



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

2011 WYOMING CENTENNIAL FARM AND RANCH YEARBOOK



ARTS. PARKS. HISTORY.

Wyoming State Parks & Cultural Resources

Table of Contents

Letter from Governor Matthew H. Mead.....	3
The C-J-R Christensen Ranches, The Christensen Family.....	5
The T-Chair Ranch, The Clark/Lake/Mankin Families	13
The Collins Ranch, The Collins Family.....	17
The Daly Livestock, LLC, The Daly/Smith Family.....	28
The Floyd Land & Livestock, Inc., The Floyd Family	29
The Hall Ranch, The Hall/Tate Families.....	30
The King Eisele Ranch, The King/Eisele Families	34
The Kuhn Ranch, The Kuhn Family	38
The Lowham Ranch, The Lowham Family, 2008 Centennial Family	43
The Little Buffalo Ranch, The Marquiss Family	47
The T7 Ranch, The Matthews Family.....	48
The Pahasha Ranch, The McCreery Family.....	56
The Elva Enix Mers Homestead Farm, Descendants of Elva Effa Enix Mers	62
The Mooney Ranch, The Mooney Family	66
The Morse-Harris Family Ranch, The Morse-Harris Family.....	70
The Oliver Ranch/The W bar O Ranch, Descendants of Claude & Ardienna Oliver & Carl Kretschman	76
The Parks Mitten Ranch, The Parks Family	82
The Jan Parks Evans Ranch, The Jan Parks Evans Family.....	92
The Olmstead Creek Ranch, The William P. Parks III Family	96
The Paul Family Farm, The Paul Family	100
The Rifle Pit Ranch #1, The Smith Family	104
The Sorenson Ranch, The Sorenson Family	106
The Swartz Ranch, The Ed and Troy Swartz Families	116
The Weaver Ranch, Inc., The Weaver Family	120
The Wright Ranch, The Wright Family	124
Other 2011 Centennial Ranch Families	125

Office of the Governor

Dear Centennial Farm and Ranch Award Recipient,

Congratulations on being 100 years or more of ownership and operation. You and your family have created an amazing legacy. To work the same land for a century or more shows deep commitment, pride in your activities, and care for the future. Thank you for securing Wyoming's western heritage – past, present, and future – and for contributing to our economy.

As a farmer and rancher, I am extremely proud of Wyoming agriculture and the role men and women like you play in making Wyoming so special. Agriculture is a billion dollar a year business. It is Wyoming's third largest industry and supports all facets of our economy. As you well know there has long been a relationship between energy companies and ranchers and farmers. Without agriculture our energy industry is not as vibrant. The same can be said for tourism.

Millions of visitors from around the country and across the globe come to Wyoming each year. They come to see the many wonders here, including our wide open spaces, wildlife, and working farms and ranches. The look and feel of Wyoming – whether you walk it, drive it, fly it, or just stop to enjoy it – comes from farms and ranches like yours.

The benefits of agriculture are numerous. There are the tangible benefits, for example, providing food for our country. There are also the intangible benefits, like seeing and enjoying the landscape each day from a vantage point without equal.

I am pleased to have this opportunity to recognize you and all your hard work and your abiding commitment to Wyoming. The Centennial Farm and Ranch Award is one you and your family richly deserve, and I congratulate you again.

Sincerely,



Matthew H. Mead
Governor

The C-J-R Christensen Ranch, 1907

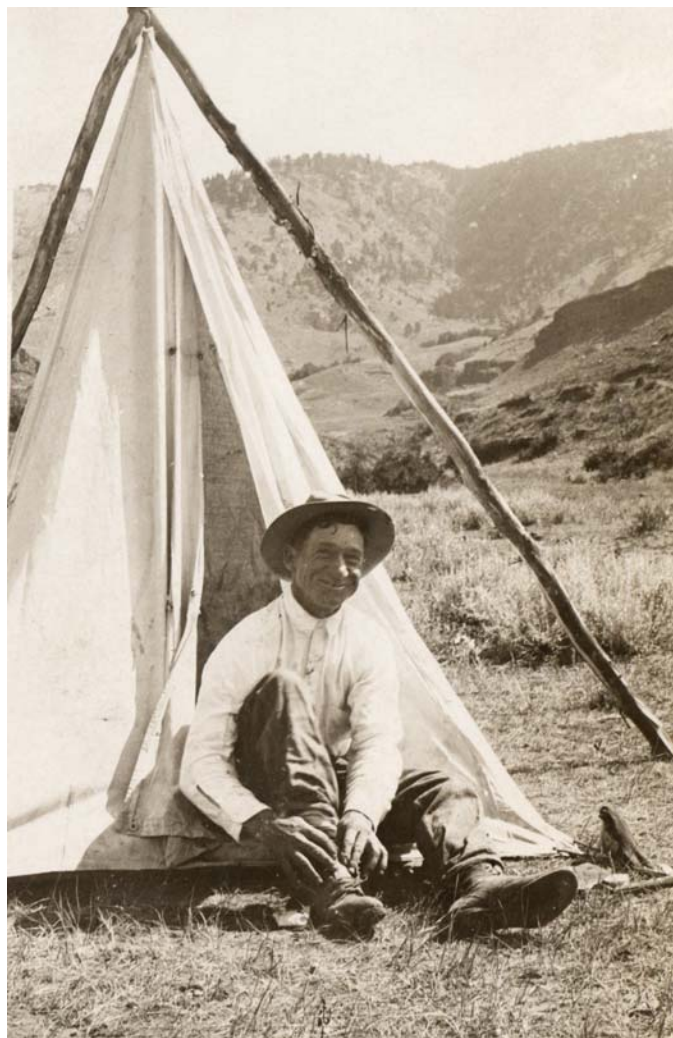
The Christensen Family, Campbell County

As told by the Christensen Family

A ranching operation now known as C-J-R Christensen Ranches is today headquartered on Pumpkin Creek in Campbell County, Wyoming, at the same location where Fred Christensen homesteaded in 1907. Three generations have lived and raised their families on Pumpkin Creek including: Fred and Ellen, Bud and Alice Lee, and Bob and Marilyn Christensen.

Fred and Ellen Christensen

Frederic “Fred” Christensen was the third child of a family of eight children born to Rasmus and Mary Hannah (Milroy) Christensen on November 3, 1880, at the Christensen farm near Northville, Michigan. His father came from Denmark and his mother was of Scotch and English descent. He received his early education in a rural school near his home and graduated from Northville High School in 1898. He was attending business college at Ypsilanti, Michigan, when he decided to go west in 1902. He sought employment on the Two Bar Ranch in southeastern Wyoming and came to northeastern Wyoming in 1905 where he was employed by the “Scotch Outfit”, a Johnson County sheep company. Two years later in 1907 he homesteaded on Pumpkin Creek in Campbell County and entered into a sheep business partnership with Charles E. Hall. In 1910 the partnership was dissolved and Fred bought his partner’s interest and continued the business. In 1916 he added cattle to his venture. A few years later he formed a partnership with Hugh Auld which was discontinued in 1926. He got out of the sheep business in 1929 and concentrated on the expansion of the Hereford cattle. Fred expanded his land ownership by purchasing various homesteads in the area. He purchased them from army vets, people who worked for him, and neighbors who had been given additional by later Homestead Acts. Most people paid \$1 per acre when purchasing a homestead; Fred always paid \$1,000 per section.



Fred Christensen at his teepee during lambing time



Ellen & Fred Christensen



Sheep wagon & horse near corral at Pumpkin Creek



Hauling wool to Gillette, late 1920s



Original barn at Pumpkin Creek



Ashley's camp

Ellen Johanna Brown was born in the Territory of Wyoming on the B Bar V Ranch near LaGrange on February 25, 1886. She was the second child of John Franklin and Mary Henrietta (Dittmar) Brown. In the spring of 1896, Frank Brown sold his land holdings and moved his family along with their household, wagons, haying equipment, horses, and cattle to settle on Willow Creek on the southwestern side of the North Pumpkin Butte, then in Crook County, later Johnson County, and finally Campbell County.

Ellen attended grade school in Buffalo, Wyoming and graduated from Johnson County High School in 1904. With further education, she received her lifetime certificate which qualified her to teach as long as she lived. She taught school in Sussex, Trabing, and Clear Creek areas from 1905 to 1918. She traveled from Willow Creek to Buffalo on horseback.

On March 27, 1918, Fred and Ellen were married at Douglas, Wyoming. Two sons were born to them: John "Jack" Frederick on March 21, 1919, at Pamona, California, and Charles "Bud" Milroy on March 17, 1921, at Sheridan, Wyoming. Because schooling was a problem, Ellen taught her two sons and a neighbor girl in their bunkhouse for three years. When the girl moved away, the school was shut down because the state didn't want a two pupil school. As a result, the boys were sent to a boarding school in California. Jack was 9 ½ and Bud was 7 ½ when they first went, many times not seeing their parents for six months or longer. They made their home on Fred's original homestead until 1936 when Ellen's brother, John Brown, died, and the Christensen family purchased the old Brown ranch. At that time they built a new log home on Willow Creek where her parents had homesteaded and moved there.

After World War II, Jack and Bud took over active management of the ranch, and Fred and Ellen retired to Boulder, Colorado, where they made their home for ten years. Due to Fred's failing health, they sold their home in Boulder and spent ten winters in a trailer village east of Mesa, Arizona, and the summers at their cabin in Story, Wyoming.



Fred & Ellen Christensen



Bud, Jack, & Fred Christensen on horseback



Rasmus & Fred Christensen on the butte



Round up near Gillette

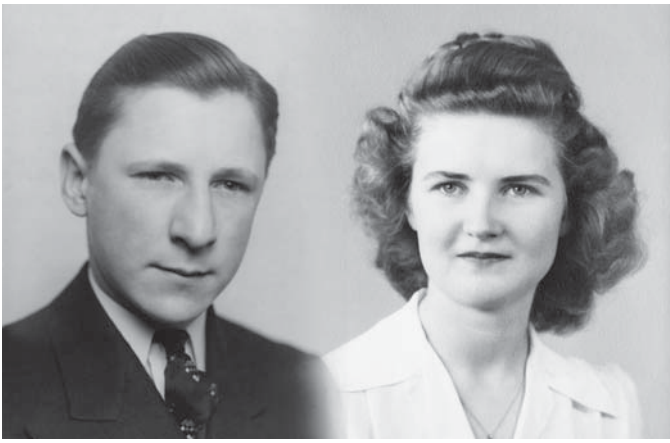
For many years, Fred was a member and served on the Executive Committee of the Wyoming Stock Growers Association. He was a member of the Wyoming Wool Growers Association, the Wyoming Taxpayers Association, the National Cattlemen's Association, and was a Campbell County Commissioner from 1930 to 1934. Fred became a member of the Blue Lodge of the Masonic Temple in 1905 and a 32nd degree Mason in 1917. In 1955 he was awarded a 50-year Masonic life membership pin.

Fred passed away at Mesa, Arizona, on March 21, 1964. After his passing, Ellen resided in Story until 1971 when she moved to Casper, Wyoming, where she lived until the summer of 1975. At that time, she moved to the Amie Holt Nursing Home in Buffalo, Wyoming. Ellen passed away on March 12, 1976, at Buffalo, Wyoming.

John Frederick and Margaret Ellen Christensen

John "Jack" Frederick Christensen, eldest son of Frederick and Ellen Brown Christensen was born March 21, 1919, at Pamona, California. Jack's first education was in Campbell County and then Page Military Academy in Los Angeles, California. His high school work was taken at New Mexico Military Institute in Roswell, New Mexico. After graduating in 1937, Jack continued at the Institute's Junior College and graduated in 1939. He attended the University of Wyoming and graduated in 1941 with a degree in Business Administration. He entered the U.S. Army on June 20, 1941, as a Second Lieutenant in the Cavalry. Jack married Margaret Ellen Mathiasen, an army nurse at Ft. Warren in Cheyenne, Wyoming. He was discharged on October 15, 1945, as a captain in the Cavalry forces.

After the war, Jack and Margaret returned to Campbell County entering into the ranching business with his family in the "Horseshoe Bar Herefordmill" which was a "Fred Christensen and Sons" operation. In 1961, the "Horseshoe Bar Herefordmill" was dissolved and Jack and Bud each established his own operation. Jack's operation was headquartered on Willow Creek where his grandparents had homesteaded.



Bud & Alice Lee Christensen, 1940s



Bob, Bud, & Janet Christensen, late 1950s



Janet, Bud, Alice Lee, Marilyn, & Bob Christensen, 2009

Charles Milroy and Alice Lee Christensen

Charles “Bud” Christensen was born in Sheridan, Wyoming, on March 17, 1921, the second son of Frederic and Ellen Johanna (Brown) Christensen. He attended school in Campbell County, Page Military Academy in Los Angeles, California, University Prep in Laramie, and graduated from the University of Wyoming in 1941 with a degree in Animal Production. After graduation, he returned to the family ranch near the North Pumpkin Butte in southwestern Campbell County.

