



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

2010 WYOMING CENTENNIAL FARM AND RANCH HONOREES



ARTS. PARKS. HISTORY.

Wyoming State Parks & Cultural Resources

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Office of the Governor

Dear Centennial Ranch Award Recipient,

Congratulations on a century-long commitment to Wyoming – its families, its land and the western way of life. Maintaining an agricultural operation through more than 100 years of change in America and the world is a truly remarkable accomplishment. Remember, 100 years ago America had not seen its first world war and children were told the moon was made of cheese!

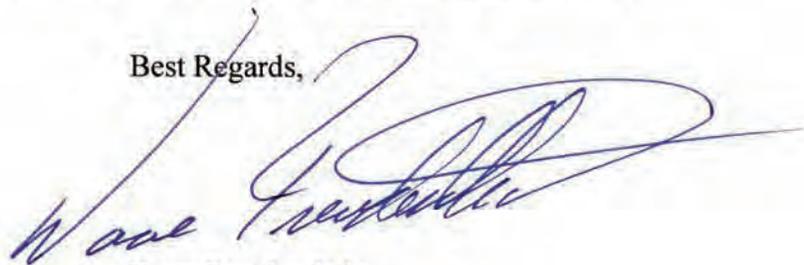
Yours is one of those unique Wyoming families distinguished by perseverance and dedication to building a sustainable life within Wyoming's rugged and sometimes unforgiving landscape. Operating a farm or ranch in Wyoming is not an easy lifestyle, and you have endured harsh conditions including droughts, manmade and natural disasters and the growing pressure to sell your land for development.

Wyoming's ranch and farm lands are critically important elements to our landscape. They preserve open space and provide habitat for wildlife and livestock, while contributing to the state's economy.

We appreciate that your family continues to find value in maintaining your historic property – it is an admirable achievement to have been able to operate your ranch through the generations.

Again, congratulations on a deserved honor, and thank you for your long and historic commitment to Wyoming.

Best Regards,



Dave Freudenthal
Governor

The Berry Ranch

Laramie County

As told by Don Berry

This business means hard work and lots of it but when you wind up the year and look back at what you've done...your satisfaction just can't be measured in dollars and cents. This was my grandfather's (James C. Berry) philosophy during his life and how he built this successful ranch.

My granddad, known as J.C., was a terrific man. He loved telling stories, was passionate about his family, and devoted to the community and to his agricultural lifestyle as a good steward of the land. He was a town marshal and a night watchman. He was born in 1889 in Armour, South Dakota. Growing up on 23 acres, he was in charge of the vegetables, fruit, and shrubs. He didn't much care for this lifestyle so at the age of 21 he struck for Wyoming where friends had already homesteaded.

On December 31, 1910 he filed on a homestead 20 miles north of Cheyenne. He returned to Armour and purchased a team and wagon and started on a three week journey to Wyoming. In 1913 he built his homestead shanty, it was 12 feet by 14 feet. He had a sign inside that read "Help yourself to the grub, wash the dishes and close the door when you leave." He and his team hired out to the railroad. He hauled dirt to fill cuts south of Cheyenne. Grandpa said he made \$.25 cents for him and \$1.00 for his team. They fed his team but if he wanted to eat, he had to feed himself.

My grandmother came to Wyoming with her family from Iowa. She vowed to return to Iowa the next summer. With her new horse, Peanuts, she met friends and neighbors. She couldn't be persuaded to return to Iowa. She soon met Jay Berry at a pie social. His homestead was ten miles from her home, and he claimed to have walked well over 1,000 miles before winning her hand.

Mary homesteaded on her own after she turned 21 in 1914. Jay built their home before they were married. I guess he figured it was a sure thing!



Grandfather James C. Berry



Mary Bevan at age 17



J.C. & Mary Berry



J. C. Berry homestead



Mary Bevan homestead



Mary Bevan



James C. Berry, one horse is in Wyoming and the other in South Dakota!

They married on November 25, 1914 and the marriage lasted 67 years. Jay and Mary had four children: Jim, born in 1915; D.C. in 1918; Marvin in 1921; and Mary in 1929.

The Berry's purchased four Hereford heifers for \$60 a head in the early 1930s for 4-H projects. That started the registered herd. The first 4-H steer sale was started by J.C. in the 1930s and has been going on ever since. In the 1940s all the boys all went to World War II. Mary was the hired hand and acquired the nickname "Bill" because of that.

After the war, the Berry partnership was formed in 1946 when all the boys were home. At this time each family was in charge of certain aspects of the operation. Jim did the calving, D.C. was in charge of the herd and breeding program, and Marvin took care of the bulls. They shared the rest of the ranch work.

As the years progressed, the partnership grew and so did the families. The kids were all raised



J.C. & Mary's family



J.C. and his three sons, Jim, DC and Marvin



Mary Bevan Berry at age 90



*To Wyoming's own mother of the year, Mrs. Mary Berry, a lovely character, and one in whom we have great pride.
Richard T. Diefenbaker
U. S. Senator - Wyoming*

Mary Berry as Wyoming Mother of the Year with Senator Milward Simpson



Berry shelterbelts; many an hour was spent hoeing trees

knowing how to work and show cattle and this produced many champions over the years.

The Berry's were one of the first to start A.I.'ing in 1960. They were also one of the first to put in center pivot irrigation. In 1980, we held the last Berry sale where we sold 102 bulls and averaged \$2484, second in the nation. At this time, Jim announced his retirement and the decision to sell the registered herd was made. The entire herd was sold to the Sondrup Cattle Company of Colorado.

I would like to mention that all of the Berry men had a good woman beside them. Working as a corporation isn't easy for brothers, let alone sisters-in-law. However, the Berry's all got along very well and still do to this day.

OTHER ATTRACTIONS INCLUDE
45 BULLS – 25 FEMALES
 Sale at the Ranch.
OCT. 19

OUR OFFERING CONSISTS OF:
 Hand-picked prospects that will get the job done.
 Top quality range bulls . . . Quality offering in quantity lots of two and three for those that like to buy their way.
 Best bullers carry the service of our own herd bulls, PHR Dandy Larry 2016, S. Silver Knight 18th and S. Prince Larry 109th.

B. PRINCE LARRY 224 . . . Sells on Lot 28.	B. PRINCE LARRY 2016 . . . Sells on Lot 14.
B. PRINCE LARRY 2136 . . . Sells on Lot 32.	B. PRINCE LARRY 2196 . . . Sells on Lot 25.

LUNCH SERVED AT 11 A.M. SALE STARTS AT 11 NOON.
 Auctioneers: H. B. SAGER and CHARLEY GORRIS.
 Send for Your Catalogue NOW!
 Ranch located 20 miles northeast of Cheyenne, Wyo.
 Watch for our sign 17 miles out on Highway 85.

THE BERRY'S MERIDEN ROUTE CHEYENNE, WYOMING



D.C. & Dorothy Berry



Don & Patty Berry family



Brett Bery, Jeff, TC & Don



(L to R) Patty, Cooper, Kim Berry, (front) Tate Berry



Buffalo & bear sculptures by Don Berry, made of barbed wire



Sen. John Barrasso, Rep. Cynthia Lummis, Berry Family, Gov. Dave Freudenthal and Sen. Mike Enzi

The Berry's Laramie County

As told by the Berry Family

Centennial ranchers and cousins, Don and Jay Berry, share the same grandfather, James C. Berry (J.C.), who came to Wyoming as a young man of 21 years in 1910 (see his story in the Don Berry history). Over time, he built his ranch into a successful operation known as “The Berry’s”, located north of Cheyenne. J.C. married Mary Bevan who had also homesteaded north of Cheyenne. They had four children: John J., Dorance C., Mary Louise, and Jay’s father, Marvin D. Berry, who was born in 1921.

Marvin married Margaret Malm of Albin in 1949 and they had three children: Patty, Jay, and Mary Janette. Pat served as Miss Frontier at Cheyenne Frontier Days in 1971 and married John Doherty. Janette is a teacher in Loveland, Colorado and is married to Jack McCahan. Jay married Janice Robbins and returned to the ranch after completion of his degree at the University of Wyoming in 1979.

Marvin began breeding Herefords in the late 1930s as a 4-H member. He, along with his father and two brothers, started the Berry Hereford herd and by 1949 held the first “The Berry’s” production



Marvin Berry (right) with Berry bull



Denver Stock Show, Marvin & Jay



J.C. & Mary's original home site, 1984



Patty Berry Dougherty, Miss Frontier 1971, Cheyenne Frontier Days



4-H steer sale, 18th St., Cheyenne



Amy, Jessie, Stacia, Janice, Jay & Ben Berry, 1992



Cows on winter range



Margaret & Marvin Berry, 2000



Branding, Jay, Stacia, & Amy



Berry Sale Barn, sale day



The Berry's Sale Barn



Bulls on display, sale day



Amy, Stacia, Jessie, & Ben Berry at a Berry bull sale



Champion Berry Hereford bulls, Wyoming State Fair 1996



The boys

sale in a tent. The ranch prospered and by the early 1970s, the annual sale had grown to an offering of 100 bulls. In 1980, the family sold its combined herd to the Sondrup Ranch in northern Colorado and Marvin established his own Hereford herd from Berry bred heifers.

Around 1982, an interest was purchased in a two time National Western Stock Show Champion, L1 Pacesetter, and Marvin and Jay eventually raised the sire purchased and made famous by Holmes Herefords in 1991, "HH Homebuilder". Jay and Marvin worked together and began holding production sales again in 1986, and the sales have continued to present day. Marvin and Jay were progressive in continuing to expand their A.I. program using cornerstone sires such as Genetically Explosion, which helped rapidly expand their cowherd's genetic potential. Marvin's commitment to attending National Western Stock



Stacia Berry, National FFA Secretary 2004



Amy Berry, Miss Frontier 2011



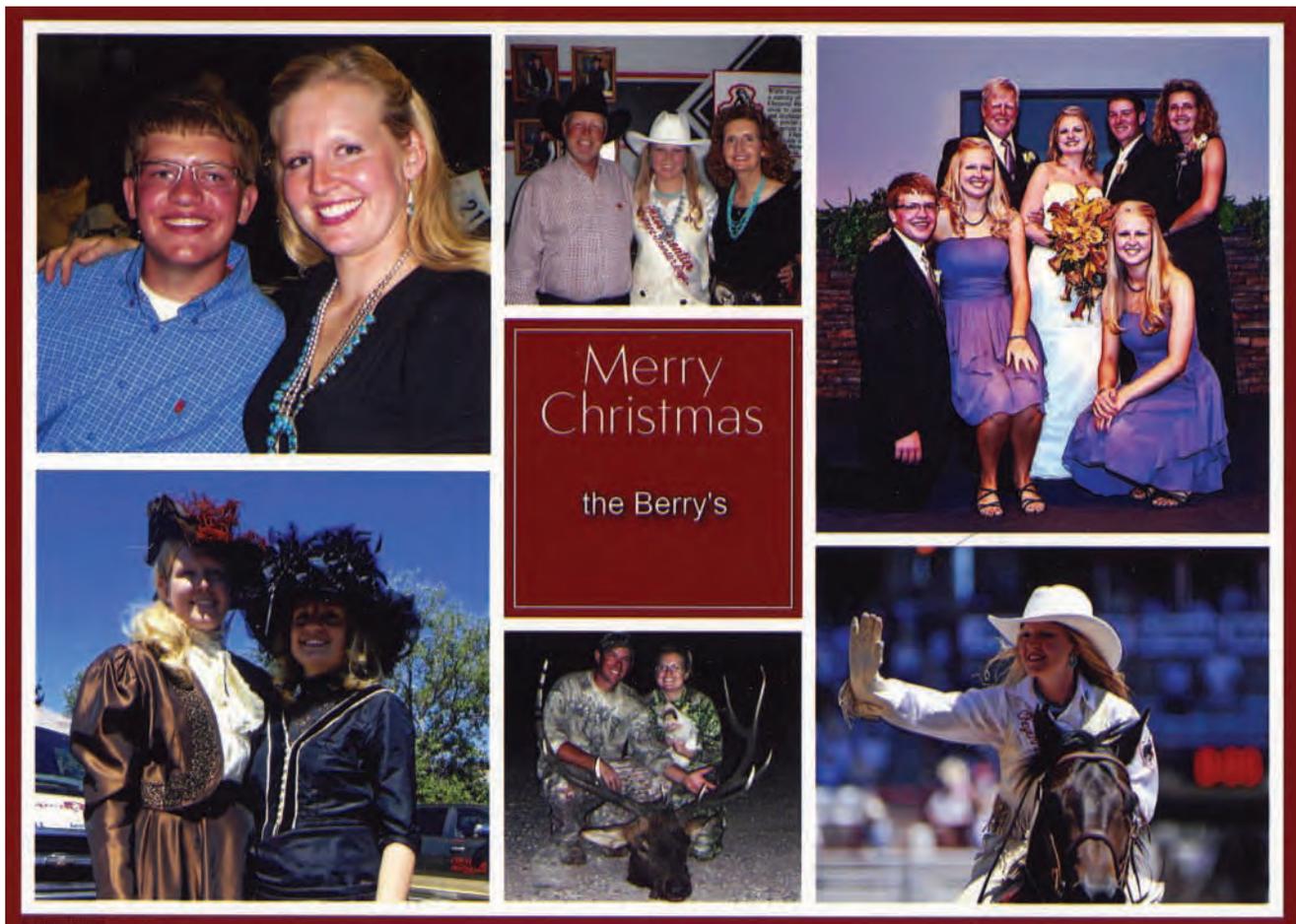
Jay & Janice Berry with portrait of Marvin Berry who was inducted into Hereford Hall of Fame, Oct 2010

Show was unwavering and eventually he and Jay were rewarded with the Champion pen of Hereford heifers in 1994.

On the ranch, Marvin was known as “the great scout”. Marvin was a cowman unmatched by many, his humble ways and talented eye have selected generations of great cattle, and his legacy lives on at our ranch today. It was always exciting when he would call home to announce that he had found the next “great one”. Marvin was posthumously inducted into the American Hereford Association Hall of Fame in 2011. The Hall of Fame honor annually recognizes breeders who have dynamically influenced the direction and advancement of the Hereford breed. Marvin was cited for his honesty and integrity.



Amy, Miss Frontier 2011



Berry Christmas card, 2011

In 1990, Jay and Janice formed Berry Herefords Inc. to continue the Hereford business of “The Berry’s”. They felt fortunate to purchase the original Roy Bevan homestead in 1991. They served as American Junior Hereford Advisors from 1995 to 1998. In 1997, Janice served as President of the American Hereford Women. They have four children: Stacia, Jessie, Amy, and Ben. The kids have enjoyed great success with the AJHA, receiving three golden bull awards, the John Wayne Memorial Scholarship, and the OXO World Traveler Scholarship. This scholarship allowed the three sisters to travel across Scandinavia to meet producers and learn about Hereford genetics across the globe. In addition, they were able to visit the original A.P. Malm homestead and meet their relatives. All connected by a history and heritage of great Hereford cattle.



Sen. John Barrasso, Rep. Cynthia Lummis, Jay & Janice Berry Family, Gov. Dave Freudenthal and Sen. Mike Enzi

The Bright Ranch

Converse County



The Bright Ranch

As told by Joe Bright

Robert Howard was born in Stanley, England in 1859. He and his wife, Prudence, immigrated to America in 1882. After a few years in Kansas, they moved to Wyoming by covered wagon where they took up residence in Lost Springs. Bob purchased cattle in Omaha and had them shipped to Lost Springs to run them on the open range. Bob homesteaded in 1895, southwest of town, and built a log house on the property. They then purchased several relinquished homesteads, bringing the total acreage up to 1100 acres with open range in between. Bob and Prudence lived on the ranch with their eight children until 1920 when they moved to Hot Springs. Robert passed away in 1935.

Belle Howard Bright was born on the way to Kansas, somewhere in Illinois, in 1884. She took over management of the ranch from her father

in 1932 where she combined the duties of single mother and ranch owner. Belle had three children – Cora, Joseph Clair “Happy”, and Robert “Chick”. By managing her holdings wisely and productively, the ranch not only survived the Depression but prospered and expanded to its present size of ten sections. With her beloved Hereford cattle and the help of her sons, Belle became one of the most respected and admired women in Converse County. Belle spent the latter years of her life in Douglas. She passed away in 1969.

Joseph Clair Bright, “Happy,” was born in 1914 in Lost Springs. Hap took the ranch over in 1944 from his mother. With a keen eye for livestock, and a unique understanding of land stewardship and finance, the range was dramatically improved with many dikes and spreader dams. Along with improved bloodlines in the cattle, the ranch prospered and achieved the reputation for quality livestock that has endured till today. Hap was also a renowned horse breeder and trainer.



Old Timers



The young Joe Bright



Grandma 1937



Joe Bright with one of his horses



Young Joe Bright



Joe Bright

Hap handed the reins to his son, Jim, in 1969 and moved to Sydney, Montana where he purchased a 350 cow ranch on the Little Missouri River. He stayed in Montana for a number of years until he “finally froze out,” as he was fond of saying. Hap knocked about for the remainder of his years doing many things, including drive the stage coach at Fort Robinson in Nebraska and managing a ranch in South Dakota. He passed away in 1990. His ashes are scattered over the buttes south of the ranch headquarters.

After coming home from the Army in 1969, Jim Bright took over the operation of the ranch. A skilled welder and craftsman, Jim was always building or inventing something. With a love for good horses, Jim expanded the horse breeding part of the ranch to 30 brood mares and several high quality stud horses. Jim passed away in 1990. Joe Bright assumed the responsibility of the ranch



Jim Bright

with the help of his wife, Robin, and their five daughters. The ranch has diversified in several areas in order to meet the challenges of modern day agribusiness.

From its humble beginnings in the 19th century, the Bright Ranch has enjoyed many successes and endured many setbacks and hardships. The 20th century saw many transformations and refinements. Thanks to the dedication and vision of Robert, Belle, Hap, and Jim, the ranch has moved through the years expanding and refining to meet the ever changing circumstances.

With the dawning of the 21st century, the Bright Ranch has diversified and moved forward in several areas. With an all natural Angus cow herd, 700 acres of wheat production along with a successful hunting and guiding operation and a custom haying business, the Bright Ranch stands ready to enter its second century of continuous operation.



Sen. John Barrasso, Rep. Cynthia Lummis, Joe Bright Family, Gov. Dave Freudenthal and Sen. Mike Enzi

The Bruch Ranch

Niobrara County

As told by the Bruch Family

In 1910, five siblings, children of Anton (1842-1939) and Bernadina (1849-1932) Bruch, arrived in Node, Wyoming, ten miles east of Lusk, having previously been residents of Sturgis, South Dakota. The siblings included: Elizabeth (1876-1980); Julia (1879-1956); Pauline (1885-1988); Albert (1889-1981); and Carl (1893-1994). They came seeking more exciting and fulfilling careers and all had dreamed of owning their own homesteads.

Each of the homesteaders received a 160 acre allotment to prove up on except Carl who was too young at the time. Later, the acreage was increased to 320 acre allotments and Carl homestead adjacent to the other children. Their parents, Anton and Bernadina, moved to the Node area as well and also took up a homestead adjoining their children. They built “shacks” on each of the homesteads in order to prove up their claims, as was the requirement. In the ensuing years, they built their homes, mixing and pouring the concrete by hand. Later Julia married Henry Milek and moved to Thermopolis, and Albert married Josephine Bautch and moved to Cheyenne. They sold their ranch interest to the remaining children, Elizabeth, Pauline, and Carl. The Bruch’s raised Hereford cattle and did some farming. They later purchased land from homesteaders who left the area, especially during the years of the Depression.

