

Wyoming State Parks & Cultural Resources

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Honoring Wyoming's 100-year-old farms and ranches

2015 WYOMING CENTENNIAL FARM AND RANCH YEARBOOK



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Front Cover Photo: The Hamilton Ranch, Big Horn County
Back Cover Photo: The Flying Heart Ranch, Albany County, 1939

ARTS. PARKS. HISTORY.

Wyoming State Parks & Cultural Resources

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Office of the Governor

Dear Centennial Farm and Ranch Award Recipient,

Congratulations on being honored as a centennial family for 2015. You are part of a distinguished group of Wyoming farmers and ranchers who have owned and operated their family business for 100 years or more. Your commitment to Wyoming agriculture over the long haul is no small feat – indeed, it is extraordinary and commendable. The 2015 Wyoming Centennial Farm and Ranch Yearbook chronicles your achievement.

As we recognize centennial farm and ranch families, I am reminded that soon we will be honoring a third class of inductees into the Wyoming Cowboy Hall of Fame. The two spheres overlap because great ag operations and great cowhands go together. If you have a centennial farm and ranch, the odds are good you have a Cowboy Hall of Famer in your history, in your midst or in the making. In our state, we are fortunate to have both the wonderful farms and ranches that last through generations and the wonderful people that help them thrive.

I am a proud fourth generation Wyoming rancher myself. I can't imagine life without ranching and don't ever plan to know life without ranching. There is tremendous satisfaction that goes with providing food for the nation and more – for example, contributing to the economy, creating jobs, and providing wildlife habitat, scenic views, and open spaces. There are also deep connections that go with longtime family operations. You are integral to Wyoming history – past, present and future, and how wonderful that is!

I wish your family all the best – now and in the years to come. Thank you for your dedication to Wyoming agriculture and for keeping it strong.

Sincerely,



Matthew H. Mead
Governor

MHM:ts

The Baily Ranch, 1882

The Susan Ann Shaffer and Karyn Spears Families, Albany County



Sen. John Barrasso, Rep. Cynthia Lummis, Shaffer Family and Sen. Mike Enzi

There has been a Baily Ranch in Centennial Valley ever since 1882, just seven years after the town of Centennial was incorporated. It was then that Jason Baily moved his family from a ranch on the east side of Sheep Mountain to the present site. The boundaries of the property have changed from time to time, but the heart of the ranch along the North Fork of the Little Laramie River has remained the same. This land is located on the floor of the valley toward the western side with mountains in all directions. It is still called the Baily Ranch and is now owned by Edwin Baily's granddaughters, Sue Ann Shaffer and Karyn Spears.

Jason Baily and his brother, Eugene came west to work on the tie drive on the Platte River for the Union Pacific Railroad in 1873. In 1877 he married Louisa Mapes who had arrived in Laramie in 1874.

While they lived in West Laramie they were blessed with son, Edwin A. Baily, and daughter, Philena Baily. The two brothers moved their families to a 160 acre place at the base of Sheep Mountain which was later sold to Strom Ranch and finally to the Wild Horse subdivision. Their nearest neighbors were the May family who had a ranch seven miles away at the opening of Centennial Valley. A Baily brother named Joshua eventually joined the family.

In 1882 the brothers decided to dissolve their partnership. Eugene headed to Montana while Jason decided to move his family to Centennial Valley where land prices were cheap. Jason and Louisa bought their original 160 acres from Nels Anderson. They filed on several pieces of desert land, but were not able to keep all of it due to legal complications. Nevertheless, a sizable ranch was

put together. Louisa first filed water rights on her homestead in 1882.

Jason died at age 45, leaving Louisa to run the ranch with the help of her thirteen year old son, Edwin. There were also four girls, Philena, Myrtle, Susan, and Emily. A brother, Joel, only lived two days. Money was scarce and it became necessary to sell off pieces of land to keep going. Parcels went to John Olson, Mads Wobol and William Conners. Susan and Edwin filed on adjoining homesteads and Edwin bought the Bertha Foster property next to the homeplace. It was here where Edwin and Annie raised their daughters, Susan Baily Morgan and Katherine Baily Edwards. To the great sorrow of the family their brother, Joel, died when he was sixteen. Years later Edwin bought the Steinhoff field which he purchased from the Wyoming Platinum and Gold Mining Syndicate when it became evident that it would not be needed for a dumping ground for the mine up on Centennial Mountain.

The first homesite was about a half mile south of the present one and consisted of a four roomed log cabin. Jason with the aid of a friend, logs and a team of horses moved that cabin from damp ground to the present site. To prove up on his homestead

he built onto this structure which gave the family a living room, kitchen and two additional bedrooms. After Jason's death Louisa had a large country kitchen added. This rambling building is currently in disrepair but continues to stand on the ranch.

In 1954, the Union Pacific started a fire created from hot cinders blown from the railroad car. The cinders started the hayfield afire that traveled to the cottonwoods by the river which in February was very low and frozen. Edwin and Annie's house and outbuildings were all consumed by the fire. Fortunately, neighbors rushed in to rescue much of the house contents and the Union Pacific paid for the damages. The present house was built with the money received. It must have been fate that saved the old house which was kissed by the fire but left untouched.

The Baily family has always been proud to be a part of Centennial Valley and they spend as much time as possible there. Karyn has built a new home in the hayfield which is across the river from Edwin and Annie's homesite. The sixth generation is now being indoctrinated with the love of this ranch and beautiful mountain valley.

The C.L. Pugsley Ranch, 1915

The Jack & Elaine Pugsley Family, Goshen County

The early history of the Pugsley Family was written by Ruth Pugsley, with material provided by Ellen Pugsley Brown. History from the 1950s to the present contains the recollections of Jack and Elaine Pugsley.

The hope of ever owning their own land seemed an impossible dream to The C. L. Pugsleys of Smith County, Kansas. The U. S. Government made land available in Wyoming to people who were willing to abide by the strict rules of homesteading, and the pioneering spirit prevailed among many families of that area near the Nebraska border, including the Pugsleys.

They arrived in Wyoming in early April of 1915. The Pugsley family consisted of husband Clarence, wife Ruth, daughter Ellen, who was 5 years old at the time, son Cecil, 3 years of age, and baby Rosa, who was less than a year old. They found land 27 miles southwest of Lusk near a creek which is known as the Moore Springs Creek and gave that community its name. Perhaps the reason the Pugsleys settled there was because a sister of Clarence and her family had come to the area earlier.

The men of these homesteaders had loaded all their belongings, such as farm machinery, household goods, and even some livestock into an immigrant train car and rode in these cars along with their possessions. The women and children arrived later by passenger train in Lusk.

The cattle they had brought had to be sold before entering Wyoming as there was "hoof and mouth" disease in Nebraska. However, they must have acquired some milk cows immediately as the records show that Ruth sold 16 lbs. of butter at 20 cents per lb. to the Frederick store in the middle of June, 1915.

The requirements of homesteading were to build fences, a place to live, to dig a well and to break



Ruth and Clarence Pugsley

some land where they could raise feed for livestock. People were required to live on the land for certain periods of time during the first three years. Most of their cash income at these times came from produce such as milk, cream, butter, eggs, etc. In later years they raised wheat, oats and even tried corn. Milk cows and chickens and hogs ate much of what was raised, and gradually, range cattle were added.

The day began at dawn with everyone having his or her chores to do: feeding horses, milking cows, turning out and feeding the chickens after making sure no coyotes were around. A big breakfast was



C L Pugsley Homestead House, 1940



Chicken house and yard

prepared by Ruth while father and the children finished up with the chores. Ruth, herself, had helped with the milking, in fact, she could milk a cow faster than anyone in the family. She was also very handy with a hammer and saw and did her share of building.

After breakfast Clarence harnessed the work horses and worked in the fields until noon, when he brought the horses in for feed and water, and to rest and eat his own noon meal.

On washday water was pumped, carried and heated in a large boiler on the cook stove. Usually beans that had been cooked overnight were cooked while the stove had to be heated for a long time anyway. The clothes were scrubbed on a washboard with homemade lye soap, and after boiling and rinsing, the snowy white laundry was hung on the line. Even the wash water wasn't wasted but used to

scrub the floors afterwards. Washday sometimes extended into the middle of the afternoon as a good noon meal had to be prepared also. On ironing day, bread was usually baked in order to again utilize the heat which was needed for the sad irons.

Other days were spent gardening, sewing, mending, preserving food, etc. Once a month the parents made a trip to Lusk for supplies. The children usually stayed with neighboring friends and relatives who made the wagon trips at alternate times.

Clarence worked in the fields until the evening meal and then the same routine of chores was performed until dark. To say they "fell into bed and slept like a log" was putting it mildly; unless they were too tired to sleep, they were seldom bothered by insomnia.

Some of the hardships and adversities of homestead days were hot, dry winds, hail, and drought that ruined the crops in the summer, and loss of livestock such as a horse - one of a team - dying in her stall and her partner had to be sold as she wouldn't function without her pal.

Winters brought blizzards that caused cattle to perish in deep drifts, and newborn calves to freeze to death. These losses were severe setbacks for the family.

But there were happy times! Neighbors were always ready to help each other. Large tasks such as butchering, branding, building, threshing, etc., were community affairs and work was exchanged. Friends and neighbors were happy to have you "drop in". Entertainment was created, not furnished by outside media. Sometimes even neighboring communities such as Jay Em, Red Cloud, Royal Valley, visited. Dances were held at Fredericks - post office, store, lumber yard - located in a canyon between Guernsey and Moore Springs. Ruth and Clarence loaded some straw, blankets, and their three kids into a lumber wagon on Saturday nights and went to dances at Fredericks - miles from home. Both of them were avid dancers and could put many couples to shame with their waltzes, polkas and schottishes.

School had to be provided for the children and the board of the school district, which consisted of the



Ellen, Cecil and Rose in group at Log School House

entire north end of Goshen County, promised the people a teacher for six months of the year if they would supply a building. So, a school building had to be built. The first one was a small log structure built by the men of the community. Logs were hauled from the hills west of Moore Springs. Clarence even built the desks for his children, as did many other fathers. All eight grades were taught by one teacher, and the few books available were “cast-offs” from the neighboring town schools. Years later, nine months of schooling and better books and supplies were provided.

In 1923 the new schoolhouse was started and occupied after Christmas, 1924. Again, Clarence donated a great deal of his time in building the structure. This was a frame building and was the center of community activities until consolidation in the 1960’s. It even became a two teacher school, and during the Depression, two years of high school were taught by the upper grade teacher. Sunday School was also conducted here by members of the community, and the preacher, Rev. Woodard, came from Fort Laramie periodically to hold worship services. Occasional “Revival Meetings” were also

held in the school house, as were school programs, community meetings, dinners, dances and parties. The school house with two later additions still stands, and is now a private dwelling.

Life was difficult for the Pugsleys, but very rewarding. They raised three upstanding citizens out on the prairie, and most of all, they did get their own land. Over the years more acres were purchased as other homesteaders sold out and moved away.

Clarence and Ruth continued to work the land with the help of their son, Cecil, and eventually his wife, Ruth, and their children.

When Clarence and Ruth retired and moved to Torrington in the late 1950’s, Cecil and Ruth took over the management of their land, working it along with their own property, which was close by. There Cecil and Ruth raised their family, which consisted of two sons, Jack and Lee, and four daughters, Shirley, twins Janet and Joyce, and Nancy. The six children all developed a fine work ethic, as they were expected to do their share from an early age,



Ruth and Clarence Pugsley



Ruth and Cecil Pugsley



Standing: Cecil and Ruth's kids: Janet, Nancy, Jack, Lee, Joyce and Shirley. Sitting: Ruth and Cecil

whether inside or outside the house. Along with the field chores that come with raising wheat and hay, there were cattle and chickens to feed, cows to milk, fryers to dress, vegetable gardens to tend, cooking, canning, sewing, laundry and cleaning to do. Everyone knew their responsibility and did the work with pride, as they knew there were fun times to follow. Family dinners and community events were frequent, softball games in the summer with homemade goodies for refreshments were favorites, as were school programs and dances, enjoyed by children as well as adults.

Through the years the children would help Cecil and Ruth with work on the farm and ranch, either long term, or on weekends and holidays away from their employment elsewhere.

In 1974, Cecil became ill with complications from diabetes, and he and Ruth were making plans to sell their land and buy a home in Lingle or Torrington. Son Jack, who was working as a soil scientist for the US Bureau of Reclamation in Idaho at that time, decided he would move back to Wyoming and manage the operation for his parents. Cecil passed away on June 13th, just two weeks after Jack, Elaine and their sons, Randall and Michael arrived from Boise along with Jack's sister Shirley and her husband Ivan and family, who had come to Boise to help them load and move their belongings to the ranch. They moved into a trailer house that had been brought in as the hired man's living quarters when the C. L. Pugsley homestead house burned to the ground several months earlier.

Jack's brother and sisters and their spouses came to help with wheat harvest, and in September, to load and move Ruth's belongings to a home she had purchased in Torrington. Jack and his family moved into the home he had lived in until he was an adult, and Jack was back where he felt he belonged, working the land and raising cattle.

In November of 1974, Jack and Elaine contracted to purchase the C. L. Pugsley land from his grandmother and in March of 1975 the same arrangement was made with his mother to purchase the land, machinery and cattle she and Cecil had acquired since their marriage. Of course, money for



Elaine and Jack Pugsley

the down payment and operating funds needed to be borrowed too, and the debt load was extremely heavy. A conservationist at heart, Jack set about planning ways to utilize resources to maximize the productivity of the land and cattle while continuing to care for the land properly. In 1976 he went to Casper College to take a short course in learning the benefits of artificial insemination to increase calf weaning weights. Through using this method and experimenting with crossing different breeds for nearly forty years, the herd went from Hereford to predominately Red Angus. The cross breeding definitely improved calf vigor, weaning weights and temperament.