Alice Lee Mankin was born August 3, 1923, at Bethany, Missouri, to Charles Ashford and Teresa Mildred (Oxford) Mankin. The family moved to the 4J Ranch near Gillette, Wyoming, in April 1925. Alice Lee received her education in Campbell County schools and graduated from the University of Wyoming in 1948.

Bud and Alice Lee were married November 27, 1949. They are the parents of two children: Janet Kay who was born August 11, 1951, in Gillette, Wyoming; and Robert Frederick who was born in Casper, Wyoming, January 1, 1954. They made their home on the ranch on Pumpkin Creek and were a part of the “Horseshoe Bar Hereford Mill” with Bud’s parents, Fred and Ellen, and Bud’s brother Jack. In 1961, the partnership was dissolved when Bud and Jack purchased their parents’ interests in the business and each established his own operation. While Janet and Bob were in school, Bud kept the ranch running. Alice Lee taught in rural Campbell County schools; held a graduate teaching assistantship at the University of Wyoming; earned a Master’s Degree in Education in 1967 and her Doctorate in Education in 1973. Both degrees were from the University of Wyoming.

By 1977 the operation was expanding and Bud and Alice Lee moved to Gillette. This change allowed Bud to travel between the ranches and oversee the entire operation without being tied down to any one location. Alice Lee was his traveling partner and took care of all of the financial record keeping for the business. Bob and Marilyn moved to Pumpkin Creek and took over management of that operation.

Bud served on the American Salers Association board of directors from 1983 to 1989. He was very active in promoting the breed. Professional memberships included the Wyoming Stock Growers Association, Montana Stock Growers, Nebraska Cattlemen and Wyoming Wool Growers Association. He was also a member of the National Cattlemen's Beef Association where he participated on a grading committee.

Alice Lee participated in Savageton Homebuilders Extension Club, Order of the Eastern Star, Daughters of the Nile, Campbell County Cowbells, Woolgrowers Auxiliary, and Salers Belles, where she served in several offices including president.

Janet Kay Christensen

Janet Kay, the oldest child of Bud and Alice Lee Christensen, attended rural schools in Campbell County, University Prep in Laramie, Wyoming, and graduated from Colorado State University, Fort Collins, Colorado, in 1973 with a degree in Ag Business. She worked in Cheyenne, Wyoming; Denver, Colorado; and Gillette, Wyoming before becoming involved fulltime in the family ranching business. In 1981 she began managing the Beaver Slide Ranch near Miles City, Montana, which was purchased in 1977. Since the latter part of 2009 she also oversees the operations near Broken Bow, Nebraska.

Robert Frederick and Marilyn Kay Christensen

Robert Frederick, the youngest child of Bud and Alice Lee Christensen, attended rural Campbell County schools, University Prep in Laramie, and graduated from the University of Wyoming in 1976 with a degree in Animal Science and a minor in Ag Business. While at the University, he met Marilyn Kay Schelldorf. She was born in Deadwood, South Dakota, on May 24, 1955, the daughter of John "Jack" Carr and Elizabeth Janice (Roberts) Schelldorf. Bob and Marilyn were married in Sundance, Wyoming, on June 25, 1977, after her graduation from the University of Wyoming. They made their home on Fred's original homestead on Pumpkin Creek, and Bob took over the day-to-day management. Five children were born to them in



Bud & Alice Lee Christensen, 2009



Bud & Alice Lee Christensen 60th wedding anniversary with grandchildren, 2009



Bob Christensen family, 2009



Bob & Bud Christensen branding, 2010



Christensen Family, January 2011



Mark, Bud, Bob, & James Christensen, January 2011

Gillette, Wyoming: Mark Alan on March 18, 1983; Julie Marie on November 8, 1985; Marci Nicole on May 22, 1989; Angela Kay on February 23, 1993; and James Robert on March 22, 1996. All five children attended rural 4-J Elementary School, Sage Valley Junior High, and Campbell County High School.

Mark graduated from the University of Wyoming in 2005 with degrees in Finance and Management Information Systems. He obtained his Master's Degree from the University of Denver in Real Estate and Construction Management in 2006, and returned to Gillette where he established The MC Family of Companies, LLC. Mark has been involved in many community projects and boards such as the Public Land Board, and the Campbell County Healthcare Foundation which administers the Hospice Hospitality House. On January 8, 2011, he married Erika Christine Krug in Gillette. Erika was born on January 3, 1983, in Casper, Wyoming, the daughter of Bruce and Melanie Krug. The Krug family moved to Gillette in 1991, and Erika graduated with Mark from Campbell County High School in 2001.

Julie graduated from Chadron State College in Chadron, Nebraska, in 2008 with a degree in Early Childhood Unified Education. She married her high school sweetheart, James Robert Alexander Innes, on October 17, 2009, in Gillette. James was born on June 5, 1984, in Gillette, the son of Robert and Cynthia (Hall) Innes who were neighbors to the Gillette ranch. Julie and James make their home in Gillette where James works for the Campbell County Sheriff's Office, and Julie is a first-grade teacher for Campbell County School District at Lakeview Elementary.

Marci is currently enrolled in the University of Wyoming. While there she has participated in Iron Skull, National Collegiate Honor Society and Mortar Board. She will graduate in December 2011 with a degree in Business Administration and minors in Interior Design and Journalism.

Angela is planning on attending Chadron State College beginning Fall 2011 and wants to get her degree in Elementary Education. She graduated as



Ranch on Pumpkin Creek, present day

a Valedictorian from Campbell County High School from a class of over 400 students. Her outside interests have included dance (lyrical, jazz, ballet, and tap) and volleyball for many years.

James will be a sophomore at Campbell County High School this fall. His interests include tennis, shooting sports, and computers. His computer skills have allowed him to mentor grade school students and assist the technology professional at Sage Valley.

C-J-R Christensen Ranches

What now represents C-J-R Christensen Ranches is the product of Bud's planning and foresight. It started with the original operation on Pumpkin Creek in Campbell County, Wyoming. In 1973 a ranch was purchased on Horseshoe Creek south of Glendo, Wyoming, in Platte County. The Beaver Slide Ranch was added in 1977. It is located south of Miles City, Montana, in Custer County, Montana. Two properties in Custer County, Nebraska near

Broken Bow were the next acquired, the Ash Creek Unit in 1981 and the South Loup River Unit in 1984. The Glendo operation was expanded twice: Elkhorn Ranch was purchased in 1987 and Foxton in 1991. Another operation previously known as the Thompson Ranch near Lusk, Wyoming, in Niobrara County, Wyoming, was added in 2004.

C-J-R Christensen Ranches is a vertically integrated operation. All calves born are either brought back into the herd as replacements, or fed in a retained ownership program for the packer market. Cull heifers and steers are currently being fed at Decatur County Feed Yard near Oberlin, Kansas. All heifer calves are shipped to the South Loup River Ranch in the fall. They are developed there and the best are selected to go back into the herd as replacements. In the spring, replacements are artificially inseminated and pregnant heifers are returned to the Beaver Slide near Miles City or to Glendo to be calved out as two-year old heifers. The best bull calves from the A.I. program are also



Sen. John Barrasso, Christensen Family, Mrs. and Gov. Matthew H. Mead, Rep. Cynthia Lummis, Sen. Mike Enzi and Wyoming State Sen. Jim Anderson

taken to the River Ranch to be developed for herd bulls. The majority of the cowherd is Salers and Angus crossbreds. Other breeds have also been used to add hybrid vigor.

Young cowherds are maintained at the Beaver Slide and Gillette. Older cows are sent to Lusk or back to Glendo, with the oldest cows making their home at Broken Bow. Some steer calves are wintered at Glendo and the rest are wintered at South Loup Ranch. The steers and cull heifers are put on grass in the spring, and as they get heavy they are sent to the feed yard.

Bud celebrated his 90th birthday in March 2011. He still serves as a consultant for most decisions and does most of the financial record keeping. Alice Lee still assists with the paperwork. Janet oversees operations in Montana and Nebraska. Bob and Marilyn live on Pumpkin Creek and operate the ranch. Bob also oversees the operations at Glendo and Lusk. He hauls some of the livestock between the various ranches with his semi. Marilyn and Mark are working to update records to the computer age and are responsible for monthly payroll for over twenty employees in the three states.

The T-Chair Ranch, 1896

The Clark/Lake/Mankin Families, Campbell County



Mary Dittma Brown and John Franklin Brown



Earl Brown and Mae Haesy Brown

As told by Patricia Brown Clark

John Franklin Brown came from a long line of pioneers. His grandfather helped settle eastern Pennsylvania. His father was one of the early pioneers who settled the Milwaukee County area of Wisconsin. His brother was an early pioneer to the LaGrange, Wyoming area. John Franklin soon joined his brother in LaGrange but it got too crowded for him so he took off for Oregon in a covered wagon. He got as far as the Pumpkin Buttes in Campbell County, Wyoming in April of 1896. A small horse camp cabin on Willow Creek and the covered wagon served as housing for the family which included his wife Mary and their children, Frances, Ellen, Earl, and John DeWitt. They were going to stay the winter and then continue on to Oregon in the spring. Fate intervened that first winter killing many of the cattle they drove to the Pumpkins Buttes. The little horse camp cabin was too cramped so they built a larger cabin and before you knew it spring had passed and it was too late to head to Oregon.

John Franklin became known locally as Pumpkin Butte Brown. Anyone who stopped in never left with an empty stomach. John Franklin received his first land patent in May 1903 but he truly believed in open range for his cattle and horses. John Franklin used two brands, the N Bar V and the Chair. Frances married William Smith and moved to Buffalo, Wyoming where her descendants live to this day. Ellen married Fred Christensen, the next-door neighbor. John DeWitt never married. Earl married Mae Haesy, the school marm from Sussex, and they moved back to the ranch for a brief time.

Earl and Mae homesteaded about 12 miles away on the headwaters of Cottonwood Creek. Their home place was nicknamed the Old Gent's. Earl continued raising cattle and horses. Earl was never given a middle name and one day he needed a middle initial for some paperwork so he picked the letter "T". He must have liked his father's Chair brand because he crossed the back of the chair with the top of his middle initial, the T Chair brand.

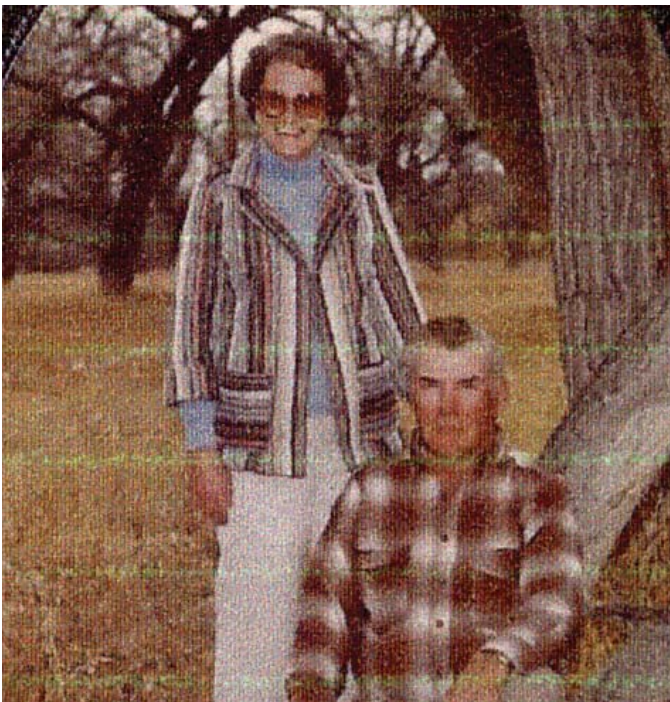
Six children were born to Earl and Mae. Bernard, Franklin, Mary, Earlene, Esther, and Thelma would



T-Chair brand



One room house of William Von Burg



Wyoma Ruby Brown and Franklin Brown

ride their horses to school and turn them loose to find their way home. When school was out they walked the two miles home and repeated the routine the next day.

Earl began purchasing small homesteads near his patented lands. Other homesteaders were doing the same thing to increase the size of their ranches. Eventually Earl purchased two of the bigger local ranches, the Eychaner Ranch and the Von Burg Ranch. Pfisters split their ranch between Earl and his brother-in-law, Fred Christensen. Our family called this chunk of land the Pfister Place. Fred bought the original Brown Homestead shortly after John DeWitt was killed in an auto accident. Earl Brown raised quality Hereford cattle, Quarter horses, and eventually Columbia-Rambouillet sheep. He served as a director at Stockman's Bank in Gillette for several years.

Bernard lived on the ranch until his death in 1951. He never married. Mary married a postal worker and lived in Colorado. They had one son. Earlene taught school in Wyoming and on several foreign air force bases. She married late in life and never had children. Esther became a nun and then an X-ray technician. Most of her adult life was spent in California. Thelma married Eric Ohman and moved to his ranch in central Campbell County. They had two sons.