Carl married Mary Margaret McCarthy from Thermopolis. The couple made their home on the ranch, building a house and raising four children, Eileen Bruch Young (deceased), Charles, John, and Joseph. Elizabeth and Pauline never married but assisted with the operation, participating in all the activities necessary to the success of the ranch. Carl was an inventor and machinist whose ideas helped many neighbors as well as the ranch.

The operation was changed to raising sheep in the 1930s. Carl built the woven wire fences and was known for his skill in making things for the ranch



Early members of the Bruch Family, 1926, left to right Pauline, Henry, Bernadina (mother), Anton (father), Albert, Elizabeth, Carl, Julia



Lusk 1906



Homestead shack



Pauline's happy home (on back of photo); original homestead shack, square turn tractor nearby, 1910



Back, left to right: Carl, Albert, Henry, Anton
 Front: Henry's children Bernard, Joe, Francis, Clarence, Tony



Red River Special thresher



A hand of cards at neighbor's homestead cabin 1913



Square turn tractor plowing field



Square turn tractor, 1910, Carl driving. According to the manual, it turned a square corner in the field in 5 seconds. Built in Norfolk, Nebraska



Threshing machine & original portion of first house which was converted to granary



Chuck's first 4-H animal



Former lambing shed, now a calving shed. Roof is recycled sides of cans, processed with the machine Carl designed & built specifically for this purpose.



Buildings on ranch sided & roofed with recycled cyanide cans purchased from Homestake Gold Mine in Lead, SD



Old shop still filled with Carl's machinery & equipment inventions; sided and roofed with can bottoms

instead of purchasing them, notably windmills from Model-T Ford cars, sheds from cyanide cans from the Homestake mine in Lead, South Dakota (see photos), and doing lathe work for the ranch and for many neighbors. Carl's shop is a museum piece today and still in use.

The sheep were sold and the land was leased to neighbors in 1946. The area received electricity in 1949, just prior to the great blizzard of '49, and John, age nine at the time, did the wiring for the house. Carl was instrumental in helping to bring electricity to the area through the REA program, and was one of the original members of the board of directors of the Niobrara Electric Association. John now serves on that board.

Early in the 1960s, Chuck, John, and Joe formed the Bruch Brothers partnership, purchasing cattle and building and purchasing hay equipment, much of which was engineered and designed by Carl, John, and Joe. Also about this time, the Bruch's drilled one of the first irrigation wells in the county.

In 1992, Chuck and Joe sold their interest to John and his wife, Pat. They operate the ranch as Bruch Ranch, Inc. Currently their son, Bryan, and his wife, Shelly, operate the livestock portion of the ranch, raising beef while John irrigates six center pivot circles, raising and selling hay.

Chuck, a retired businessman, and his wife, Karen, live in Lusk, they have three children: Anne Pfister, Kathleen Jordan, and David Bruch. John and wife, Pat, have three children, Bryan Bruch,



Vet Shack



Sen. John Barrasso, Rep. Cynthia Lummis, Bruch Family, Gov. Dave Freudenthal and Sen. Mike Enzi

Michael Bruch, and Andrea Busby. Joe and wife, Sherry, now live on a farm near Trenton, Missouri and have two children, Courtney Bruch and Matt Bruch. Eileen Young (deceased) is survived by two children, Dr. John Young and Molly Maass.

The Fawcett Ranch

Weston County

As told by Mary Fawcett Capps

The Fawcett Ranch history begins as many other Wyoming ranches began, with the filing of a homestead application. In 1883, William H. (Billy) Fawcett filed on a 160 acre parcel of land in what was then Crook County, Wyoming Territory. The site is on Stockade Beaver Creek, in what is now Weston County, located approximately six miles east of Newcastle. Billy Fawcett was living in Lead City, South Dakota at the time where he owned and operated a grocery store. The ranch is in a well-watered valley broken by rocky canyons, an ideal range for the horse ranch Fawcett had in mind. A log cabin and round horse corrals were constructed. He hired his friend, Bob Harper, to manage the horse ranch.

The Fawcett family continued their residence in Lead City where W. H. continued to operate the Fawcett & Delehant Grocery. "Billy" Fawcett and Mary Alice (Molly) Brown were married in 1890. Two children were born in Lead. After a huge fire destroyed the grocery and most of downtown Lead in 1899, the family moved to their Wyoming homestead. They lived in the log cabin until 1904, when W. H. built a rather large, two-story Victorian bungalow.

Bob Harper acquired a homestead just a half mile down the valley, and he and W.H. continued to operate the horse ranch for several years. Later, it was stocked with Hereford cattle. When additional acreage was made available through the Homestead Act, the ranch acquired another 160 acres when Fawcett filed on a "Stone and Timber Claim". Over the next several years the family bought other homesteads from neighbors who moved on. In 1922, Frank proved up on a 640 acre homestead. Later, Fanny acquired a 480 acre homestead. Over time, the Bureau of Land Management leases were added to enlarge the livestock grazing opportunities. The cattle were moved for summer pasture to the Black Hills National Forest in South Dakota, directly east of the ranch.



Three Fawcett sisters in front of cottonwood tree on the ranch; L to R, Marjorie Huber, Ruth Moore and Mary Capps. Tree has a 23 ft. circumference.

Early on the ranch had acquired territorial irrigation rights on several springs on the ranch. With adequate water to irrigate hay fields, haying with horse-drawn machinery took up the entire summer. Today, that same hay would be harvested in three days! In 1921, Frank married Pearl Schulze, a neighbor girl. Frank and Pearl had four children born to their marriage: Mary in 1924, Ruth in 1926, William in 1929, and Marjorie in 1936. W. H. Fawcett died in 1936 at the age of 96. The children grew up on the ranch. Young William, born in 1929, died in 1952 while in the military service.

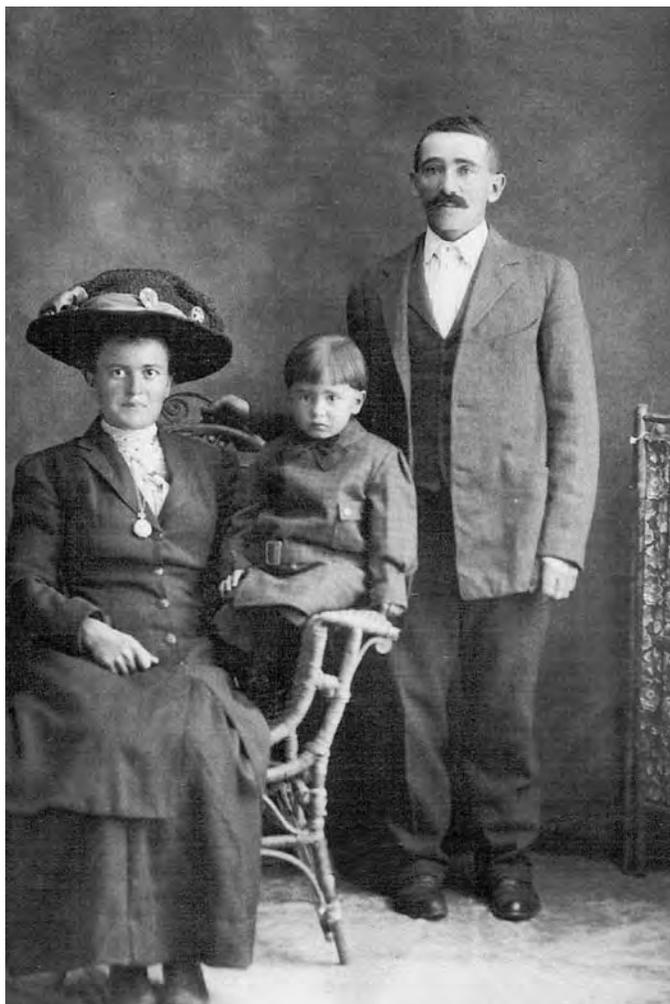
Frank managed the ranch until 1960, when Jack Capps took over management.

Mary was married to Jack Capps in 1946. They lived at the ranch part of the time until the early 1960s, when Frank's health failed. Jack and Mary then took over management of ranch operations. Jack passed away in 1998. Ruth married Paul R. Moore in 1948. Paul is deceased.

In 1951, Marjorie was married to Jack Huber. Jack and Marjorie established the Cedar Ridge Fish Hatchery near the north boundary of the ranch, along the county road. The ponds and fish runs were stocked with rainbow trout that were hatched from eggs acquired from Wyoming Game and Fish. The water flowing from the "Big Spring" at the hatchery is at an ideal temperature for optimum growth of trout. Many ponds in northeast Wyoming are stocked with fish from Cedar Ridge Hatchery. Jack Huber is deceased. Marjorie lives in Newcastle and leases the hatchery to a private party. The ranch is still owned by the Fawcett heirs and is leased for grazing and hay. Mary Fawcett Capps still lives in the Victorian bungalow. Ruth lives at the ranch during summer months and in Arizona in the winter. A grandson, Richard Huber, lives in a new house he built near the fish hatchery.

The Chabot Ranch

Johnson County



Leon & Louise with August (Gus)

As told by May Chabot

My father, Leon Chabot, was born in France in 1871 and passed away in 1955. He left France in 1892 at the age of 21. He came to California where he herded sheep. He left California in 1896 and came to Wyoming and homesteaded twelve miles east of Kaycee in 1898. This is the present day ranch.

My mother, Louise Giraud, was born in France in 1887 and passed away in 1960. She left France in 1908 and came to Wyoming where she worked for J.B. Okie at Lost Cabin. Leon and Louise were married in October, 1909 at Lander.



Leon & Louise at homestead, 1912



Leon & Louise with son August and daughter Marie, 1915

Five children were born to this union, one son and four daughters. August (Gus) Chabot, 1910-2008; Marie Chabot Reculusa, 1914-2000, she had four children; Vivian Chabot Urruty, 1917-1998, she had three children; Julia Chabot, 1930-2000, and me, May Chabot, born in 1930. Gus, Julia, and May remained single.

Leon Chabot ran both cattle and sheep until the mid-1920s when he sold the sheep. He continued to run cattle, and raised hay and grain until he passed away in 1955.

His son, August, and daughters, May and Julia, took over operation of the ranch after Leon's passing, raising Hereford cattle, hay, and grain. I continue



Sen. John Barrasso, Rep. Cynthia Lummis, Chabot Family, Gov. Dave Freudenthal and Sen. Mike Enzi

operating and living here on the ranch that was homesteaded by my father in 1898.

The ranch was added to through the years. We went from farming with horses to tractors in the 1930s and 1940s. August was a mechanic and pilot and flew his own plane for 50 years. He was also a World War II veteran, having served in the army in France and Germany during 1943-1945.

The Rocking Chair Ranch

Sublette County

As told by Pam Chrisman

The nucleus of the Rocking Chair Ranch (located in T26N R113W 6th PM section 19, lots; 20, 21, 28, 29, 30, 48, 49) was part of the large Spur Ranch developed by Francis E. Warren and M.E. Post in 1882. They had brought 15,000 head of cattle to this area in 1882. In 1884, Post and Warren sold the ranch to the partnership of Alexander Hector (Heck) Reel and Ralph M. Friend. During the time they had it, they purchased Joseph D. Alford's homestead to add to the Rock-ing Chair Ranch. Joseph had worked as a foreman for them.

In 1889-1890 the bad winter storm hit, devastating the Spur Ranch out of the 20,000 head of cattle that the Spur owned, less than 800 head survived. Reel and friend stayed and worked on rebuilding their herd.

It is believed that the Rocking Chair brand was registered by Joseph Alford in the 1880s and used as a horse brand. The spur brand was used for their cattle. Heck Reel died of a heart attack on the Rocking Chair Ranch in October 1900.

Warren, Post, Reel, and friends were all members of the Wyoming Stock Growers Association. Warren and Reel were very prominent in the government of the state of Wyoming. Francis E. Warren was the first governor of Wyoming.

In 1908, James W. and Enger K. Chrisman bought the nucleus of the Rocking Chair Ranch from Mrs. Reel. The rest of what is now the Rocking Chair Ranch was later purchased by James and Enger from the following homesteaders: James L. and Martha Bess; Anderson L. McGinnis; William F. Bailey; and Carry Anderson. The rest was received by Enger K. Chrisman from her land patent.

James Wesley Chrisman was born November 9, 1859 in Brownsville, Cherokee County, Kansas. His parents were John Chrisman and Lucretia Soule. He came west with his parents when he was eight years old. His father was engaged in



Baby John Chrisman with parents James W. & Enger



Senator James Chrisman at Wyoming Legislature



James Chrisman

the ranching business in Wyoming. They started grazing cattle in the LaBarge, Wyoming country in 1880.

Enger Korena Miller was born March, 31, 1877, in Granger, Sweetwater County, Wyoming. Her parents were Nels Sorensen and Hedvig Jorgensen. Nels had adopted the last name of Miller when he came to the United States. Both of Enger's parents were born in Denmark. The Miller family was also involved in ranching. Enger was one year old in 1878 when they moved to the LaBarge area.

James M. Chrisman and Enger K. Miller were married December 15, 1898.

James Chrisman was an outstanding rancher. He managed the affairs of all his ranches (he owned several ranches besides the Rocking Chair) under the Flying W brand. He was a State Senator and Acting Governor on several occasions. He was well-respected by his peers. He and Enger had eight children. They were James, Harriet, Mamie, Charles, John, Stella, Vego, and Helen.

James W. Chrisman died on October 26, 1941 as a result of a car accident. Enger Chrisman died January 2, 1975.

The Rocking Chair Ranch became part of the Flying W Corporation which is a family owned corporation that included all of James' and Enger's children. One daughter, Harriet Chrisman, and a son, Charles Chrisman, lived and died on the Rocking Chair Ranch. Pamela Nadine Chrisman, daughter of John Chrisman, and granddaughter to James W. Chrisman, leased the Rocking Chair Ranch from the corporation from 1998 through 2009, and then she traded shares in the corporation and now owns the Rocking Chair Ranch and the Flying W brand. Pamela's brother, John J. Chrisman, now owns the Rocking Chair brand. So the Rocking Chair Ranch has been in the Chrisman family for 103 years. Pamela Nadine Chrisman is the third generation of Chrisman's to own it and intends to keep it for the rest of her life.



(L) John Chrisman with Devil & (R) John J. with Tony



Pam Chrisman & Tony



Chrisman Ranch



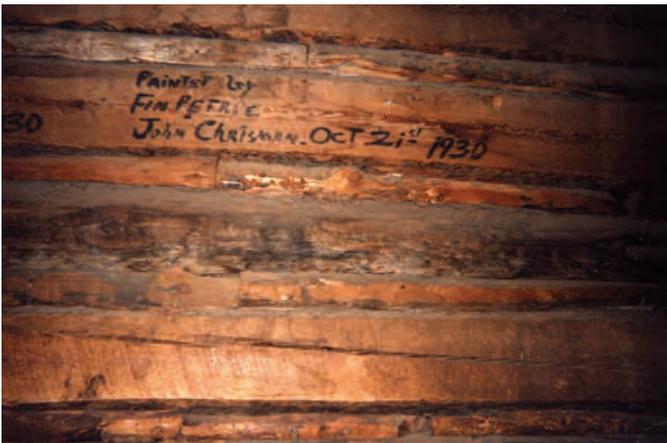
Pam Chrisman on a moose!



John Chrisman



Pam Chrisman



John Chrisman name on barn wall, 1930

The DeGering Ranch

Niobrara County



Sen. John Barrasso, Rep. Cynthia Lummis, John & Kay DeGering Family, Gov. Dave Freudenthal and Sen. Mike Enzi

As told Jason by Walker, grandson of John and Kay DeGering

The original homestead is approximately 25 miles north and seven miles east of Lusk and was filed on by Albert DeGering in 1906. In 1913, he and Ethel Boner were married and moved onto the land she had homesteaded in 1912 on Coyote Creek, 25 miles north of Lusk and three miles east. Over the next few years they were able to add on to the two room cabin they originally built. One of the additions was a fairly large kitchen which is still part of the house occupied by the Kenny DeGering family. The large exposed beams in the ceiling are in place to this day. The large barn that is used was built in 1950.

Over the years they acquired more of the surrounding land as it became available. The DeGering's raised sheep and cattle primarily and also harvested hay crops as well as grew most of their own food from the large garden they had each year.

After attending the University of Wyoming for one year and serving two years in the Army, John DeGering (Albert and Ethel's son) joined his parents and brother, Leonard, at the ranch. In 1971, the ranch was purchased by John and Leonard and became strictly a cattle operation. After Leonard's death, John's son, Kenny, purchased Leonard's part of the ranch and went into partnership with John. Today, John and Kenny, along with John's grandchildren, operate the ranch as DeGering Livestock Inc. and have added several irrigated pivots located east of Lusk to their cow/calf and yearling operation.

John was very active in 4-H as a youth and as an adult leader and received the 4-H Alumni Recognition Award in 1972. He has also been active in the Farm Bureau, Wyoming Stock Growers Association, and the National Cattleman's Association, being a charter member of the NCBA. He has also served on the local hospital board, the Niobrara Electric Association board of directors, and was a director in the Lusk State Bank for many years.

Kenny was also very active in 4-H as a youth, and attended Casper College and the University of Wyoming. He served on the local hospital board, is currently serving on the board of directors of the NEAA, is a director of the Lusk State Bank, and is a member of the Wyoming Stock Growers Association.

Holmes Herefords – Drake Ranch

Laramie County



Rep. Cynthia Lummis, Sen. John Barrasso, Drake Family, Gov. Dave Freudenthal and Sen. Mike Enzi

As told by Joylyn Drake Ciz

Mrya Louise Holmes Drake was the daughter of Keith and Elmira Holmes, the founders of Holmes Herefords. She married Richard Ray Drake in 1958. They became part of Holmes Herefords in 1959 when they moved onto the ranch. Their home originally belonged to Floyd and Georgella Holmes, and it was built in 1924. They worked together as an extended family for about 40 years.

Then, in 1997, they formed Holmes Herefords – Drake Ranch. Mrya Lou and Richard, along with their two children, Kent Drake and Joylyn Ciz, have continued this Hereford tradition. Their children have been active members of the ranch for their entire lives. They have sold Hereford cattle all over the United States and Canada, and are still continuing with this tradition today.

Holmes Herefords – Drake Ranch has had many Champion and Reserve Champions at the Wyoming



Drake Family at 1998 Denver Stock Show with their Reserve Champion Hereford Bull

State Fair in the Open Class Hereford Show and the Wyoming Pen Bull Show. They have also been active supporters of the Wyoming State Hereford Steer Show. One of the highlights for Homes Herefords – Drake Ranch was having the Reserve Champion Hereford Bull at the 1998 Denver Stock Show.

The Campstool Ranch

Crook County

As told by Odgen Driskill

William Walter Driskill, “Tobe,” started in the cattle business in Texas in the 1860s, trailing cattle north after the Civil War. He trailed his first herds into Cheyenne in 1871 (perhaps earlier). He came north to Crook County, scouting for ranch country in 1878 after the area in northeast Wyoming opened to settlement. He came north in a Confederate ambulance looking for good winter range for cattle. He came by himself with a driver. They followed the buffalo trails to northeast Wyoming, and found an area where the buffalo wintered. He returned in 1879 with 25,000 head of cattle. They ran on open range with the range being defined as the upper Belle Fourche River and tributaries. The range roughly ran from Alzada, Montana to Belle Fourche South Dakota, to Moorcroft, Wyoming to Gillette. The headquarters was located near Oshoto. The ranch was known as the D Ranch.