Jack and Elaine Pugsley's Heifers

Always interested in pushing the boundaries, another early project utilized a well over 2,000 feet from a new concrete bottom tank to pump water powered by the windmill uphill 40 feet through a pipeline to the tank. Along with cross fencing, utilization of the northern part of a large pasture was increased. Cross fencing was also completed in another large pasture, and a new well was outfitted with a solar pump so that a rotational grazing program could be followed. Jack experimented with planting new varieties of grass seed, after the spraying of cactus and other undesirable forages, in order to further improve carrying capacity.



Jack Pugsley in pasture



C.L. Pugsley Homestead and Outbuildings



Three generations of the Jack and Elaine Pugsley Family



Sen. John Barrasso, Pugsley Family, Rep. Cynthia Lummis and Sen. Mike Enzi

From the time Randall and Michael were 7 - 8 years old, they learned the same work ethic their father had in the same way and on the same place. With all of us working together, and by the grace of God, we managed to pull through even the most difficult times.

Randall, his wife Pamela, and daughter Helen, have devoted much of their lives to keeping this operation up and going. In 2006, they, along with

son Michael, his wife Aimee, and children Megan and Andrew, joined us at Gull Lake in Minnesota to vacation and to celebrate both our 50th wedding anniversary, and the achievement of making our final payment on the land debt. In August of 2015, they and other members of the Pugsley family were with us as we celebrated the 100th anniversary of the C. L. Pugsley Ranch at the Centennial Farm and Ranch Awards Ceremony in Douglas.

The Flying Heart Ranch, 1894

The Desiree Stonum, Leisl & Tim Carpenter Families, Albany County

The Flying Heart Ranch was established in 1894 by Christian and Maria Gabrielson. Christian “Christ” was born in Fredrikstad, Onso, Norway on September 27, 1857. He lived with family until he was fourteen years old. Once he turned fourteen, he was indentured to the high seas on a ship as cabin boy and cook’s helper. Christ stayed with the sailing ships until he was twenty-one. He then immigrated to the United States in 1879 with his brother Gustav and sister Carrie, while his brother Anton stayed with the remaining family in Norway. Christ and his siblings made their way west across the United States and ended up in Laramie, Wyoming. Once Gustav made Laramie his home, he met and married Freda Larsen. The couple remained in Laramie, but Christ’s sister Carrie went back to Norway.

Christ married Maria (Minnie) Wilhelmina Setterstrom on October 2, 1888 in Laramie, Wyoming. Minnie was born October 30, 1867 in Linkoping, Ostergotland, Sweden. She immigrated to the United States in 1887 and headed west to Wyoming where she eventually met Christ. She worked as a seamstress before meeting Christ.

Christ and Minnie had twelve children. Their first child Hilma Amalia (1889-1957) was their only child to survive while living in Laramie. Their next children were Edward and a twin sister that was born dead. Eddie didn’t live very long and died a year after birth. Their next child, Leonard, died a couple months after birth as well. Their last two children born in Laramie, Bade and Mamie also lived less than a year. These children were born in Laramie before the family moved west of town and died as a result of the pollution in the air from the railroad and coal burning stoves. Christ and Minnie couldn’t face the death of another child due to the polluted air, so they decided to move out of town to escape the poisoned air so their children had a chance to live. Christ worked on the railroad until he earned enough money to buy some land. He



Christian Gabrielson



Homestead, Chris and Axel

bought some land west of Laramie on the Laramie River where he and Minnie lived for a short while. They didn’t like the location and decided to move to another place. He sold his river property to Hans Olson. He scouted the area and found a place that they liked because of the springs on the property. He was able to get 160 acres through the Homestead



Hilma, Axel, Edna, Chris, Elmer, Carrie, and Sydney Gabrielson

Act. Christ and Minnie cut logs in the mountains to the west and hauled them down with horses and wagons to build a home and barns. They tried to farm with diminishing success due to the gravelly soil. They converted to ranching and started to raise native grass hay with flood irrigation.

Once they got the homestead established Christ and Minnie started to expand their family again. Axel William (August 7, 1896-October 20, 1956), Edna M. (1898-1964), Elmer (1899-1918 who passed from the flu epidemic), Christian Elwood "Chris" (1900-1976), Karen Selma Agusta "Carrie" (1902-1974), and Carl J. "Sydney" (1907-1917 who passed from an abscessed appendix) were all born on the homestead.

The Gabrielsons continued to acquire more property and ran beef cattle as well as dairy cows. Minnie became well-known for the excellent butter that she made. Some was packed in straw and carried as far as the Caribbean and was still sweet upon arrival. She was a hard-worker who loved her children dearly and taught them the value of hard work which has been passed on to the following generations. Minnie lost her battle with cancer and passed away on April 21, 1916.

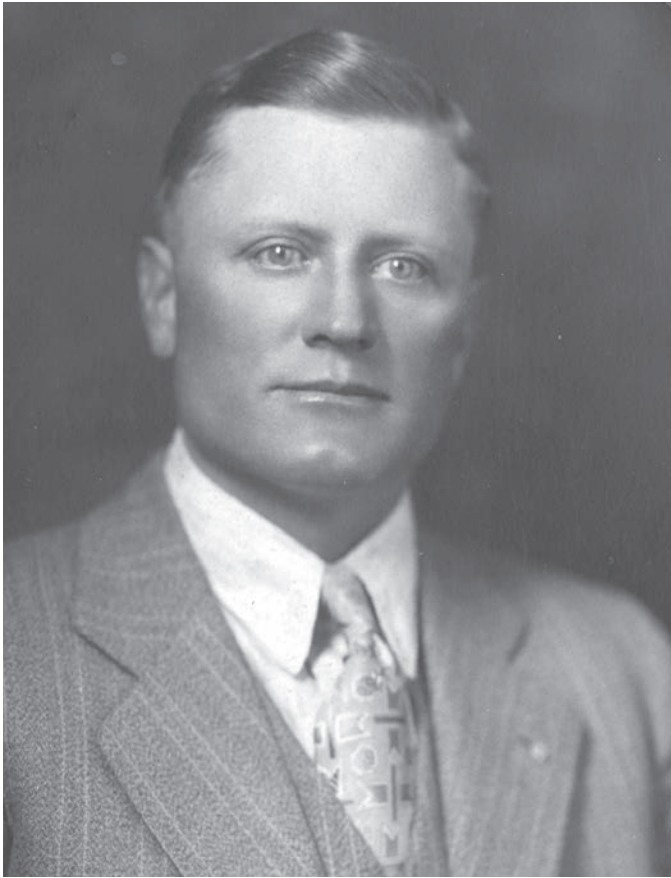
Following the death of his mother, Axel went into ranching for himself when he was twenty-one years old. He started the Gabrielson Livestock Company on January 15, 1918. Once his company became a



Axel, July 5, 1933



Axel



Axel Gabrielson



Edith Gabrielson

recognized business corporation he purchased all of his father's land and livestock for seven thousand dollars on January 23, 1918. Axel's sister Hilma was initially a member of the Gabrielson Livestock Company, but she eventually gifted her shares of the corporation back to Axel. Christ became a member of the Gabrielson Livestock Company following the transition of ownership, but he took on a role of mentor instead of manager and let Axel make the everyday ranching decisions. Axel began to exclusively use the flying heart brand once his company took over ownership of the livestock. His brand was passed down and is still in use by the current family members operating the ranch today.

The Gabrielson Livestock Company raised Hereford beef cattle, dairy cattle, sheep, chickens, and hogs. They sold cattle, sheep, wool, pork, milk, butter, and eggs. Christ and Minnie had an impressive understanding of flood irrigation which helped them design irrigation ditches that helped the operation continue to raise an abundance of native grass hay that they fed their livestock in the long winter months. The original design of irrigation ditches is still in use today.

Axel met and married Edith Elizabeth Christensen on September 24, 1929. Edith was born November 13, 1905 in Sindal, Denmark. She immigrated to the United States as a baby with her family in the spring of 1906 and they rode a train to Laramie. Her father owed several grocery stores and an insurance business in Laramie which imprinted a hard work ethic into Edith.

Axel and Edith continued to live on the original homestead ranch and had two daughters. Their first daughter Ialene Maria Christina was born on January 29, 1933 and their second daughter Donna Elizabeth was born September 16, 1934. Both children were born in town at relatives' houses.

On July 11, 1933 Christ passed away. Christ had a will made and gifted his few remaining shares of Gabrielson Livestock Company to Axel upon his death. As a result of Christ and Axel's smart planning of succession of the ranch before Christ's death, Axel and his family were able to keep the



Axel, Donna, Joan, and Ialene, August 10, 1939



Axel, Chris, Edna, and Carl Johnson

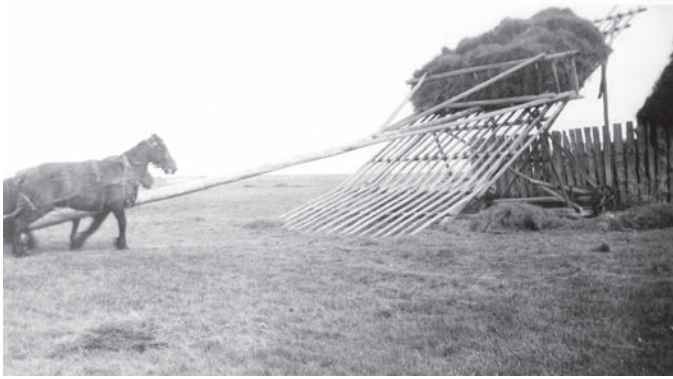


Ialene and Donna, April 19, 1935

land and continue on with the family ranch.

The Great Depression caused great hardship for families in the 1930's, however Axel was one of the few who was able to stay strong and keep his family fed. They did whatever they could to survive. They sold milk, butter, chickens, eggs, hogs, sheep, and Hereford Cattle. Axel and Edith made a good living and were able to capitalize on the poor economic times. They bought a school section of land from the State of Wyoming for nine thousand six hundred dollars on March 21, 1935. Also, on December 20, 1938 they purchased additional 1,000 acres of mountain property in Larimer County Colorado for four thousand dollars. These purchases continue to be a very important part of the current operation today.

Ialene and Donna helped their father a lot on the ranch growing up. They had their own chores to do, plus they helped move cattle, hay and feed the large hay crew. The girls loved to ride horses and be outside with their father, but the requirements of being a lady took precedence. Edith had them practice proper etiquette, required them to help cook the large meals for the ranch hands and clean the house before they could go outside and assist their father. They were active in 4-H and took various projects to the county fair where they won many awards.



Hay field August 10, 1939



Mr. and Mrs. Axel Gabrielson and daughters, Ialene and Donna, Christmas 1944

Axel and Edith were very active in the community. They liked to play cards, dance, and participate in community clubs and events. Axel was instrumental in working with the federal government in establishing grazing rights with the Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management. His work with the government established an original grazing permit with the Forest Service and BLM that is still being utilized by the current operation of family members. Axel was a member of the Elks Lodge, Masons, Shriners, Knights Templar, Eastern Star, Trinity Lutheran Church, Wyoming Stock Growers Association, and was a member and president in both the Albany County Farm Bureau and the Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation. He taught the importance of being an advocate for agriculture and to always fight for your rights to his children. These values that he instilled in his children have continued to be engrained in his descendants.

On June 18, 1952 Ialene married Morton Gilbert "Gil" Engen. Ialene met Gil as a young girl when he was helping a rancher from Centennial move cows to the Laramie River. They were moving the



Axel, Donna, and Ialene April 1945

cows past Harmony school when Gil saw Ialene on a buck fence waving to him. He thought to himself, "I'm going to marry that beautiful blonde girl someday." It wasn't until at a dance several years later at Woods Landing that Ialene and Gil took an interest to each other. When Gil decided to ask Axel for his daughter's hand in marriage Axel told him, "I have some requirements that you need to meet first." Axel told Gil, "I want someone who is tough and not afraid of hard work, and who will always love and put my daughter before himself. If you can meet those requirements, you can marry Ialene." Gil surpassed Axel's requirements and held onto those values for the rest of his life.

Gil was born on June 9, 1924 in Centennial, Wyoming. His family was one of the original homesteaders of Centennial. Gil grew up on the homestead of Mads Wolbol, his great-great grandfather. He loved ranching and skiing. In Gil's spare time growing up you could always find him climbing up the mountain behind his house to ski down. Gil was drafted to fight in World War II and since Gil was an excellent skier and horseman he became part of the Tenth Mountain Division. He went on to fight in Riva Ridge, Italy where he ran a 105 howitzer and carried ammunition on his mule. He survived the war and came back to Centennial. He married MaryLee Lankford in 1946, but tragedy struck shortly after they married. Gil, MaryLee, Gil's mother (Olga) and father (Ernest), were involved in a car accident resulting in the deaths of MaryLee and Olga. A few years after the accident he ended up at the dance at Woods Landing where he reconnected with Ialene.

After Gil and Ialene got married they lived on Gil's family ranch in Centennial for a few years until Axel needed help at the ranch. Gil and Ialene moved into the original ranch house while Axel and Edith lived in the brand new ranch house that was finished in 1950. On July 11, 1954 Gil and Ialene had their first daughter, Terrialee Olga "T-lee". Two years later on April 7, 1956 they had their only son Eric Gilbert. Four years later on May 13, 1960 they had another daughter, Desiree Maria "DeeDee". Six years later on April 16, 1966 they had their last daughter Shirlee Ialene Elizabeth.



Gil Engen on Rex



Cattle in winter



Ialene and Donna



Shirlee, Libby, Karl, Lacy, and Terrialee Lankford; Ialene & Gil Engen; Leif, Kyle, Eric, and Lorri Engen; and Gus, Leisl, & Desiree Stonum.

Donna married Donald Joseph “Joe” Cole on September 6, 1953. After they married Donna and Joe travelled the world due to his work in the military. Their first daughter Suzanne Elizabeth was born January 11, 1957 in Laramie, and their second daughter Jennifer Jo was born September 3, 1959 in Augsburg, Germany. Donna and Joe retired in Lakewood, Colorado.