Franklin and Wyoma moved to the Von Burg Ranch, also known as the Doughstick or Rolling Pin, which was Von Burg's brand. The Doughstick became the winter range and the Old Gent's and Pfister Place became the summer range. Von Burg's first house was shared with the milk cow shed and horse barn and built around 1900. It was located too close to the flood plain of lower Cottonwood Creek and eventually silted in. The second one-room house still stands today although the roof and northwest wall are about to collapse. The third house was four rooms with stucco and built before 1935. This was the house Franklin and Wyoma resided in. All the buildings were constructed of cottonwood logs removed from the creek. Four of the original log buildings are still in use.

Franklin continued the family tradition of raising

Hereford cattle and Columbia-Rambouillet sheep. He dabbled a little with longhorns before getting into Salers. These cattle and sheep were his business. He also raised a few Quarter horses and these were considered his passion. T-Chair employed a sheepherder from 1952 until the early 1970s. He retired on the ranch and died three years after retiring. The sheep herd was sold after his death. The breeding horse program was also dismantled.

Franklin was instrumental in drilling water wells for livestock. The ranch no longer had to depend on winter runoff or thunderstorms to fill reservoirs. Wyoma baked bread once a week, packing water in and out of the house, trying to keep track of two toddlers, and cooking for ten hired men before electricity and indoor plumbing were retrofitted into the biggest log house at the Doughstick. The old outhouse lost its purpose but is still maintained as a yard shed.

During Franklin's reign, oil was produced on the ranch and he was okay with that as it added additional income for ranching operations. Uranium also made its mark on the land. Dozer excavations can be seen to this day due to the uranium rush in the 1950s. Uranium made a comeback in the late 1970s when thousands and thousands of exploratory holes were drilled on the ranch.

Franklin and Wyoma raised three daughters: Patricia, Janinne, and Kathy. Patricia first married Jim Crill and then Richard Clark. Patricia and Richard had two children: Ryan and Kathleen. Janinne first married Lyle Lake and then Bill Rice. Janinne and Lyle had one son, Jason and he has two sons, Ramey and Thomas. Kristy married Gene Mankin and they had three children: Erin, Justin, and Weston.

Franklin is buried on the ranch. Wyoma still lives in the old Von Burg house waiting for more great-grandchildren to be born.

Patricia taught elementary education for four years before returning to her roots after her first marriage. Her passions have evolved into archaeology,



Ryan Clark and Weston Mankin feeding calves



Kristy, Weston, Justin, Erin and Gene Mankin



Janinne Rice and Jason Lark



Katy, Patricia and Ryan Clark

paleontology, and photography. Ryan, her son, lives and works on the ranch while her daughter Katy lives north of Gillette and drives to town for work. Ryan's passions include hunting, horses, and photography. Katy's passions are photography and cooking. Neither is married.

Kristy worked off the ranch for a year until she also returned to the ranch after her marriage. Her passions are oriented around organics, environmental safety, and health. Their son, Weston, is working on the ranch and his passion is golf. He is not married. Their other son, Justin, is married to Monique Despaigne and they have one son, Austin. The oldest daughter Erin has a baby girl, Parker.

.

The Collins Ranch, 1896

The Collins Family, Campbell County



The Collins Ranch 1995

As told by Kevin Collins and the Collins Family

In Campbell County, the name “Jim Collins” was familiar to all as he was one of the few old time cattlemen in northeast Wyoming involved in roundups near and far. For ten years, he served as wagon boss for the Texas-based Western Union Beef Company, then later as foreman of the TJ Ranch, and finally owning his own ranch on Wildcat Creek.

Jim was born February 19th, 1862 in Springfield, Massachusetts. He was the oldest of nine children. His parents migrated to America from County Cork, Ireland. Jim, or J.D. as he was also known, spent his boyhood in Massachusetts and Connecticut. When he left home he went to upper New York State and worked on the Erie Canal. At that time most of the dirt work was done by horses and a fresno. He related how he was working a span of mules, pulling boats through the canal when he



J.D. Collins



Florence Collins

fell in, and by holding on to the lines he was saved by his trusty mules. He almost drowned and so decided that kind of work was not to his liking, so he struck out for the west.

The “West” turned out to be Cheyenne, Wyoming. He worked on various ranches in that area for a few years. In 1886 he went to work for the Western Union Beef company, managed by W.P. (Peter) Ricketts, trailing cattle from Cheyenne to the home range in Northeast Wyoming. The home ranch of the Western Union Beef Company was on Horse Creek, about 35 miles north of what is now Gillette. This ranch later became known as the Sunnyside Ranch. The range at this time was all open, except for the few acres around the buildings of the bigger ranches. The town of Gillette in the mid-1890s consisted of only a few buildings and a livery stable or two.

Jim worked himself up to the job of wagon boss for the Western Union Beef Company. The ranch at this time was running and branding approximately 10,000 calves a year along with a steer operation. The steer operation was run in the Ekalaka, Montana area by John Osborne, who was a friend and later a partner of Jim’s. The main ranch north of Gillette, under the management of Peter Ricketts, ran three roundup wagons. The wagons were run by Jim Collins, Emery Bright, and a man by the name of Brockette. Each wagon had a wagon boss, horse wranglers, cook, and a number of riders. The wagon boss was assigned a certain area to round up and work. The work consisted of branding calves, gathering beef for market, and trailing cattle to the railhead for shipment to market. The wagons left the home ranch in early spring and usually would not get back until the shipping was done in the fall. Jim worked for the Western Union Beef Company until they closed out their operations in 1898. He then went to work for G.S. Hamilton, owner of the TJ Ranch. He served as wagon boss for the TJ for three years.

About 1900, Jim Collins and John Osborne, who had worked for Mr. Ricketts, bought out the Harvey Calhoun Holdings on Wildcat Creek and went into partnership on the ranch. This partnership lasted for 11 years, at which time Jim bought John’s

interest in the land.

In 1901, while still working for the TJ, Jim married Florence Hunter. She was a sister of John W. (Jack) Hunter. John Hunter had a small ranch on Olmstead Creek, close to the TJ Ranch. Florence had come out to visit her brother when she met Jim and in due time they were married. They had to drive by team and buggy to Sundance, Wyoming to be married. Their first year of married life was spent at the TJ Ranch and they then moved to the newly acquired ranch on Wildcat Creek. The life on the new ranch, with very meager facilities, was very trying in the best of times, but in the early days, it was a test of one's fortitude. And so it was for Jim and Florence when they started ranching on their own on Wildcat Creek. Their first home was a small log house with a sod roof, which was added to over the years. They had four children Irene (Mrs. Joe Keyline), John, James, and George.

The ranch was on the route from the north country to Gillette and so it was a favorite stopping place for one and all. The ranch boasted no facilities for travelers, as there was only a large bunkhouse and the small quarters for the family. However, the hospitality was warm and open to everyone. Ranching was a hard business during this time. Outside the ranch headquarters it was still open range with no fences, this required long hours in the saddle, riding to keep the cattle on feed and water and near home. Trips to Gillette, a distance of 25 miles, had to be made by horse back or team and buggy. The social life was non-existent, except for a dance now and then in someone's home. When the children reached school age, Florence moved to town and bought a house. She stayed there during the school term and moved to the ranch during the summer.

Jim ranched through the good years as well as the bad. The hard winters of 1911, 1912 and 1919 took their toll on him as well as everyone else, but in the end he was considered a very successful rancher. In the 1920s came the homesteaders to settle the land and he helped them improve their places. In the end, he bought a number of their holdings to add to his ranch. Over the years, Jim kept in contact with his family in the East. He



Original house, 1929

returned home for an annual visit with his mother, who died in 1927, as well as some brothers and sisters. He was returning to Wyoming from a visit when he learned of his wife's critical illness. She died shortly after he returned home, on February 6, 1921. Their daughter, Irene married Joe Keyline just 10 days before Florence died. Jim continued ranching full time after Florence's death. The older boys were sent to boarding school and George went to a country school. In 1927 a horse fell with Jim, hurting him quite badly, and from the effects of this he never fully recovered. On February 27, 1929 the life of another pioneer ended, for Jim had died. When Jim Collins passed away he left the ranch to his three sons John, James, and George. About a year later, John and George bought James' interest in the ranch. James then bought the Wilkerson Ranch on Little Powder River and moved his cattle there.

John P. Collins was born on August 31, 1904 to Jim and Florence Collins at their home ranch. He grew up on the ranch, and attended school in Gillette until 1921. When Florence passed away in 1921, John and his younger brother James David attended school at Regis College in Denver, Colorado. After he finished school he went to work on the family



Lena & John



Alberta



Lena



Alberta & John by ranch sign

ranch where he was to spend the rest of his life. John married Lena Bernadine Hanlin on June 26, 1926 in Sundance, Wyoming. They had one son, John Hanlin (Jack) Collins born on June 13, 1927. Lena passed away on December 19, 1927. On August 15, 1929 John married Alberta Pauline Culavin in Belle Fourche, South Dakota. Alberta Culavin was born July 5, 1910 in Gillette to Albert Charles Culavin and Julia (Ricks) Culavin. Albert Culavin had also worked for Rickets and the TJ Ranch. John Collins joked that he had known his

second wife ever since she was born. Alberta was raised on her parent's ranch 11 miles north east of Gillette. She attended rural schools and graduated from Campbell County High School in 1928. She went back to school the following year and took one year of special education in normal training and received a teacher's certificate. They had one son, Joe Paul, born in Gillette on January 4, 1932.

They saw some pretty hard times with the Depression and the drought. Most of the surrounding ranchers moved their cattle to places where they could lease grass and buy hay. John stayed on the ranch and pulled through drought wintering on cactus, sage brush, and cake, with no cattle loss that winter. John's brother George had taken his cattle to Mountain View, Wyoming where he found pasture and hay. After the drought and grasshoppers were gone they were able to get back to normal. Their sons John (Jack) and Joe attended rural schools and later attended high school in Gillette.

In 1945 John bought George's interest in the ranch. George bought the Roy Tarbell Ranch near Broadus, Montana. They saw a lot of changes over the years with Rural Electric Association coming in, telephones, airplanes, cars, and many of the conveniences we take for granted today. John enjoyed hunting, fishing, and trap shooting. He was a lifetime member of the Sheridan Elks Club and the Gillette Gun Club. He and Alberta were members of the Saint Matthew's Catholic Church. John passed away on April 8, 1985. On November 25, 1989 in the early morning hours the original homestead house burned down. There had been members of the Collins family living in that house for over 88 years. The late John Collins won \$50 from a handful of Gillette realtors, who were looking for the Campbell County resident who had lived in one home the longest. John had spent all of his 77 years since birth under the same earthen roof his father had built more than 80 years earlier. It's doubtful the record has ever been broken.

Jack Collins married Carol (Babbie) Babbitt, daughter of Ross Babbitt, on October 25, 1949. They settled on the ranch and raised eight children, five girls and three boys. In order of age they were:



Jack & Babbie Collins wedding



Jack & Joe Collins



Joe & Bonnell Collins wedding



Collins Ranch buildings, ca. late 1950s



Bonnell & Joe



Bonnell & Joe



Janette and Kevin Collins



Collins family: (Back, L to R) Joe, Jack; middle Alberta, Bonnell holding Brian, Babbie holding Irene, Laura, John; (Front) Suzie, Kevin, Debbie, Karen



Back (L to R) Jack, Babbie, Suzie, Debbie, Karen, Bonnell, & Kevin; (Front) Jay, David, Laura, Greg, Irene, & Brian

Suzie, Debbie, Karen, Laura, Irene, David, Jay, and Greg. Jack and Babbie lived and worked on the ranch until 1973 when he went to work for Ted Norfolk at the Norfolk ranch. Jack passed away from medical complications on September 9, 1977. Dave Collins and Debbie Collins (Blake) still live in the Gillette area. Babbie moved to town, and later to Colorado where she remarried and has written several published novels at this date. Most of their children have married and have families of their own and live in Colorado and Wyoming.

Upon John's death, in 1985, he left the ranch to his remaining son, Joe. Joe was born on January 4, 1932. He was raised and educated in Gillette, graduating from Campbell County High School. Just after graduating, Joe married high school sweetheart Mary Record. Mary died during childbirth along with their infant child. Joe attended the University of Wyoming in Laramie, where he was studying for a Veterinary Degree. While he was in Laramie, Joe was drafted into the United States Army. After serving in the Army for two years, he then enlisted in the Air Force serving for another two years. During his time in the Air Force he met Bonnell E. Guinn and they married on June 1, 1953 in Valdosta, Georgia. Bonnell was born on January 6, 1934 at Elk Park, North Carolina, and was the daughter of Warren and Zilla (Williams) Guinn. She attended and graduated from Cranberry High School in Elk Park, North Carolina. She and Joe met through her brother Warren Guinn, who was also in the Air Force.