The family ran an open range operation, shipping over 60,000 head of cattle a year until 1887. The winter of 1886-1887 was the worst winter ever seen in Wyoming. The losses for the Driskill family were 50,000 head plus. The Driskill’s never fully recovered from the losses. By the early 1900s, homesteading was in full force with large parts of their former range being taken up by homesteaders. About this time, the family began running cattle on the Black Hills National Forest, possibly being the first forest permittee in the United States. Around 1910, they purchased the Campstool Ranch on the Belle Fourche River. The Depression in the 1930s was another tough time for the family with the loss of the original D ranch. From this time forward, the Campstool Ranch has been the base of operations for the family.



Campstool Ranch ca. 1887 prior to Driskill ownership



The D Roundup near Moorcroft



Roundup



Last Driskill trail herd from Texas to Wyoming, 1892



Buzz Driskill, 1940s



Buzz Driskill, Jesse T. Driskill, unknown, cousin We We Hoese



A D Ranch truck



Thad Brimmer, unknown, Diddy Driskill, Jesse T. Driskill

First family member to reside in Wyoming: W.W. “Tobe” Driskill

W.W. born 1853, Tennessee - died 1922, Spearfish, South Dakota

Married Louise Matilde Chambliss in Dodge City, Kansas, 1880

Son Jesse Loring Driskill, “Diddy”, also had another son and a daughter

Jesse Loring Driskill had two sons, Jesse Belvin Driskill, “Buzz”, and William C Driskill, “Billy”

Jesse Belvin Driskill “Buzz” (wife of Cecil Sunderland) had one son, Jesse Thomas Driskill, “Tom” or “JT”

Jesse Thomas Driskill had three sons, Jesse Kelly Driskill “Tobe”, William Ogden Driskill, and Matthew Sorensen Driskill

William Ogden Driskill has three children Andrea Lee Driskill, Katerie Marcelle Driskill, and Lincoln Ogden Driskill

Ogden and Rosanne Driskill (Rosanne Shoop-Lysite, WY) are the current operators of the family operation, with several of their children planning on coming home to operate the ranch



Jesse T. Driskill, early 1980s



Rep. Cynthia Lummis, Sen. John Barrasso, Driskill Family, Gov. Dave Freudenthal and Sen. Mike Enzi



Driskill brand

Driskill Cattle Co.
 Devils Tower, Wyo. Spearfish, S. D.

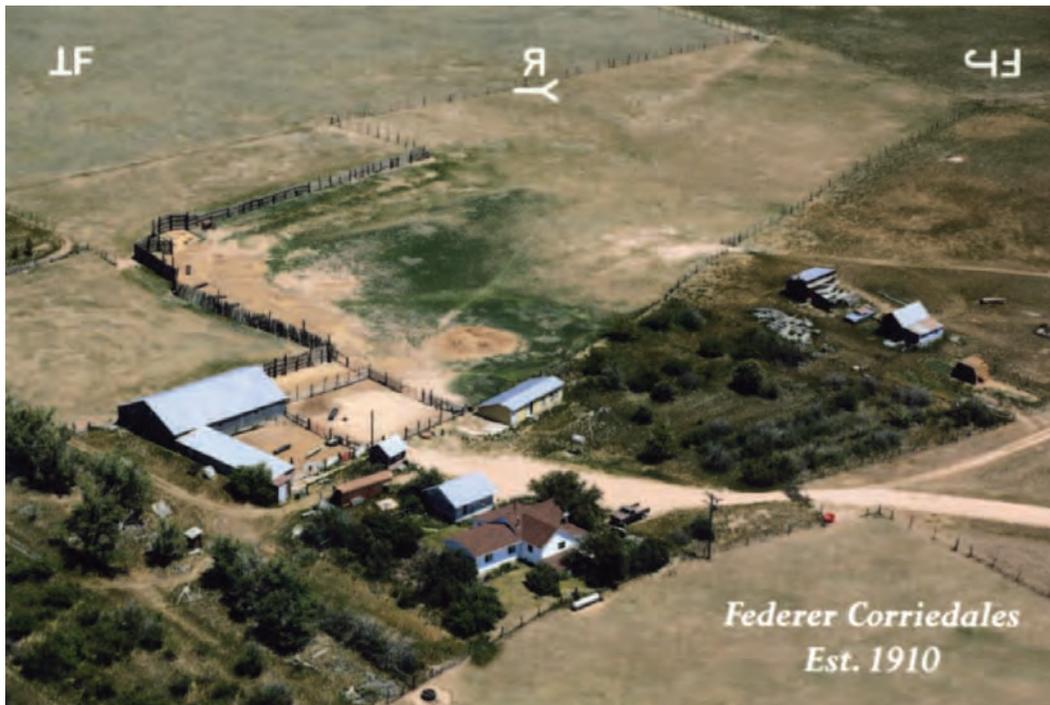
BRANDS

	left shoulder or side
	left shoulder or side and thigh
	left side
	left hip bone
	left hip bone
	left hip bone
	left jaw on horses

Old Driskill brands

The Gerald and Marcia Federer Ranch

Laramie County



Federer Christmas card, 2010

As told by Gerald and Marcia Federer

The Gerald and Marcia Federer Ranch, which includes the homestead half section (west half of Section 8 Township 15 North Range 67 west), was purchased from Theodore and Edna Federer (Gerald's grandparents) in 1974. The west half of Section 8 has had two owners, Theodore and Edna Federer, from 1910 to 1976, and Gerald and Marcia Federer from 1976 until the present time.

We are proud to get this Centennial award.

We are the owners of other private lands totaling nearly 2,700 acres. We run Angus cattle and registered Corriedale sheep. We were the breeders of the 2007 National Champion Corriedale Ram with our children, Bryan and Gina Vining. Bryan and Gina also received the 2008 National Corriedale Association Breeder of the Year Award.

Gerald and Marcia are active members of the Wyoming Stock Growers Association and the Wyoming Wool Growers Association. Gerald

is a past President of the Laramie County Stock Growers and a member of the Board of Directors for the Wyoming Stock Growers. Marcia is a past Vice- President of the Wyoming Wool Growers, and past President of the Wyoming Wool Growers Auxiliary. She was on the first Board of Directors for the Mountain States Lamb Cooperative.

We have two children, Gina Vining (Bryan), and Grady Federer. Both live on the ranch. Gina and Bryan Vining are partners with us with the Corriedale sheep. They have three daughters, Megan, Nicole, and Kayce, and one granddaughter, Cadee Mckee. The girls are also very active showing the Registered Corriedales throughout the United States with their parents. Bryan and Gina both have full-time jobs in Cheyenne. Gina is the Branch Assistant Manager for Wyoming State Bank and Bryan is the Superintendent for Sheet Metal Products.

Grady Federer has two sons, Alex and Isaac. Grady has a bachelor's degree from the University of Wyoming and works for Dish Network. Following

a tradition of 4-H and FFA involvement started by Gerald's parents, Helen and Clarence Federer, all the children have participated in all the activities of these two organizations. Gerald Federer had Champion Fat Lamb at the Western Plains Fair and the Wyoming State Fair in 1955. There are four State Farmers in the family - Gerald in 1958, Gina in 1985, Grady in 1989, and Nicole Vining in 2010.

The ranch is located about seven miles northwest of Cheyenne. The land is very rolling with elevations from 6220 to 6500 feet. The range is natural grassland. Cattle and sheep are grazed on the ranch year round. Calving starts April 15th and the sheep are shed-lambed starting around the first of February. The ranch is all contiguous and the uniqueness is its closeness to Cheyenne.

The cattle are rotated throughout the year and are wintered in Section 7 because of the protection from winter blizzard afforded by the barn in this section. The sheep are rotated in different pastures to help with weeds and noxious plants. The ranch has five water wells on it that supply 90% of the water for livestock and three homes. Three wells are windmills and two have submersible pumps, which are all about 200 feet deep. Also, within the last year there has been interest from the oil and gas industry.

In 2002, we experienced the driest year in the history of the ranch. We sold most of our cows and shipped the rest to rented pasture. We weaned the lambs early and shipped them to a feedlot and herded the ewes on rented pasture. In 1979, we had the largest snowfall on record for the ranch. Our ranch was completely covered with snow from November 20th until May 15th of the next year. We had to walk 3 miles for the first week to feed the cows. We finally purchased a snowmobile. Lucky for us (or just good planning) the barn where the cows were stranded had a hay loft full of hay. In 1992, we had a range fire that burned approximately 1000 acres of grass, and five miles of fence.

The Foy Ranch

Platte County

As told by the Foy Family

Edward Foy, Senior set out for America from Straid, County Mayo, Ireland with his brother, Tom, landing at Ellis Island in 1900. Ed first went west to Boulder, Colorado where he had cousins. He then went to Glendo, Wyoming to his bachelor uncles, Tommy and Patsy Franey. They owned a ranch on Horseshoe Creek, five miles west of Glendo, known as the 4-T Ranch since the early 1880s. After working for his uncles for some time, he accepted the job as foreman for the McFarland Ranch on upper Horseshoe Creek.

Ed had a cousin, John Moran, who owned the Stirrup Ranch on Elkhorn Creek, who Ed visited frequently, and in 1909, Ed became a citizen of the United States. Ed filed on a homestead on North Elkhorn Creek, about four miles northwest of the Stirrup Ranch, and settled there in 1910. At that time, he owned a team of horses and a few head of cattle.

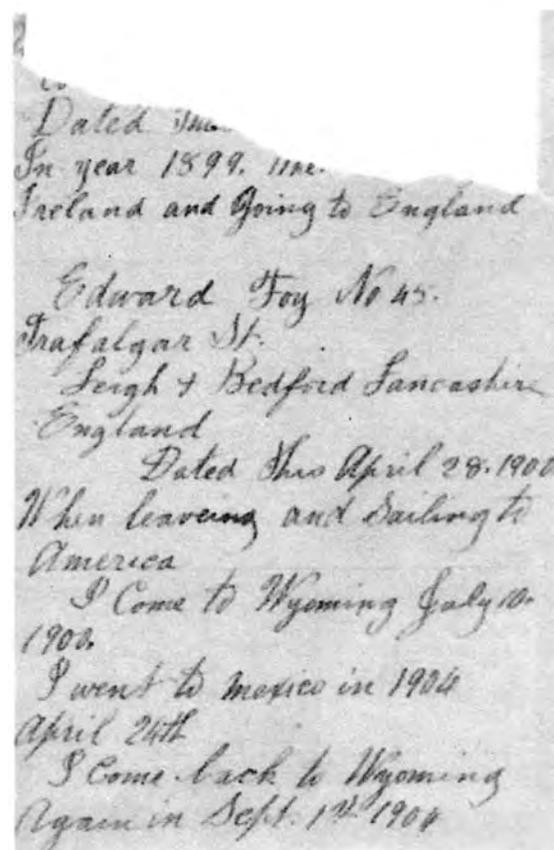
John Moran's Stirrup Ranch ran the fall round-up for this section of the county (there were no fences so it was all open range) with his top hand, Leo Conlogue, who was in charge of the operation. Ed Foy was the cook and was known far and wide as the best round-up cook in the circuit, raising the dough for bread and biscuits over a lantern. He did this without pay, and in appreciation the cowboys gave him all the mavericks. That helped Ed get in the cattle business. He established the brand "Foy" in 1932. At one time he ran 1600 head of sheep.

Ed married Rose Ferguson on June 28, 1917. They had four sons, Edward Junior, Philip, Joe, and Leo. Leo and Ed Junior raised 19 children on the Foy Ranch. Rocky, Leo's son, now operates the ranch.

There were homesteads all over, but the people couldn't survive the harsh weather. They had no income and hardly anything to eat. Ed Senior had a little grain grinder he would grind grain for families to make meal soaked in water on the stove



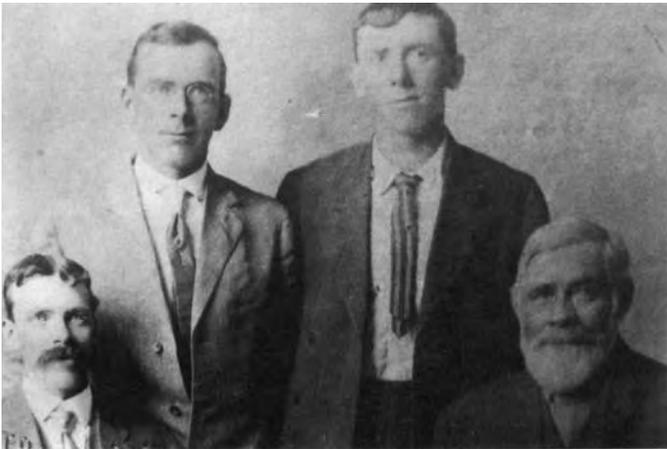
Ed & Rose Foy



Page from Ed Foy Sr.'s diary



1939 Wool Clippings, Ed Foy Jr & Ed Foy Sr.



Ed, Tom, Joe, & Uncle Tom Franey



Sheep wagon



Old barn

to eat, and gave them milk. These homesteaders remembered what he had done for them, so when they had to leave they would offer him a chance to buy their homestead. He acquired several homesteads to add to his ranch. They survived by milking every cow they had, at one time they were milking 32 head and selling the cream. They had their own milk, eggs, butter, and meat. The cream check paid for what else they needed.

When John Moran, owner of the Stirrup, died (he never married), his nephew got a share. He received the cattle and the Stirrup brand. Leo Conlogue, his top hand, got the ranch and sold it to Ed Foy, Senior. This added to the Foy Ranch. In later years when Ed and Rose decided to retire, Leo and Ed, Junior decided to each buy a separate part of the ranch. Eventually, Ed, Junior sold part of his to Leo, and part to Leo's son, Rocky. Some of the original ranch neither of them was able to get. Rocky's son, Paul, will be the fourth generation on the Foy Ranch.



Bunk House built 1865 on Stirrup Ranch



Old stone Gardner homestead house, bought by Ed Foy Sr.



Present Day Foys



Pony Express Elk Horn Station marker, Foy Ranch



Oregon Trail marker on Foy Ranch



site of Barrel Hoop or Heck Reel Wagon Train fight, Aug 1, 1876

The Sno-Shoe Ranch

Converse County



In front of barn, L to R Jeanie, Uly, front, Helen, Jess, Zelma

As told by the Grant families

Ulysses S. Grant was born in Readsboro, Vermont in 1864, the third of ten children to Daniel and Frances (Adams) Grant. In 1886, at the age of 21, Ulysses “Uly” S. Grant and two brothers, Fred and Will, left their home in Marshalltown, Iowa, to search for a new life. Approaching from the south, they crossed the Laramie Plains to travel northeast to homestead in Upper Boxelder in Converse County. After homesteading, Uly returned to Iowa to wed, then brought his wife, Gertrude, back to live in his 16 x 30 foot log house, which still stands on the ranch today. They had eleven children, nine of whom survived.

Over the years, the ranch expanded with Uly’s acquiring the homesteads of several of his children, and the purchasing of neighboring homesteads from those who had had enough of the harsh Boxelder climate. It was often said of Uly that he thought the ranch so nice in the summer that he didn’t want to leave, and the winter conditions so bad that he couldn’t leave. Before electricity was available, a carbide light system was used for the ranch house and barn, and then a wind-charger with 32 volt light bulbs was used. Commercial electricity came to the ranch in 1956. Ulysses died in 1953 at the age of



In front of log house, L to R, Elmer, Allen, baby Janice, Amy, Bessie, Jack, Uly, Jess, Elizabeth

89; at the time of his death, Uly had amassed over 40,000 acres, including State and Federal leases.

In 1966, three of Ulysses’ four sons divided the Grant ranch, with son Jess keeping the original homestead area. Jess was born in 1906 at Sno-Shoe Ranch. He homesteaded land adjoining the ranch and married Elizabeth Nagyidai in 1939. If asked, Jess would comment that working on the ranch was his fun, as it also was for his family. They had three children, Janice, John, and Jean. All of the children were educated at various one-room school houses, one still stands on ranch property today. In 1968, telephone service came to the ranch as a party-line, and in the late 1970’s, private lines were installed. Jess died in 1970, and Elizabeth continued to live in the original homestead cabin near their son, John, and his family, and in nursing care until her death in 2009.

John married Margaret Davidson in 1974. Margaret had moved out to Wyoming to teach school at the Boxelder Rural School near the ranch. They have four children, Rani, William, Johnna, and Jessica. John and Margaret’s children also attended Boxelder Rural, a one room school, through the eighth grade, and traveled into town for high school. In 1993, Sno-Shoe Ranch was awarded

the Barn Again! Award through the National Trust for Historic Preservation for their main barn built during Ulysses' early days and still in use today.

William married Rachel De Bruin in 2002. They have three children, Anna, Cora, and Daniel. Anna now attends the same school her father did. They enjoy working and raising their family in a rural, multi-generational ranch setting despite the challenges it may bring.

Sno-Shoe Ranch has always been a cow-calf outfit, putting up their own hay and currently selling yearlings. John still uses the sno-shoe brand first registered by Ulysses Grant; William uses the italic "y" brand that his great-grandpa Nagyidai used; and the ranch uses the "JN" brand first registered by Jess Grant. At one time the ranch had around fifty head of horses through which all ranch work was done. Mechanization has reduced the number of people required to work on the ranch, but just as on any ranch, an extra hand is always appreciated. Children, cousins, and grandchildren look forward to helping out when they can, and are always excited to note that they've "been out with Dad and Grandpa". And so the next generations learn from the last, and hope to be prepared for what the next 100 years brings.



Jess Grant branding



John Grant on Colonel



Rep. Cynthia Lummis, Sen. John Barrasso, Gov. Dave Freudenthal, U.S. Grant Family and Sen. Mike Enzi

The Red Fork Ranch

Johnson County



Red Wall Country

As told by the Graves Family with excerpts from *Paragon Magazine*, 2008

“Life isn’t meant to be easy,” said Norris Graves on the Red Fork Ranch in a 1961 interview with *Life* magazine.

In the photo story headlined, “Following the Call of the Old Pioneers”, Burk Uzzle captured the gritty existence of what was, even then, considered a dying way of life.

In the nearly 50 years that have passed since the story ran, little has changed on the Red Fork Ranch.

Not its family ownership or the fact that horses are the preferred mode of moving cattle. The old stone barn still stands north of the homestead between the points where the North and South Forks of the Red Fork of the Powder River meet just a few hundred yards to the east. The homestead is still a part of the ranch house where the Graves family has lived for more than 100 years.

In the 25 miles that it takes to get to this historical valley at the end of the road from Kaycee, Wyoming, there are 16 such ranches. Most of the ranches are still in the families that homesteaded them or acquired them around the turn of the 20th

century. In the mid-1890s Noble Graves, the oldest of the Graves brothers, had come to Wyoming, and then went back to Nebraska. Later he returned to Wyoming and homesteaded in Barnum, Wyoming along Beaver Creek in 1897. In 1901 Noble's folks, Charlie and Grace, younger brothers, Frank and Lee, and the rest of the family were finally forced out of Nebraska after enduring several years of killer blizzards and grasshopper plagues. Plagues so bad the bugs ate the fence posts. Frank first homesteaded high in the Big Horn Mountains. The Red Fork homestead was purchased in 1908 by Graves Brothers, a partnership of Charlie Graves and his three sons. Frank then moved into tamer country along Red Fork to raise his family and farm and ranch in earnest. His folks moved to the Red Fork homestead as well. In 1915, Frank fell in love with and married Fannie Lea, a local girl whose family first kicked up the Wyoming dust in 1898. They came to gather wild horses, break them, and send them back to Nebraska for the farmers. When Frank met her, her family lived and worked on the Bar C ranch some 20 miles south of the Red Fork Valley. The Bar C is forever famous for the steady stream of outlaws that passed through its gates.