Axel passed away unexpectedly on October 20, 1956 from an aneurysm. After his death, Gil and Ialene bought the ranch from Edith in 1958. Following the sale of the ranch Edith moved to Denver, Colorado. She passed away May 11, 1995.

Gil and Ialene continued to ranch on the original homestead with their four children. They continued to raise Hereford cattle and native grass hay. The family of six learned the values of hard work, but they also knew how to have fun. Gil and Ialene loved to dance and would attend all of the community dances with their children. They also had a passion to protect and promote agriculture. They were involved in Farm Bureau, Stockgrowers, Cattlewomen and the Pioneer Canal Lake Hattie Water District (PCLHWD). Gil was a PCLHWD board member and also the ditch rider for many



Leisl and Perry Stonum

years. Water was an extremely important aspect of Gil's life and he was an expert on water rights and statutes. Gil helped start the Big Laramie Fire Department as well. Ialene was very active in many community activities. She went to New York City to promote beef with other Albany County Cattlewomen, knitted hats for children at the hospital and participated in other various activities with the Harmony Home and Community Club. Gil was also a Mason and Ialene was very active in Eastern Star. They were both extremely involved with Trinity Lutheran Church as well. Gil and Ialene are remembered especially for their expertise in Farm Bureau policy making, water, and state and federal politics. They were firm believers in God and Country, and knew their voice would be heard if they continued to advocate for what they felt was important. They were great role models to their children and community.

Gil and Ialene's biggest love of all was family. They helped their children and grandchildren with 4-H, FFA, sports and of course school. The kids spent many hours trying to get the math facts, hand writing and spelling done correctly. Family tradition was extremely important to them, and one of the traditions was continuing to trail their cattle to mountain pastures. This was an extremely important rite of passage for the children. They had to earn their spurs by riding all day even if the weather was unforgiving. The long hours taught perseverance and to always finish a job they started. There were many adventures and mishaps on the cattle drives. People from all over the world would come and help on the cattle drives, which made for great conversations on the long days. The cows could hardly wait to go to the mountains in the spring and if it started to snow in September it was hard to keep the cattle in. They knew the way home and some years it was hard to keep them from coming home too soon because of snow. The last cattle drive was in 2006 when Gil and Ialene sold their cattle.

Eric married his high school sweetheart Lorraine "Lorri" Mann in 1978, and stayed on the ranch with his parents for a while, but Eric loved airplanes and followed his dream. He became an aviation

mechanic and moved to California. They have two sons, Leif Eric (May 13, 1982) and Kyle Eugene (August 30, 1985).

Shirlee married and moved to Colorado, California, Texas, and Alaska pursuing her career of retail management. She has a son, Chance Erik (April 15, 2009).

T-lee married Karl Lankford in 1985 and they live near Albany on the Lankford ranch. They have two daughters, Lacy Kate (July 20, 1985) and Libby Joann (November 8, 1990). They continue to help with the cattle drives, brandings, fixing fence and cooking for the help.

DeeDee moved to Casper following high school. She married a few years later and had a son, Augustin "Gus" Michael Morton Stonum (March 27, 1982). She divorced shortly after Gus was born. She always loved the ranch and would commute between Casper and Laramie to help out whenever she could. When Eric left to pursue his dream she moved home and started to help out on the ranch more. Gus loved to help his grandpa as a young child and spent many hours with him.

In 1990 DeeDee married Steven Perry "Perry" Stonum. They had a daughter, Leisl Maria on September 19, 1991. The Stonum family moved permanently back to the ranch in 1992 when Perry and DeeDee moved a new house in for them to live in. Perry continued to work in telecommunications and spent the week days living in Denver. His off the ranch job helped keep the ranch going. In 1997 the Flying Heart Ranch LLC was formed by Gil, Ialene, Perry, and DeeDee. The LLC and a trust were formed to help ensure the ranch stayed in the family when Gil and Ialene passed. In 2003 Desiree and Perry divorced. Perry's shares of the LLC went to Gus and Leisl following the divorce. Gus and Leisl continued to receive shares in the LLC for the work that they did on the ranch.

Leisl grew up loving to be outside with the horses and cows. As a small child she was always out trying to ride a horse by climbing up the horse's neck and riding bareback with no halter or bridle.



Donna Cole, Eric Engen, Ialene Engen, Leisl Stonum, Desiree Stonum, Gil Engen, and Libby Lankford. September 2006.

They were her best friends and always kept her safe. On one particular day Leisl was with her mother and she disappeared on DeeDee. DeeDee looked and hollered for her all over. When she eventually found Leisl, she was out with the bulls and had a hold of a horse named Peewee's tail and he was leading her back to safety. Leisl has always had a strong passion for animals and loved being on the ranch. Leisl loved to be with her grandparents and she learned many valuable life lessons from them. They taught her how to speak up and voice her opinions, be a strong leader and to always advocate for agriculture. One of the most important lessons was the value of hard work and to never give up on a dream even if others doubt you.



Leisl and Desiree Stonum

The spring of 2008 Leisl began dating Timothy John Carpenter. He was the answer to many unspoken prayers for the ranch. He volunteered to work at the ranch and help out whenever he could that spring. He was sixteen when he took on being a ranch hand, as well as being a part time butcher and running his custom lawn mowing and snow removal business. Tim was born September 9, 1991 in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, but he came back to Laramie as an infant. As a boy he dreamed about being a rancher when he was older. When he got the opportunity to help on the ranch he made sure that he learned as much as possible from Gil. He quickly took to the ranch life and he became an apprentice to Gil. Tim would come out at five in the morning just to have coffee and help Gil with whatever he could before school started. Even though Tim did not grow up on a ranch he had a natural ability with animals, a keen understanding of the land, and a quick study on fixing machinery. His hard work ethic impressed everyone at the ranch and his determination to succeed helped keep the ranch going even though the future looked bleak.



Tim Carpenter

On December 4, 2009 Gil and Ialene passed away. Gil died of a broken heart after hearing his wife of fifty-seven years was terminal due to a hemorrhagic stroke. Gil passed away twelve hours before Ialene in his sleep. The family was shaken with the loss of the two most important figures in their life. Due to the succession planning ahead of Gil and Ialene's death, the ranch was able to be passed down to

DeeDee, Gus and Leisl. Shortly following the transition of ownership after Gil and Ialene's deaths, Gus decided to gift his shares of the ranch to Leisl. He wanted to pursue his dream of becoming a fire chief and he wanted to help Leisl with her dream of ranching. DeeDee and Leisl continued to operate the ranch with the help of Tim.

In 2011 Leisl applied for a beginner farmer/rancher loan through the Farm Service Agency to buy land. She bought 160 acres from Flying Heart Ranch LLC to help get more ownership. The cattle herd was started with Leisl's 4-H and FFA projects. She bought her first cow when she was ten years old and that started the cattle herd presently on the ranch. All of the cattle in the herd were either bought or born on the ranch and kept as replacements, or won in competitions, none of the cattle were given to Leisl.

On June 9, 2012 Tim and Leisl got married. Tim now owns shares in the ranch and is the operating manager. Just like Axel and Edith starting out, Tim and Leisl try to do as many things as possible to be successful. They sell calves, finished cattle and hogs, hay, Loomix, custom hay, custom feed, custom hire (day work) for other ranches, and lease out hunting, fishing, and pasture. When Tim and Leisl got married they also made a vow to dedicate their entire life to keeping the ranch in the family and making it successful so future generations will want to be on the ranch.

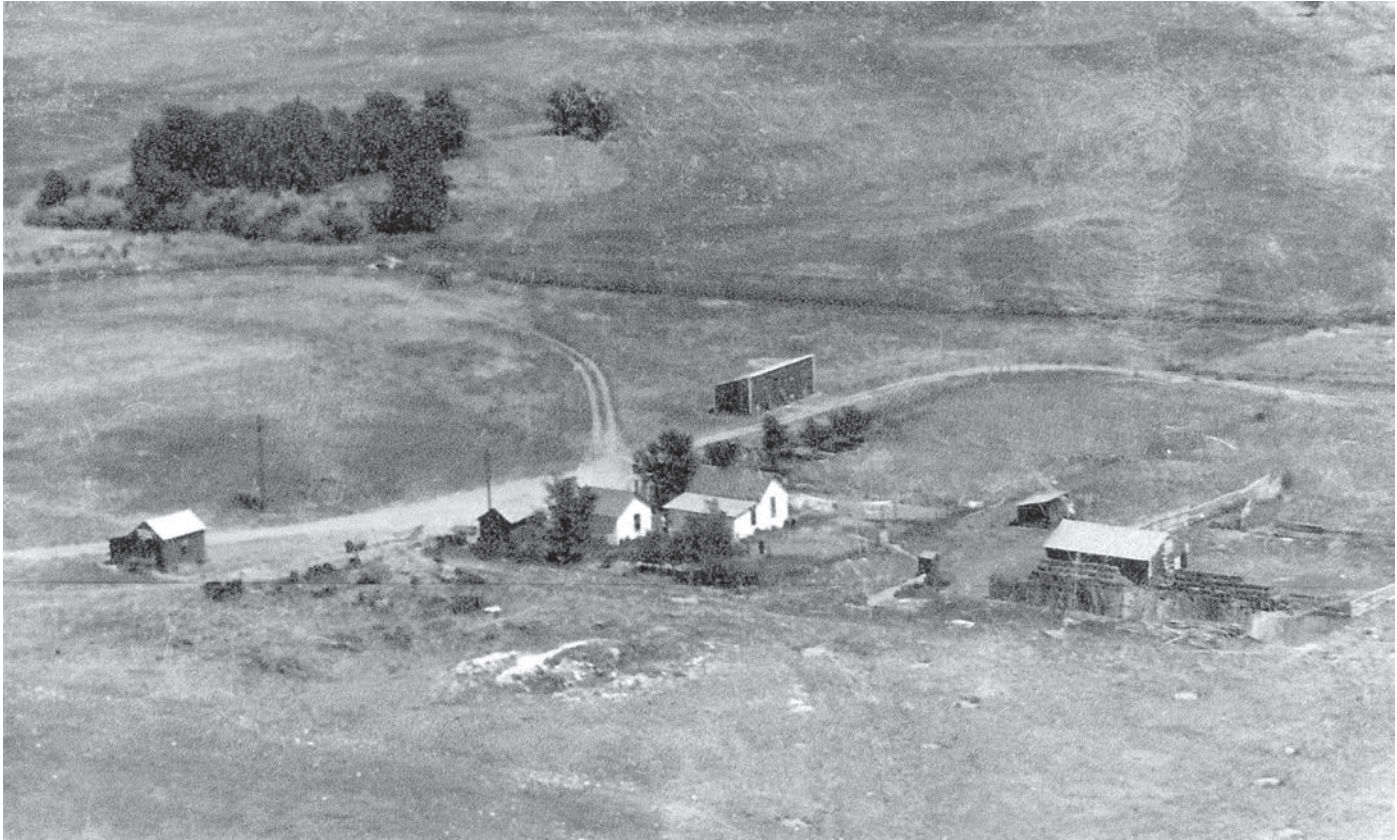
The key to keeping a ranch in the family for many years is to communicate, plan ahead, work together, remain a family, and understanding that the value of the land is enticing but the blood, sweat, and tears of your ancestors to keep your land in the family is priceless.



Tim and Leisl Carpenter with second cousin Kate Foy.

The Gudahl Ranch, 1914

The Steve Gudahl Family, Platte County



Oscar and Grace Gudahl Homestead

Story of Oscar Bernhard Gudahl who homesteaded the Gudahl farm/ranch near Wheatland, WY and his wife, Grace Viola Broyles Gudahl.

Oscar Bernhard Gudahl's family moved from Norway in 1882 and homesteaded in Miner County, Dakota Territory. Oscar was born in 1892 in South Dakota. He completed his schooling there (including Sioux Falls College) enjoying and playing basketball and football through the years.

Oscar worked for his father in South Dakota, then came to Wyoming on a train in 1914 to homestead land for his own farm. He worked on the construction of Whalen Dam near Guernsey, WY to earn enough money to build a house and "prove-up" his new land. Oscar's land was gained due to the original 1862 Homestead Act and his plot was signed by President Woodrow Wilson.

Oscar was called away for a time (1918-1919) to Brest, France where he served as an ambulance wagoner during World War I. He returned to his farm in 1920.

Grace Viola Broyles Gudahl was born in 1896 near Ottawa, Kansas. Both of her parents passed away before she was 16 years old. Grace graduated from high school and completed classes at a business college in Hutchinson, KS in 1919 and 1920. Grace had 5 brothers and sisters and it was her sister, Cora, who asked her to come to Wyoming in 1920. Cora was married to a farmer in Wyoming and she had become quite ill. She summoned Grace to come help her.

During that summer of 1920, Grace and Oscar met at a Sunday school picnic near Bordeaux. Grace said Oscar came riding in on a horse with a red carnation stuck in the brim of his hat. They dated



Oscar Gudahl

that summer and were married on Christmas Day 1920 back in Grace's home state of Kansas.

They returned to Oscar's farm following the wedding and began their life together. Oscar and Grace had eight children: Joyce, Bob, Vic, Rich, Don, Gene, Andy, and Ali Jo.

The children had most of the illnesses that kids can get.....measles, mumps, chicken pox, pink eye, and whooping cough. Oscar got the mumps when the kids did and was the sickest of all. Grace got whooping cough with her children and was very ill. During the depression Vic and Joyce had pneumonia.

Summer flu was always an illness to be feared up to the time of refrigerators and penicillin. Don was in the hospital with the flu when Gene was born. Rich tripped on a jump rope as well as fell off a horse breaking his arm both times. Gene swallowed a nail



Oscar and Grace Gudahl on Wedding Day, Christmas Day, 1902.



Gudahl Family: Gene, Vic, Bob, Don, Richard, Andy, Grandma holding Bruce Settell, Ali Jo, Grandad holding Carol Settell.