In 1956 the couple returned to the ranch and Joe continued serving for an additional two years in the Reserves. The same year they returned to the ranch they had their first of three sons, Kevin Paul, born October 29, 1956. The couple started their family and made their home on the ranch raising cattle, Joe was the first to start growing wheat on the ranch. Their second son, Brian Patrick, born January 5, 1959, and their third son, Brett Guinn, was born July 12, 1964 and passed away July 13, 1964 while still at the hospital due to complications. Joe and Bonnell loved the ranch life, Joe with the land and cattle and Bonnell with her beautiful yard and garden. They shared it with many friends and family that came to visit over the years. Joe was a



Bonnell's backyard at the ranch



John, Alberta, Joe, Bonnell, Kevin, Brian



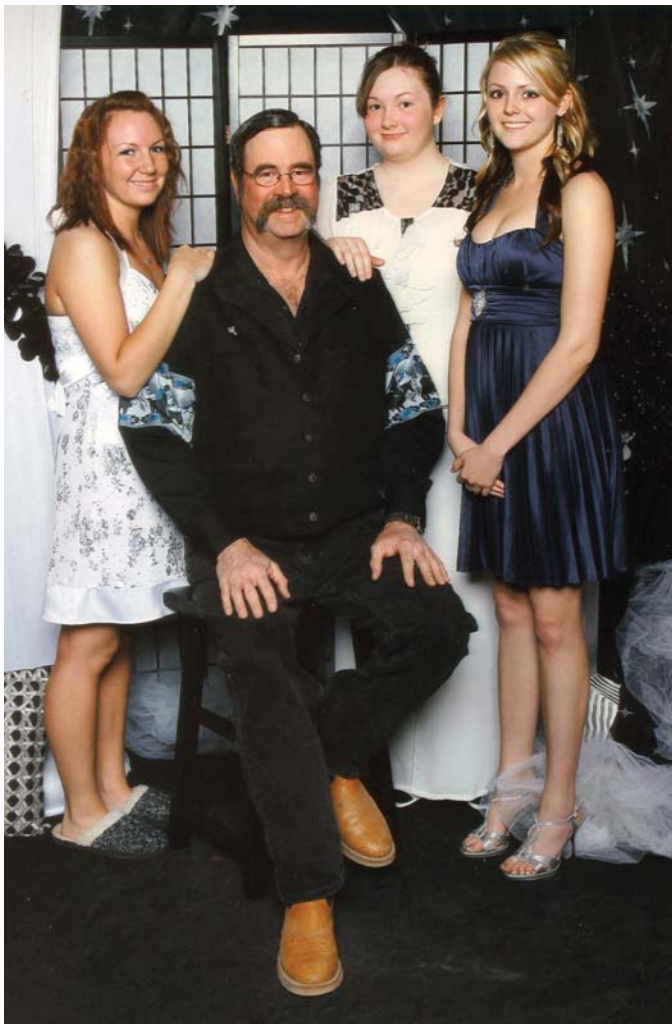
Kevin & Freckles at branding



Charity Jo Collins



Kevin & Jana's wedding, Nov. 8, 2003



Kevin, Cindy, Colleen & Melissa



Kevin's & Brian's families

charter member of the Gillette Gun Club and served as President in the 1970s. Joe enjoyed playing the guitar and singing. He also enjoyed hunting and guiding out-of-state hunters around the ranch. He was a member of Saint Matthew's Catholic Church and a member of the Elks Club for over 50 years. Joe and Bonnell were married almost 54 years when he passed away of natural causes on April 13, 2008 at the Wyoming Medical Center in Casper, Wyoming. Bonnell passed away on January 15, 2010 in Gillette, Wyoming to be forever united with Joe.

Kevin and Brian Collins took over the ranch operation in 1998. Upon Bonnell's death in 2010 the ranch transferred to them.

Kevin Collins graduated from Campbell County High School in 1975 and went on to attend Sheridan College in Sheridan, Wyoming, where he earned an Associate Degree in Applied Science in Agricultural Technology in 1978. Upon graduation, Kevin came back to the ranch where he has worked full time until present. Kevin was a charter member of the Young Farmers and Ranchers Association in Gillette and later served as a State Officer. Kevin married Janette C. Hanzlik, on March 3, 1984. She is the daughter of Ray and Francis Hanzlik of Mudd Butte, South Dakota. Together they had three daughters; Charity Jo was born on October 2, 1984 and passed away on January 14, 1986, as a result of injuries suffered in a car accident while visiting relatives in South Dakota. Their second child, Cindy Jo was born in Gillette, Wyoming on December 20, 1991 and the third child, Colleen Marie was born on December 31, 1997 in Buffalo, Wyoming. Kevin and Janette were divorced in 2002. Kevin married Jana Elkins on November 8, 2003. Jana is the daughter of James and Jan Wheeler of Dill City, Oklahoma. Jana has one daughter, Melissa Elaine Elkins, born June 28, 1991 in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. Melissa is still residing at the ranch. Kevin and Jana are involved in the family ranch where Kevin's primary obligation is to care for the cattle and all aspects that pertain to the cattle operation on the ranch. Jana works full time in Gillette, spending her spare time helping Kevin on the ranch. Kevin also enjoys playing guitar and singing as his dad did, as well as



Brian, Holly, Father Camillus



Brian & Holly Collins



Patrick, Holly & Amanda Collins



Gov. and Mrs. Matthew H. Mead, Wyoming State Sen. Jim Anderson, Sen. John Barrasso, Collins Family, Rep. Cynthia Lummis, and Sen. Mike Enzi

hunting and trap shooting. Kevin has also been a member of the Campbell County Sheriff's Posse for over 20 years, and he also serves on the Rural Fire Department as a volunteer.

Brian Collins graduated from Campbell County High School 1978. Upon graduation, he went to work on the family ranch. Brian married Holly VanWagner on July 3, 1984. Holly is the daughter of Floyd and Janice VanWagner of Howe, Indiana. Holly has worked side by side with her husband since they married. Together they have two children, the oldest Patrick who was born April 4, 1988, and Amanda who was born on July 6, 1991. Brian's and Holly's passion, to continue the farming that Joe started, continues today. Currently winter and spring wheat as well as hay barley, triticale, and other crops are raised. Brian enjoys photography and long range shooting. He has served on the Campbell Sheriff's Posse since 1994 and as a rural volunteer for the Campbell County Fire Department since 1989.

At the time of this writing, Kevin's daughter Cindy has a three year old son named Hayden. Colleen, the youngest, is still attending junior high; she is considering coming back to the ranch. Kevin's stepdaughter Melissa is attending Gillette College Nursing Program.

Brian's son Patrick graduated in the Diesel Certificate program at Gillette College in 2007. He works in Gillette and is considering one day being part of the family ranch. Amanda is attending Gillette College and is working on an Associate Degree in General Studies.

In summary, I want to express how thankful I am to be a part of this history and this ranch. As a young boy I had the opportunity to play with my cousins here on the ranch and get to really know them. I was fortunate enough to live next door to my grandpa John and grandma Bert. I got to spend many days and nights with them listening to stories, and getting to know their history and lives, in that period of time with so many changes for

them. From first getting electricity in their home, to the TV, phone, microwave, radio, the first car, first plane, first man on the moon, so very many changes that generation saw and experienced. In fact mentioning “planes”, John used to own the land under the Campbell County Airport. He bought the land for five dollars an acre from a Sioux Indian and in later years sold it. They were honest, hardworking people whose word was more binding than any contract written today because of who they were. Those are memories and times I would not trade for all the wealth in the world. I was fortunate to get to know my Uncle Jack; I wish he had had more time in this world for me to know him better as I got older. We grew up a close knit family all living and depending on each other to get everything done. I myself was lucky to grow up in a time and place where I could go out with my grandfather, uncle, and father and learn from them side by side working together. There are so few opportunities today for most children to see what their parents actually do. They can’t go with them on a daily basis to work; the interaction time between children and parents is certainly not the same as on a ranch. I’d like to thank those people who strive to keep the history of Wyoming alive through these stories so that future generations know where their roots are. I believe you can’t understand fully where you are going until you understand where you’ve come from. Thank you for putting these stories and photos in books where they will live on long past the people who lived and wrote them.

The Daly Livestock LLC, 1891

The Daly/Smith Family, Campbell County



Gov. and Mrs. Matthew H. Mead, Wyoming State Sen. Jim Anderson, Sen. John Barrasso, Daly Family, Rep. Cynthia Lummis, and Sen. Mike Enzi

The Floyd Land & Livestock, Inc., 1901

The Floyd Family, Campbell County



Wyoming State Sen. Jim Anderson, Sen. John Barrasso, Mrs. and Gov. Matthew H. Mead, Daly Family, Rep. Cynthia Lummis, and Sen. Mike Enzi

The Hall Ranch, 1902

The Hall/Tate Families, Campbell County

As told by the Hall Family

When O.W. and Malinda Hall applied for their first homestead in 1902 he was 42 and Malinda was 38. They had three children, Cora 18, Lora 14, and Ernest 12. In the spring of 1901 they traveled from Nebraska intending to go on to Montana with the Baker wagon train. They stopped overnight on Wildcat Creek. Amos Cantley had a homestead there and must have talked them into staying in the Gillette area.

When of age, Lora and Ernest also applied and proved up allotments. Ernest managed the ranch from the 1910s and was married to Joy L. Chambers. They had one child, Dean W., in 1916. In the meantime, O.W. was intimately involved in the formation of Campbell County as a county commissioner. Until after WWII, Ernest and Joy ran the ranch, raising cattle and cavalry remount horses.

Dean came back from the war after serving in the army for seven years. He met and married high school teacher Eldee Swope in 1949. Dean and Eldee took over the ranch soon after they married. They had four children Deanna, Nancy, Rhoda, and Kurt. Dean retired in 1980 with his stepson Randy Bulkley leasing the ranch for nine years. From 1989 to present Dean's daughter and son-in-law Rhoda and David Tate have been stewards of the ranch, raising cattle in much the same way as the previous generations.



Ernest Hall, 1908



Lora Hall, 1908



Ernest & O.W. Hall, 1915



Branding, 1930s



Corrals, 1920s



Ernest, Dean & hired hand branding, 1930s



Feeding, 1920s



Moving bulls, 1930s



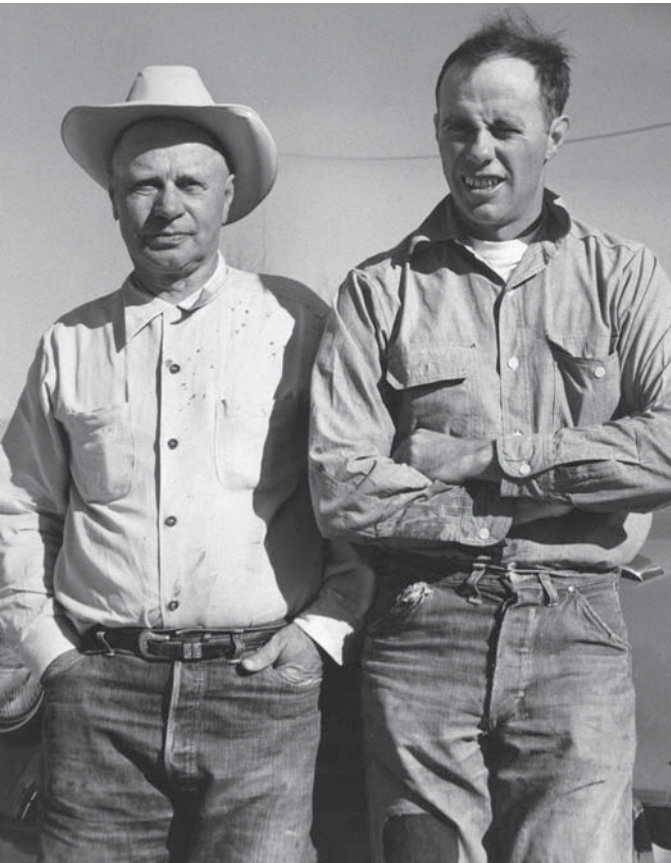
Cliff Robertson, Dean & Ernest hunting, 1930s



Home & cows, 1930



Joy & hired hand, during WWII



Ernest & Dean Hall, 1950s



Moving cows, 1950s



Deanna, Eldee & Nancy (baby), 1955



Dean & kids stacking hay, 1965



Dean gathering, 1970s



Shipping TM cows, 1970s



Rhoda & David Tate, 1910



Wyoming State Sen. Jim Anderson, Gov. and Mrs. Matthew H. Mead, Sen. John Barrasso, Hall Family, Rep. Cynthia Lummis, and Sen. Mike Enzi

The King Eisele Ranch, 1911

The King/Eisele Families, Laramie County



As told by Ann King and the Eisele Family

Francis Stocker King, known as Frank or F.S., was born on the Isle of Man in the Irish Sea, east of Belfast, Ireland, in 1868. Frank King was the oldest of nine children. His father, William King, was a Methodist minister who was a personal friend of William Gladstone, England's Prime Minister in the late 1800s. Frank immigrated to America at the age of 16 in 1883 and landed in Connecticut. About a year later he made his way to Laramie, Wyoming and took the only job he could find as a shepherd for a Basque sheep operator named Pasqual.