Frank and Fannie settled in the homestead cabin between the two creek forks and raised four children, a son, Norris, and three daughters, Nona, Merle, and Shirley. On the ranch, Frank raised several hundred head of Shorthorn and then Hereford cattle. "Dad was a good farmer and Grandpa, who lived down the creek, loved to help irrigate," recalls Nona, now 94. Between the two of them, they raised substantial alfalfa and Timothy hay crops. "The Timothy grass," remembers Nona, "was taller than I was when I was eight or nine."

Frank and his neighbor used black powder and shovels to hand dig an irrigation tunnel through a hill which is still used today. The tunnel was critical so water could reach lower meadows when the prospect of pushing it over the side of the valley proved too much. They farmed the hay, oats and wheat with teams. There was a community thrashing machine that was used to thrash the wheat and oats raised in the valley. The wheat was later taken to the Kaycee Mill so the family would have flour. In the summers they trailed the cattle to



Baby Nona at Red Fork

mountain elevations of 7500-8500 feet for summer grazing. In addition to cattle, in the 1930s, Frank started raising sheep to utilize the grass more efficiently. The agile creatures were well suited for the Big Horn Mountains, which made up a substantial part of his grazing ground.

By the 1940s the ranch had survived the Depression, droughts, and grasshoppers. It survived the years when the freight to ship cattle cost more than they were worth. It survived winters and heartbreak, but it still brought much joy to a family who had settled into a valley that was home to the last major Indian battle in American history. It was a ranch where gate hinges were once made of gun barrels and army cots were used in the ranch shop for scrap metal. The forties marked nearly seven decades since the cry of Northern Cheyenne warriors echoed off the valley walls and cavalry soldiers claimed victory over the Indians in the Dull Knife Battle led by Colonel Mackenzie in November 1876. The victory came just six months after Custer died at the Little Big Horn. The battle has been considered a turning point in conquering the nomadic native peoples of the west. It was perhaps both an ominous and benevolent omen to those who would settle the red earth of the Red Fork Valley afterwards. Much the same struggle rages today. Though today, the battle rages between ranchers who wish to maintain a way of life, a heritage important to the American West,

and aggressive land buyers who have no historical connection to the land and lack understanding of a lifestyle where monetary gain is not the payoff.

In the 1940s, Norris started taking more and more responsibility for the ranch, eventually taking it over and leaving his bronc riding days to the younger set. On the 20,000 acres on the east slope of the Big Horn Mountains, Norris followed in his father's footsteps. Raising a family of two girls and two boys, Norris and his wife, Mae, ran 1800 head of sheep, 200 head of cattle, and 40 head of horses. He is quoted in the *Life* magazine article, "I never expected a bed of roses. I didn't get one."

What he did get was a life that he loved. One that was hard on the heart and sometimes tougher on the spirits, but one that was free and connected to the land, its critters and the people who lived the same life. It was a life that revolved around family, nature and community. Norris was a great dancer and spent time two-stepping with his girls, Joyce and Bonnie, at the community hall and teaching his sons, Kenny and Lee, to ride saddle broncs. They roped, fished, worked hard, and loved each other intensely. He was involved in the community as school board president and was a sought after saddle bronc instructor.

Later in life, he was "Grandad" to dozens of saddle bronc riders who clamored for his lessons. His favorite pupils were his grandsons, two who made their mark in the professional rodeo world. Craig qualified for the National Finals Rodeo nine times. He was honored as the NFR rookie of the year and, later placed second in the world standings. He is now the rodeo coach at Panhandle State University where his team won the College National Finals in 2004. His brother, Deke, was the PRCA's Mountain States Rookie All-Around Cowboy and Saddle Bronc Champion in 1986. Deke qualified for the NFR and finished fifth in the world standings. He died in a car wreck a few days after coming home to Kaycee from the NFR that same year.

Even in the roughest of times, Norris was known for his tenacious ability to hold on to the ranch, his quiet humor, and raucous whiskey drinking that drove his sisters crazy.



Ken Graves on saddle bronc



Ken and cows coming off the mountain



Ken bringing cows off the mountain

In 1983, his eldest son, Ken took over leadership of the ranch. Norris continued to be a steadfast contributor and worked side by side with his son. Ken had married Cheri Landrey in 1981. Her family raised registered Red Angus in northern Johnson County. Ken and Cheri converted the ranch to a registered operation and currently run 600 head of registered Red Angus and 50 head of commercial cows. In 2000, they sold their sheep when the predator population of bears, lions, coyotes and eagles made it nearly impossible to keep enough ewe lambs alive to keep the herd going. They run 50 head of horses including fifteen good saddle horses which are kept close to home for daily work. A Percheron team is occasionally used for light farm work. Time constraints don't allow them to farm with the horses as they once did and as Ken says, "no one understands how to hitch them, drive them, or feed with them." But they still use the teams to drag the meadows, clean up rocks, and haul wood.

While attending Casper College, Ken returned to work on the ranch every weekend. When he wasn't working, he was riding saddle broncs with his good friend, Chris LeDoux, and other bronc riders from the Kaycee area. He broke his back in the middle of his rodeo career, when a horse went over backwards with him in the chute at Belle Fourche, South Dakota. He kept riding until it was time to take over running the ranch full time. Something he always knew he would do. At that point he gave up his bronc saddle to his nephews and he became their bronc riding instructor. Through all adversities faced whether in the bucking chutes or on the ranch, Ken's same quiet, unwavering perseverance comes alive. And it's very apparent when he tells real estate agents, "Its NOT for sale".

Ken's wife, Cheri, grew up south of Arvada, Wyoming on the Powder River helping her folks on their ranch. Cheri graduated from Chadron State College in Chadron, Nebraska with a double major in math and the earth sciences. She went on to teach math and geology in high school and worked on archeological digs in the summers until she married into the Graves family. In 1985, she helped bring the same registered herd she'd grown up with



Cows coming off the mountain



Ken Graves



Cheri giving Red Wall Country tour



Graves red cows



Branding Graves' cows



Crew ready to gather horses off the mountain

to Red Fork. It is the second oldest registered Red Angus herd in the state of Wyoming. A herd that produces forage tested bulls and efficient, easy fleshing cows as tough as they come. With her background, she appreciates the incredible history of the area and enjoys giving tours of the battlefield for those who come from across the country to see this special valley and experience the event that took place.

Ken and Cheri faced challenges similar to those before them on the Red Fork Ranch. Modern machinery and technology are still no match to the power and unpredictability of Mother Nature. In the late spring of 1984, Ken and Cheri lost 90% of the 2000 head of sheep they had in one pasture. A vicious, unpredicted blizzard hit the area and carved a 36-mile path of havoc over the country side. A saddle horse suffocated in a barn, his nostrils filled with blowing snow, and froze in an icy mask. Thirty to forty feet of snow filled draws and became ghastly tombs to hundreds of freshly shorn sheep. Most of these were ewes who were desperately trying to get out of the brutal wind to find shelter from the driving rain that began falling that April day. The Graves' family walked the draws for three days and saved just 50 head. A mother cow trying to find protection from the relentless weather was found drifted over and dead, her baby huddled next to her frozen body had nursed through the three day ordeal and survived. It is this bittersweetness of nature that keeps these families coming back to an existence of ranching.

In the rough and tumble existence, Ken and Cheri have raised three girls, Kendi, Lyndi, and Neteal. All of whom are good hands and as the ranch women before them, they don't expect special treatment because of their gender. They know their jobs and how to do them, whether it's ropin', ridin', or buckin' hay. The three girls are making their own way in life. Kendi with her degree from Chadron State College, Nebraska, in Business Administration with an emphasis in Management Information Systems, is the Executive Director at the Hot Springs County Economic Development Co. in Thermopolis. Lyndi has graduated from Valley City State University, North Dakota with her



Neteal, Kendi, & Lyndi Graves



Neteal Graves (right)



Kendi Graves and Fred Heinze at branding 2010

Bachelor's Degree in Elementary Education and Early Childhood Development and is ready to begin her teaching career. Neteal is a junior at Augustana College, South Dakota, majoring in Archaeology and she is studying abroad for a year at Exeter University in England.

Ken and Cheri are just now making their way out of the seemingly insurmountable debt that has been wracked up keeping them in business over the years of wool market collapses, tough cow prices, and drought conditions. "We used to run around 200 head of cows and 2500 head of sheep. After we sold the sheep in 2000, we increased the cow herd, built up to over 1000 head of females and have in the last two years sold down to around 650 head. A couple years with good moisture and plenty of grass, much higher cattle prices, and a great market for our cattle have allowed us to downsize our herd and get out from under a significant amount of debt."

"This is a way of life you have to love, we could sell the place for huge money, but we don't want to. This is who we are. This is our life."

As one looks down the Red Fork Valley with its vibrant red earth to the east and the Big Horn Mountains rising on the west, the untainted blue sky caps the ranch, creeks gurgle greetings as they meet to form a river, and a mare and foal graze in the meadow. The image of a little boy on his tummy drinking from the ditch running by the house and a girl running through the meadow trying to see over the tall grass brings back memories of five generations of Graves' who have called Red Fork home. No wonder ranch life is so wonderful, no wonder it's so hard, no wonder it's worth every moment of it.



Sen. John Barrasso, Rep. Cynthia Lummis, Graves Family, Gov. Dave Freudenthal and Sen. Mike Enzi

Holmes Homestead

Laramie County

As told by Shirley Holmes-Churchill

Floyd Russell Holmes, Senior was born in Chariton, Iowa on April 25, 1886. He married Georgella Bevan April 6, 1909 at Chariton. Georgella was also born in Chariton, August 27, 1889.

Because Floyd was from a family of 12 children, he came West for greater opportunities and a place of his own. Floyd took a homestead on the north half of section 12, township 16N, and range 66W in January, 1910, 20 miles northeast of Cheyenne. In February, 1910, Floyd, along with Roy Bevan (Georgella's brother), and Gene Curtis, each rented a railroad car to bring their livestock and housing goods to Wyoming. Floyd brought some horses, a cow, and chickens. The three men lived in a barn Floyd had hired built until each got their homestead shacks built.

Georgella and infant son, Keith (May 11, 1910), came to the two-room Holmes homestead in July, 1910. Three more children, all born at the homestead, came along: Katherine (March 21, 1914); Louise (April 30, 1916); and Floyd R. Junior (May 19, 1921). With the growing family, two rooms were added to the homestead house.

At first, in order to make ends meet, Floyd, Sr. worked herding sheep at neighboring ranches and during lambing season worked there nights, and with little sleep, at home during the day. He would put up ice off of Lodgepole Creek for the ice house in Cheyenne in the winters. Floyd worked on the Burlington Northern Railroad right-of-way putting in the railroad bed for track from Cheyenne to Denver. Floyd also helped blade and maintain Laramie County roads.

Georgella churned butter, dressed chickens and turkeys to sell, along with eggs, to Cheyenne residents. She also exchanged eggs for groceries. After several years of living the pioneer life, they



Floyd, Sr. & Georgella, 1928



Homestead house built in 1910
Floyd, Sr. to left & son Keith, right

were able to acquire more land and cattle, and in 1925 built a new home (an Aladdin pre-cut) along Yellowstone Highway, five miles west of their homestead.

They were truly pioneers in the state of Wyoming for the territory at that time was open country and one could see for miles without any sign of life. Cheyenne was only a small cow town but the Union Pacific and Colorado and Southern Railroads were here and there was a street car line running from 16th Street, up Carey Avenue to Fort Russell, which today is known as Warren Air Force Base. The basement for the Plains Hotel was started that spring of 1910.

In 1957, Floyd and Georgella rented out their ranch to family and moved to Fort Collins, Colorado to enjoy a slower pace on the small acreage they bought there. Floyd continued to farm some and still had a few cattle, sheep, and horses. Together, Floyd and Georgella worked a most productive large garden and had an orchard the entire family enjoyed, picking apples and plums in the fall. In their last years, they also purchased a house in Mesa, Arizona so they had “a place to go every fall.”

Upon Floyd’s death August 30, 1967 in Fort Collins, Georgella returned to Cheyenne to be near their children. Georgella died October 5, 1989 at the age of 100. Both are buried in Beth El Cemetery in Cheyenne.

The homestead land transferred to Floyd R. Holmes, Junior in 1989, along with two additional sections which Floyd added to his homestead holdings. This land is known as the “Down East” unit of Floyd R., Junior and Berniece E. Holmes’ ranch. The homestead house foundation is all that remains of the buildings, but the corrals as well as the original cement tanks are still in use. The sod broken for farming to help prove up the homestead has been reseeded to grass for cattle in the operation of the Floyd R., Senior and Gerogella Holmes homestead today, 100 years later.

The Holmes family has a lengthy involvement with Cheyenne Frontier Days (CFD). Floyd, Sr. and



Floyd, Sr. on the binders with three up on the hitch



Five mowers cutting hay, Floyd, Sr. with front team



Floyd, Sr. and Louise with his team and drag



Floyd & Georgella's children, Keith (back), Katherine Holmes Wellman (left), Louise Holmes Bartlett (right), Floyd, Jr. (front)



Thimble Club in front of Georgella's home; she is 3rd from left holding Keith



Mary & Georgella hauling water from Warren Livestock well



Georgella Bevan Holmes, right, & sister Mary Bevan Berry; their parents, John & Hannah Bevan, homesteaded in 1910



Floyd, Jr. in front of homestead well, ca. 1924



Floyd, Jr., 1934



Floyd, Jr., late 1940s



Floyd, Jr., late 1930s



Floyd, Jr. with Pearl on the hay rake, 1949



Putting up loose hay, 1950s



Louise, Miss Frontier 1939, brother Floyd, Jr. to left, dad Floyd, Sr. to right with good Hereford cattle



Louise welcoming all to Cheyenne Frontier Days 1939



Louise, Miss Frontier 1939



Floyd Russell Holmes, Sr. 1886-1967 and Georgella Bevan Holmes 1889-1989

Keith started as parade marshals in 1934. Norman “Buck” Holmes also served as a parade marshal in later years. Floyd, Jr. drove a four horse hitch on a “July” wagon in 1940. In the early 1940s, the Holmes’s provided an eight horse hitch and helped drive them on the famous Union Pacific Buffalo Wagon. During World War II the family wasn’t quite as involved. From 1949 through about 1962, all four Holmes men as well as Louise, Berniece, and Myra Lou drove parade teams they furnished. Keith and Floyd provided their sister, Louise, horses “Silver” and “Tony” from 1936-1939, her time as flag bearer through Lady-in-Waiting and Miss Frontier 1939. There have been four of the Holmes family serve as “Miss Frontier”: Louise Holmes Bartlett, 1939; Carolyn Holmes O’Connor, 1967; Shirley Holmes-Churchill, 1979, and Britt Holmes-Miller, 2002.

Louise was a member of “Wheels” and drove in the parade for many years. Shirley, Heather, and Britt



Floyd, Jr. (1921-2009) in the homestead pens sorting pairs to put out with the bulls, 2009



Floyd, Sr. & Ellie with his team on fresno building a dam

were “Dandies” for CFD and Shirley managed the timed event cattle and rode in the arena at CFD for 29 years. Most of the Holmes family has either drove or rode horseback, side-saddle, on floats, or in wagons over the past 65 years and was a predominant family in the four-generation pioneer wagon for many years.



Shirley Holmes-Churchill, Miss Frontier 1979



Shirley, Britt, Louise, Cheyenne Frontier Days coronation 2001



Britt Holmes-Miller, Miss Frontier 2002



Rep. Cynthia Lummis, Sen. John Barrasso, Berniece Holmes Family, Gov. Dave Freudenthal and Sen. Mike Enzi

The Menuey Place

Platte County

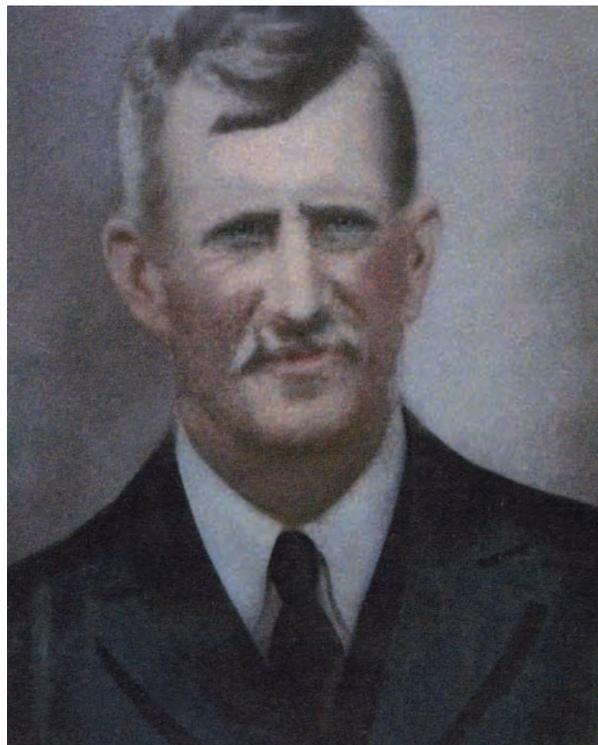
As told by Shirley Holmes-Churchill

The Menuey farm was homesteaded in 1910 by Berniece D. (Rhoades) Holmes' maternal grandparents, Dominique Francis (1861-1941) and Anna Katherine (1874-1918) Menuey after coming to Wyoming from Nebraska. The homestead site is on the N1/2 section 29, T22N, R65W, Platte County.

Dominique and Anna came to Wyoming with their five oldest children: Poline, Lucille, Francis, Forest, and Violet. They had two more children after settling on the Slater Flats: Mildred, and Ernest, who was stillborn. Their oldest, Poline Margaret (1895-1954), married George Dillard Rhoades (1881-1968) and they homesteaded the south half of this section 29 in the same years of 1910. To the union of Poline and George were born Sylvia E. (1914-2003), Earnest (1917-1994), and Berniece E. (Mrs. Floyd R. Holmes, Jr. (1915-2011)).

The Menuey's came west on the railroad immigrant cars, hauling their livestock, machinery, and household goods. Soon upon their arrival, their horse drawn plow, as well as the plows of the Rhoades' families, began turning over and farming the fertile sod ground of the high plains of Wyoming. Farming was all done with horses, from plowing to drilling to harvesting.

Harvesting was quite a process using a header, header barge, and threshing machine. The grain was hauled to Chugwater by horse and wagon. It was weighed on the only scale in Chugwater at the Swan Land and Cattle Company, and then shoveled by hand into the railroad cars. It would often be late at night when the unloaded wagon would return home from the 25 mile round trip. A wooden, double-sided, pull through granary still stands at the site of the Menuey home, paying tribute to the many pioneers who came and turned Slater Flats into the large wheat country it is today.



Dominique Francis Menuey



Dominique & his children, Francis, Forest, Lucille (Mark), Violet (Snakenburg), Mildred (Derby), Poline (Rhoades), Sept 9, 1919, day of Anna's funeral



Dominique with his son-in-law, George Rhoades (husband of Poline)



Menuey-Rhoades binder harvesting wheat, George driving six abreast



Berniece (Rhoades) Holmes, Earnest Rhoades, Sylvia Rhoades



Menuey-Rhoades threshing crew



Berniece, Earnest, & Sylvia



Dominique, 1937, 76 years old

In the very first years, Dominique, like many other men, went back east to work to make ends meet, leaving his wife and family to keep things going at home. Also, in the early days, Anna was called on often in times of sickness and to be a midwife. One neighbor said she really had a knack for caring for the sick and was very knowledgeable, too.