Gus, Vic, Rich, Gene, Mary Etta, Bob, Mary Etta, Leona, Don and Donna, Joyce, Billie Lou, Aileen, Linda, Greg, Danny, Grandma Gudahl, Grandad Gudahl, Andy, Alice, 1954.

that caught in his windpipe and Grace shook him by the heels until it fell out. Vic broke his arm falling off the pump. Bob was 17 years old when he was diagnosed with diabetes I and had to have insulin every day from that time on.

Don had to have surgery due to mastoid infections. He was taken to Cheyenne in 1942 and left at Memorial Hospital for the surgery and recovery. Grace had to return home to care for her family. In a few weeks when Don was better, he sent a letter home telling his mom and dad it was time to come pick him up.

Grace and Oscar's first house had just 2 rooms.... a bedroom and a living room/kitchen. Later they added on a kitchen and a porch. They did not have any running water in the house until the 1960s. There was an outhouse between and house and



Steve Gudahl, 1958.



Sen. John Barrasso, Gudahl Family, Rep. Cynthia Lummis and Sen. Mike Enzi

barn; and a bunkhouse was built for the boys. The houses were heated with wood-burning, and then coal-burning, stoves.

Grace and Oscar's early years were hard. They traded work with the neighbors and spent many hours helping each other with planting and harvesting the crops as well as caring for the livestock. The depression and drought of the 1930's hit them hard as it did others. One year there was so little moisture, the grass did not green up all year.

Oscar (Grandad) passed away at the Cheyenne VA hospital in 1973 and Grace (Grandma Gudahl) passed away in 1994 at the nursing home in Wheatland. They were both truly loved

and are missed by their children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Oscar and Grace's son, Victor, never married. He served in the US Navy during WWII and moved back to the farm after the war to work and help care for his mom and dad as they aged. Steve Gudahl, Vic's nephew and son of Leona and Don Gudahl, often went out to the farm to help Vic work and care for the place. When Vic passed away of congestive heart failure at the age of 65 in 1989, he left the farm to Steve. Steve lives on the homestead today and takes very good care of his inheritance. He is teaching his grandchildren to love and appreciate the farm and ranch land as well.....so the tradition continues.

The Hamilton Ranch, 1915

The Linda and Keith Hamilton Family, Big Horn County



Francis Walters

The Hamilton Ranch, formerly known as Walters Brothers, is located north of Hyattville along the western slope of the Big Horn Mountains. Even though some of the family came to the area at an earlier date, the ranch was officially purchased in 1915. During that time the ranch has undergone many changes and created many historic memories.

The first owners of the present day ranch were Francis (Frank) Walters and Edith (Nelson) Walters. Frank was born in St. Heliers, on the Isle of Jersey, England on May 9, 1857, to Asa Walters and Sarah Jane Wescott Walters. Frank had six brothers and three sisters. The family left Liverpool, England in 1868, arriving in America at New York. They crossed the western plains the same year with an ox team, when Francis was 11 years old. The family settled at Tooele, Utah where they engaged in raising livestock and were involved in mining.



Edith Walters

Edith was born April 16, 1862, in Tooele, Utah, to Lars Nelson and Maria Jepsdotter Nelson. She had two brothers, Theodore (Tude) Nelson who had immigrated to Hyattville in 1886, and Lars Alfred Nelson who was involved in ranching in Nevada and Idaho.

Frank and Edith were married on December 12, 1882. To this union were born six children, one of whom (Frank, Jr.) died as an infant. They then had Delle, George Stanley (Stan), and Ida while still living in Utah. Harvey and Cliff were born later after they moved to Hyattville.

In 1893 the family followed Edith's brother, Tude, to Hyattville where Francis engaged in a general merchandising business until the early 1900s. He also ran a freight wagon route to Billings for supplies for the store as there was no railroad into



Cliff, Delle, Harvey, Ida and Stanley

the Big Horn Basin at the time.

Education was very important to both Francis and Edith. Since educational opportunities in the Hyattville area were limited, the store was sold and the family moved to Billings until 1908. Francis worked for Yegan Borthers, a large department store in Billings. After returning to Hyattville, Francis again embarked in the general merchandising business for a few years.

Delle and Ida both attended school in Billings and then spent time attending Martha Washington Seminary finishing school in the east. About 1907-1908 the sisters went to Europe to study classical piano (Delle) and opera singing (Ida). They lived in Milan, Italy and Paris, France.

Stan attended schools in Hyattville and in Billings, Montana. He graduated from high school in Billings, Montana and then attended Denver University, graduating with a law degree. Stan passed the Montana Bar Examination and practiced law in Billings until he came back to the ranch during the World War I era.

Cliff and Harvey were educated back east in New Jersey at a boy's finishing school. Harvey later returned to the ranch, and Cliff moved to Denver where he pursued a writing career writing western fiction and poetry.

In 1915 Francis and Edith purchased the nucleus of the present day ranch on Alkali Creek from Mrs. R.A. Baldwin. A couple of years before that, Mr. Baldwin had drowned in the Paintrock Creek just a few miles from the ranch while trying to cross it with a team and wagon during high water. Harvey and Cliff helped their father with the ranch until both were drafted into the army and sent to France in 1917. Stanley returned to the ranch to assist his aging parents while the other brothers were in the service. He never returned to practicing law and later owned the ranch for many years with his brother, Harvey.

Francis and Edith died in 1924 in Hyattville after years of ill health. Edith suffered from arthritis and Francis died as the result of a stroke.

Stan married Helen Platt on May 26, 1926 in



Helen and Stan's wedding



Some of the first cattle

Thermopolis, Wyoming. Helen was born February 28, 1900 and was raised in Iowa. She graduated from Algona High and went to a Normal School in Cedar Rapids. She became a teacher and taught one year in Nowata, OK. Times were hard there so she decided to adventure out of Iowa and came to Hyattville to teach for one year. She then took a teaching position in Thermopolis for one year before marrying into the Walters family. They lived briefly in Greybull where Stanley was involved in a gypsum block plant. That enterprise was sold, and they returned permanently to the ranch.

As a result of the Homesteading Act the ranch began to enlarge. Harvey filed for a homestead just north of the ranch and Edith homesteaded a partial adjoining the ranch as well. Later Stan filed for a homestead on the slope of the Big Horn Mountains northeast of the headquarters. The ranch was established as a commercial cattle ranch which ran in conjunction with the North Side Grazing Association. In 1928 sheep were added to the operation and a lambing barn, which is still a part of the lambing operations, was constructed. Farming of crops for the livestock was also a part of the operation in the early days of the ranch.

The initial Forest Service allotment was acquired about the same time the sheep were introduced to the ranching enterprise. That permit, known as the Medicine Lodge permit, is still being leased by the Hamilton Ranch but has been converted to cattle use. Some of the original permit lies in the Cloud Peak Wilderness area where no motorized vehicles or chain saws are allowed. A second permit alongside the initial permit was purchased in 1968. Both permits were designated for sheep use and camps were attended on horseback and moved with pack horses. In the 1980s the Forest Service switched the sheep allotment use to a permit northwest of Burgess Junction. That permit is accessible by motorized vehicles and the sheep can be trucked to that area in July. In the early 2000s another cattle permit in the Medicine Lodge area was purchased for summer cattle grazing.

In the late 30s and early 40s, Walters Brothers purchased several more mountain homesteads from families who had earlier homesteaded in the area.

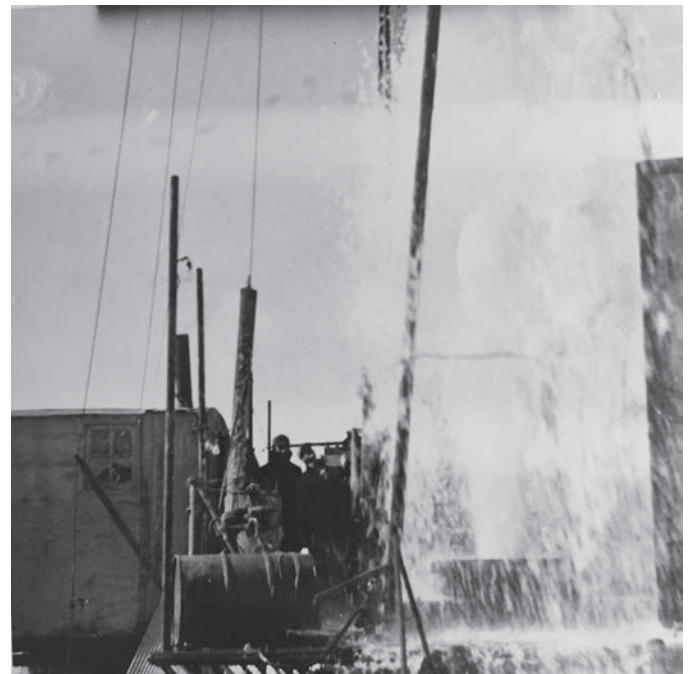


Sheep on Hamilton Ranch

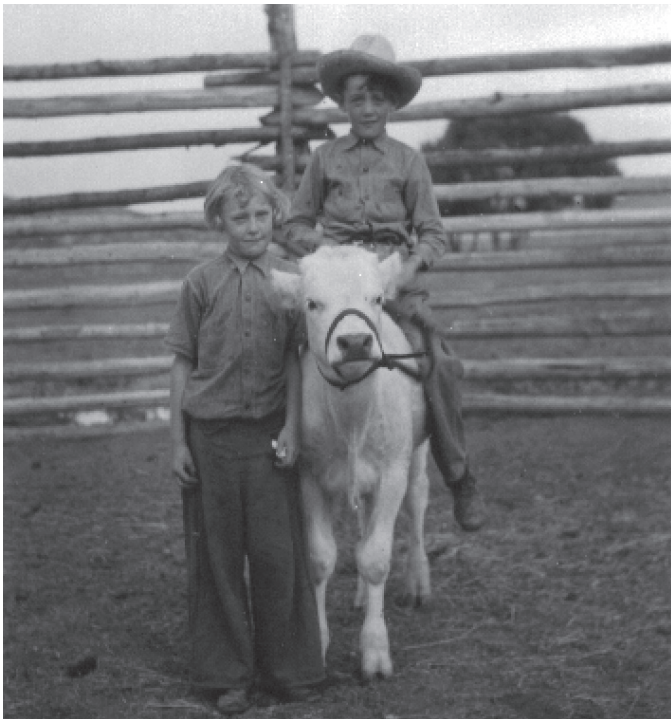


Log house – remodeled and later lived in by third and fourth generations. Still stands on property and is used for ranch employees.

Purchases included one homestead from Homer Carlson, one from Phil Carlson, one from Scott Lyman, and one from Amanda Asay. All were very desirable homesteads with good springs. In the early 1950s Ronald took out a Desert Land Entry on some lands that bordered the original property purchased from the Baldwin's.



Hitting water while doing exploratory oil drilling



Eleanor and Ron



Ron, Helen, Stan, and Eleanor, 1945



Eleanor's graduation from the Univeristy of Wyoming, June 4, 1951. Ron, Eleanor, Stanley, Margaret

Stan and Helen had two children, Ronald and Eleanor. Ron was born in Basin, Wyoming, on July 17, 1928 and Eleanor was also born in Basin on November 8, 1929 growing up on the ranch learning to care for livestock and farm. In 1939 and 1940 a new, modern Spanish style house was built on the ranch for Stan and Helen and the children.

Ron did not attend school until he was six when Helen moved to Basin in order for him to start school as a first grader. In November the teacher told Helen that Eleanor just as well be in school, too, with Ron and as a result they were in the same grade their entire school career. They returned to Hyattville after one year in Basin to attend the rest of their elementary school years. Both graduated from the Washakie County High School in Worland in 1947. Their mother, Helen, passed away from cancer during their sophomore year.

Both Ron and Eleanor attended the University of Wyoming. Ron returned to the ranch after one quarter of school as Stanley broke his neck in a truck wreck, and Harvey was in need of assistance on the ranch. Eleanor graduated from Laramie with a degree in history education in 1951. On August 31, 1951, she married Merle Hamilton at the ranch home. Merle graduated from the University of Wyoming with an agriculture degree after serving in the Navy.

Merle and Eleanor spent their early married life in Sanator, South Dakota where Merle was a dairy herdsman for the State of South Dakota Tuberculosis Sanitarium. They lived briefly in Newcastle, Wyoming, as well where Merle worked in the oil fields before having the opportunity to work for the Walters Ranch in June of 1952. Their sons, Keith and Kenneth were both born in Worland, Wyoming after they moved to the ranch. Merle and Eleanor ranched with Stan, Harvey, and Ronald.

Stan married Margaret Robinson in Billings in December of 1954. They built a new home in Basin where they lived until Stan died in 1964. Stan continued to be involved in the Walters Ranch and served in the Wyoming State Legislature for twelve years (1951-1963) serving in both the House and



Wheat Field at Walter's Ranch

the Senate. In 1961 Ron was tragically killed in a tractor accident on the ranch. Merle, Eleanor, and Harvey continued to operate the ranch after Stan's death. Merle and Eleanor purchased Harvey's interest in 1968 and four years later the name of the ranch was changed to Hamilton Ranch, Inc.

Reflecting on 100 years of ranching at the Walters/Hamilton Ranch one would observe that the land owned and operated by the last three generations has not changed significantly. Recently, Douglas and Michelle Hamilton, fifth generation owners, have purchased a farm near Worland which is leased by the Hamilton Ranch for winter feeding for some of the cattle. Some crops grown on the Worland farm, such as corn and hay, are utilized at the Hyattville headquarters and malt barley is being produced for Miller/Coors.

Education was a priority for the Walters family as far back as the 1800s and each generation since that time has realized the importance of receiving a good education. There is much pride in the fact that six University of Wyoming graduates are



House built by Walter's family

currently involved in the operation. Degrees vary from ag business, to history education, to office administration, and to pharmacy. As a result of these educational opportunities, each generation has the desire to move forward with new and better ways to achieve the ranching and farming goals.

