Page 469 Line 41R, should read: a pretty good woman if she did come from
- Page 474 Line 7R, should read: school teacher, Miss Elise Towson and
- Page 474 Line 34R: Horned Angus cattle occur as indicated by the reference: WING, Joseph E. 1903
The carlots at the International Show. One pen contained a number of steers that looked like Black Welsh cattle, having long and rather slender horns.
Chicago: Breeder's Gazette Pages 1014, 1014a Dec. 9, 1903.
- Page 477 Line 32R, should read: Margaret McGill Irvine proved up on
- Page 477 Line 44R, should read: James Atkinson Sr.'s home place.
- Page 478 Line 1R, should read: After proving up on that homestead he
- Page 481 Line 19L, should read: INSCRIPTION ON ROCK instead of A Soldier Inscription.
- Page 495 top picture: 1. is Bud Aldrich.
- Page 500 Line 19L: There is an excellent article on F. W. Lafrentz in:
The Westerner's Brandbook, New York Posse.
Winter 1954 Vol. 1 No. 1 Pp. 2, 3, 7.
- Pages 501 & 507 caption to top picture should read: Eddie Johnson not Eddy Johnson.

- Page 502 Line 7L, should read: capital of \$4,500,000 which was . . .
- Page 502 Line 40L, should read: at that bank . . .
- Page 504 Line 15L, should read: Kelly, M Bar, TY, Two Bar, Muleshoe,
- Page 514 Line 11L, should read: Nickell in the Iron Mountain region of
- Page 515 Line 41R, should read: Willie Nickell (Page 208 of Coroner's
- Page 515 Line 17R, should read: shipping points as far east as North
- Page 515, Line 49R, should read: tried in one case for stealing horses.
- Page 518 Acknowledgments and Sources: Add the following references:
CLAY, John 1904
Herefords on the Range. 3 illus.
Chicago: Breeder's Gazette Pp. 1160, 1162, 1164. Dec. 21, 1904.
CLAY, John 1905
Shorthorns on the Range.
Chicago: Breeder's Gazette Pp. 1092, 1094 Nov. 29, 1905.
- Page 530 Line 9L, should read: the rugged Elk Mountain and the . . .
- Page 530 Line 19R, should read: Tom Parmalee is the shepard . . .
- Page 535. Captions are reversed on pictures at bottom of the page.
- Pages 536 & 537: Map by courtesy of Wyoming Highway Department and U. S. Dept. of Commerce: Bureau of Public Roads. Locations of Sections lots drawn by Frances Pedersen.
- Page 544 Line 37R, should read: . . . I am here repeating that article:
- Page 561 Line 7L, should read: geographical boundary might be . . .
- Page 561 Line 10L, should read: physiographic map on Page 46
- Page 584 Line 42L, should read: Michael Howard (not Howard Michael).
- Page 586 Line 22L, should read: rolling down the hill into camp, and
- Page 589 Lines 9L, 19L & 31L, should read: Widdowfield
- Page 589 Line 14R, should read: Big Nose George Parrott and Dutch Charlie . . . A good article on Big Nose George Parrott by Carl W. Breihan is found in the Westerner's Brandbook; New York Posse. 1955 Vol. 2 No. 2 Page 36.
- Page 590 Line 21L: The trip when the barrel of butter was left behind is described on Page 603.
- Page 595 Line 8L, should read: Charles Bloomer brother of Mrs.
- Page 598 Line 29L, should read: . . . Waddells, Trabings, Holladays, and
- Page 608 Line 34L, should read: Richardson, Milliken, Nixon and
- Page 609 Line 23L: Omit the words the only thing, which are repeated on the next line.
- Page 610 Line 26L, should read: That winter Richardson had to obtain pasture for his cattle some ten miles away, but managed somehow to survive the winter.
- Page 617 Line 33L, heading should read: HARD WINTER OF 1898-99.
- Page 617 Line 35L, should read: The winter of 1898-99 started with a
- Page 619 Line 29R, should read: to address an onery critter which
- Page 624 Line 37L, additional information: Bob Burns remembers how eagerly his Dad, Otto Burns, looked forward each year in October to the trip to Omaha with the cattle shipment.
- Page 628 Lines 14L & 14R: The normal working speed of power sweeps is around 20 miles an hour.
- Page 634 Line 18L, should read: 1898 Thos. Boylan and Bob Ellis took
- Page 635 Line 16R, should read: Wagonhound Creek and as far east as the
- Page 635 Line 35R: The cement block laid in recent years commemorates the year the house was built. In 1888 no cement was available but only lime plaster.
- Page 637 Line 5R: The Texas man's name is Fred Amschutz.
- Page 667 Line 18L, should read: Rody Adams was the third man to
- Page 673, top picture: To date no identifications have been made in this picture.