Until a well could be dug, water was hauled from a neighbor, the Klutz's, who lived about two miles away on the rim of the canyon. There were many good springs in the canyon and they had fixed a ram to bring the water up to the top for use. This "Klutz Canyon" starts in Section 29 and leads into Goshen Hole and the creek continues on into Miller Lake. The canyon was a real gathering place for picnics and swimming for the community of families.



George, Berniece, Earnest, Sylvia, & Poline with the homestead well and barn behind

Early school was about two miles south of the homestead in the Burhan's home until land was donated by Joseph Rhoades (1845-1913, father of George D.) in the NW corner of his 1910 homestead on Section 32. This school was only one-half mile south for the Menuey children to attend and was named the Box Elder School. The school house building still stands today.

The Menuey and Rhoades families went into town about once a month and bought crackers in a wooden barrel, cheese, fresh fruits, etc. They would stop off at Chugwater Creek to water the horses and have a picnic lunch on the way home. Their main supply of groceries was ordered from Montgomery Ward in the fall such as 500 pounds of sugar, a large wooden barrel of salt, peanut butter, and dried fruits. The order had to be picked up at the freight office in Chugwater.



Berniece, Earnest, & Sylvia, late 1950s

They raised all their own meats and vegetables and had all their dairy products at home and many cows were milked and butter and cream used for trade. Cellars were used to keep vegetables from their huge gardens. Salt, brine, and lard were also used in preserving different foods. Chug Creek supplied them with all the fish they wanted to eat as well as making an outing for the family.

People were very neighborly and relied on each other for help in many ways such as butchering and



Earnest, George, Berniece, Sylvia the day of Poline's funeral, April 22, 1954



Berniece & Floyd Holmes



Sylvia, Earnest, and Berniece, 1983

harvesting. Anna's health got bad and she passed away in 1918 and her sister, Minnie, in 1919. Many died in this time frame from the epidemic flu in 1918. As one of the Menuey daughters stated, "There was never much money and we missed not having a mother, but in spite of all we had a happy childhood".

Many of the area homestead pioneers took great pride in establishing the Iowa Flats Church and cemetery. The Menuey and Rhoades families rest in this cemetery east of Chugwater. These people were of a different stock. It took a daily resolve to overcome adversity. It required thoughtfulness and thrift in every business transaction. It meant finding joy and reward in the common necessities of life. Pioneers knew the value of faithful family relationships. The pioneers have endured the pain upon which our pleasures are built. We are indebted to their labors.



Sen. John Barrasso, Rep. Cynthia Lummis, Gov. Dave Freudenthal, Berniece Holmes Family and Sen. Mike Enzi



The George & Poline Menuey homestead shack today, 100 years later



Site of Dominique & Anna Menuey homestead. Drive-thru grainery & old lilac bush still stand



R BAR H RANCH

Laramie County



R Bar H Ranch home place

As told by Keith Norman “Buck” Holmes

Floyd Russell Holmes, Senior and Georgella Bevan were married in Chariton, Iowa in 1908. Floyd came to southeast Wyoming in the fall of 1909 and found a parcel of land he liked about 18 miles northeast of Cheyenne. He filed on that half-section on January 23, 1910, and that was the beginning of the R Bar H Ranch.

He went back to Iowa and brought Georgella and their newborn son, Keith, out in an immigrant car on the Union Pacific Railroad in the summer of 1910. They worked together, raising livestock and dry land farming and also acquiring more land. Times were tough and Floyd worked for the Union Pacific Railroad in the winter to help provide for the growing family. They had four children: Keith, born in Iowa, Katherine, Louise, and finally Floyd, Junior, born in 1921. All the children helped on the

ranch. In 1926, the family moved from the original homestead west about six miles next to the original Yellowstone Road. Floyd supplemented the ranch income by helping to maintain several miles of this road for the State of Wyoming.

It was in “the twenties” that he was assigned the R Bar H brand. The “R” for Russell and the “H” for Holmes. They continued to prosper and added more land and livestock and the children grew up. The children all went to Cheyenne to finish their schooling, with Keith waiting two years so that Katherine was old enough and he drove both of them to Cheyenne daily, a drive of about 20 miles, even through the nasty cold winters, Louise and Floyd doing the same. Keith helped his dad, Floyd, and in 1937 he married Elmira (Myra) Vetter and bought some land close by that the State of Wyoming had for sale because of a loan foreclosure. This was the beginning of Holmes Herefords.

Keith and Myra bought some registered Herefords and started in the registered Hereford business. Katherine became a schoolteacher and eventually married Ralph Wellman, who also was an educator.

Louise was Miss Frontier in 1939, married, and left the ranch to settle in Cheyenne. Floyd served in the Navy in World War II, then returned and ranched and farmed with Floyd Russell, Senior. He also bought land of his own. He married Berniece Rhoades in 1949 and they and their two children continued to farm and ranch. They will be covered in the F. R. Holmes, Jr. Ranch, so they are also a Centennial Ranch.

Keith and Myra Holmes had a daughter, Myra Lou, in 1939, and a son, Keith Norman "Buck", in 1941. Keith and Myra's Registered Hereford herd continued to grow and their land holdings increased through additional purchases. Myra Lou and Buck grew up attending school in Cheyenne all twelve of their public school years. They also helped on the ranch, with Myra Lou driving the team to the overshot stacker when she was six years old. Buck started in the hay field at six years old, driving a single horse of shafts pulling a scatter dump rake. They also did a lot of "cowboying" after riding ten miles or more to gather cows, and then moving them another eight or ten miles and then riding their horses home.

Floyd and Georgella Holmes continued to prosper, but were becoming older. In 1957, they retired to Fort Collins, Colorado, and turned the management of their land and cattle over to the two boys, Keith and Floyd. Each boy had his own individual operation, but cooperated haying and other occasions as necessary. Both families prospered and at one time owned or controlled over 20,000 acres between them. Floyd Holmes, Senior passed away in the late 1960's, and Georgella moved back to Cheyenne to be closer to her family. Georgella continued to use the R Bar H brand on her cattle until she passed away at the age of 100 plus two months in 1986. In her later years, she passed the rights to the R Bar H brand to her grandson, Buck Keith and Myra Holmes, and their children, Myra Lou and Buck and their families. Myra Lou, being married to Richard Drake in 1998, and Buck,



THE HOLMES family from Laramie County attended the ROM Hereford Show at the Wyoming State Fair, which honored Keith B. Holmes, head of the pioneer ranching family north of Cheyenne. The oldest member of the Holmes clan in attendance was Georgella Holmes, 93, mother of Keith, who moved from Iowa to the Cheyenne area early in the century. Still spry and chipper, she drives her own car, keeps house, and maintains an interest in ranching.



Floyd Russell Holmes Sr. Threshing, 1960



R Bar H Ranch



R Bar H Ranch house



R Bar H Ranch Registered Herefords



R Bar H Ranch sign



Wheat harvest in the 1960s, R Bar H Ranch



Sen. John Barrasso, Rep. Cynthia Lummis, Buck Holmes Family, Gov. Dave Freudenthal and Sen. Mike Enzi

marrying Eva Jeanne Olson in 1971, continued to ranch as Holmes Herefords.

In 1998, Buck, Eva Jeanne, and their daughters, Heather and Britt, and the Drake family split the ranch, with each family retaining part of the original F. R. Holmes, Senior Ranch. The Drake's retained the Holmes Herefords name, and Buck, Eva Jeanne, and family became the R Bar H Ranch. They continue to raise registered and commercial cattle along with stocker cattle to this day, and the R Bar H brand goes on the cattle that they own.

A unique occurrence with the entire Holmes Family is that there were four Miss Frontiers throughout the years. Louise Holmes Bartlett, as mentioned earlier, in 1939, Carolyn Holmes O'Connor in 1967, Shirley Holmes Churchill in 1979, and Britt Holmes Miller in 2002. These girls all together served Cheyenne Frontier Days for eight years of service, first as Lady-In-Waiting, and then Miss Frontier.

The Buck Holmes family would like to thank the people and organizations that sponsor the Centennial Farm and Ranch Program for recognizing us as we head into the next century of operation!

The Livingston Ranch Crook County

As told by Dorothy Livingston Davis

The ranch is ten miles south of Sundance and north of Inyan Kara Mountain. Thomas and Estella Livingston moved their family to this site in 1910. Since that time there have been five generations of Livingston's live in this house. The house itself started as a two-room log structure made from timber cut at a nearby sawmill. The square logs can be seen dividing the kitchen from the dining room. Before Thomas moved here, the back frame portion of the house was added. The picture shows the house when they arrived with Thomas, Estella, and their children. Soon after they came, they raised the roof to add bedrooms for their family. Later they added a porch to the west.

Thomas and Estella Livingston family history:

I, Dorothy Davis, was born February, 20, 1905 in Monroe, Iowa, the fifth living child of Thomas Edwin & Estella (Gifford) Livingston. (Dorothy married Dan Davis and lived most of her life in Wyoming.) My oldest brother, Glen Edwin, was born July 29, 1894 near Monroe, Iowa. He later moved to California and married Ruby Seital. Glen died in 1974. My second brother, Ellis, was born August 14, 1897, in Monroe. He was killed by a horse north of Rapid City, South Dakota in the 1920s. My only sister, Myra Mildred, was born near Monroe, Iowa, the third child born to this union, on November 20, 1899. She married Chester Hamilton and they lived in North Dakota and South Dakota before settling in Wyoming. My third brother, and the fourth child, Herbert D. Livingston, was born near Monroe, Iowa, on August 14, 1902. He met and married Zela Jacobson and they lived most of their life in Wyoming. He died on September 21, 1970.

Dorothy remembers:

In 1910, my father bought an 800 acre ranch for \$12.00 per acre on the west side of the Black Hills, in Wyoming, south of Sundance. This ranch was



Thomas & early mowing machine for harvesting hay



Thomas & the bobsled



Thomas with pigs



(L to R) Myra, Ellis, Estella, Herbert, Thomas, Dorothy & Glen



Herbert, Myra, Glen, Dorothy & Ellis



Dorothy & her belongings ready to leave for the normal school in Spearfish, SD

located on Inyan Kara Creek, north of the Inyan Kara Mountain. It was known as the Travic Morris Ranch. It was a beautiful ranch, many trees, lots of grass, good water-and plenty of it. We had many good buildings and a five-room house. Soon after we moved, my dad (with the help of Mr. Murphy, a house mover who lived on the Dooling Ranch) raised the roof and made four more bedrooms, which we really needed. We all loved this beautiful ranch and spent our lives here until we were married.

In 1919, Tom went into the sheep business. He went to Inyan Kara Mountain and cut and sawed lumber for three sheep sheds for lambing. He was in the sheep business for several years. Tom acquired two other homesteads and built a homestead shack on his claim. Estella also filed for a homestead. The shack was moved to whatever claim was being filed on. Ellis died in 1920 of complications from a horse accident. He was buried in Spearfish, South Dakota and later his body was moved to Newcastle, Wyoming. Ellis was born 1897. He was 23 years old when he died at a hospital in Spearfish.

School was held three months in the summer. The transportation to school was by walking or by horseback or team and buggy. High School and Normal School (college) were held in Spearfish. All of the children attended the Normal School.

They raised sheep, cattle, hogs, and chickens, and grew oats, wheat, and hay. In the 1930s, a water line was installed from a windmill-driven spring to a cistern on the hill to provide gravity flow water to the houses and barn. This advanced system was used until the 21st century.

In 1928, when Buddy was three weeks old, Herbert and Zela moved to the ranch with Thomas and Estella. They lived there with Dee and Buddy, with Lynn being born after they were there. They lived there until Buddy had gone through the first grade. During the period when they lived with Thomas and Estella, they built a new two-story home that set about 100 yards northwest from the present house. Zela was not pleased with it. There was no paint on the inside or outside. Buddy explained that Thomas



Thomas, Estella, Children, spouses, & grandchildren



Steam engine to power sawmill



Thomas & Estella Livingston 50th anniversary



Grandpa, Daddy, & Uncle Glen, 1934



Thomas & Estella, children & grandchildren

wasn't a carpenter and tended not to finish things he might start. So that may explain some about her displeasure with the house.

Buddy said that Zela, his mother, wasn't excited about having Buddy spend time off with Grandpa Tom. Buddy remembers a time when he had gone riding Old Billy with Tom out to the school section to check cattle. When they had crossed Kara Creek it was running but not too high. However, while they were out there, the creek rose to the degree that Old Billy had had to swim to get the riders back. Buddy's shoes were wet and it had been an adventure. Another memory revealed Buddy riding out west by Inyan Kara Mountain on horseback with Tom when a storm came up. It started to hail, so Tom jerked the saddle blanket off and held Old Billy who was trying to jerk away and covered them with the horse blanket to fend off the hail. Buddy said it seemed like forever as a kid, but that the storm had probably lasted only five minutes or so. As a mother, you can appreciate why Zela might have been leery of Tom taking care of the kids.

In 1934, Herbert, Zela, and the family moved to a place on Skull Creek. In 1942 Thomas and Estella rented their ranch to the Nussbaum's and purchased a home in Belle Fourche, South Dakota. They lived there until Tom's death in 1948. Estella lived in Newcastle until her death in 1950.

Ellis "Buddy" and Norma Livingston's years at the ranch:

In 1952, after the ranch had been leased for several years outside the family, Buddy and Norma, with their infant son, Perry, leased the ranch from aunts and uncles. Since nobody had been living at the ranch, it was pretty rough for a while. Perry Ellis had been born September 21, 1951. (Perry married Carla Thompson and they have lived at the ranch since 1974.)

Buddy and Norma worked hard to make improvements as their family grew. The family increased when Debra Jo was born, April 22, 1953. (Debby married Jim Austin. They have spent most of their married life in the southeastern United States after spending time as missionaries in the



1952, when Buddy & Norma & Perry moved in



1956, Janice, Perry, Debbie, with Doug sitting



Buddy & butchering crew, late 1950s



Herbert with grandchildren at house residing, 1956



Buddy's bobsled, house in background, 1959



Zela, Buddy, Herbert & Dee, home Thomas built for Herbert & Zela



1962, Buddy on tractor pulling a tree planting machine, Warren Ferrell & Richard Gray, shelterbelt had 8 rows of trees



Perry, Doug, Debbie, Janice, Buddy & Norma



House, mid '60s, Buddy & Norma's era



Debbie, Janice, Doug, Perry & dog Bounce Bounce, early 1960s



Top Debbie, Norma Bottom Doug, Buddy, Perry, Judy Clark (neighbor), Janice

Philippines.) Janice Lee arrived May 18th, 1954. (She has lived in Wyoming since returning from college. During 1990- 1992, Janice, with labor from the family, built a log home a quarter mile east of the original homestead where she lives.) On January 16, 1956, the family was complete when Douglas Jay was born. (Doug married Peggy Tally and has lived most of his married life in Newcastle.)

Buddy and Norma spent their years at the ranch making improvements. They remodeled, replacing the horsehair plaster where it was weakened. They removed walls in the kitchen and dining rooms and exposed the huge square logs from which the original two room cabin had been built. They added a bathroom and laundry area. Buddy traveled to Cheyenne to purchase a new heating system so they could replace the stoves and chimneys with a coal stoker central forced air system that heated the main floor. There was a hole on the east side of the house down in the foundation. Buddy converted that area into a coal chute. The west side also had a hole. Buddy remembers that when the wind blew, the rug would flutter up. Buddy dug out the basement down to the lime rock floor and cemented the south side to make the foundation stable.

They rebuilt corrals, tore down sheds and an old log granary, and added others. Many of the outbuildings were falling in when they arrived. They tore down the old log barn and moved Herbert and Zela's two-story house down to the same spot where the old barn had set. Voila! a new barn. The sheep sheds were falling in but part of them burned before they could be torn down. They planted a shelter belt. In the 1960s they took classes to learn how to artificially inseminate their herd. Buddy felt that technique had definitely allowed them to better the quality of the herd.

In 1962, they bought the ranch at \$23 per acre after loads of hard work. They ran a cow-calf operation, raised pigs and horses, and grew oats and hay. Buddy was active in the community, serving on the school board, library board, President of the Crook County Farm Bureau, and six years on the Wyoming Highway Commission. Norma was involved in Homemakers Club, 4-H leader, Wyoming Cattlewomen, and more. Herbert and



Perry with bobsled, 1985



Chris, Travis, Carla, & Perry, 1995



Perry, Doug, back row, Janice, Buddy, Norma, Debbie front row



Livingston house, currently

Zela bought a ranch four miles south of Newcastle on Oil Creek in 1945. After Herbert's death, Buddy and Norma purchased the Newcastle ranch.

In 1974, Buddy and Norma moved to the Newcastle ranch. At that time, Perry and Carla moved to the Sundance ranch following Perry's graduation from UW. Travis Ellis was born March 6, 1977. (Travis married Kendall Shaul and lives in South Dakota.) On December 20, 1978, Christopher Glen completed their family. (Chris is engaged to Amanda Xu and currently lives in Arkansas.) They were the fifth generation to live in the house. Perry and Carla continued to remodel, putting heat upstairs, continuing to reinforce or replace plaster, carpeting, painting, and replacing windows as needed. They remodeled the bunk house. Perry has improved water sources in the pastures, including an irrigation system, and a solar powered stock watering system. He replaced the gravity flow cistern and the coal heating system. He has fenced and divided pastures. Maintenance and upkeep on a centennial ranch is continuous. Perry has been active in his community. He has been President of Crook County Farm Bureau, fire warden, served on the Soil Conservation Board, elected as a Crook County Commissioner, and is currently serving as President of the Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation. Carla teaches school in Sundance.

In 1979, the Newcastle ranch and Sundance property became incorporated as Livingston Ranch Inc. with Buddy, Norma, Perry and Carla, Debbie and Jim, Doug and Peggy, and Janice as shareholders. Buddy continues to live at the Newcastle ranch, staying active with the cattle business. He has restored the buggy that Thomas and Estella brought from Iowa as well as a bobsled that was from the Davis side of the family. Perry and Janice run the cow-calf operation as well as having jobs in the community. We feel blessed to be here and glad that Thomas chose such a beautiful spot.



Herbert Livingston Family, 2010 ranch celebration



Rep. Cynthia Lummis, Sen. John Barrasso, Livingston Family, Gov. Dave Freudenthal and Sen. Mike Enzi



Doug & Buddy restoring Thomas' buggy



(L to R) Carla, Perry (top), Travis, Chris (bottom)



Buddy & Norma in rebuilt buggy that Thomas & Estella brought from Iowa in 1906



Centennial Celebration photo in Thomas & Estella's buggy. Doug & Peggy, Buddy, Debbie, Janice, Perry, Carla, Kendall, Travis



Doug, Buddy, Debbie, Perry, & Janice, 2010

The Cooney Hills Ranch

Platte County

As told by Mickey Grant McGuire, 2008

Robert Grant and his son, Duncan, came to America in the 1860s from Motherwell, Scotland. Robert's older sister, Jenet, was married to Dave McFarlane and they had settled on Chug Creek on the M Bar. Robert and Duncan joined them and filed on a homestead of their own and later sold it to John Hunton, and then moved to Sybille Creek and filed on another homestead.