The most major changes on this century-old ranch have been through the use of technology and equipment advances. The Hamilton Ranch has evolved from the horse drawn era into the

computer/GPS technology era. In the early 1900 era, the cattle, sheep and farming operations were primarily performed by the use of horses and horse drawn equipment. During the 1940s the horses were replaced with tractors and other motorized pickups, trucks, haying and combining equipment.

The Big Horn Basin area being a low moisture area, survival was dependent on good water rights and irrigation management. Due to these conditions, the Walter's Brothers envisioned the building of a medium-sized reservoir to aid in the watering of their crops. In 1934 the ranch crew began construction on the reservoir with the use of a team of horses, a fresno, and a caterpillar north of the headquarters on Bureau of Land Management lands to capture the spring runoff from Alkali Creek, a small stream with a beginning at the base of the Big Horn Mountains. Traditional flood irrigation techniques were applied to raise hay and even some wheat.

Stan and Harvey enjoyed keeping current on national and worldly affairs and were some of the first in the Hyattville area to have reliable television service. With the use of two towers installed on a hill east of the headquarters, stations from Billings and Casper were available since 1966 and were used until the late 70s when satellite dish use became available in the rural areas.

Along with owning and managing the ranch, Stan had a minor interest in the oil field business located in the Manderson area. In the late 40s a bit of oil exploration work took place on or near the ranch headquarters but the dream of oil never came to fruition. Probably more valuable than oil to the ranch, was obtaining reliable water sources instead when artesian water surfaced. Up until that time, drinking water had to be hauled. Water from the first artesian well was piped to the ranch houses. In 1956 the big artesian irrigating well, strategically located near the livestock facilities, came into being. On a very cold winter day water came gushing out of the ground and caught the driller and the landowners by surprise. This well has since been put to use to irrigate the lands on the lower end of the ranch. It serves as domestic water for one house and for livestock. The Hamilton's later drilled the

cement out of a well located on Bureau of Land Management land that was capped off by a drilling company when oil exploration was taking place in the area. This well has supplemented the reservoir storage water and been used for irrigation purposes.

As a result of the plentiful supply of water from both the reservoir and the artesian wells, the ranch was one of the first in the area to implement sprinkler irrigation technologies. Some flood irrigation was converted to side roll sprinklers and large, tractor moved boom systems in the 60s. In the 1970s and early 1980s those systems were mostly replaced with mechanically driven systems. The first pivot sprinkler was an air driven Kroy system which was later replaced with an electric Zimmatic sprinkler. Two other pivots were added to replace some flood irrigated lands and croplands that were serviced with the side roll system. The main crops over the years have been alfalfa, corn for silage, oats, feed barley, and an experimental year or two with Sudan grass. Today the ranch still uses ditch and gated pipe irrigation practices on some small, mostly grassy parcels.

In 1981, Keith and Linda implemented solar technology by building a passive solar home on a hill with southern exposure on the ranch headquarters. The only form of backup heat is a wood stove in the family room area located in the basement. Large, south facing windows help this family utilize the sun for heat during the winter months.

Technological advances in the sheep industry have been minimal over the years, but the Hamilton's built a docking cradle patterned after those used in Australia replacing the old traditional docking board which required someone to hold the lamb through the entire docking, ear marking, vaccinating, and branding processes. At the onset of the formation of the Mountain States Lamb Coop, the Hamilton Ranch purchased shares in that enterprise and has continued to provide fat lambs each year to that slaughter facility. In order to find qualified sheep employees, the ranch has employed Peruvians through the Federal H2-A program for herding and lambing purposes.



Use of docking cradle instead of traditional docking board

With the rapid evolution of technology, the fifth and sixth generations are looking for a bright future using the latest technologies. GPS control units have been added to two of the farming tractors, two pivots at the Worland farm can be run from a cell phone or computer, cattle are pregnancy checked using ultra sound techniques and much of the business is conducted via cell phones and through the use of computers and the internet. A new soil mapping technology, Smart Farm, is being implemented that will allow detailed analysis of the soils to provide data that aids in the management of smaller areas within fields. Different types of fertilizers and variable amounts of nutrients can now be applied based on site specific areas.



Solar House Keith and Linda, 1982

As with all rural families, there were many events that transpired through the years, most of which never were documented or photographed. Being able to hear or read about the early stories of success and the struggles of hardship, would undoubtedly make everyone better appreciate the great foundation that was laid a century ago.



100 Year Celebration with three generations



Sen. John Barrasso, Rep. Cynthia Lummis, Hamilton Family, and Sen. Mike Enzi

The Alvy Dixon Ranch, 1888

LeBeau Family Limited Partnership, Carbon County

It was 1888. Two years' search was over. The Marshall and Margaret C. Dixon family had found the place to begin their ranch: upper Rock Creek Valley in Carbon County, Wyoming Territory. Marshall filed on 160 acres which became part of the Brokaw Ranch. Sons Alvy and Joe filed on adjoining 160-acre tracts in the north half of Section 10-19-78, about two miles southwest of present-day McFadden. Today these lands are owned by the LeBeau Family Limited Partnership.

The Dixons had been grocery store owners and farmers near Carthage, Missouri. After an earlier four-year stay in the West, they were no longer satisfied with farming; their future lay in ranching. Selling their farm and tying a milk cow behind the wagon, the family emigrated west. Alvy, born November 15, 1863, was the second of their four children. The others were Ivora Dixon Martin, Joseph F. Dixon, and Anna Dixon McCormick.

Money was scarce, and the men had to work at other jobs while improving their lands. Alvy and Joe freighted from old Rock Creek to Fort Fetterman (near Douglas) and Fort McKinney (near Buffalo). Seventeen days were required to make the trip with teams of horses. He had 46 head of horses to use in his freight business. The same trip with oxen was made twice during the summer.

Alvy often worked for wages on the nearby Currier and Diamond ranches and on tie drives on the Medicine Bow River. Shortly after homesteading, he joined the original government survey party in the Snowy Range. Later, he delivered mail from Rockdale (now Arlington) to Lookout. During the winters temperatures were cold enough to freeze his mustache to his face. He drove a team when the weather permitted and went on horseback when storms made travel difficult.

Almost eight years after homesteading Alvy returned to Missouri and on April 19, 1896,



Alvy and Minnie Elting Dixon, Wedding Day, April 19, 1896

married a friend and schoolmate Minnie Ann Elting (December 15, 1867 – August 27, 1915). Five children were born to them in the family log home near the banks of Rock Creek that Alvy had built while “proving up” his homestead: Edith Brokaw (January 19, 1897 – July 21, 1990), Lloyd Dixon (February 15, 1898 – October 4, 1988), Charlotte Rosenlieb (July 5, 1901 – December 29, 1992), Margaret LeBeau (October 2, 1903 – October 20, 1999) and Alpha May (November 24, 1904 – November 1905).

Like many homesteaders, Alvy was not planning just for himself but for the future. He would need more land to increase his cattle herd. John Cullom, who had become discouraged with ranching on

his 1888 homestead, sold it to Alvy in 1897 and moved to California. Joe sold his to Alvy in 1898. Alvy purchased other homesteads. Ownerships may change, but their names remain part of the area's vocabulary. We speak of the Fleck ditch and headgate, remodeling the Hampton house, checking bulls in the Cullom, calving in the Joe, and seeing cattle by the Frye place or on Hixson hill.

Larger tracts were purchased by Alvy and his children from the Harrison and Cooper estate, Bosler's Diamond Cattle Company, and Keystone Cattle Company of Pennsylvania (known as the Murray) until they owned much of the land in the township when he died November 27, 1944. That June, Alvy and Lloyd and Sue Dixon had purchased over a township for summer pasture in northern Albany County from the Swan Land and Cattle Company when it was liquidating. Following Alvy's death, the Murray and Swan Lands were sold and the remainder divided among his four children and second wife Bertie Abigail (who used the name Rosemary) Pitcher Dixon. Alvy and Rosemary were married December 16, 1924, at the Connor Hotel in Laramie.

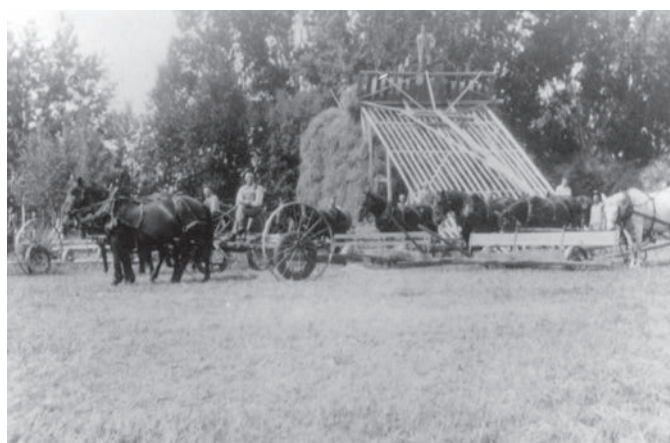
Alvy was deeply interested in his ranch sparing neither work nor expense in its improvement. Ditches, headgates, fences, hay pens, and buildings he constructed stand as a reminder of his industry and ability. A hired man once remarked, "I don't even know the color or what's Alvy's house looks like outside. We leave for work before it's daylight and return after dark."

Although he used it on both sides of cattle, Alvy's brand was 2X for the left rib of cattle and left thigh of horses. Square metal ear tags were used in each ear. Alvy's V2 brand for the right hip of both cattle and horses came with the purchase of the Hixson homestead in 1929. No ear tags or ear marks were registered to this brand.

According to his grandson Gerald, Alvy tagged each calf with a square metal tag measuring one inch on each side fastened to the top of each ear with a hog ring. Metal from tin cans was cut by people on the ranch into one inch strips, these strips then being cut into 1 ¼ inch length pieces. The ¼ inch additional



2X Ranch feed team late, 1930s



Beaver slide and push pole, 2 dump rakes, 2 sweeps using horses to stack hay prior to 1940

length was folded back to give the tag a reinforced edge. To finish the tag, a hole was punched through this folded edge with a punch or nail.

The 2X brand used by Alvy on the home ranch passed to Margaret and was used by A.H. LeBeau & Sons in their Wyoming operations. The Colorado brand was quarter circle 2X. The ear mark for both states was a notch in the bottom of the right ear. Efforts to purchase the Colorado 2X were unsuccessful. The V2 brand passed to Charlotte Rosenlieb, then to Howard Brokaw, and is presently owned by Albert and Marilyn Rosenlieb. Holly Beumee now owns the 2X brand.

Alvy had little formal education, but he read widely and was interested in current events. Believing in the importance of education, he was instrumental in establishing the community's first school in 1895. The building in Section 16-19-78 is now owned by the Brokaw Family. The ranchers cooperated in



2X Home Ranch about 1939: meat house, wood shed, bunkhouse, main house, cellar, buggy shed, horse barn. All were built by Alvy Dixon.

hauling logs from the mountains and in providing other necessary materials. The first pupils enrolled in 1896. All of Alvy's children received their eight years of elementary schooling within its walls as did Ross King. "Sometimes the Hixsons would appear for a while and maybe five or six of the Guytons. Dad, as a school board member, often visited with their parents to discuss longer and more regular attendance," remembered Edith Brokaw. The little one-room school was used until 1915.

For their high school education the Dixon children moved to Laramie and lived with their aunt Anna McCormick while attending Laramie High School. Margaret and Charlotte went on to graduate from the University of Wyoming with the Class of 1923.

In 1917 oil was discovered below the hill of what-came-to-be the McFadden campsite. November 1919 saw the Alvy Dixon Well No. 1 completed on the former Cullom homestead. Ten more wells have been drilled since, two of which continue to produce. Nearby a gasoline plant was constructed in 1920. The finding of oil was profitable to Alvy, but

his pride and interest remained in his family, ranch, and livestock.

Alvy believed he had the choicest part of Rock Creek Valley. There was plenty of water for spring irrigation. He built up a herd of 800 head of Hereford cattle by really putting hay out for them during the winter until green grass came in the spring. It was often said that Alvy's cattle resembled a beef herd rather than bunch of brood cows because they were in such good flesh. Alvy tried sheep for a few years, but a bad winter in 1907 scattered them all over the country, and he gave up raising them.

Margaret Dixon and Arch H. LeBeau (May 8, 1900 – January 26, 1962) were married March 28, 1926, in her sister Charlotte's home in McFadden. Arch worked for oil companies for a few years prior to moving to the Dixon ranch. Two sons were born to them: Lawrence Alvin (August 13, 1928 – July 16, 1997) and Gerald Richard (May 18, 1932 -). The family lived in Alvy's log home and worked for him.



Branding in Sec. 34, T19N, R78W: Lawrence LeBeau, on horse "Bobby;" Gerald LeBeau, rope across neck; Howard Brokaw, head of calf; Alvy Dixon, main figure in hat



Alvy Dixon log house on 2X Ranch



Arch LeBeau on tractor mower, Nathan Kohler (hired man) and unknown on horse drawn hay mowers

For almost ten years following Alvy's death and settling the estate, few cattle were on LeBeau lands. Hay was cut, baled, and sold. All of this changed at the end of 1953 when Lawrence quit his engineering job at Boeing in Seattle, returned to the ranch, and began serious ranching with his father. When Gerald joined them in 1958 after his college graduation, military service, and job on the J.W. Ringsby Ranch, more expansion in cattle numbers and land occurred, and A.H. LeBeau & Sons began.

Even though the LeBeaus immediately purchased 250 pairs from the Buffalo area and began trucking them to the home ranch, these weren't nearly enough cattle to fill the Wheatland Irrigation Ranch that they had just leased. For five years, pasture cattle were secured for winter feeding or summer grazing while the LeBeaus built up their own cattle numbers.

"We don't run a picturesque outfit by any means," Gerald told one interviewer. "We operate just everywhere. We don't fit the picture book like people like to think about good, solid ranchers. Most of our 33,000 acres is leased. Cattle run on our deeded lands plus adjoining ranches and the Maddock Ranch near Herrick Lane."