Pasqual liked the young man and eventually sold him one-half interest in his band of sheep. Upon Pasqual's death, Frank bought the entire herd and encouraged his younger brothers, Bert and Joe, to leave the Irish Sea and join him on the Laramie Plains where they formed the King Brothers sheep ranch near Bosler, Wyoming. Frank would marry Margaret Brockway from Canada and the couple had six children – three boys and three girls.

Originally a commercial sheep operation, the purchase of a champion French Merino ram at the Chicago's World's Fair of 1893 and other purebred stock propelled the Kings into the pure

bred sheep operation. Eventually, they switched to Rambouillet sheep as the breed of choice.

The brothers incorporated as the F. S. King Brothers Company in 1904. While in Laramie, Frank King was elected to the Wyoming Legislature and served in the 7th, 8th, and 9th sessions from 1903 to 1909. During his time in the legislature, F. S. earned a reputation as a practical joker. Once he was seated at a formal banquet with Governor B. B. Brooks. While the governor was engaged with other guests, F.S. pinned Brooks' shirt to the table cloth. When the Governor stood to address the crowd gathered at the dinner, he took with him most of the table service and linens.

In 1915, F. S., Bert, and Joe split the ranch into two operations. Joe and Bert would remain in the Bosler area. Joe continued running the ranch but Bert eventually moved to Laramie to work with the Farm Bureau although he always kept an interest in the sheep operation.

F. S. had traveled to Australia and New Zealand that year to investigate the Corriedale breed. He wanted a superior breed of sheep that could withstand the arid, dry climate, and severe winter weather of the Laramie Plains. He also wanted a dual purpose

breed, one that was good for both wool and mutton production. After deciding that the Corriedale was the sheep they had been looking for, F.S. eventually purchased 623 Corriedale sheep from J.T. Little in Canterbury Plains, New Zealand and imported them to the United States. F.S. moved to a ranch on Happy Jack Road near Cheyenne.

Although the brothers had separate sheep operations, they all enjoyed a great deal of success. The King Brothers won more championships in Rambouillets than any other breeder in the United States and they also ranked at the top of the list with the Corriedales.

The land owned by F. S. King consisted of 17 sections of land west of Cheyenne. It also had a lease on 64,000 acres (approximately 100 square miles) of forest land known as the Pole Mountain Reserve in the Sherman Hill area. Upon settling on the ranch five miles west of Cheyenne in 1916, F. S. Began construction of a 16-room “palace on the prairie” complete with a tennis court, a greenhouse for raising rare and non-indigenous plants, a fruit orchard, a photographic darkroom, and a fireproof vault for storing sheep breed pedigrees, and an office.

The night before construction on the mansion was complete, it burned to the foundation. Today the only thing left is the glass front door which has served as the door to the lambing shed since that catastrophe. As soon as the charred debris was removed, construction of the second house began. The second house still remains standing to this day.

Frank’s herd began to grow. According to the records of the American Corriedale Sheep Association, F.S. owned the first ram registered in the breed in the United States. Its name was Bold Brand. The second and third sheep registered in the Corriedale breed also belonged to Frank. To this day, F.S. King is given credit for introducing the Corriedale breed to the United States.

The lambing shed was not only the resting place of the glass door from the original house; it was also famous for being built in 36 hours. The ranch had just received a shipment of imported sheep

when news came out that a severe snow storm was approaching from the west. Frantically, F.S. King hired three construction crews to work eight-hour shifts around the clock to construct a new shed to shelter the imported sheep. The crews used lanterns to work by night. Construction was completed as the storm hit and the newly imported sheep were sheltered safely.

Throughout the 1920s, F.S. ran primarily Corriedale sheep with registered pedigrees but eventually he began to lose interest in the ranch and he turned operation of it over to his three sons: Art, Arnold, and Jerry. Frank’s eldest son, Arthur King, attended the University of Wyoming. Following graduation, he and his brother, Arnold, delivered 1200 head of Rambouillet and Corriedale sheep to the Russian government. They traveled on a Norwegian cargo vessel that left from New York and delivered the sheep at Yalta on the Black Sea. Due to political unrest in Russia, it took three weeks to unload the sheep and another five days to get the flock transported by train to Moscow where the King’s were paid. It took another three weeks for the brothers to get out of Russian. The horrendous living conditions in Russia shocked the brothers and made a lifelong impression on both of them.

F.S., along with many other sheep and cattle ranchers, suffered as the Great Depression began. A common practice at the King Ranch was to station the local banker at the corner of the lambing shed when he came out to verify his collateral. King Ranch shearers were known for their sly skill in herding the same band of sheep around the shed multiple times for the banker to count as a tactic to secure larger loans. In the late 1920s, King began operating as a contract buyer to purchase sheep from Australia and New Zealand for several different breeders. A longshoremen’s strike delayed delivery and by then the Depression was underway and purchasers were unable to pay him. F.S. King was driven into bankruptcy.

The ranch was sold on the steps of the Laramie County Courthouse in 1930 to cover unpaid property taxes. Frank’s eldest son, Art, purchased 4,500 acres including the house and building with \$5,000 from his Uncle Joe in Laramie and \$5,000

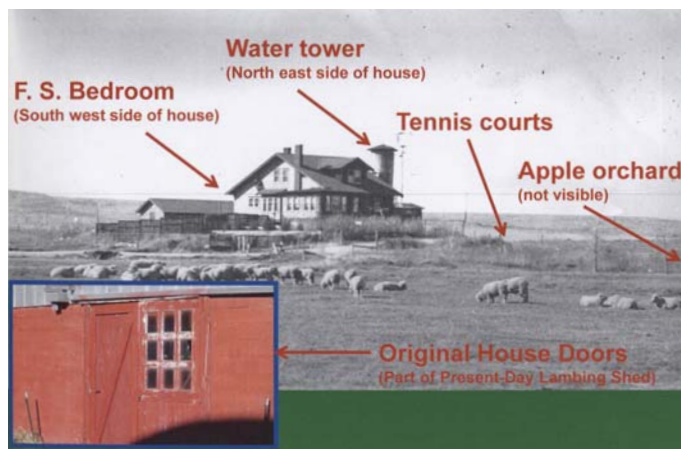
of his own. This was about seven of the original 17 sections. He also preserved two forest grazing permits on Pole Mountain and he acquired 68 sheep and 12 milk cows.

Art married Addamae Henderson in 1930, the daughter of a Cheyenne seamstress. The couple had one son, Jerry Arthur King. Art and Addamae diligently milked cows to generate cash to acquire more sheep and keep the ranch operating throughout the 1930s. By the 1940s, they had built up an internationally renowned herd of Corriedale sheep numbering in excess of 1,000 head and the King Ranch became known as the Corriedale Ranch.

By the 1950s, the Kings were running their sheep on the historic Remount Ranch west of Cheyenne, in addition to their Pole Mountain grazing lease. The King Ranch was known for its hardy sheep that were able to survive the severe Wyoming winter conditions. During a storm, sheep are known to drift with the wind into a corner despite the best efforts of the herder. Art King was known for his ability to save most of his stranded sheep by digging and poking them out of a pile by skillfully using his shepherd's hook.

Jerry King, the only child of Art and Addamae King, was born June 10, 1931. He grew up on the ranch and earned a degree from the University of Wyoming. After serving in the U.S. Army Artillery Corps, he married Ann Francis, the daughter of Art and Alice Francis who owned and operated an adjoining cattle ranch in the Gilchrist and North Crow area. Ann Francis King immediately began working with her new husband.

In the 1940s, a good sheepherder could be hired for room and board plus a small stipend. By the 1950s, the cost of the sheepherder had risen to \$325 a month plus room, board, and benefits. The price of sheep had not increased commensurately. Additionally, the number of predators, including coyotes, packs of wild town dogs, and golden eagles, was increasing. Mutton prices had declined as consumers' tastes had changed. The bottom fell out of the wool market again and sheep ranching lost its economic viability. The last King Ranch sheep climbed onto a sale truck in 1968.



Imported Sheep at King House



Ann King, Western Livestock Journal, March 1963

In the late 1950s, the King's acquired a herd of approximately 50 Hereford cattle and building this cowherd became the focus of the ranch operation. During the 1960s, the cattle operation grew and Art became less and less involved. The new ranch was operated primarily by Ann and Jerry King. In the 1970s, they began a commercial Charolais cattle operation

Today the King Ranch is alive and healthy and we remain stewards of the land. But we always remember the past. Cattle instead of sheep roam the land off Happy Jack Road. Sprinkler systems water the meadows producing heavy windrows of hay that are baled for winter feed. We manage our water carefully. And we work hard to preserve the land so not only animals but men can enjoy it.



Wyoming State Sen. Jim Anderson, Gov. and Mrs. Matthew H. Mead, Sen. John Barrasso, Eisele Family, Rep. Cynthia Lummis, and Sen. Mike Enzi



Mark & Trudy Eisele receive the 2005 Stewardship Award



The King Eisele Ranch today

The Kuhn Ranch, 1906

The Kuhn Family, Johnson, Sheridan Counties

As told by the Kuhn Family and excerpts from Wheel of Time: 1800s – 1984, Arvada Historical Group

Alva Lorah, born in Ohio in 1866, moved to Missouri, then rode the train to Ogallala, Nebraska and came to Parkman, Wyoming, north of Sheridan, with shell corn and cattle. He was doing hay work at the turn of the century and learned of the Powder River country, south of Arvada, Wyoming. He met and married Margaret Collins. He worked for Denio on lower Crazy Woman Creek, then homesteaded on Cottonwood Creek and the S-3 around 1906.

Alva and Maggie had ten children, one of whom, Ethel, remarried to a Basque sheepherder Santiago Michelena. Santiago was born July 25, 1897 on the Iturrine farm near Oyartzun, Gypuzoa, in the Basque country of northern Spain. His family moved to Sumbilla, Navarra, Spain and at the age of 9 he had his first job working on a farm. He arrived in Buffalo, Wyoming on May 16, 1917. He herded sheep and became a camp tender for the Peter Harriet outfit, then entered into partnership with Gaston Irigaray and Felix Bertiz. In 1923 he purchased his first home, a sheep wagon, and with his share of sheep, trailed north on Powder River to Cottonwood seven miles south of Arvada. He leased pasture and water from Ethel Lorah and her relatives.

Santiago and Ethel married in August 1924. In the years following, they acquired additional pasture lands on the Powder River. They hired Basque men to assist them in their cattle and sheep operation which included grazing along Powder River and trailing sheep with wagon and team to the summer mountain pasture. Over the years, the family enjoyed gathering with other Basque families in Buffalo and at the Esponda cabins near the family's sheep camp in the Big Horn Mountains.

Alva, as well as Ethel's siblings, sold to Santiago and Ethel Michelena. This occurred in the late 1920s.



Ice on the Powder River, 1909



Santiago



S-3 homestead



Barn at the S-3



Grandmother Ethel & her sisters, Myrtle & Mabel, with horses in rope corral, 1917

Ethel and Santiago raised two daughters, Candida and Margaret, and ran cows and sheep for over half a century. This process began shortly after a “deadline” had been established in Buffalo, shortly after the Johnson County Invasion. It was established so that sheep were to not cross a line not too far from the original ranch borders.

As the girls were raised up, first Margaret met and married John Gammon in Arvada. Then Candida met and married Al Kuhn in Buffalo. Al worked for Santiago before moving to Buffalo. John had the T A Ranch south of Buffalo and took in the cattle when Santiago and Ethel retired to Buffalo.

About the period when the daughters married, Ethel and Santiago acquired the Erikson place on Lower Crazy Woman Creek and the Simmons cow camp on the north fork of the Powder River for summer grazing.

After the Michelena retirement, the S-3 was run by Paul Jones: farming wheat, herding sheep by airplane, and watching cattle, horseback traveling over ridges precariously with truck and trailer.



Santiago & Candida, August 1939

In the old days, Santiago would sharpen shovels and axes, and trail sheep for 11 days in the spring. Then brand calves in early July. The neighbors were observant of calf maturity and inquired why this wasn’t attended to sooner and Santiago would reply, “I just got here.”

Margaret and John raised a son, Johnny, and a daughter, Marie. They and their families run cow-calf operations today.