Robert Grant basically took care of the homestead on Sybille Creek where a small log cabin was built. Duncan (to create some cash flow, as we say today) went to work as a freighter for his cousin, John McFarlane, who had a contract with the government. He freighted supplies from Cheyenne to Fort Fetterman and Fort Laramie with bull teams. At this time there was no way to cross the North Platte River at Fort Laramie so the drivers had to swim their teams pulling the loads, all the while trying to keep the wagons from overturning and the freight from floating away. In the winter they had to cut a channel in the ice and work waist deep in the freezing water to keep the teams moving. The drivers' clothing would freeze solid before they could get out and continue their journey. In 1875, the government appropriated \$15,000 for a bridge to cross the North Platte River. The bridge was prefabricated heavy iron beams and girders, and Duncan was given the unenviable job of getting it to Fort Laramie.

After Duncan's freighting days he went to work for the Swan Company, a Scottish company that owned a number of ranches that at its peak encompassed four million five thousand acres. He was made cattle foreman over all the ranches and this is why we have copies of all the reports sent to stockholders in Scotland. Duncan was cattle foreman for approximately twenty years until they went into sheep.

Mary Regan was at this time teaching school at the Robert Grant Ranch and McDougall Ranch School



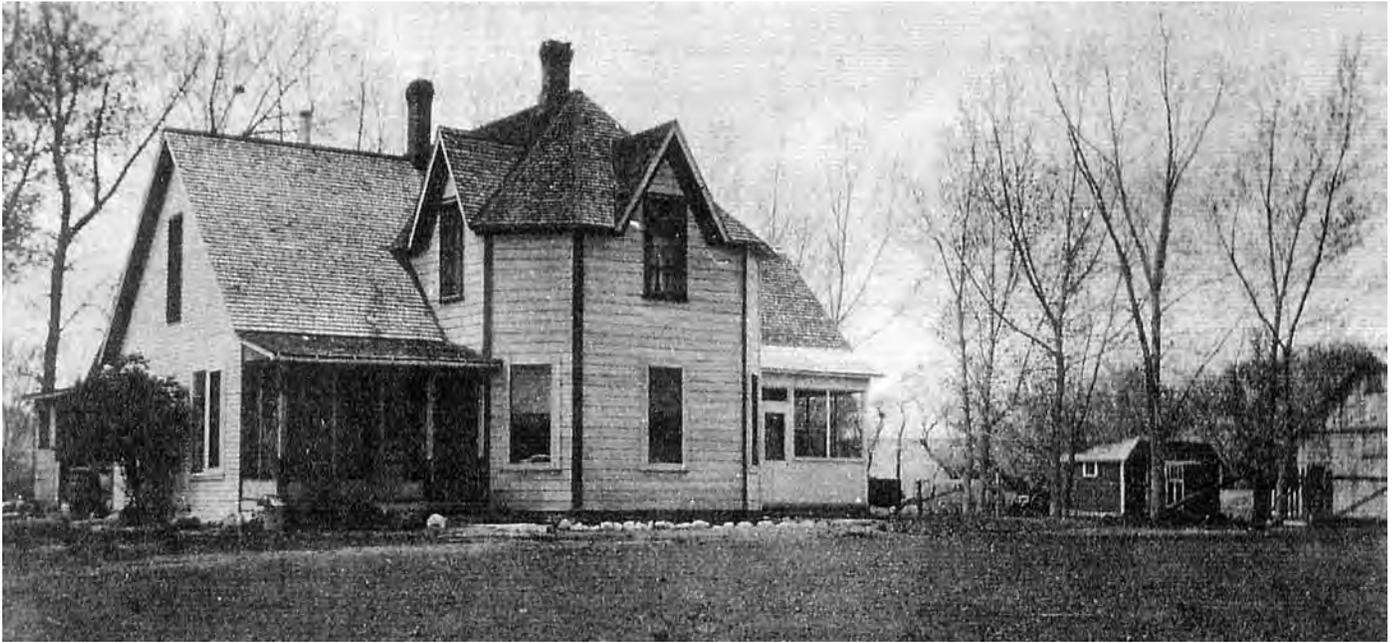
Duncan Grant



Duncan at ranch with supplies from Cheyenne



Original Ranch House, 1874



House, 1890

on Richeau Creek. Duncan had a two-wheel cart and a fast stepping black team and when he was out making inspections of the ranches he made it a point to stop by the school. They were married in 1892.

Duncan said when they were at the TYthe Indians were pretty bad. They were supposed to stay on the reservation north of the North Platte River, but they would come down and steal horses. One night the Indians made a major raid and the cowboys went out the next morning to see if they had any horses left. There was a small swamp there and evidently one Indian who was on foot got bogged down and lost his pants. Among the horses they stole was a little mule and he broke away from the Indians and came home. Duncan said this mule could “smell an Indian” for miles, so after that they kept him tied right by the window and if the Indians came back he would wake them up. In the summertime they would run the rope through the window and tie it to the bedpost.

This new house was completed in 1890. The lumber was sawed by putting a water wheel in the Sybille. This is the house we still live in, where George Grant, Ralph Hall, and Mickey Grant McGuire were all born.

There was a post office at the ranch from 1891 until 1905. It was called the Two Bar Post Office



Mary Grant



George Grant



Duncan Grant with wolf he shot, late 1880s

but it was at the Grant Ranch and Duncan was postmaster. George Grant used to tell these stories, "I can remember old Chris Christensen who carried the mail with a team. In the winter he would come into the room which was used as a post office, with icicles hanging from his mustache and frost on his eyebrows. He wore a fur cap and a bearskin long coat, and as he was a large man, he always reminded me of a bear. His breath was strong with the smell of whiskey and I guess whiskey kept him from freezing, for he was out in some terrible weather. He always drove a team of two broncs and let them run as fast as they would. One day he was going a bit too fast and as he made a sharp turn coming down the hill to the creek he turned over. The team broke loose and when they went to look for Chris, they found him gathering up his mail, apparently undisturbed by the accident. My father noticed a wooden box that had been thrown some distance from the cart and when he went to get it he said it was a case of dynamite labeled "HANDLE WITH CARE". Another time Chris got knocked off the swinging foot bridge when there was a flood in the creek. He managed to reach the shore and crawled out, still hanging on to his leather mail sack."

When Duncan worked for the Swan Company, Al Bowie was the general manager and Duncan and Bowie formed a lifelong friendship as he also did with John Clay. We have a desk that was a wedding gift to Duncan from the Bowie's. When John Clay wrote his book, My Life on the Range, he brought an autographed copy to Duncan who was by then bedridden with arthritis. Somehow we do not have the autographed book anymore but do have a nice card sent by John Clay on the occasion of Duncan's and Mary Regan's wedding.

When Duncan left the employment of the Swan Company all efforts went toward developing the ranch. Robert passed away in 1900 and is buried in a little cemetery at the ranch, as are three of his nieces who died in childbirth. Dorothy Kline, daughter of Duncan, was 100 years old this June (2008) and says she remembers her mother talking about taking care of one of the babies for a time.

The first orchard in Platte County was at the ranch and George Grant said the whole Wheatland

community used to come and get apples for their winter supply. Few trees remain today due in part to not having been properly pruned and partly due to age and drought.

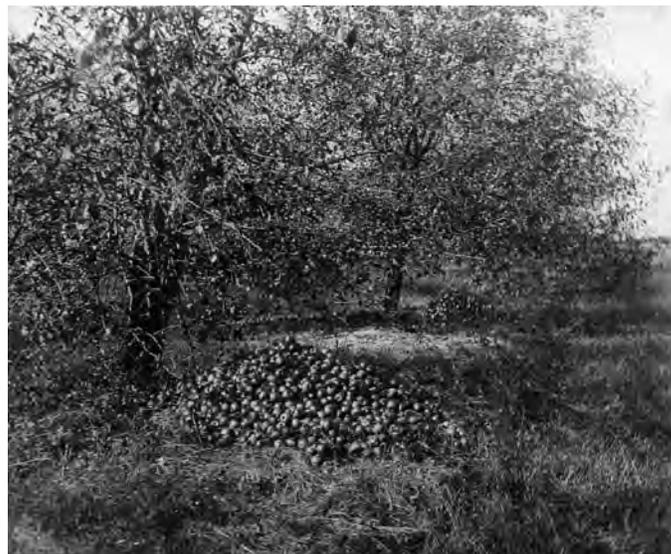
The water right is 1878, the first on Sybille Creek. As is always the case with water, there are frequent squabbles between neighbors. We won't mention any names, but in later years our neighbor put his son up in a big cottonwood tree with a video camera to be sure there was no tampering with the head gate and the poor kid fell asleep and fell out of the tree!

In 1903 Duncan decided he had to try and do something to combat his arthritis. It was decided to try the hot springs at Thermopolis. Tom Eshom was employed to take care of the ranch.

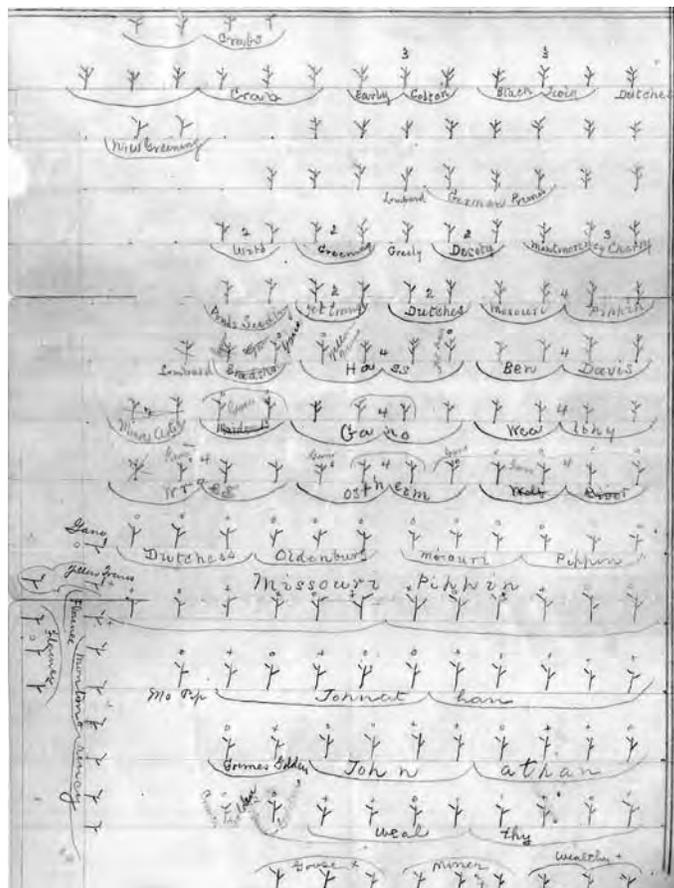
In 1906 Duncan was elected to the Legislature from Laramie County and served for a term, but his health was deteriorating rapidly so they decided to lease the ranch and try to find some help for him. Originally, the ranch was leased to H. Ralph Hall. Mr. Hall was also employed by the Swan Company and when they found out he had leased the ranch they were not happy and he had to turn the lease to the company. Ralph Hall was born at our house during this period.

In the ensuing seven years the Grant family traveled to New York, Arkansas, Colorado, and California to different mineral springs but to no avail. It only provided temporary relief and they returned to the ranch in 1913. It must have been the most discouraging situation imaginable as the Company had let sheep herders live in the house and Dorothy says the place was filthy and infested with bed bugs. They had to fumigate, of course, and Duncan's sister, Jeannie, even made the men white wash the corrals.

About this time, the Wheatland Development Company was building the Number One ditch through the ranch. The men working on the ditch dug hollows down in the ground and slept right at the job site. Agnes Grant, Duncan's daughter, cooked for the men. She turned 102 in March, 2008. The hollows the men slept in are still visible in the horse pasture.



Apples



Orchard Map

Duncan was bedridden for close to twenty years. It was during this time his son, George, filed on a homestead of his own. I'm not sure what the stipulations were to prove up on a homestead, but I know you had to live on the land for a period of time. George had to return home at night to turn his

dad and care for him, and a neighbor “contested” his homestead because of this and took it away from him.

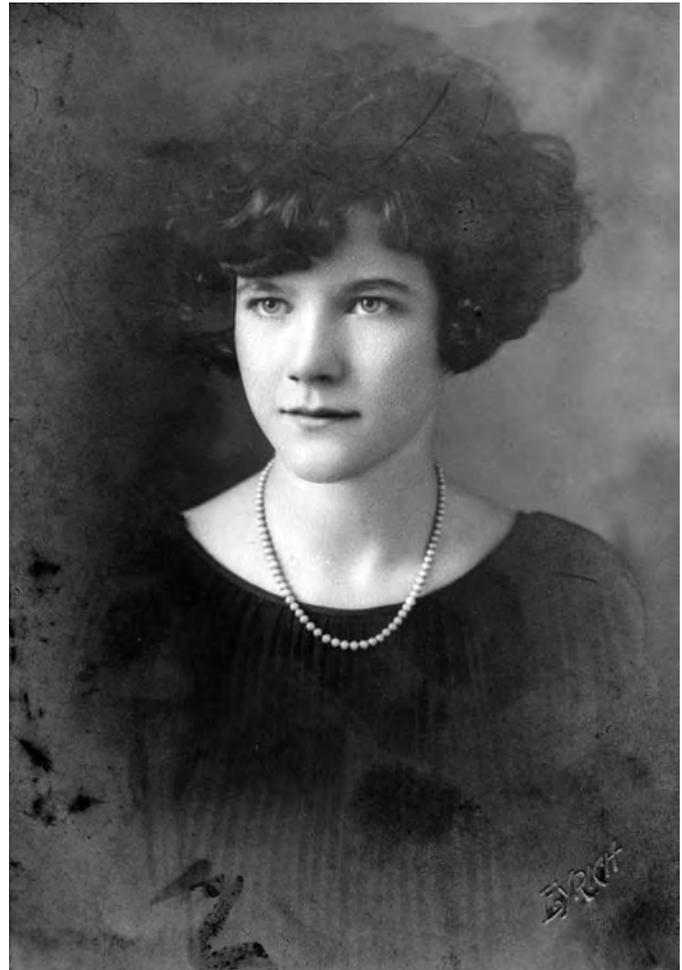
On April 20th of 1920, they had a horrible spring blizzard. George had just purchased 100 head of registered cows from Alley Hoffman and lost every one of them. The snow was four feet deep and it was twenty below zero. This is why so many of the old timers still will not kick out on grass until after the 20th of April!

Duncan passed away in 1932 and at that time George felt free to marry. He had been corresponding with an Irish gal from Iowa for ten years. This is how that strange event evolved: several years before, a schoolmate of Penny Keenan’s decided to come to Wyoming from Iowa to work on a ranch. Peggy, always a great “tease”, said to send her the name of a good-looking cowboy. So began the correspondence that lasted ten years, and they only saw each other twice before marrying.

They were married in 1933 during the Depression and, worst of all, terrible drought. The government was coming in and shooting cows, as there was nothing for them to eat. Peggy said she would have left in a heartbeat, but she didn’t have enough money. She later found out that it was just as bad in Iowa. In one of Agnes’ papers she says “the peppy little redhead on her first shopping trip to town bought the unheard of luxuries of toilet paper and baker’s bread”, which was a shock to the frugal Scotch family. Peggy eventually grew to love Wyoming and ranch life.

One day, after George had delivered a calf under bad circumstances, he made the comment he wouldn’t have given fifty cents for the calf’s chances. Peggy immediately gave him fifty cents and I remember she carried that calf out in the sun everyday and propped it up with hay. It eventually grew to be one of the largest cows on the ranch. Not a bad investment for fifty cents.

In the late 1930s, Van Crouter, married to Margaret Grant, and George decided they would become rich by starting a Silver Fox ranch. The first pairs



Peggy Grant

came from Prince Edward Island. The pens were just west of the house and covered about two acres. There was one large pen that enclosed the two acres and then individual pens inside. There was underground wire under all of them and overhangs. Each pen had wooden feed boxes that could be accessed from the outside as you couldn’t trust the foxes - they would nip you from behind. Also each had a wooden house with a curved runway ending up in a burrow or nest. George used to buy all the old horses in the area and grind the meat with fresh carrots and a mix of meal and vitamins, which was formed into balls about the size of a popcorn ball – each ball was weighed before being placed in the feed boxes. The flood of 1936 washed out the pens and there were foxes in all the chicken houses up and down Sybille Creek. When World War II started we could not get help so the foxes were sold and alas, no one ever got rich!

After the cattle were fed in the winter, George used to spend all of his afternoons in the basement of the

bunk house pelting the fox skins. There was a stove down there and it was a favorite place to play. We would probably be cited for child endangerment this day and age as it obviously was not the most sanitary of conditions. Around Christmas time, though, the basement was off limits as George was making our toys for Christmas.

Before we had a bridge, we had the choice of going down through the Neilson place (seven gates), or we could cross the foot bridge, which was hung by cables probably ten feet above the water, if it wasn't flooding. You sure got your exercise carrying boxes of groceries over to the house as it was a couple of city blocks from the foot bridge.

When the children of George and Peggy started school, we went to a country school about four miles from the ranch. There were eight grades in one room and one teacher taught all eight grades. Maude Schreyer drove our bus, an old army bus with board seats and no heater. We all thought it was great fun when we hit a bump and all landed on the floor. In second grade they closed the school and I was sent to Denver with my Aunt Margaret and attended parochial school. I used to ride the bus to Denver by myself – how times have changed. You wouldn't think of putting a second grader on a bus alone this day and age.

From third to fifth grade I boarded in town with different families: Orval Bridgeman's, Carl West's, etc. The next year we moved into the Fish house and came home to the ranch on weekends. Alberta Fish had to go to Washington, D.C. to care for her ailing father, so Mother cooked and kept house for Russ and H.T. in exchange for living there. The Fish house is the large brick house catty corner from the mortuary. After this we had a school bus that came within one mile of the house – so that was a luxury – we walked.

In 1954, we had a horrible drought. Sybille Creek quit running and George and Mac McLeod, who at that time owned the Two Bar, leased a ranch in South Dakota and took the cattle up there. The grass in South Dakota looked too good to be true and it was! Our grass around here is short, but extremely strong – the grass in South Dakota was



Ranch house



tall and beautiful, but our cows couldn't eat enough to sustain them.

Fred and I were married in February, 1955 and the night we got home from our honeymoon the trucks started coming from South Dakota. The cattle were weak but my dad started caking them and we were able to bring them out of it. Mac McLeod did not cake his and he lost a lot of calves. We worked for my folks for a year and then leased the ranch and finally purchased it in 1962.

Through the years several additional properties have been added to the ranch. It is now operated as a Limited Partnership with the great-great-grandchildren operating it at present and the next generation ready to take the reins.

THE END

Fred and I decided anything in the last 50 years isn't really history yet – someday our kids or our grandchildren can do that report.



Rep. Cynthia Lummis, Sen. John Barrasso, Gov. Dave Freudenthal, McGuire Family and Sen. Mike Enzi

We do have one interesting bit of trivia to share. We have a beautiful oak table and chairs Fred's folks gave us for a wedding gift. It has been used every day of our married life and we figured up the other day how many meals have been served on it – 50 years times 365 days = 18,250 times 3 meals per day = 54,750 meals times an average of five people per meal = 273,750 meals.