Two day cattle drives each fall and spring moved cattle between the home ranch and leased pastures. One drive of cows and calves for summer pasture on the Palm Ranch at the base of Elk Mountain remains in Maxine's memory. "I was a passenger in the cab of the pickup—along to serve lunch. The pickup box began filling up with straggling calves. The lunch box was moved to the cab as were the heavy coats, chaps, and a dog. Something—or someone—had to leave to make room for the next calf...and that was Maxine, who was left at the Wagonhound Interchange until the day's drive was completed."

"Once efficient methods almost became our downfall," Lawrence recalled. "To raise as much hay as possible on the home ranch, we decided to clear about 100 acres of brush, level the land, and then re-seed it. On October 30, 1968, we set fire to what we thought was a small contained area. A breeze came up. The end result was a five-year



900 head of black cows on cattle drive from the Maddock Ranch in March 1987



Albany County Cow-Belles recognized local Wyoming Centennial ranches. Steve and Holly (LeBeau) Beumee, 1990 Cow-belle queen honoree Mrs. Helen Farver (Adella's mother), Adella and Lawrence LeBeau, Maxine and Gerald LeBeau, December 1990



Feeding 2X cows in "The Joe" in Spring of 1994

plan completed in one day. The next week a sign appeared at the ranch house reading, 'Smokey's friends don't play with matches'." Thereafter, that piece of land has been called "The Burn."

Initially, A.H. LeBeau & Sons marketed only calves in the fall of the year. Changes in the marketplace necessitated a different approach to marketing. This, coupled with the geographic and weather conditions, prompted the corporation to purchase a farm near Greeley, Colorado in 1980 and build feedlots. The farm and accompanying feedlots were sold in 1994. Marketing options were increased from a single, locked-in time frame into a more flexible situation in which cattle could be marketed at any time from weaning calves through to the fully-finished animals coming out of the feedlots.

Dennis Page, a former local ranch manager, joined A.H. LeBeau & Sons and became manager of the 300-acre farm. Here he, his wife Leslie, and family of T.C., Travis, and Tracy calved heifers, raised the ranch's Limousin-Angus bulls, backgrounded all returning grass cattle, and finished cattle for sale to the packer.

All three men graduated from the University of Wyoming: Lawrence (1950) in engineering, Gerald (1954) and Dennis (1971) in animal husbandry. Each oversaw a different operation of the business. Lawrence designed and built several unique pieces of equipment: a power post hole digger, a hydraulic hay feeder-stacker, rakes, sweeps, and other projects too numerous to describe. Water, the lifeblood of ranching, also fell under his management. Gerald oversaw the cattle herd, acquired leased property, and maintained fencing. Dennis carried out the growing of crops, feeding, and breeding programs on the farm.

Diversification played a major role in the success of A.H. LeBeau & Sons. Due to the cyclical nature of the cattle business, it became necessary to seek other avenues to enhance cash flow during the low end of the cattle price cycles. Given the ever increasing volatility and duration of these events, actual expansion and acquisition of assets would have been much slower, if not impossible, without a different mode of business unrelated to

animal agriculture. The earth moving business was flourishing at the time. So in January 1976 the corporation purchased a Terex TTS-14 earth mover and created the subsidiary business LeBeau and Sons Construction, LLC, which lasted through 1997. Over the years this entity was instrumental in the success that A.H. LeBeau & Sons enjoyed. Lawrence directed and managed all of this subsidiary.

Another contributing factor to the eventual success of A.H. LeBeau & Sons was long-term financial planning beginning in 1981 with pension plans and insurance coverage for all long term employees of the corporation. These pension programs eventually led to the establishment of a Defined Benefit Program in 1990. Over time this allowed distribution of assets from the corporation to the shareholders which set the stage for Gerald's and Lawrence's retirements in 1994 and the establishment of Page Cattle Company (Dennis, Les, T.C., and Jennifer Page), who leased the ranch.

On May 16, 1997, Gerald and Lawrence established the LeBeau Family Limited Partnership for the sole purpose of passing the lands onto future generations carrying the LeBeau bloodline. The lands are presently (2015) leased.

Three generation of LeBeau family members have lived on the LeBeau Ranch beginning with Margaret and Arch LeBeau and their sons in the original log home built by Alvy. Following Arch's death in 1962, Margaret continued living there until 1975 when she moved into a one-story brick home constructed on the site where the log home once stood. Since 1989 and until her death on October 20, 1999, she lived in Laramie for nursing care. Dennis and Les Page occupied Margaret's home until Dennis's death in 2001 and Leslie sold their interest in Page Cattle Company to son T.C. Page and his wife Jennifer in 2001. Since March 2015 the ranch lands have been leased to neighbors, the Sims Ranch.

Lawrence and his wife, the former Isabel McClarren of Ohio, whom he married in 1950, divorced in 1969, lived in a home on the Cullom with their two daughters Julie Marlene (1954 -) and Holly Anne (1956 -). In 1972 Lawrence and Adella (Farver) Kendall, formerly of Laramie, married and lived in the Cullom house until they had their two-story home built in 1975. Adella lived there during the summers after Lawrence's death in 1997, sold the house in 1999, and left the ranch for homes in Laramie and Oro Valley, Arizona. She died January 12, 2007. The Cullom house was razed in the mid-1980s.

Julie is married to Terry McCarty and with their daughter Katy live in Bethpage, Tennessee. Her older sons Jamie Hardesty with his wife Ann and son Jace and Jared Hardesty with his wife Natalie and their daughter Olivia Ann live in Wyarno, Wyoming.

Holly married Stephen Beumee on December 10, 1983, following the death of her first husband Steven Olivas in a 1982 Hanna coal mining disaster. They have remodeled and enlarged her grandmother's house on the ranch. Her son Andrew Olivas and ex-wife the former Melissa Cantlin share custody of their sons Steven and Landon Olivas residing in Laramie and Great Falls, Montana. Holly's daughter Emily, husband Guy William (Billy) Warpness, and their sons Taten and Trace live in Laramie.

Gerald married Maxine Softky of Seattle in 1957, lived in various homes near McFadden while he worked on the ranch, and she taught at McFadden School for twenty-seven years before retiring in 1984. They moved into their brick home on the ranch in 1970. Gerald remains active on the ranch making permanent improvements and helping neighbors while Maxine substitute teaches in Rock River—this being her sixty-second year in education.

Compiled and updated by Maxine LeBeau, March 2015. Photos provided by Holly Beumee, March 2015.



Rep. Cynthia Lummis, Sen. John Barrasso, Maxine & Gerald LeBeau, and Sen. Mike Enzi

The Lorenz Ranch, 1915

Herb & Shirley Lorenz, Dr. Phil Lorenz, and Cheryl Bailey Families, Laramie County

As told by Shirley Lorenz.

The history of the Lorenz Ranch not only has to do with the land, but the people that made it happen. They had a vision of owning their own land and being free to work it in their own way. Philip Herbert Lorenz was born in Russia from German stock who immigrated there following a manifesto declared by Catherine the Great in 1762, inviting Western Europeans to settle the land. Life was very hard there, but the German people prospered. They built their villages, homes, and their farms. After 100 years the Russian Government began taking over the land and inducting the German people into the military to fight their wars. Famine and terrible conditions followed, and many began immigrating to other counties.

P. H. (age 23) and Margaretha Lorenz (age 26) and their son, Daniel, (9 months) arrived in America on November 8, 1888. They settled on a homestead in the Beebe Draw area near Platteville, Colorado. They lived in a sod house and established the farms which eventually totaled 1000 acres. On September 16, 1915, P. H. bought approximately 20 sections of ranch land from William Lannen for \$99,844.08 northwest of Cheyenne, Wyoming. He formed the Lorenz Livestock Company and with his sons began to build his empire. He had his sons, Fred and Abe, homestead the land around springs and bought out other homesteaders that were unable to survive. Eventually the ranch totaled 75,000 acres.

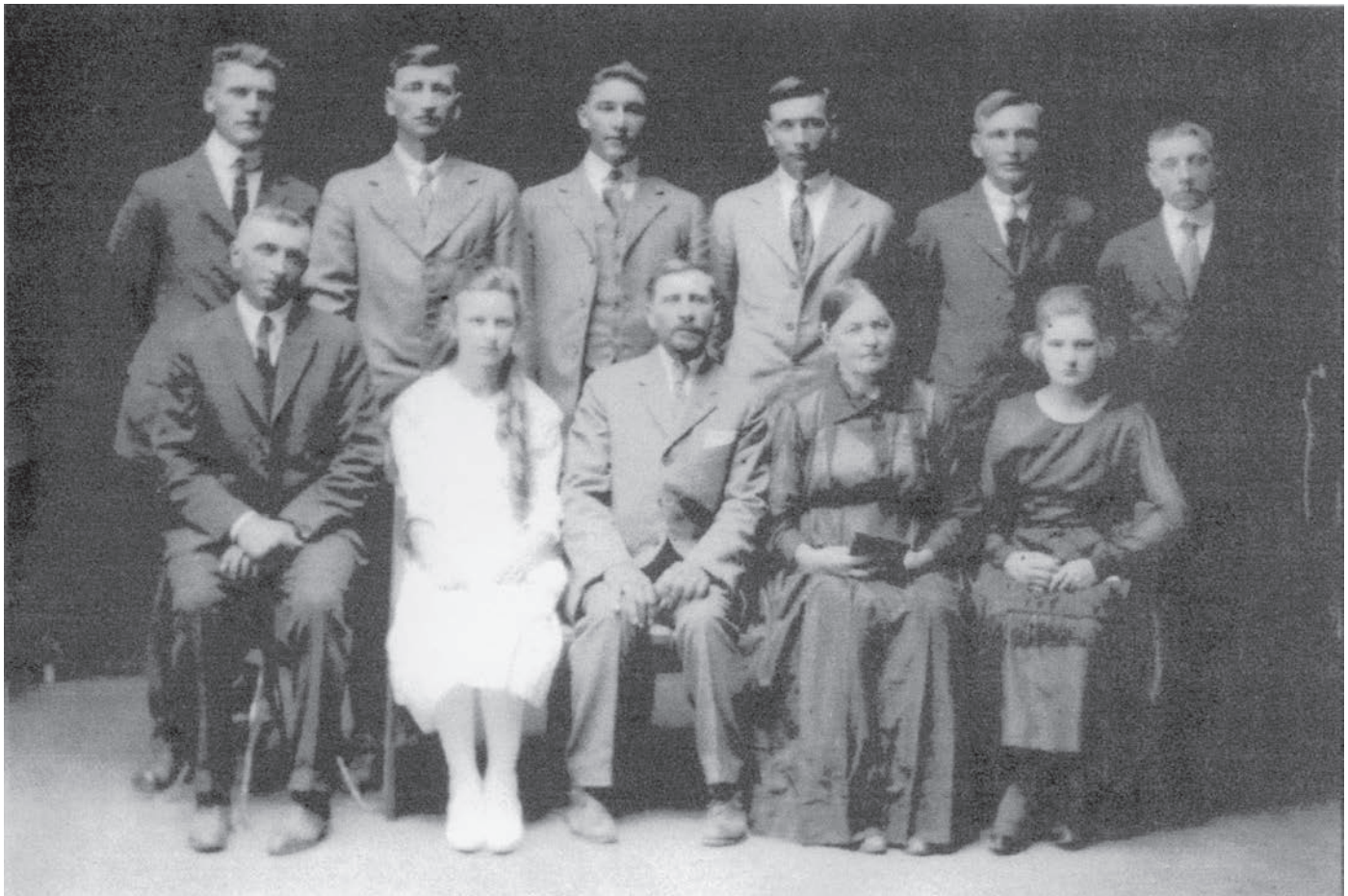
P. H. built a cattle herd of Hereford cattle. They shipped some of them to market at Kansas City on trains where there was a huge stockyard. Some were fed out at one of the farms at Gilcrest, Colorado. The neighboring ranch, Fergusons, brought in cattle from Europe. They were Angus. These black cows udders did not sunburn in the spring snow, which was a big problem with the Hereford cows, because then they would not let their calves nurse. P. H. then switched to the Angus breed. He also raised



Philip Herbert Lorenz



House Federal WYO, 1915



Back Row: Chris, Dan, Abe, Fred, John and Dave. Front Row: Philip, Esther, P.H., Marguerite and daughter Marguerite. Taken August 1919, the day sister Kathryn was buried.

lots of horses for the U. S. Cavalry at Cheyenne. He imported a Thoroughbred Stallion from England and crossed him with mustang mares for speed and endurance. They broke over 100 head a year and sold them as good cavalry mounts. All the meadows were irrigated by ditches built with slips pulled by horse teams. The meadow hay was cut, raked, and stacked with horse and man power. The hay was stacked like bread loaves, with a sloped roof type top to let the rain run off and seal the stack. The hay would keep for years when not needed.

The blizzard of 1949 was a disaster to many cattlemen and ranches. It snowed for four days with high winds, covering herds of livestock that were huddled in fence corners, smothering them. Most of the Lorenz cattle were on the home place just west of Federal, Wyoming. Several of the ranch hands were missing, so Herb, P. H.'s grandson, saddled his biggest, strongest horse, Rocket, and went to

look for them. He found the stuck vehicle but not the men. They had taken refuge in a boxcar parked on the railroad tracks at the Isley siding. Herb started finding cattle bunched in fenced corners being covered by the huge drifts. He cut fences and drifted with the cattle. Each corner they came to had more cattle and he continued to cut and drift as the herd kept getting larger. Many hours later, Herb and Rocket, got to Cheyenne with a huge herd of everyone's cattle. He rode to the Firestone service station and his friend, John Lamberis, opened his garage to stable a very cold exhausted horse and rider. The cattle had shelter in town at the stockyards and most survived the blizzard. Most of the ranchers lost from 80% to 90% of their herds.