Al and Candida raised four children: Pete, Lorraine, Alicia, and Phil. They manage the farm and ranch with the lessees who all run cow-calf operations. The S-3 now exists as GGM, LLC (Gammon, Gammon, Miller, and Kuhn Ranch, LLC)



Draft team, June 1939



Working cattle



Casing Cates well, 1943



Shearing at Cottonwood



Wool shipped from Cottonwood



Branding



Ethel & grandkids at S-3, 1962



Kuhn Ranch



Kids in supply wagon, Basque Festival, 2006



Santiago & Ethel aquired mountain holdings in 1955, Hazelton-Big Horns



4 Kuhn children (Phil, Lorraine, Alicia, Pete) with Pete's daughter Kim, Miss Frontier 2009



Kuhn Ranch Road



Basque Festival, 2011



Santiago Michelena's sheepwagon



Wyoming State Sen. Jim Anderson, Gov. and Mrs. Matthew H. Mead, Sen. John Barrasso, Kuhn Family, Rep. Cynthia Lummis, and Sen. Mike Enzi

The Lowham Ranch, 1900 (2008 Centennial Family)

The Lowham Family, Uinta County



Main Lowham Ranch House, 9-15-1936

As told by the Lowham family

The Homestead Act of 1862 specified that a person may file for a homestead, live on and improve the land, and then file the deed after 5 years. The original Lowham Ranch on the Bear River was homesteaded in the 1880s by Michael and Eliza Byrne Lowham.

Married in 1846, Michael and Eliza emigrated from Ireland to London, Canada in 1871 where they lived until Michael sought work in the United States. After a difficult separation, (a result of many star-crossed letters sent to London, England in lieu of London, Canada) they eventually found themselves in Rock Springs where Michael became section foreman on the Union Pacific Railroad. Shortly thereafter, they had the great fortune and opportunity to homestead a ranch on the Bear River where they developed water supplies for irrigation and stock water, with water rights recorded as

early as 1899. The original Lowham Ranch homesteaders, Michael and Eliza, had ten boys and one girl. Eliza is quoted to have said, "...I think it was a good thing we had a ranch for so many boys. It gave them something to do."

William Richard, first son, and his brother John Edward, continued to run the upper Bear River Ranch as their parents aged. In 1905, they bought the home ranch from their father and another adjacent ranch. They managed the work together with their wives, Elizabeth Banner Lowham and Alice Scott Lowham. In family tradition, William also worked for Union Pacific Railroad and eventually became Sheriff of Uinta County in 1912, serving out three terms.

Circa 1915, William and John split the property equally and ran their own cattle (typically Hereford), horse, and sometimes sheep ranch operations. Here, June Done, youngest daughter of



Original Homestead Lowham Family, Circa 1889



Sheriff William Lowham and deputy, 1916



(Front) George, Clarence, Ellen, (Back) Wes, Ben, ca 1918



Lowham Haying: Elizabeth, William, and boy



(Front) Elizabeth Lowham, (Middle) June & Ellen, (Back) Clarence, George, Wes, & Ben, ca 1962



Lowham Horse Barn East, 1977, destroyed by fire in early 1990s



Lowham Ranch and Hayfield, 1997

William, describes her father's work ethic and their life on the ranch:

William was aggressive, a good business man, father and rancher, always looking for ground and livestock to buy rather than sell. He taught his children to be hard workers and to be thrifty. Their ranch was located twenty miles south of Evanston toward the Uinta Mountains. At that time, those twenty miles were a dirt road. The winters were hard, and families in the Hilliard and Bear River areas would be snowed in for several months. Through the winter months, three or four trips to town would be made with a team and sleigh for supplies.

After William's death in 1938, his oldest son Ben managed the ranch for his mother. Ben and his wife, Ethel Robinson Lowham purchased half the original ranch in 1942 and operated it in partnership until 1953. Clarence, Ben's brother, bought the ranch from Ethel after Ben's death in 1980 and operated the ranch until his death in 2009.

Today in 2012, Clarence's descendants--most of who continue to make Wyoming their home--maintain the family legacy operating the ranch and raising cattle on the land.



Lowham Bunk House, 1994



Hugh, Clarence & Paul Lowham, Summer 2001



Lowham new calves, June 2011



Lowham ranch entry gate, September 2010



Lowham summer range, Yellow Creek drainage, 2011



Lowham cows, winter feeding, Jan. 2011

The Little Buffalo Ranch, 1911

The Marquiss Family, Campbell County



Wyoming State Sen. Jim Anderson, Sen. John Barrasso, Mrs. and Gov. Matthew H. Mead, Marquiss Family, Rep. Cynthia Lummis, and Sen. Mike Enzi

The T7 Ranch, 1881

The Matthews Family, Campbell County



T7 Ranch Headquarters, 1895

As told by Angela Matthews in Campbell County: The Treasured Years and updated in 2012 by Thomas Robert Matthews Jr.

Texas during the latter half of the 1800s held both promise and heartache for Thomas Newton (T.N.) and Fannie Walker Matthews. T. N. and Fannie were married in Gonzales, Texas in 1868 and had five children. An epidemic claimed three of those children. Gonzales had been established by the De Witt colony in Mexican territory. T.N.'s grandfather married DeWitt's daughter and along with the others, had fought for the independence of Texas. T.N. and other members of the Matthews family were cattlemen who by the '70s were facing severe drought and overgrazing conditions. A decision was made by T.N. and Fannie to move cattle to open range in Wyoming to protect their interests. Fannie and the children, Ada and T.W. (Thomas William), remained at their home in Gonzales, Texas.

According to T.W., his father and numerous ranch hands drove these cattle north on the Texas Trail in the late 1870s. These longhorns were purchased in Mexico, branded, and quarantined in Texas prior to the drive. After roughly 60 to 80 days on the trail, they were stopped at the headwaters of the Belle Fourche River by a severe snowstorm. Once the storm abated, two hands remained with the herd

while T.N. and the others returned to Texas for additional cattle.

When T. N. returned with a second herd he found that much of the original herd had perished during the severe winter. It is a matter of record that Texas/Mexican cattle didn't do well in the cold winter climate of Wyoming. Only those cattle that wintered on the river and hills surrounding the site where the two hands spent the winter survived. When T.N. observed this he decided to make that location the T7 headquarters. Two other facts contributed to this decision as well. Water! A very important detail was the presence of the river and natural springs in the area. Less mentioned but also important was easily accessible coal as a source of fuel. The presence of the burning coal mine on the T7, put out in the 1930s by the Civilian Civil Corps (CCC), as well as coal outcroppings along the Belle Fourche River definitely attracted T.N.'s attention. From the beginning coal was used rather than timber for heating and cooking and over time, all neighbors, ranchers and homesteaders had access to this resource.

The first T7 buildings were constructed using locally harvested logs in the late 1870s and early 80s. By '82 to '84 sawn lumber from the Sundance area was used instead of logs for ongoing construction. The home, log buildings, barn,



T7 longhorn, 1885



Corral & Barn, Circa 1894-95



Round up, 1911

corrals, and blacksmith shop are shown in their original location in an 1884 photo. All original buildings with the exception of a wagon shed and the blacksmith shop are on site to this day. The blacksmith shop is now on display in the Gillette Rockpile Museum. It is believed to be one of the first sawn lumber buildings constructed in Campbell County.

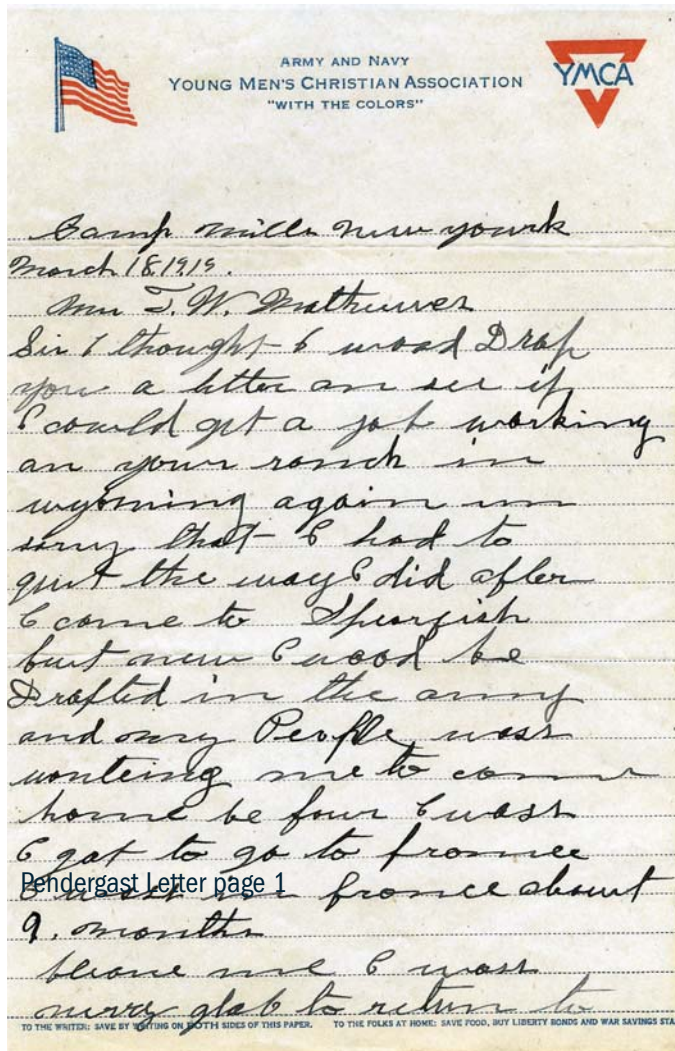
T.N.'s wife Fannie, son T.W., and daughter, Ada, joined T.N. for the summer roundup in 1882. It is known that the family followed the roundup until fall. The daily hardships of life on the range, the presence of hostile Indians, and the lack of schools and physicians were the challenges of that time. Fanny was given a model 1860 .38 caliber

Winchester center-fire rifle for protection. It remains in the family's possession to this day. T7 was carved in the stock. T.W. told a story to Keith Raitt about how very afraid of Indians he was. One day he was riding through the creek and felt the water hit his back. He believed he had been hit by arrows and returned to camp at a dead run only to learn it was water and not arrows! These were reasons enough for Fannie and the children to return to Texas when the roundup ended in the fall of 1882. There is no record that Fannie returned to visit or to live permanently in WY until 1889.

The next event of note occurred during the winter of 1886-'87. At the time there was a severe drought and a very hard winter. The open range,

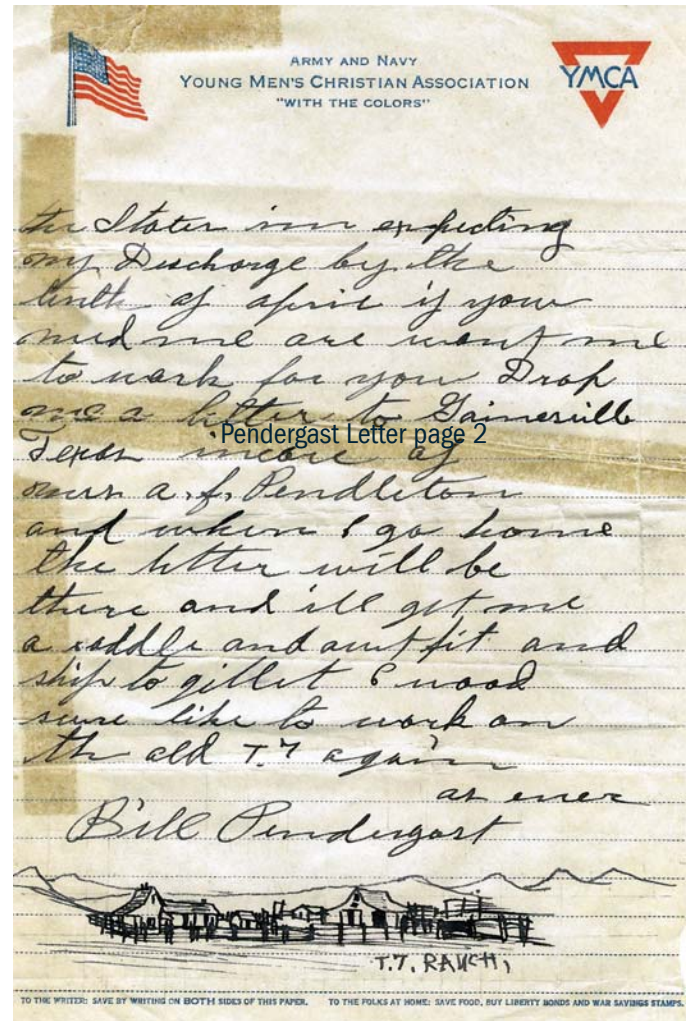


Pendergast Letter Envelope with T7 sketch



badly overgrazed since 1884, couldn't support the livestock and most ranchers, large or small, took serious losses. T.N. lost 50% of his native stock and 90% of his Texas "doggies". More livestock was brought from Texas to continue his operation.