The Pape Ranches

Sublette County

Submitted by the Pape Family

The view from the highway is pastoral – pronghorn antelope, the fastest land animal in North America, and mule deer, icons of the American West, lounging in luxuriant grasses while cattle browse a pasture nearby. Both the wildlife and the livestock look very much at home on the sprawling majestic plains of northwest Wyoming, bordered by the Wyoming Range to the west with the Green River winding along the base of its foothills.

A hand-carved wooden sign by the main gate from the highway reads “PAPE RANCHES” and a smaller sign in the field reads “Welcome to Cattle Country”. But there is so much wildlife in every direction; the sign could just as well declare “Drive By Zoo.” Canada geese float the small pond above a small stream where brook trout and rainbow trout are abundant. Sage-grouse ramble inside fenced hay stacks and in the grasses beyond, within eyeshot of Sandhill cranes picking their way through wetlands and red tail hawks circling overhead.

Norman Pape’s great-uncle, Will Pape, came from Kansas in 1897 and his brothers, Artie, Lon, and Frederick Herman soon followed. They had been farmers and because of drought found their way to Wyoming where they homesteaded the land. They all ranched for a time. Frederick Herman started ranching in 1905 after bringing his family from Kansas.

Norm’s father, Lester, used to tell him that if he couldn’t deal with moose raiding their haystacks, he ought to go back to Kansas where the Pape’s came from. Norm never gave it a second thought. He knew better. “This is almost like the Serengeti” he marveled. And he wasn’t kidding. The Pape Ranches of northwest Wyoming are located in the southern part of the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem, the last remaining large, nearly intact mountain ecosystem in the United States, retaining most of the living organisms that existed in pre-



Pape Ranches sign



Game on ranch, Sandhill Crane



Moose on the ranch



Mary & Lester Pape with Norman, Karmen & Nadine, 1932



Feeding sheep in the 1930s Pape ranch



Lester trapping furs; one year the only income they had!

Cambrian times. Pronghorn antelope pass through the ranches on one of the longest land mammal migrations on earth, 180 miles.

Quaking aspen and cottonwood leaves fluttered outside the kitchen window of the house Norm Pape has lived in all his life, as Dave, 46, and his older brother, Fred, 48, sat around the breakfast table mapping out their day with the 80-year old Norm, and his wife, Barb, an attractive blue-eyed woman

with snow white, perfectly coiffed hair. Dave was headed six miles north to the McDole Place, a separate property, with a tractor and mower (a “sagebrush beater”) to an area cattle were having trouble getting through. Fred was going along to cut firewood out of a stand of beetle-infested Lodge Pole Pine on the Rosene Place, another ranch farther north. Barb was juggling bills to pay and events to plan while Norm talked on the phone about the fall meeting of the Hoback Stock Association, nine ranchers who hold summer grazing leases in the Bridger-Teton National Forest, before he would drive his pickup across the highway to inspect a head gate that Dave built to create a wetlands and winter watering area for their cow and the wildlife.

They had a schedule to keep. Winter was coming. Three days earlier, on the last day of August, the ranch had already received a dusting of snow along with a hard freeze, cutting short the normal 64-day growing season in this high country, 7300 feet above sea level.

The Pape’s lives revolve around tending to 2,700 head of “Black Bawlies,” Red Hereford /Black Angus crossbred cattle, the 10,000 acres of open range and irrigated farmlands they own, and their grazing leases on over 100,000 acres of federal and state lands as well as leased private lands. “Most ranchers want to treat their public lands like they treat their deeded lands,” explained Norm. “It’s to our benefit.”

“They don’t realize we’ve been here over 100 years,” added Dave.

They breed their stock with 50 plus bulls, eschewing artificial insemination. With no hired help, they do it all themselves, and take pride no one in the family has had to take a town job to keep the ranch going.

It has been a good year, over all. “It wasn’t a good spring,” Norm said, referring to a dearth of moisture,” but I’m pleased sage-grouse numbers are good.” They calve in April through the end of May. Most of the cattle are moved into the high country for summer. By August, the family - three generations - is haying in the fields (the brief

growing season allows but one cutting although the hay is exceptionally protein-rich). They purchase feed conservatively only after determining what each pasture can carry.

By the end of October, the hay is put up, fences are fixed, and cattle have been shipped to market. “The cattle either gained well, or they didn’t.” Norm said of his favorite time of the year. “You can catch your breath, you can go hunting, visit your buddies, take the time to do what you want to do. There are no insects, the nights are cool, days are nice, you can look back and see what you’ve accomplished.”

Whenever questions are raised around the breakfast table, the family instinctively reaches for one of the annual diaries that have recorded ranch life over the years. “This is monitoring, this is what keeps us on track.” Norm smiled, holding up a bound notebook marked 2007. “We can go back years to see what happened on that day”, Norm said. “We go to the book.” The diaries fill an entire bookcase, with observations about what temperature, rainfall, snowfall and range conditions, a practice that began when Lester and Mary married that Norm has carried on.

Father, mother, and sons divvy up chores effortlessly. “We’ve worked together so long,” Dave said, “that we don’t have to really discuss a whole lot.” His brother agreed. “We all work on machinery, we all fence and we all work on wells,” Fred related. Each has special skills. Fred built the addition to his house and the beds for his kids. Dave does horn art and like to push boulders into creeks running through the Home Pace to improve the habitat for the brook and rainbow trout.

For the Pape’s, it has never been enough to simply conserve what is here. Five generations in, they are more committed than ever to make it better. The roadside view tells the story. Ninety years ago, when the working cattle ranch was established, if there were such things as automobiles and state highways, a motorist would have viewed a decidedly different landscape – a vast sea of sagebrush and little more.

The wetlands, the lush irrigated pastures, and all the other features that attract wildlife are a direct



Moving cattle Norman counting cattle into summer range



Moving cattle to summer range

result of years of hard work, careful planning, and exceptional vision by Norm and Barb, Dave and Fred, Fred’s wife Michelle, and Dave’s wife Naomi, recently deceased. Before them, were Lester and Mary, and Lester’s parent, Frederick Herman and Lena. Fred and Dave’s older sister, Jane Ann Potempa, lives and works in southern California with her husband, Chuck, but she too comes back for the annual branding as does her daughter, Mary Barbara, 12, and her son, Joe, age 10, who has more than a little cowboy blood in him according to his grandparents.

Taking care of the land and the cattle requires water management, irrigation management, brush management, buying up land when they can from neighbors who approach them, staying out of debt, and wildlife management. “Dad was a hunter and so was granddad,” Norm said. “Most of the early people were. What wildlife was here was the source of food. Dad and Mother enjoyed watching people hunt and visiting with people.”



Ranch branding (David's wife, Naomi-deceased)



Branding on the ranch, Jane Pape Branding



Morning gatherings & consulting diaries

Norm's appreciation of wildlife was enhanced by serving on the Wyoming Game & Fish Commission for six years beginning in 1987. His frequent absences while serving on the commission allowed his sons to make decisions on their own and grow into the job. Additional income comes from a gravel pit by the highway leased by the state of

Wyoming, leasing land for radio towers leased to both the State and the County, and from selling older equipment while it has resale value.

The Pape's are also constantly dealing with sagebrush. As soon as homesteaders, including their family, put down roots along the Upper Green River a hundred years ago, they began grubbing on the coarse, hardy bush that dominates the dry parts of the Intermountain West, first to create gardens and eventually to create open range and pastures, using fire, poisons, and handwork. But the only real solution to knocking out sagebrush, according to Norm, is water, one reason the family considers water to be their key management tool.

“Water over time kills sagebrush, so over time, the headstaders moved the water away from the river,” he explained. “We have four diversion points out of Green River here at Pape Ranches. They moved that water, made these green areas, made these meadows, made these willows, made all of this.”

Flood irrigation created better grazing land and better wildlife habitat, drawing increased number of resident and migrating species. The result was improved wildlife habitat and better grazing land. Willow stands and riparian areas are fenced off from cattle.

Their open door policy extends from roadside viewing of wildlife to hunters and fishermen, who welcomed onto designated parts of their land at no charge, as long as they get their license signed by Norm Pape or one of the family. Pioneer hunters over seventy years of age and disabled hunters have a special area set aside so they can enjoy the great outdoors and take a shot at a mule deer, antelope, and even elk that they would otherwise not have the opportunity to hunt.

“There may not be financial benefit, but we benefit just to see that wildlife is here, that we provided habitat for it, that we're in a unique part of the world where there is wildlife movement back and forth like this,” Norm said. “Golly, sakes, nobody else has that opportunity.”

They happily host over 150 friends, family, and neighbors who come to their annual branding on the Mershon Place that Norm's parents bought in 1946.

“One way to educate people is when they come to visit,” Norm explained. “You show them how it works. We gave some staunch environmentalists in Pinedale a private tour and then invited them to a public tour. It’s an opportunity to expand environmental and conservation awareness how we provide habitat for wildlife and provided public joy through hunting, fishing, and just driving by the highway.”

Frugal management has allowed them to extend the largesse. “The thing about this ranch was, there wasn’t a lot of debt against this outfit, or a mortgage,” Norm said. He and his father never overextended. They upgraded equipment when they could still get a resale price out of the machinery they were replacing. Whenever they purchased new property, they paid it off before they bought more.

Everyone has made sacrifices for the ranch. Norm spent five years at the University of Wyoming though he didn’t get a degree. “There were a couple of springs (in college) I stayed home to help with the ranch work because we didn’t have any help,” he said. But he learned what he needed, and saw enough of the world during a two-year hitch with the Army (well, Fort Benning, Georgia, at least) to conclude he belonged on the ranch.

Fred and Dave received degrees in agribusiness at the University of Wyoming before they, too, returned with new ideas about brush control, improving habitat for wildlife and better grass. The Pape’s employ range monitoring, cross fencing, pastures rotation, livestock watering systems. Their irrigated meadows provide winter feed for stock and wildlife both. It’s all part of long-range planning. “We determine what each of these pastures will carry over a period of seven years,” Fred said, pointing out areas on an aerial map where they are resting pastures.

The wetlands that were created by damming a creek reflect their big picture view of the operation. “People say, why don’t you drain those wetlands and create more meadow?” Norm related. “The boys just about come off their chairs when they hear that. We can utilize those wetlands late in the year if we need to.” Twenty acres is dedicated to testing spring grazing forage. The Pape’s have also

installed new game-friendly fence that keeps cattle in but allows antelope and deer to roam freely. They fence around willow stands which provide wind breaks and keep livestock out of riparian areas.

Like most ranchers, the Pape’s constantly battle sagebrush. The coarse, hardy bush that dominates the landscape of the Intermountain West is a prodigious water user. So Fred and Dave follow in Norm’s footsteps, and Lester’s before him, in beating the brush to bring back native grasses that had been grazed out.

But not too much. “That’s one reason why we spray in a random mosaic pattern,” said Fred of the family’s prudent use of herbicides to knock back sagebrush in partnership with the Natural Resource Conservation Service. “We want to catch snow (with sagebrush) and leave enough for the deer, antelope, and the sage-grouse,” the latter being high prairie natives whose numbers have been declining throughout the west, although a significant population on the Pape Ranches remains healthy.

There are even bigger challenges down the road including the scattering of homes popping up to the north around Forty Rod Flat, portents of land fragmentation which negatively impacts livestock and wildlife, especially migrating species.

Meeting those challenges will be up to the next generation of Papes’s living on the ranch, which happens to be all-female. Norm and Barb aren’t fretting. Hadley, 17 years, Dave’s daughter, and her cousins, Sydney, also 17 years, and Logan, 20 years, have embraced the ranching lifestyle, working as the ranch’s hay crew while staying active in 4-H at their high school in Pinedale with academics and sports. Once they’ve gone off to college, perhaps they’ll bring back husbands who will want to ranch, too.

“It’s a good question that we ponder from time to time,” Norm said. “We may not come out and say, ‘What’s going to happen down the road? Who’s going to take over for the sixth generation with a good outfit?’ But this is a family operation. Most of the good ranches are still in existence and have a family to take care of business, and they’re

not depending on a lot of labor because it's not available. Who knows? Barb and I aren't going to live forever. We're just here for a short time as our son, Fred, frequently reminds us." And yet, long after Norm and Barb are gone, the fruits of the labor, their outstanding stewardship, and their legacy will be evident for all to see, including the next generation that runs the Pape Ranches.

Five Generations of the Pape Family

1st GENERATION: Frederick Herman Pape: 1872-1950 (m. Lena Johnson)

2nd GENERATION: Frederick Lester Pape: 1897-1975 (m. Mary Hillier)

3rd GENERATION: Norman Frederick Pape: 1930 (m. Barbara Bower)

4th GENERATION: Frederick W. Pape: 1962 (m. Michelle Schwartzkoph)

5th GENERATION: Logan Lynn Pape, Sydney Michelle Pape

4th GENERATION: David W. Pape: 1964 (m. Naomi Wise, deceased)

5th GENERATION: Hadley Jane Pape

4th GENERATION: Jane Pape (m. Chuck Potempa)

5th GENERATION: Mary Barbara Pape, Joseph Frederick Pape



1st generation of Papes in Wyoming



1st generation, Lena & Frederick Herman Pape

Family Tree: 1st Generation Rancher

Gr.Gr Grandfather Pape--Herman Frederick, (Fred) was b. Jan 26, 1872 in Bloomington, IL. d: March 05, 1950 in Pindale WY

Married Lena Johnson 1896 in Hepler Kansas

Gr.Gr Grandmother Pape-Lena Johnson was b. Oct 25, 1875 in Hepler Kansas and. d: Nov 4, 1962 in Jackson, WY

They had 4 children--*Frederick Lester; William Johnson; Helen Louise; Mildred Alice (Alice)



2nd generation, Mary & Frederick Pape Lester

2nd Generation Rancher

Gr Grandfather---*-Frederick Lester was b. Aug 09, 1897 and d: January 15, 1975 and the Ranch in Daniel Wy.

Married Mary Olphonsis Hillier November 1, 1925
Gr Grandmother---Mary Hillier was b. December 3, 1902 in Fulton Kansas and d: April 23, 1992 in Pinedale Wyoming.

They had 5 children: Twins: Kenneth Lester b: 1929 d: 1929 and Karmen

Ester Born 19 Daniel Wy (Marincic)

Twins: * Norman Frederick b: 1930 and Nadine Francis b: 1930 Jackson Wy (Babcock)

Miriam Lesta b. March 9, 1935 (Davison)



3rd generation, Norman & Barbara Pape

3rd Generation Rancher

Gr Father---*Norman Frederick Pape: b. Aug 8, 1930 Jackson Wyoming

Married: Barbara Jean Bower, Sept 27, 1959 in Worland Wyoming

Gr. Mother---Barbara Jean was born May, 15, 1935 on a farm in Worland Wyoming

They have 3 children: * Jane Ann; b. October 27, 1960 in Rock Springs Wy

*Frederick William: b. May 31, 1962 in Jackson Wy

*David Wayne: b. October 7, 1964 in Jackson Wy



3rd, 4th, and 5th generation of Papes



5th generation Papes with their steers

4th and 5th Generation Ranchers and shareholders

****Father:-----Frederick William Pape b May 31 ,1962 in Jackson Wy**
Married: Mary Michelle Schwartzkoph
Mother-----Mary Michelle: b.January 31, 1993
They have 2 children: Logan Lynn b. December 28, 1990
Sydney Micnelle b. July 9, 1993
***Father-----David Wayne: b,. October 7, 1964 in Jackson Wy**
Married: Naomi Inez Wise
Naomi Inez b.Sept 30, 1965 d. Jan 8, 2007
They have 1 child: ~Hadley Jane b. December 27, 1993
***Mother-----Jane Ann Pape b. October 27, 1960**
Married Charles John Potempa 1997
Charles John Potempa, b. Oct 22, 1960
They have 2 children: Mary Barbara Pape Potempa b, Nov. 20, 1998

The I.K. Ranch

Carbon County



Rep. Cynthia Lummis, Sen. John Barrasso, Gov. Dave Freudenthal, Wayne and Georgia and Alice Platt Family, and Sen. Mike Enzi

The Ryan Ranch

Crook County



Ryan Ranch sign



View from Ryan Ranch

As told by the Ryan Family

Prior to moving to Wyoming, William Augusta Ryan made his living as a farmer in White Lake, South Dakota. William Augusta Ryan and his parents were among the pioneer settlers in the Dakota Territory, his father, Matthew, having built the first house in White Lake. Matthew was also a delegate to the territorial convention that framed the state constitution, at Sioux Falls, South Dakota. With his family, Mr. William Augusta Ryan moved to a ranch ten miles north of Aladdin, Wyoming in 1910, where they have since made their home. He died in 1921 due to complications from appendicitis, at the age of 51.

William Ambrose was only 16 when his father died. He and his brother, Matthew, were left to work the ranch. He had attended school in Wyoming. Matthew left the ranch. William Ambrose stayed on the ranch. William Ambrose was married to Louise Leitner in 1931. They had five children, Shirley, Janet, Carol, Gerald William (Jerry) and Judy.

William Ambrose Ryan was killed instantly on February 26, 1978 when he was pinned beneath an overturned tractor on the Ryan ranch. Mr. Ryan was feeding cattle with a tractor equipped with a grapple fork. Officers said the grapple fork did not carry a load when the front axle of the machine broke, causing it to overturn and pin him to the ground. Mrs. Ryan was not on the tractor but was with her husband at the time.

Gerald (Jerry) Ryan was left to work the ranch. Jerry was born in 1942. He married Marilyn Gjerde in 1966. They had four children, Deborah, Michael, Scott, and Stacy. Jerry expanded the ranch and also did custom combining. Jerry was diagnosed with brain cancer in 1995. He passed away in April 1996.

This left Scott, Jerry's youngest son, to work the ranch. Scott married Tami Crago in 1995. They have three children, Kyle, Jessica and Molly.



The Ryan Ranch house



Winter on Ryan Ranch



Winter feeding



Cow & calf on Ryan Ranch

Kyle will graduate from Gillette College with an associate's degree in diesel technology and will return, after graduation, to the ranch to work with his parents. Kyle is the fifth generation to call the Ryan Ranch his home.

Grandpa Ryan History: Written by William Ambrose Ryan for the Crook County History of Pioneers in 1977. My father, William A. (known as Willie) Ryan, and my mother, Bessie (Waldron), came to the Aladdin area in 1910 from White Lake, South Dakota. They filed a homestead claim on 160 acres and bought a place from Benjamin and Mattie Phillips, located on Alum Creek, ten miles north of Aladdin, Wyoming. They shipped four horses, two cows, some Machinery, and furniture in two box cars on the Northwestern Railroad to Aladdin. At that time there were five of us children, Florence and Matthew, my half-brother and sister, and

Ambrose, Jennie, and Margaret. Later on John and Marie were born. We lived in a two-room log house for about three or four years. In 1913-1914, my dad built the house we still live in.

In the early days, we traveled by team and buggy or wagon. My folks could go to Aladdin for supplies and come back the same day. If they went to Belle Fourche, South Dakota, twenty-two miles, then we could go one day and come home the next. We got most of our groceries at Aladdin on credit and would pay up once or twice a year. Harry Tracy ran the store and when my dad paid up, he would give us lots of candy and goodies, even gave mother some yarn goods. He was very generous and appreciated the business. In those days, we had lots of overnight company from the Mona area. They would come this far and stay all night, then on to Belle Fourche the next day and then stop over night



Summer, Ryan Ranch



Summer range

again on their way home. Needless to say, there was no charge in those days.

When we came here in 1910-1911, it was very dry. People kept saying “wait till June and it will rain.” But it didn’t and the grass didn’t even start. We had only 520 acres, so didn’t have many cattle. There were a lot of horses, both work and saddle horses, at that time as that was all there was to work with and ride.