When P.H. died in 1948, the ranch was divided between Abe and Chris Lorenz. Later, Chris sold his part to Courtney Davis. He named it the "Y Cross Ranch". When he died, it was then bequeathed to the University Of Wyoming and Colorado State



Horse Barn with saddles ready to go



Haying



Horse Corral and Barn



House, 1930



Heading out to work Cattle. The Lorenz Crew of Art, Freddie, Jr., Fred and Baby Herb, Unknown, Slim Patzer, Ralph, 1937

University as a teaching ranch. Abe continued ranching on the 25,000 acres left which was the home place, with his two sons, Herb and Art. Herb left the ranch in 1957 to move to the Greeley farm and dairy. When Abe died in 1975 Herb took over the ranch and it is still in the family today.

The ranch was leased for many years as Herb was busy with many other of his businesses. It has always been a cow/calf operation. In 2009, after finally sort of retiring, Herb and Shirley began living at the ranch in the summertime. The ranch needed a lot fixing and some loving care after years of neglect. Herb loved running his new backhoe and began putting in new culverts, fixing dams, tearing out brush and beaver dams, tearing down old buildings and old fences. Shirley was the cleanup crew hauling old equipment and anything else metal to Anderson's recycling plant in Greeley. For three summers, Herb loaded and Shirley hauled junk. It was well worth it because it brought \$27,000.00 and the ranch now looks beautiful. The massive trees growing into the house were trimmed and some had to be removed. The houses were reroofed, got new siding and new windows. The kitchen and bathroom were remodeled. The horse barn was rebuilt as was the springhouse. The lawns were reworked and four banks of windbreak trees planted. All of the outbuildings were painted. A new steel shop was built. Five miles of new fences have been built and miles repaired. New branding and shipping corrals were built.

It has been seven summers now and we are still not finished, but on a farm or ranch the work is never done. But we love doing it as long as we are able and we look forward to each Spring. There is nothing like new green grass and new calves.

Herb and Shirley love the ranch and hope it will be in the family for another 100 years. It is God's gift to all that take the time to see His wonders. There is no better place than from the mountain on the Lorenz Ranch.



Herb on Mike, Art on Harry, Kathryn (Mom)



Herb on Snaz, Shirley on Dashette



Overview of Ranch



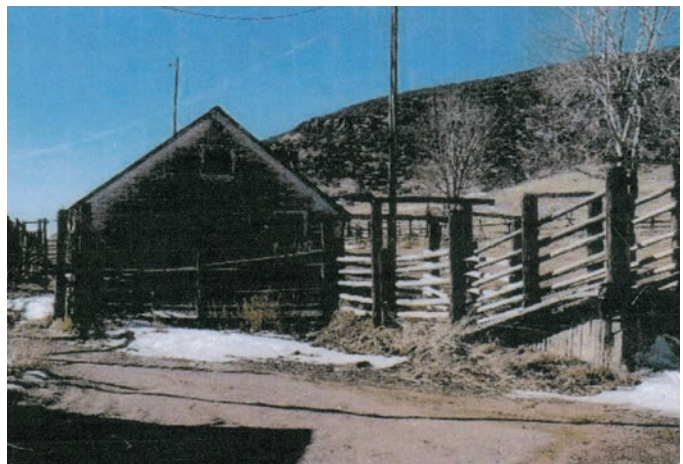
Log Cabin



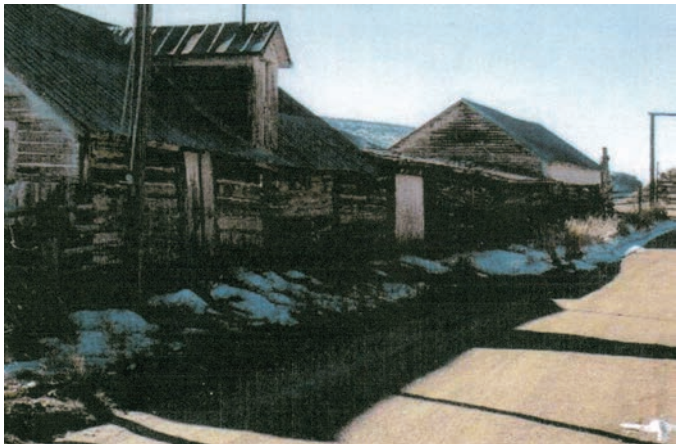
Springhouse



The Castle



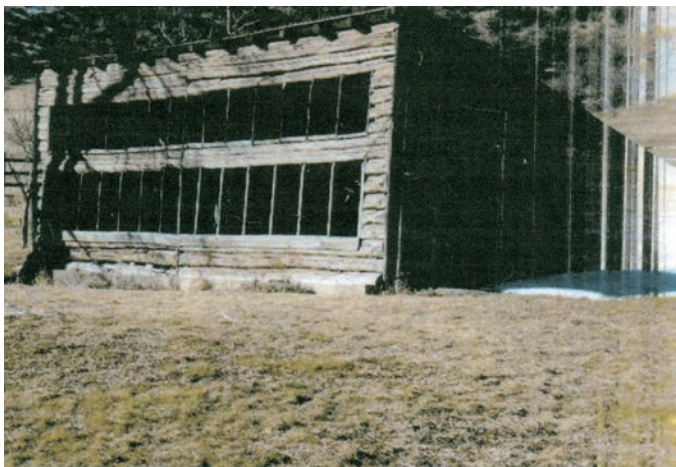
Loading Chute



Cow Barn



Machine Shop



Chicken House



Round Horse Breaking Corral



Bunkhouse



Babysitter, 2011



Sen. John Barrasso, Lorenz and Bailey Families, Rep. Cynthia Lummis, and Sen. Mike Enzi

The Panno Ranch, 1904

Jean Panno Moore Family, Niobrara County

Joe (Guisseppa) Panno was an adventurer in that he came to this country from Sicily when only 12 years old. He stowed away on a ship bound for New Orleans where he knew an uncle lived. When the ship arrived in New Orleans, Joe found out the captain was going to ship him back to Sicily. So he ran away from the ship and tried to find his uncle. Little did he know that the uncle had passed away, so he was homeless. A policeman found him and took him to an Italian family. They agreed to keep him but he would have to pay them board and room. He went to work as a water boy on the railroad so he could pay them.

“Go west young man, go west” and that was exactly what Joe Panno did. He worked on the railroad in various positions heading west all the time. He kept moving until he got to Chicago where he had some relatives. It was here that he met and married his first wife. It’s sad to say that Joe lost his wife and child in childbirth. He kept working for the railroad and moving westward, as a result he was sent to Casper, Wyoming where he heard about the Homestead Act. He applied in 1904 and was awarded 160 acres. He added another 160 acres when he bought out a neighbor, giving him a total of 320 Acres.

Joe had a log cabin as his house and in 1919 decided to build a new home. It was finished when lightning hit it and it burned to the ground in May 1920.

In 1920, after living in this country for more than twenty years, he decided to visit his father in Sicily for Christmas, at the age of 38. While there, he met and married Connie (Concattina) Raia, who was 17 years old and had always wanted to come to the United States. They left Italy in 1921 on board the “Patria”. Because Joe was a naturalized citizen, Connie was also.

They finished the log cabin on the inside by plastering the walls and adding linoleum on the



Joe Panno



Joe and Connie Panno, 1923.



Jean Panno



Joe, Jean and Connie at Lusk house

floor. Connie had a hard time living on the farm at first. She had to learn to cook, do laundry and keep house. She also had to learn English and how to manage the farm animals, garden, etc. All the neighbors helped her, but Mrs. Henry Amend, Mrs. Fred Runscr, and Mrs. Ben Johnson did the most. Connie became a very good cook and kept an immaculate house.

In 1924, Connie had an accident when she was going home from Keeline and the horse stumbled

and threw Connie out of the cart. She was caught in the triangle of the cart and drug for several miles. As a result of this, she lost the baby she was carrying. After Connie's accident, Joe decided to sell everything but the land. He always said, "There is only so much land and you cannot make any more." So all the animals and equipment were sold. They put the money in the bank and felt that a new chapter in their lives was starting. Little did they know that they would lose everything. The Depression hit and took the money from the farm sales, but Connie had also deposited some money she had received from Italy.

A little side note to the above, Connie had received some vouchers from Italy. She wanted to go into Lusk and cash them. Joe agreed and told her exactly what to do and where to stay. She planned on being there 2 -3 days and followed his directions and took the train to Lusk. She got off the train and walked past the depot, crossed the street, and went to the first hotel. Well, they refused her, in fact they would not let her in. She left crying and thinking that this was due to her accent and not speaking English well. Along came the sheriff Frank W. DeCastro, who could speak enough Portuguese so she could understand what had just happened. Joe had forgotten about the fact that there were two hotels on the hill; one a brothel, the Yellow Hotel, and the Silver Cliff hotel. She did get to make her deposit and do her shopping. However, she too lost all of it when the banks closed. They actually had \$1.19 in their pockets.

Joe was able to find work in Riverton working on the dam. He was earning \$0.50 an hour. As soon as she could, Connie followed him. She cooked for Joe and his boss. While there, there was an accident at the dam and several workers were hurt. There wasn't a doctor available; the closest one was 65 miles away. Joe told his boss that Connie had been in nurses training when they were married. Connie was then hired to take care of the men.

While there a group of Indians came and wanted the medicine woman. Connie knew fear then but in a different sense than the fear she had when they would go past her window. An Indian mother with an infant in her outstretched arms was seeking help for her sick child. Realizing the infant needed help,



Connie on 75th birthday

Connie took the baby, bathed it and doctored for an infected ear. She was really watched by the Indians. She wanted to keep the baby overnight and with help from a worker, finally communicated this to the mother. The Indians left but did not go far and early the next morning they came and got the baby. Because of this, Joe felt they had to return to the Keeline area.

They took out a loan and bought a new home in Manville. This was about in the early 1900s. Joe went back to work on the Chicago and Northwestern Railroad and continued working for them until he retired in 1948. It was to this house that they took their only child, Josephine Jean in 1934. They took in boarders and did various jobs so that they could keep the house. Joe made many trips out to the farm to check the crops (hay and wheat) and his tagalong daughter loved to go with him, so she could play with the rabbits and any animal she found. He leased the land for 1/3 of the yield. They moved to Lusk in 1949 and bought their first business: Bud's hamburgers. Then in 1951, Connie bought her first flower shop, from Bessie Pfeifer. In order to be competitive, Connie enrolled and graduated from the Colorado School of Floral Design. Connie and Joe had several businesses, but the floral one was the one Connie felt better about. They always took a great deal of pride and tried to please their customers. They both had an Italian brogue, but Connie's was more pronounced.

Their love of flowers was the key that opened many



Stanley and Jean

doors for them to service their customers. Their Italian brogue was delightful and added charm to their business. Connie's greatest joy was servicing her daughter's wedding to Stanley Moore and walking her down the aisle in 1964, Joe having passed away in March of 1958. No business person took more pride in their community and its people. They were patriotic through and through. They believed that this country was the greatest.

They had taught their daughter to give back to her community and country. She did give back by teaching four years in Wyoming and 31 years in California. Stanley and Jean had moved to California in 1964 and lived there most of their married lives. Stanley worked for Chevron Research Company for 30 years and Jean taught at La Habra High school for 28 years. They were very active in their community, chaperoning high school activities and volunteering their time for other community events.

They also followed the Panno family example of land ownership by purchasing a grove in La Habra Heights in 1975.



Sen. John Barrasso, Panno Moore Family, Rep. Cynthia Lummis, and Sen. Mike Enzi

Connie Panno had kept the land in Wyoming in production by leasing it to various farmers and ranchers until her death in October of 1979. At this time, Jean and Stanley took over leasing the land. They were farmers, after all. In 1992, when Jean and Stanley retired, they decided to make the grove a producing one. It was a bit different from the dry land farming Jean knew from her childhood. The grove, with its citrus fruits, macadamia nuts, and four varieties of avocados, required irrigation farming. They invested in a drip system to save water and also fertilize at the same time. They were the first ones in the area to use this efficient system and were proud to serve as an example to others. To this day they continue to maintain the grove in California and the farm in Wyoming.

We are most proud of Joe and Connie not only for their accomplishments, but also for their patriotism and open love of their state and country. God has truly blessed this family.



Stanley in the grove.

The Purcell Ranch, 1885

The Linda Purcell Family, Uinta County



Marialaky Ranch overview

As told by Tim & Linda Purcell

Michael Marialaky was the son of Michael and Julia Neneclky Marialaky. He was born in Budapest, Hungary on June 22, 1853. He was one of a family of fifteen boys and one girl. Michael was descendant heir of noble ancestry. The noble family has been entitled to bear arms since 1631, having a distinguished record in the books of heraldry. The family reportedly was very wealthy and the children were raised in ease.

In 1873 at age nineteen, he left Hungary for America. He located in Carlstadt, New Jersey and engaged in agriculture for a time and then proceeded to Utica, New York. He worked there on a farm for a few months. His ambition was to

go west where opportunities were greater and his changes for success were not so circumscribed. He came further west to Cheyenne. Michael was fascinated with the life of a cowboy and enjoyed this life on the plains. He continued this life in Uinta county for two years.

In 1885, Michael took up 160 acres of government land in Wyoming. He added to his estate until it comprised 280 acres. He was considered to be the first homesteader in the Hilliard area.

In Wyoming, Michael found Indians prevalent. The Indians would come to the ranch and borrow food and other items, but they always returned it.

Michael worked to improve on his homestead. He



Michael and Emelia Marialaky wedding photo



Edna Coleman Slagowski on calf, Viola Coleman, 1941.





Viola Marialaky Coleman, 1948



Viola Marialaky Coleman, 1948

worked for three years building a cabin, grubbing sagebrush, and building fences.

In 1889, Michael married Emelia Fabry. They had five children. My grandmother, Viola Marialaky, stayed on the ranch and married Howard Coleman on the October 26, 1929. They had one child, Edna Coleman, who was born September 7, 1931. Howard passed away on March 8, 1965. Viola remained on the ranch until her death in 1990. My mother and father, Eugene and Edna Slagowski, owned and ran the ranch until their deaths in 2011 and 2012. My husband and I have lived on the ranch since 1996. We have two children and four grandchildren. We are located 20 miles south of Evanston. We have a beautiful place and love living here. We raise beef and raise wild hay.