It was during this time that the impact of the Homestead Act was becoming a harsh reality



to the open-range rancher. The arrival of many homesteaders began to change the open range and, in fact, it rapidly became non-existent. The 160 acres allotted in 1862 was increased to 320 at the turn of the century for semi-arid land, and then ten years later to 640 acres. T.N. had a hard-riding independent operation and his cowboys were known for being the best and loyal. T.N. was neutral in the Johnson County War and because of his reputation for honesty he was hired by many large outfits to gather, brand, and ship their cattle during that time of strife.

T.N. and his son were aware that control of the water springs and river were critical if their ranch operation were to survive and that only a few fenced claims had the potential to render the grassland useless. Thus, T.N. began the long, expensive, and difficult task of recruiting employees, family, and friends to homestead parcels of land key to the operation. Luke Fowler, foreman of the T7, homesteaded the building site situated



T7 mid-to-late 1950s, Charlie Addington's sheep wagon



T.R. Matthews, Gillette Airways



Angela Matthews

on 160 acres in Section 30, Range 71. The homestead was then purchased from Luke Fowler for \$300 in 1889.

As friends and acquaintances “proved up” on their homesteads, T.N. and later T.W. would buy them out or lease back the land. Building a ranch was such an important goal to T.N. and the family that this process of acquisition would remain a primary activity throughout his life and carry over to the next three generations as well. T.W.’s son Tommy “proved up” a homestead on the T7 in the 20’s. In fact, one of the last homestead properties surrounded by T7 range was purchased from a family physician, Dr. Hair, in the late 1950s by Angela Matthews long after T.N.’s death.

In 1889, T.N. purchased a home in Sundance where he and his family lived for four years. In his late teens, T.W. lived with his family in Sundance. There he worked in a store during the winter and followed T7 roundups during the summer. His sister Ada married a banker named Baird and it was believed he took her life. It is told that T.N. told Baird, “If I ever see you again I’ll kill you.” Baird left the area and was never seen again. Ada’s death resulted in many believing the home on the T7 was haunted. Ada’s ghost was reported to have been seen on the stairway in the home. Young D.D. Moore, son of a local homesteader, was sleeping alone in the ranch house. During the night a piece of beef that was hanging in the attic fell. D.D. thought it was Ada’s ghost! He fired several shots into the ceiling and is said to have run about 2 miles to the Moore place barefoot in the snow. Keith Raitt tells of seeing the bullet holes when he was a kid.

The family moved to Spearfish in 1892 due to Fannie’s failing health and for investment opportunities. T.N became very active in real estate and banking in Spearfish, although he continued ranching with his son, T.W. T.N. ran cattle on Lookout Mountain while T.W. operated in Spearfish valley and on the T7. Together they built a complex of three buildings on Spearfish’s main street between 1900 and 1909. These buildings, called “The Block”, contained businesses, apartments,



T7 bunkhouse

the Matthews Opera house, and a Masonic Temple. (These buildings have been owned by the Kelley family since 1946.) During that time one of the highlights recounted by T.W. was his trip to the World's Fair in Chicago in 1893. This trip preceded his purchase of the T7 from T.N. in 1894 for \$500. T.W.'s grandson Tom believes that since T.W. was engaged at that time, T.N. sold the property to help T.W. be in a position to support a family. Katherine (Katie) Knox, his childhood sweetheart, became T.W.'s wife in 1895. A son, Thomas Robert (Tommy) was born in 1898.

Over the years, T.W. kept registered Percheron workhorses at the ranch to haul supplies, water, and do the general work including quarrying and transporting sandstone rock from Lookout Mountain for the Matthews business block and other structures in Spearfish. During World War I, T.W. raised horses for the cavalry stationed at Fort Meade in Sturgis, South Dakota. It was said at the time, "If a T7 cowboy can get a leg over the saddle, they consider the horse broke". Many cowboys worked for the T7, and due to the family's background, the ranch gained, shall we say, a distinctive reputation. According to an article in the News-Record of Gillette, one time when Buck Haynes, a T7 ranch hand, was talking to Jerry Davis about the ranch, he said, "There are three things you must be to work at the T7: you must be from Texas, your name must be Tom, and you must be left-handed."

In 1922, T.W. converted the T7 operation from one of cattle, mules, and horses to 8,000 head of sheep. John Raitt, a Scotsman with a reputation as a

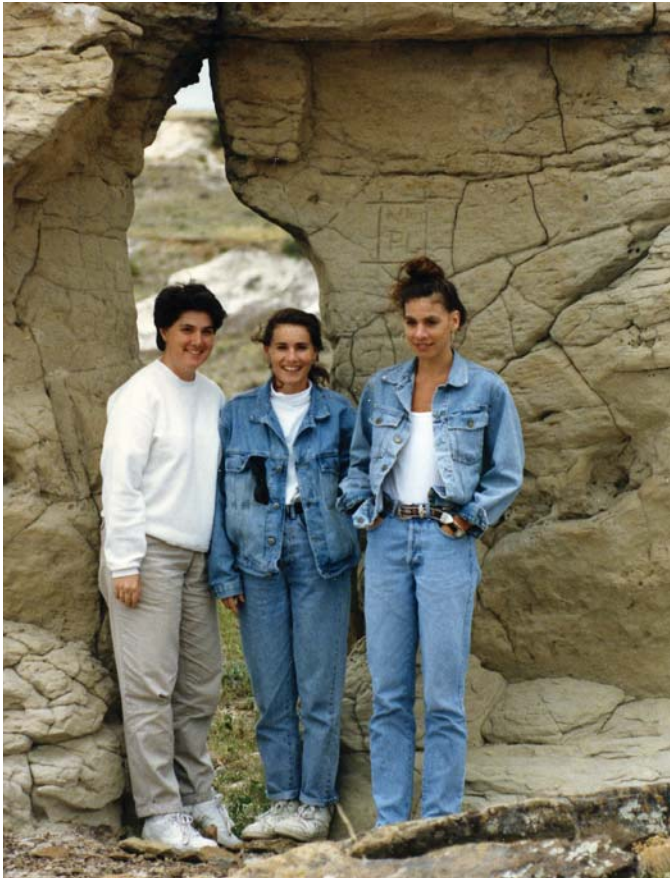
sheepman, was hired by T.W. for advice and became manager of the new operation in 1928. The first herd, purchased from a ranch south of Casper, WY, came with its own sheepherder Charlie Addington. Charlie was the T7 sheepherder for the rest of his life.

Katie Matthews passed away in 1934. T.W. owned the ranch until his death at home in Spearfish on November 20, 1944. Both Katie and T.W. were returned to Gonzales, TX for burial where T.N. and Fannie were previously buried.

Although Tommy Matthews, T.W. and Katie's son, had grown up with a close relationship to the T7 ranch, he had other interests as well. After a tour of duty in France during World War I, for which he needed permission to enlist due to his young age, Tommy returned to start Gillette Airways, which he owned and operated. He was a talented amateur rodeo competitor, crack shot, and was the proud owner of a Stutz Bearcat car. Eventually he established a career in law enforcement and pioneered forensic techniques in South Dakota particularly with respect to the use of photography to document crime scene details. But his ties to the T7 were apparent when he homesteaded a section of land adjacent to the T7 headquarters and built a small cabin that remains today. That homestead was later given the name "Tommy's Pasture".

In those years, Tommy, also known as T.R., married Dora Johnson and they had one daughter, Kathleen. Both daughter and mother are now deceased. In 1938, Tommy married Angela Haire from Putney, South Dakota. They had two children, Thomas Robert (Tom) and Katherine Angela Matthews, who were born in Deadwood, South Dakota in 1939 and 1942, respectively.

Tommy and Angela became owners of the T7 ranch by right of survivorship at the time of T.W.'s death in 1944. Tragically, full survivorship of the T7 would then pass to Angela Matthews only 14 months later. Tommy worked for the South Dakota State Bureau of Investigations as a Special Agent. On January 24, 1946, he was killed in the line of duty along with Dave Malcolm, the sheriff of Butte County, South Dakota. Tommy and Malcolm were



T7 Signature Rock: (L to R) Carol, Nancy & Mariame Matthews, 1992



Keith Raitt & Tom Matthews



Tom & Theresa Matthews



T7 Ranch



Wyoming State Sen. Jim Anderson, Sen. John Barrasso, Gov. and Mrs. Matthew H. Mead, Matthews Family, Rep. Cynthia Lummis, and Sen. Mike Enzi

in the process of apprehending an escaped prisoner wanted by the state of Minnesota. Unbeknownst to them, George Sitts was an escaped murderer who had managed to steal a pistol and was armed. He was later apprehended, convicted, and executed by the State of South Dakota. Angela Matthews and her children, Tom and Kathy, remained at the family home in Spearfish following T.R.'s death. It is very important to give credit to Angela who, despite being a homemaker and widow with two children, stepped up and spent the rest of her life protecting the T7 Ranch and other family interests. The ranch was leased to the Hayden family from 1949 to 1954 after John Raitt died. Angela married Jack Boos in 1954 and in 1959 the ranch became their family home for the next 20 years. In the 1990s Angela transferred ownership of the T7 to her son Tom (T.R., Jr.) and his family. Angela A. Matthews passed July 6, 2008.

Today the T7 is leased by the Edwards family who

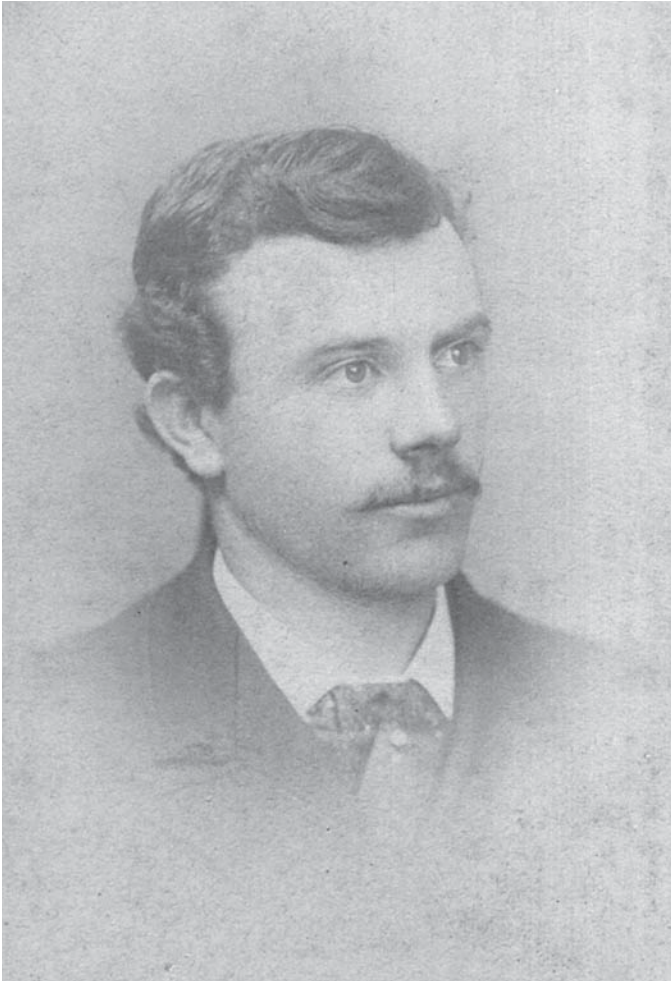
continue to run a successful cattle operation on the land. A section of the ranch was sold in the 1970s due to its large coal reserves but with both leased and deeded land, the T7 still comprises over 7500 acres. It is unique to this particularly arid part of Wyoming in that it is situated on the headwaters of the Belle Fourche River and has both timber and grasslands. The mining of coal has led to the finding of significant Native American artifacts on the ranch. Interestingly, a number of the artifacts found were not from local tribes. Rather, these Native Americans came to the area from over 300 miles away to bake clay items. Another historic detail is that the Deadwood Stage Route crossed what is now the T7 and ruts can still be found. T.W. used to travel by carriage to and from Spearfish and likely used the same route.

To accurately recount this history of the T7, recognition must be given to others who worked that land like the cowhands and shearers as

well as the families who made the T7 their home. The latter include the Raitts from 1928 to 1949, the Haydens from 1949 to 1954, and the Edwards from 1972 to the present. All have played a vital role in preserving the land and helping create its history. Keith Raitt has been particularly instrumental in preserving the history and “personality” of the early T7 because of his encyclopedic memory of the stories he heard from T.W. and Tommy Matthews. The family would also like to acknowledge the WWI soldier Bill Pendergast whose nostalgia for the T7 prompted him to send a sketch of the T7 headquarters in a letter. He earnestly requested his old job when he returned. This amazingly precise sketch has been incorporated into the T7 letterhead. The T7 Ranch and its assets, after 130 years, is still owned and managed by Matthews family heirs.