Part of Ryan herd

In 1913, Dad bought another 320 acres from Ed Derrickson and Jim Dyce. My dad sent Florence to Spearfish on horseback to get some money from my grandfather to pay down on the land. As I remember it, she started out with about \$300 in bills and had put it in her stockings for safe keeping. When she got home part of the money was gone, it had worked out. They went back the next day and found some of the money.

My dad bought his first car, a Model T, in about 1916. He built a garage on a side hill, would drive in from the back or level ground, and had a ramp where he could run it on through and down the hill to get it started. They did start hard, also it was usual to have to take a tire off and patch-pump it up by hand on the way to town.

About 1916-1917, we had a run of appendicitis operations in our family. My sister, Margaret, was sick here at home. It was in the spring and raining. The roads were impassable for a car, so we took her to Aladdin in the buggy and on to Belle Fourche on the trolley car. They didn't have any operating facilities in Belle Fourche at that time, so Doctor Couch took them to Deadwood in a car. They were the rest of the day getting there as they had to be pulled out of the mud holes several times. They operated that night, but her appendix had ruptured. She had recovered but was in the hospital for a month. I had had several attacks, so the folks took me up and had mine removed before it would rupture. We were both there at the same time, but I only had to stay ten days. The next year, a Doctor Fasser came to Belle Fourche. When my brother, John, had some attacks, Doctor Fasser came out to the ranch and operated on him on the dining room table. My aunt, Emma Waldron, a nurse, was visiting us at that time. She took care of him and he recovered in fine shape. My dad started a church here on the place with the help and donations of the local people, but he died before it was finished. The neighbors finished it, but it was used very little as about that time cars came into general use and people drove to Belle Fourche. Later on, John Leitner's house burned down so they gave the building to him. They tore it down for the material that was in it.

Willie Ryan passed away in January, 1921. Times were hard for a widow with six children at that time. A year or two later, the girls, Jennie and Margaret, were ready for high school, so mother rented a house in town and stayed there. Matt and I stayed on the ranch and batched and kept things going.

As of today, 1977, I'm the only one living of my full brothers and sisters. My half-sister, Florence Reindl, lives in Wessington Springs, South Dakota and my half-brother, Matt Ryan, lives in Las Vegas, Nevada. I was married to Louise Leitner in 1931. We had five children and twenty-one grandchildren and will leave our place in good hands when we pass on.

The McDonald Ranch

Platte County

As told by the McDonald family and excerpted from *The Casper Magazine*, December -January, 1981-82

Donald McDonald, son of a tailor, was born in Argyleshier, Scotland in 1844. Like many of his countrymen, McDonald grew impatient at the restrictions which made a successful life almost impossible in spite of the traditional virtues of thrift, industry, and economy. Deciding to seek a fortune in the New World, Donald sailed for Canada in 1869. He worked in the Province of Ontario as a farmhand for seven years, and with the frugality he learned through all of his life, he managed to save enough to head for the western United States. For five more years he worked on sheep ranches on the Laramie Plains, and then he homesteaded on the beginnings of his own ranch on Chugwater Creek in 1881.

A year later Donald married Jane Cameron, whose family had also migrated from Scotland to Ontario, Canada. In a very few years the young Scottish couple had four children – Robert, Hugh, Duncan, and Margaret- and grew out of their first little cabin and into a fine two- story rock house, completed in 1890. They had expanded that first homestead acreage to over 3,000 acres of patented land with thousands of adjacent open range acres for grazing their stock. Donald put in over 300 acres of alfalfa to help winter feed his growing herds of cattle, sheep, and horses. This was the beginning of the old DXI Ranch.

In 1922, Hugh McDonald married an Iowa native, Rissa McCann, who had moved to Wyoming and taught school near the McDonald Ranch at Diamond, a small community named for the nearby Diamond Ranch that was established in 1879 by George D. Rainsford, a wealthy, eccentric transplant from New York. Rainsford raised as many as 3,000 horses on his ranch near Chugwater that eventually encompassed 64,000 acres. He employed a Swedish stone mason to construct substantial ranch buildings of native stone. The mason built the



Donald McDonald



Donald & Margaret Jane Cameron McDonald

monumental barns and stone-walled corrals that remain on the ranch today.

Rainsford specialized in good driving stock, and training and developing beautifully matched teams.



George Rainsford

His Morgan and Clydesdale lines became famous, selling to the Budweiser Brewing Company. Rainsford remained a bachelor and lived like royalty. A member of the famed Cheyenne Club, Rainsford also lived in town in a house he designed that included an indoor stable. His house, as well as others he designed for his wealthy friends in Cheyenne, still stands in Cheyenne.

Hugh McDonald's wife, Rissa McCann McDonald, was a remarkable woman who handled all of the ranch business and began to buy up small ranches around the home ranch. She also built the Diamond schoolhouse where she taught, built cabinets, fences, laid hardwood floors, constructed a dam for irrigating and developing alfalfa meadows, and stacked hay. She survived the birth of quadruplets – none lived – and she and Hugh had only one other



L to R: Donald McDonald, seated sons Duncan, Robert, Hugh and daughter Margaret McDonald standing behind Hugh. The driver is unknown as well as the 3 women on the car. ca. 1912-1914



Hugh McDonald



Hugh's deer hunt, he has them hanging from the tree in the yard



Worker on scaffold while barn is being built



Branding calves, Rissa (at right) is running the iron



Hugh McDonald in front of house



Ruth (little girl) & Rissa on north porch, Rissa 1892-1965



Ruth McDonald

child, Ruth. In 1956, she made her biggest purchase when she bought the Diamond Ranch.

Hugh and Rissa's daughter, Ruth, always an independent person, married John Braunschweig from Cheyenne, and they ran one of the ranches Rissa had purchased. After the death of her parents, Ruth inherited the entire ranch operation. In spite of inheritance taxes and other troubles, Ruth managed to hold onto the ranch by leasing the grazing rights to a Kansas cattle company and the Diamond Ranch headquarter to the Methodist Church for use as a summer camp.

Upon the suggestion of one of their hired hands, Ruth and John decided to convert the Diamond Ranch into a dude operation. Not only did they renovate the house to accommodate guests but they also converted the stone barns into a restaurant, a kitchen, a bar, a dance hall, and built a swimming pool. The Diamond Guest Ranch opened in July, 1968 and remained in operation until the fall of 2005.

Ruth and John had three daughters: Cindy, Lindy, and Valorie who represented the fourth generation on the ranch. Lindy and her husband, Rodger Schroeder, were the first to return to the ranch on Chugwater Creek in 1976. They moved into a small ranch house on Chugwater Creek about a mile from the original McDonald buildings. Their two daughters, Tricia and Holly, were soon born. By 1985, renovation of the 1890 McDonald house was completed and they moved into it.

Cindy and her husband, Ron Schanaman, moved back to the ranch in 1982 with their three children – Jeri, Sheri, and Donald. They lived on the Whitcomb Ranch, also located on Chugwater Creek.

Valorie grew up and married Mike Heatherly. They moved back to the ranch in about 1990 with their two children, Amy Jo and Eric. They moved into the original LL Ranch house located on the Diamond. Val and Mike bought the Diamond Guest Ranch from John and Ruth in about 1991 and operated it for 13 years. The Guest Ranch was officially closed in the fall of 2005. Thirty-seven



John & Ruth Braunschweig, married 1949

years of labor, memories, and friends grew from the operation of the Diamond Guest Ranch.

In 1999, Tricia married Jeffrey Sagner and they moved into the early 1900s Foss Ranch house, following a complete renovation. Tricia was the fifth generation on the ranch. They are a big asset to the Schroeder operation. Tricia is a part-time employee at the Oregon Trail Bank in Chugwater. Jeff enjoys coaching Junior High Boy's football and basketball at Wheatland. Sixth generation on the ranch are their daughters, Nicole and Megan.

Holly and husband, Will Crowley, live east of Chugwater on a farm they purchased in 2007. They supply alfalfa hay for the ranch and also



Ruth & John Braunschweig



Ruth & John with Katie, born October 10, 2001

keep involved with ranch work whenever they can. Holly is Vice-President at First State Bank in Wheatland. Will is crew leader for the Chugwater Wyoming Department of Transportation. Their daughter, Emma Raegan, arrived in September 2011.

After a long employment with Clorox, Jeri and husband, Brian Currier, and daughter, Kati, returned to the ranch in January 2007. They are now a part of the Schanaman operation at the Whitcomb Ranch. Brian is still working part-time for Clorox as a senior engineer in production services.

Sheri and husband, Mark Riccardi, live in Monument, Colorado. Mark is Commander of the



McDonald Ranch, ca. 1990

8th Civil Support Team in the Colorado National Guard. His rank is Lt. Colonel. Sheri has worked as a professional research assistant at the University of Colorado Health Science Center. She is now a busy mother of two, Allison and Cole.

Donald and his wife, Marilyn, live in Grand Junction, Colorado. Donald is employed by Bighorn Consulting Engineers as a designing mechanical systems engineer. They have three children: Titus, Penny, and Micah.

Amy Jo Heatherly just completed her History Education Degree from Northern Colorado College in Greeley and is employed at Elizabeth High School in Elizabeth, Colorado. Eric is a senior at Jamestown College in North Dakota majoring in Physical Education.

All families are actively engaged in cow-calf operations. Schroeder's run Gelbvieh/Angus cattle, Schanaman's have Limousin/Angus, Heatherly's raise Angus, and John and Ruth Braunschweig still maintain a small Angus herd.



Ruth & John Braunschweig with family

The Shepherd Ranch

Crook County

As told by Jeanne Shepherd

Ed Knight Pollock probably first came to Wyoming from Nebraska in 1888 when he was about 15 years old. Some cowboys told him they were going to Wyoming and asked him if he wanted to come along. It is not known how long he stayed before returning to his home near Ewing, Nebraska.

Back in Nebraska, Ed married Adell (Dell) Mary Grenier on June 3, 1898. Ed returned to Wyoming in 1905 and worked for Guthrie's Empire Sheep Company in Crook County. Dell came a few months later on the train, bringing their four small children with her: Vaughn, born in 1899; Zelma, 1900; Ronald, 1902; and a three-month old baby girl born on her parent's seventh anniversary, June 3, 1905. A fellow on the train asked what the baby's name was. Dell told him she hadn't been named yet. He told her that they were going to where there were lots of pine trees so why not call her Piney? She would use that name for 94 years, but it wasn't made legal for over 50 years. At that time, her uncle found her certificate of baptism at the Catholic Church in Clearwater, Nebraska, where her middle name, Caroline, was given. A lawyer wrote an affidavit stating that Piney and Caroline were one and the same person. It was signed by an older lady who had known her as a tiny baby in Nebraska, and also in Wyoming all her life.

Dell cooked for the Guthrie's after she came. She and Ed worked there for about two years until they saved enough money to buy some sheep. They then homesteaded in the Ewing, Wyoming area in 1906 or 1907, near Dell's brother, George Grenier and family, and her bachelor uncle, George Potras. Ed's cousin, Martha Davidson, and her husband, Guy, lived nearby. She ran the Ewing post office out of her home, so named because many in the area were from Ewing, Nebraska. Pollocks' daughter, Edna, was born at Ewing in 1908.

Because Ed wanted to be where he could farm, the Pollock's left the Ewing area. Ed and Dell each



Ed & Dell Pollock



Dell Pollock, Zelma, Piney, Ronald, Vaughn, 1905

filed on adjoining homesteads five miles north of Oshoto in 1910. There was open range nearby where the sheep could be herded. The Pollock's had two more sons after they moved to Oshoto. Mick was born in 1912 and George in 1918. Their son, Ronald, drowned at the age of 15 in 1917.

Work was hard in homestead days. The Pollock's dug an irrigation ditch by hand. They raised a large garden and put up hay by hand. The children herded sheep from early morning until late at night. Coyotes sometimes killed sheep even while being watched. Once a wolf got into the sheep while Piney had them on water at noon. He killed several before she could run him off with a stick.

Schools were not always available but the children attended school when possible. One year the school was held in a homestead house. It closed when the teacher got married because married women were not allowed to teach.

In 1923, Piney moved to Midwest. She lived there with her sister, Zelma, and worked as a waitress in a boarding house for workers in the oil fields. She met Alf Shepherd who was one of the boarders. They were married October 25, 1923.

Alf worked in the oil fields for several years following the oil boom. Their daughter, Mildred, was the first baby born in Edgerton, on October 2, 1924. A son, Mike, was born in Denver on June 16, 1928.

Ed Pollock passed away in 1930, just two months before the twins were born. Dell continued to live on the place for a few years. She moved to Moorcroft where she lived until she passed away in 1950.

Alf and Piney bought and leased land near Pollock's, and bought Dell's homestead. Alf was a blade sheep shearer. He sheared over a large area each spring. He taught all his sons to shear as well. He passed away in 1952. Piney continued to run the ranch with the help of her son, Raymond.

Raymond married Jeanne Donaldson (a school teacher from Rockypoint) on June 3, 1955 which



Piney & Alf Shepherd, January 1952



Piney Shepherd, October 2, 1988



Raymond & Jeanne Shepherd, July 2006



Shepherd Ranch

was Piney's 50th birthday. They bought the ranch from Piney a few year later, but Piney lived there until she passed away in 1999.

Raymond and Jeanne added more acres to the ranch when they became available. Alf and Piney raised sheep and some cows. Raymond and Jeanne raised both sheep and Angus cows. There had been sheep on the ranch for 95 years until coyotes forced the Shepherd's to sell all the sheep except for a few pets.

Raymond and Jeanne have one daughter, Michel, who lives in Gillette. They have sold parts of the cows, but still care for a smaller herd. Raymond lives just across the yard from where he was born 80 years ago.



Michel Sheperd, Aug. 7, 1991, Crook County Fair, Champion working cow horse

The Springfield Ranch

Platte County



Moving cows

As told by the Small Family

Herbert (Milton) Small was the first member of our family to come to Wyoming in 1884. He was born in Ludlow, England on August 28, 1861. He left home at the age of 14 and eventually immigrated to the United States in the early 1880s. He first lived in Illinois where he worked on a farm that raised Hereford cattle. In 1884, he headed west and upon his arrival in Laramie went to work for George Eakin. They would bring wether lambs to Laramie in the spring, summer them on the Laramie plains, and then trail them to Douglas in the fall for market. As he worked for Mr. Eakin, he was eventually entrusted with the position of sheep foreman.

During this time he met and married Josephine Ennis, a school teacher from Illinois. They resided outside of Laramie in 1898 and had their first son, Herbert (Ennis) Small. In 1900 they had another son, Gilbert Small, who would become the next link in the family ranch. Their daughter, Helen, was born after moving to the home ranch.

In 1902, the family left the Eakin operation and homesteaded in Tower Canyon in northern Albany County. The property was long on rocks and short on water but they were able to make it work and proved up on the site in 1907. At that time they decided to enlarge their holdings and move to a more accessible and productive place. They

purchased property about ten miles from the original homestead on Mule Creek in present day Platte County in 1907. The new property lay in a wide creek valley at the base of Sheep Mountain. One of the key features was a sub-irrigated meadow that had been hayed annually since before any of the land had been claimed by homesteaders. The numerous springs in this field led to the name Springfield Ranch. The meadow is still used for hay production today and was essential in helping the ranch through the recent drought (2002-2006) as it still produced decent hay while the rest of the fields suffered big reductions in productivity. At the time they raised a combination of Hereford cattle and sheep.

In 1919, they constructed a large two story house on the ranch that is still in use by the family today. As they moved on through the twenties they were able to increase their holdings through family homesteads and acquisition of neighboring property. During this time frame Gilbert was working in conjunction with his parents on the ranch.

In 1930, Gilbert married a neighboring ranch girl, Eunice Wickam. Gilbert and Eunice raised primarily sheep at first, claiming the sheep are what allowed them to survive the Depression. They also raised cattle which would later become their main enterprise. In 1932, they had their first child, Milton Small, who would become the third link in the family chain to live and work on the ranch. They also had a daughter, Elizabeth Small.

In 1936, Gilbert was able to buy land adjacent to the original homestead to increase the west part of the ranch. In 1945, he and Eunice bought the remainder of the ranch from his parents and consolidated the property into one operation.

On January 11, 1947, Herbert (Milton) died at the age of 85 in Wheatland, followed by Josephine on February 15, 1956, at the age of 84.

In 1947, the Swan Company began to liquidate their huge holdings of lands on the Laramie Plains. Gilbert spoke often of going to Chugwater with many of the neighbors to meet with the Swan representative. The land was priced at \$3.25/



Ranch sign



Ranch hayfields



The Small Ranch headquarters



Mule Creek Valley



Rep. Cynthia Lummis, Sen. John Barrasso, Small Family, Gov. Dave Freudenthal and Sen. Mike Enzi

acre, take all you want. He said everyone started inching toward the door until one of the neighboring ranchers finally broke and said he could take a little. With that, the rest started picking out their lots. Gilbert was able to get ten sections adjacent to his school section which gave him the summer range that they needed for their livestock. Due to changing economic times, Gilbert and Eunice sold their sheep and changed to a cattle only operation. They used the proceeds to pay for the new land. They raised polled Hereford cattle and retained the calves to be marketed as two year old steers. At this time, the ranch achieved its present size.

In 1953, Milton graduated from the University of Wyoming and returned to the ranch. He was drafted into the Army in 1954 and married Doris Skelton from Riverton. They returned to the ranch permanently in 1956 along with their oldest son, Gary (born 1955). In 1957, a daughter, Debbie, and in 1962 a second son, Kenneth, joined the family. Kenneth would become the fourth generation to work the ranch.

One of the goals of the ranch has been to raise all the hay necessary to winter the cattle. With very sandy soil along Mule Creek, irrigation water has always been scarce. Through the sixties and early seventies, Milton worked extensively with the SCS to improve the diversions and cement irrigation ditches to improve water efficiency. These improvements, along with the addition of sprinklers, have allowed the ranch to produce its own hay except for in extremely dry years.

In 1983, the decision was made to start crossbreeding the replacement heifers with Red Angus to improve weaning weights. The cross proved very successful and expanded to include the entire herd over the coming years. Because of the increased market weights due to crossbreeding, along with other factors, the two year old steer program became impractical. Over the next few years a marketing strategy of selling yearlings steers and calving two year old heifers was phased in.

In 1984, Gilbert and Eunice moved to Wheatland where they resided until after Gilbert's death on April 23, 1990, at the age of 89, followed by Eunice on October 6, 2006, age 101.

In May of 1985, Ken graduated from UW and returned to the ranch. In September of that year, he married Patty Smith from Fort Laramie and they have a daughter, Stephanie (1987), and son, Todd (1988).

In 2001, Milton and Doris retired and moved to Laramie, turning all operations over to Ken and Patty. During their time on the ranch, they have continued to build on the foundation that was given to them and worked to improve efficiency in labor requirements and production. Todd will graduate from UW in May, 2011. His plans are to return to the ranch, and along with his fiancée, Kindra Starks, to become the fifth generation to make Springfield Ranch their home.

Other Centennial Farm and Ranch Awardees 2010

The Dave Watt Ranch
Johnson County

Wyoming State Parks & Cultural Resources
Historic Preservation Office

Barrett Building, 3rd Floor

2301 Central Avenue

Cheyenne, WY 82002

Phone: (307) 777-7697

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Cover photos courtesy Wyoming State Archives, Department of State Parks and Cultural Resources
Front cover photo: Stimson Neg 2944, Ranch Home near Big Horn, Wyo