January, 1952



April 1, 1952



April, 1952



Old homestead house, Viola Coleman and sister Delila, 1963





Sen. John Barrasso, Purcell Family, Rep. Cynthia Lummis, and Sen. Mike Enzi

The Ralph Platt Ranch, 1886

Ron and Mayvon Platt Family, Carbon County



Sen. John Barrasso, Platt Family, Rep. Cynthia Lummis, and Sen. Mike Enzi

The Robinson Ranch, 1915

Dorothy Robinson Butler and Jay L. Butler Families, Converse County

Reprinted with permission from the Douglas Budget, Aug, 12, 2015.

At the turn of the 20th century, ranching was the challenge of a lifetime.

It was an opportunity to tame the West, reside atop the prairie while working hard to feed, clothe and live in a country where dangers were around every turn in the dusty road.

Between cold winters, inadequate water supply and outlaws, the risk was life and death for the early Converse County homesteaders. Now, times have changed and opportunity in ranching is no longer what it once was, but ranching as a lifestyle will never go away so long as there is land to graze and people who need to be fed.

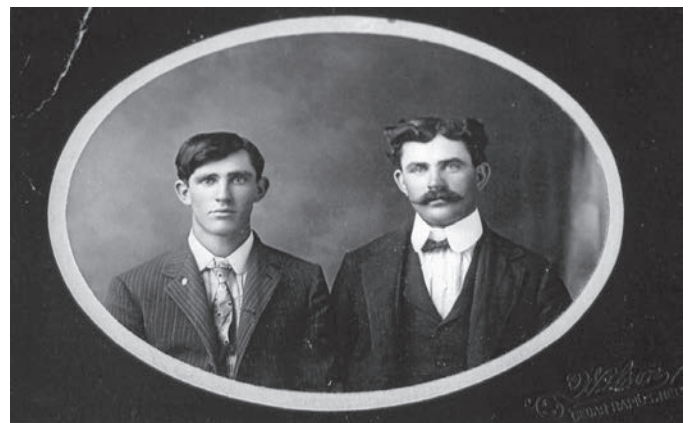
That is just what the Robinson Ranch of Converse County has been doing for 100 years.

Wyoming has just been a state for 25 years when Tom and Nettie Robinson decided to leave Nebraska and head west in 1915. Tom left for Colorado, and then sent for Nettie to join him. Nettie came on the train with their three children, Helen, 6 Tom Jr. who was a toddler and Merle, who was a baby.

Tom Sr. met them in April at the Nebraska-Colorado border with a covered wagon, a team of horses and a milk cow. They traveled for several months, gradually making their way north toward Wyoming. Later, Tom said that Nettie was getting a little “cranky,” so they needed to find a place to stay before winter. Tom Sr. found work on a ranch near Glenrock. As part of his salary, he was given a saddle horse. Tom went off looking for homestead land. He rode his horse 15 miles north of Douglas and decided that he wanted to spend the rest of his life on this land. He filed the papers on his new land and immediately started building a little three



Robinson Family



Tom Robinson Sr. (right) and his younger brother, Bill Robinson

room house for his family.

Many other homesteaders were also moving into the area. Tom soon realized that this land was not



Original Robinson Homestead House built in 1915



Tom and Helen Robinson



Helen, Merle and Tom Robinson



Helen Robinson and Merle Robinson

like Nebraska, Kansas or other places where the homesteaders had lived. Wyoming did not receive enough rain to grow crops, which led Tom to acquire a well drilling rig. He started drilling water wells to make a living.

Tom also decided to raise sheep instead of trying to farm the land. As his neighbors became discouraged and decided to sell their homestead farms, Tom would buy their land.

The Robinsons had only lived on their land for six years when Nettie was killed as she attempted to pour kerosene on a fire in the stove. Six months later, the youngest Robinson child, Merle died of pneumonia.

Times were tough, but Tom Sr. or "T. P." as he was sometimes called, continued to keep a positive outlook on life and worked extremely hard.

Neighbors would always say that T. P. had Tom Jr. riding a horse almost before he could walk.

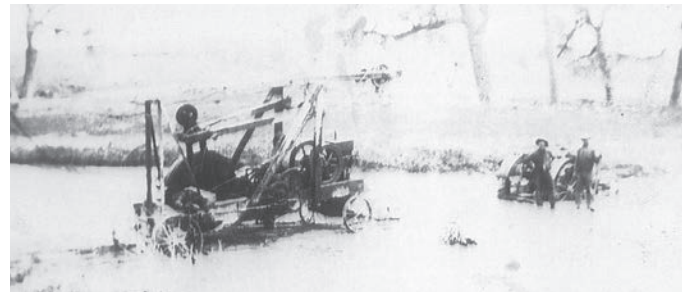
By the early '30s, Tom had acquired enough land that he was raising almost 2,800 sheep on it.

In 1934, Tom Jr. and Ella Edwards eloped. Ella's parents had homesteaded just four miles from the Robinson Ranch. Since Tom Sr. was living alone, Tom Jr. and Ella moved into the little homestead house with him.

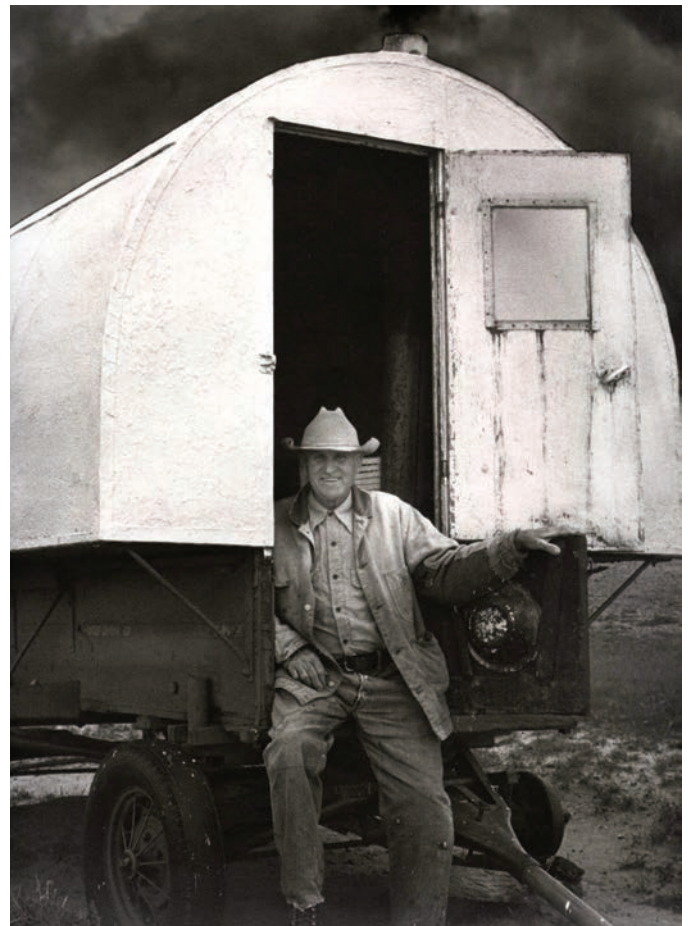
Tom Sr. continued to live on his ranch and work until he died at the age of 83 in 1964. He left half of his ranch to his daughter, Helen Eberspecher and the other half to Tom Jr.

When Helen died in 1982, her seven children inherited their mother's half of the ranch. Tom Jr. had a dream of putting the ranch back together again. Since Helen's children all loved the ranch, they too wanted all the land to continue to stay in the family for generations. They were happy to let their uncle buy their share of the ranch.

"Tom Jr., like his father, never knew what retirement meant," Dorothy Butler said of her dad.



Tom Robinson's well drilling machine



Tom Robinson Jr



Tom Robinson Jr, Ella Robinson and daughter Dorothy



Ranch view



Ella and Tom Robinson



Original 1915 homestead house today



Ella and Tom Robinson with daughter Dorothy Robinson Butler

Tom and Ella both continued to work extremely hard and truly loved the ranch. Besides being known for his great work ethic, Tom was famous for his funny stories. Ella's good cooking and lovely garden won praise from all.

"Dad had an amazing memory and mom kept meticulous financial records on the ranch and was a great cook," Dorothy said. "When dad was 77 years old, he trailed cattle 18 miles to market and if you asked him why he did it, he said, 'Just to prove I can.'" Tom died at age 91 and Ella died at age 97 ½ in 2013. In 2003, the couple received



Sen. John Barrasso, Butler Family, Rep. Cynthia Lummis, and Sen. Mike Enzi

the cooperator of the year award from the Converse County Conservation District for their exemplary ranching practices. Ella was particularly proud that the Robinson Ranch had been in the family for 97 years and both had hoped and were looking forward to celebrating the centennial of the ranching operations there.

Today, the Robinson Ranch is owned by the Robinsons' only child, Dorothy Robinson Butler and their grandson, Jay Butler.

Jay and his wife Linda, oversee ranch operations.



Dorothy Butler



Jay (Tom Robinson Jr.'s grandson) and Linda Butler live on the ranch today

The Six Mile Ranch, 1914

Arnold B. and Loretta Tschirgi Family, Sheridan County



Tschirgi Homestead built in early 1900s

As told by Arnold Tschirgi.

My great grandfather, Mathew Tschirgi, came to the US from Switzerland in 1845. Mathew settled in Dubuque, Iowa. My grandfather, Arnold Tschirgi, came to Sheridan, WY in 1885. He was one of the founders of the Sheridan Brewing Company; he served in city and county government as a civil engineer and also operated a grocery in Sheridan. My father, Chester Tschirgi, was born in Dubuque, Iowa in 1884. He arrived in Sheridan with his mother in a stagecoach in 1887. In 1903 Chester became the youngest engineer operating a locomotive on the CB&Q railroad system. One of my father's ambitions was to live long enough to see a man land on the moon. My father died on July 20, 1969, the day of the first moon landing.



Chester R Tschirgi, Spring Roundup



Gertrude Tschirgi

My mother, Gertrude Tschirgi, graduated from the University of Missouri in 1920. She taught English in schools in New Mexico, Montana, and Wyoming. My mother met my father at a dance in Ranchester, WY in 1927. During their first dance together, my father told her he was going to marry her. I was born in 1932. My first years were spent in the homestead buildings on the ranch. When I was 3 years old we moved into a larger home and used the homestead building for hired hands. I helped on the ranch as soon as I was able: milking cows, herding sheep, lambing, tromping wool bags, wrestling calves for branding, stacking hay, and breaking horses. My mother and father always encouraged me to attend college. My father felt that my earning potential would be much greater outside of agriculture. After graduating from the University of Wyoming in 1954, I served in the US Army Field Artillery. After service I returned to the University and obtained a law degree. In 1958 I moved to

Lander, Wyoming to join the firm of Spence, Hill, Oeland and Tschirgi. I later entered a successful solo practice doing civil litigation. I also served as Fremont County Prosecutor for several terms. In 2000 my wife Loretta and I sold our Lander home and returned to the Tschirgi Ranch full time.

Loretta and I have one son who worked on the ranch during summer vacations. On one particular occasion on a hot 110 degree day, our nine year old son, Charter, was helping to take out an old barbed wire fence. He was rolling up the old wire when he started yelling, "I hate barbed wire! I know I am going to college!" Charter graduated from the US Coast Guard Academy in 2000 and is now the Captain of the USCGC Alder in Duluth, Minnesota. Charter and his family visit the ranch when able; he now enjoys helping with the ranch chores. Several members of the Tschirgi family were involved in developing the ranch property on Six Mile Creek near Ranchester, Wyoming. My grandfather Arnold Tschirgi and his wife Jenni and my father Chester and his brother William put the original homestead property together. The property was dry land that had marginal value without irrigation. One of my father's favorite sayings was "No green grass for livestock until April 15, burned up by the first of June." In order to obtain water for the property my father, with advice from his father Arnold, a civil engineer, set out to obtain water rights from Tongue River for irrigable parts of the homestead property. This required filing for water rights and enlarging and extending an existing ditch system originating in Dayton, Wyoming. The ditch extends approximately 17 miles from the head gate to our ranch. My father and his brother William built the last four miles of the ditch system as a private enterprise around very steep and difficult terrain. This was done with teams of horses and hand-held equipment. Later the system was improved and enlarged with large track hoes.

My father and my mother became the sole owners of the Tschirgi Ranch early on. Water rights for the property were acquired in 1914. My father worked many long hours, often from daylight to dark, irrigating from dirt ditches and using dirt dams. Today we are using all gated pipes. The main crops raised have been hay, sugar beets,



Tschirgi Ranch Headquarters, 2015



Arnold Tschirgi on new horse



Loretta Tschirgi on her cutting horse



Charter and son Nolan branding at the ranch, June 12, 2015



Sen. John Barrasso, Tschirgi Family, Rep. Cynthia Lummis, and Sen. Mike Enzi

alfalfa seed and grain. Livestock raised until about 1980 included both sheep and Hereford cows. My mother also raised and sold border collies and sealyham terriers. Several of her sealyhams became Canadian and American show champions. After 1980 the ranch operation was taken over by my wife and me and became a cow-calf business. We have had Herefords, Charolais, Salers, and Black Angus. We have always used border collies with the livestock. Our border collies have won several first-place awards in Wyoming, Colorado, and Utah in obedience and agility.

It is difficult to say what the future of our property will be. Many city people are moving to the country. Many of the smaller agricultural units are being broken up into private developments on limited acreages. These small parcels produce income well above what could be obtained from agricultural use. Economics may dictate a similar future for our ranch. Only time will provide an answer.

Other 2015 Centennial Ranch Families

The Rosenlieb Ranch, 1886

Albert and Marilyn Rosenlieb Family, Carbon County