The Pahasha (aka McCreery) Ranch, 1911

The McCreery Family, Campbell County



Thomas T.B. Rohan, 11-18-1884

As told by the McCreery Family

The McCreery Ranch was originally the Rohan ranch located in Campbell County, south of Gillette. In 1911 Bert D. and Genevieve “Viva” Rohan as newlyweds from Iowa purchased a relinquished homestead ten miles south of Gillette and west of Highway 59 in the Tisdale valley. They survived their first winter with the help from their neighbors, the Burys, who gave them rutabagas to supplement the antelope they killed for meat.

In 1912 Bert convinced his parents Thomas B. “T.B” and Mary Louise Rohan and his sister Helen, who was a teenager, to visit. T.B. was recovering from a broken back suffered in a train accident. He was a section foreman for the Chicago, Burlington



Mary Louise Tebben Rohan, 11-18-1884

and Quincy Railroad in Iowa. T.B. and Mary Louise were so enthralled with the Tisdale valley that they returned in late 1912 to homestead, naming their homestead Fairview Farm. They brought a dairy herd of 20 Guernsey cows which was one of the first dairy herds in the area. They sold the cream and milk to a creamery in Omaha, putting it on the train in Gillette. Their barn was built before their house to accommodate the dairy herd.

In subsequent years Bert and T.B. convinced other relative to homestead adjacent land. In 1914 Philip J. Rohan, Bert’s brother, was convinced to leave his railroad job in Iowa to homestead with his wife Irma. Their four room cabin was sided with split logs standing perpendicular to the ground, a bit

different from the usual full logs paralleling the ground. In 1914 Bert's sister Helen finished high school in Carroll, Iowa and moved to Wyoming. In 1916 Helen filed a homestead. Her cabin was built on skids so that after proving up one homestead she could move it to another homestead. In 1916 Mae Lohman, a niece of Mary Louise Rohan, and her husband Ernest Lohman moved from Iowa to homestead adjacent land to the Rohans. In 1917 A. H. Wessling, a nephew of Mary Louise Rohan, homesteaded adjacent land. In 1947 he sold part of his homestead to Helen Rohan and returned to Iowa.

T.B. bought land that enlarged his property. In 1926 T.B. bought land homesteaded by Zella Hamer whose land was adjacent to Helen and Phil Rohan's land on the west side of their ranch. In 1927 T.B. bought some land from Alex Maycock that was adjacent to the Hamer land. The land owned by relatives was bought by T.B. or Helen. The Lohmans sold their homestead to T.B. in 1926. After Phil's death in 1931 Irma owned the land. She sold their homestead to Helen in 1939.

The Rohan ranch was operated by Bert, T.B., Phil, and Helen until 1921 when Phil's health was failing and he and his family moved to town. In 1923 Bert and his family moved to town. T.B., Mary Louise, and Helen operated the ranch with the periodic help from Bert until T.B.'s death in 1933. The Rohan ranch was run by Mary Louise and Helen from 1933 to 1945 with help from Bert. On November 1, 1945 Mary Louise and Helen moved to town. A handshake agreement with Mary Louise, Helen, Bert, and Viva turned over the running of the ranch to Marie Genevieve Rohan McCreery, the daughter of Bert and Viva, and her husband, Robert P. "Pat" McCreery who had just been discharged from the Navy.

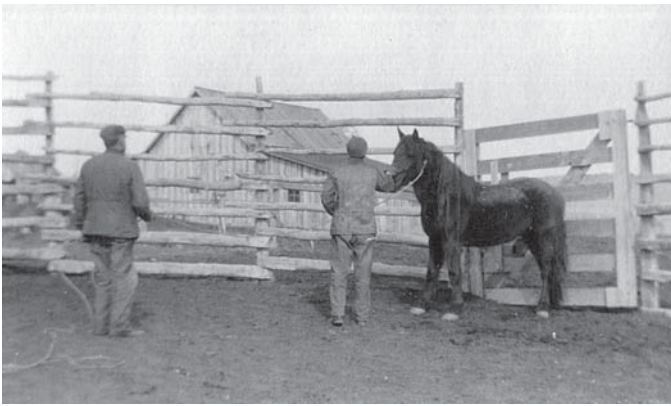
Marie Genevieve Rohan was born April 5, 1916 at the homestead of Bert and Viva. After attending high school in Gillette, she attended Parks Business School in Denver. She was working in Douglas when she met her future husband Pat McCreery while he was home on leave from the United States Marine Corps. She moved to Cheyenne for a job with the U.S. Weather Bureau. She became friends with Geraldine McCreery, Pat's older sister, who re-



T.B. Rohan, 1925



Bert D & Genevieve Rohan, Wedding Photo, 2 -28-1911



Corrals with barn in background; TB & Bert with horse, 8-11-1916



Helen R. Rohan, age 70, 1966



Phil Rohan's house with split logs standing on end, 1980

introduced Marie to Pat four years later.

Robert P. "Pat" McCreery was born October 7, 1916 in Los Angeles, California to Dr. Rolla and Imo McCreery. They moved to Manville, Wyoming to be close to Imo's parent, Charles and Ida Burkett. His parents divorced when Pat was 11 years old. Imo remarried a rancher, Fred Manning, from Douglas. Fred and his brother Harry owned Twenty Mile Ranch northeast of Douglas. Pat spent his teenage years working at Twenty Mile. In the 1930s during the drought years the Mannings leased land from the Sioux Indians at Pine Ridge, South Dakota. While at Pine Ridge Pat learned the Lakota words Pa Ha Sha meant "red hill". After high school he joined the United States Marine Corps where he served for four years. After discharge he visited his sister Geraldine in Cheyenne and met Marie Rohan for the second time. They married in Gillette on June 30, 1940.

During World War II, Pat served in the Navy in the South Pacific. Marie returned to Gillette to live with her parents Bert and Viva. After Pat's discharge from the Navy he returned to Gillette. An agreement was reached between Pat and Marie and Mary Louise, Helen, Bert and Viva for Pat and Marie to take over running the Rohan ranch. The effective date was November 1, 1945.

When Pat and Marie moved onto the ranch they lived in the house that was the homestead of T.B. and Mary Louise. Their first daughter Mary Alice had been born while Pat was in the Navy, September 29, 1944. As their family grew, they added to the original homestead. Margaret "Maggi" was born June 30, 1948. Michael "Mike" was born June 18, 1949. Patrick K. "Kelley" was born June 25, 1951. Paul was born September 2, 1953.

Bert Rohan died in 1946, leaving his land to Helen. The Rohan ranch was owned by Helen who was the majority owner, and Marie McCreery who had her parents' homesteads. Pat and Marie operated the ranch for Helen under a lease agreement from 1945 to 1974. There was an agreement in 1966 that gave Pat and Marie a lease with option to buy. At that time they bought the majority of Helen's cows. They continued to run a few head for her until



Pahasha Butte: Mike & son Shane on Blue, 1981



Marie & Pat McCreery, 50th wedding anniversary, 6-30-1990



(Back) Pat, Marie, Mary Lou, (Front) Maggi McCreery-McCoy, Kelley McCreery, Mike McCreery, Paul McCreery, July 2000

1982. On January 8, 1974 Pat and Marie bought the ranch from Helen, changing the name from the Rohan ranch to the McCreery ranch. In 1999, 40 acres were bought adjacent to the Genevieve Rohan homestead. In 2005 20 acres were added adjacent to the Bert D. Rohan homestead.

The McCreery ranch is 4300 acres. It was originally used to raise horses along with the Guernsey dairy herd. In the killing storm of 1922 the Rohans switched to sheep while maintaining the dairy herd, selling the cream and milk to a creamery in Omaha. The dairy herd was phased out in 1934 after T.B.'s death. The Rohans then changed from sheep to range cattle, raising Herefords. Pat and Marie change to Black Angus cattle in the late 1970s. In November, 1995 Pat and Marie leased the ranch to two of their sons, Kelley and Paul. In 1999, Pat and Marie leased to Kelley and his wife, Nadine, who continue to lease the ranch. Cattle continue to be run on the ranch. Winter wheat and oats were raised from the 1950s to 1998. Hay is raised yearly, weather permitting.

In 2005, Pat and Marie changed the name of the ranch to Pahasha (Pa.HA.sha), named after the prominent red butte on the western skyline. Pat had remembered the Sioux name for red hill and named the red butte Pahasha when he and Marie moved onto the ranch. They formed the Pahasha Ranch Limited Partnership in 2004 and began gifting small percentages of the ranch to their children.

Marie Rohan McCreery passed away September 17, 2007. Pat lives in Gillette at an assisted living community. Today, the ranch is leased to Kelley and Nadine who run cattle and produce hay. Kelley's daughter, J'Lynn McCreery, lives on the ranch just east of the original homestead of Bert and Viva Rohan. Paul lives part-time in the ranch house that was the homestead of T.B. and Mary Louise when he works at Caballo coal mine.

Mary Alice Law is a retired nurse and lives with her husband.

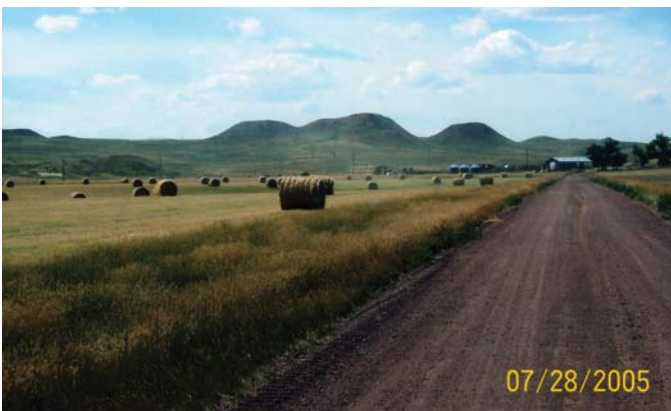
Maggi McCreery-McCoy lives in Gillette with her husband and is the physician at the Gillette VA Clinic.



Aerial view of ranch, 1994



Cattle & Pahasha Butte



Ranch & Pahasha Butte

Kelley and his wife, Nadine, own a ranch west of Gillette and lease the Pahasha ranch to run cattle and produce hay.

Paul is a heavy equipment operator and works at Caballo coal mine south of Gillette. He lives with his wife in Buffalo, Wyoming.

The Burlington Railroad has a significant impact on the economy of Gillette and Campbell County. How coincidental that an accident on the Burlington railroad in Iowa in 1911 changed the life of T.B. Rohan, a section foreman for the Burlington Railroad. Had there been no accident there would have been no homesteading and no Rohan ranch.

Other information:

T.B. Rohan had been a school teacher before working for the railroad. He was instrumental in forming the Farmers Cooperative Association in Campbell County. He served as Representative and in the Senate of the Wyoming Legislature from



Wyoming State Sen. Jim Anderson, Sen. John Barrasso, Gov. and Mrs. Matthew H. Mead, McCreery Family, Rep. Cynthia Lummis, and Sen. Mike Enzi

1925 through 1928.

Bert D. Rohan helped locate some homesteads to the south of Bishop Road, carrying his surveying equipment and chains on horseback.

The Elva Enix Mers Homestead Farm, 1910

Descendants of Elva Effa Enix Mers, Platte County



Elva Effa Enix in 1909, High School Graduation



Lucerne Edwin (Ed) Mers in front of homestead, 1917

As told by Melody Goertz Matheson

In March of 1910, my grandmother, Elva Effa Enix, along with her father, Calvin E. Enix, and three others, left Albia, Iowa for Wyoming in hopes of finding land to homestead. Upon their arrival in Cheyenne, the group went to the land office and was told of land available northeast of Chugwater, which later became known as Slater Flats. They traveled by train from Cheyenne to Chugwater and Mr. Charles Enix (brother of Calvin E. Enix) took them by wagon to his home to spend the night.

The next morning, the group started north from Charles Enix's until they reached a soon-to-be neighbor who helped them find the section corner, marked by a stake and stone. At this point they tied a cloth on the wagon wheel and counted revolutions of the wheel to find the section corners. Once they determined the corners of the section, they decided they would pick this section for their homestead.

Cal Enix and Elva Enix returned to Cheyenne the following day and were delighted to find that this particular section was still available for homesteading. Mr. Enix homesteaded the west half of the section and his daughter, Elva, being a 21-year old single female, met the criteria for homesteading and took the east half of the section. They returned to Iowa to collect the rest of the family and all of their belongings. During their absence, Chales Enix and his brothers-in-law built a tarpaper shack for the family to live in. Fern LaRu Enix, Elva's younger sister, recalled there was no door on the tarpaper shack when they arrived. Their furniture and belongings would arrive at Bordeaux via emigrant train later. She wasn't sure what they did until her father was able to deliver their belongings to their home.

This meager shack was built straddling the property line between the homestead of Calvin E. Enix and Elva Effa Enix so that Calvin and wife, Charlotte (Lottie) slept on their land and Elva and sister, Fern, slept on Elva's land. (You were required to live on

your homestead.) It was a typical Wyoming spring and the next day the Enix family endured a snow storm with nothing but some rugs over the door.

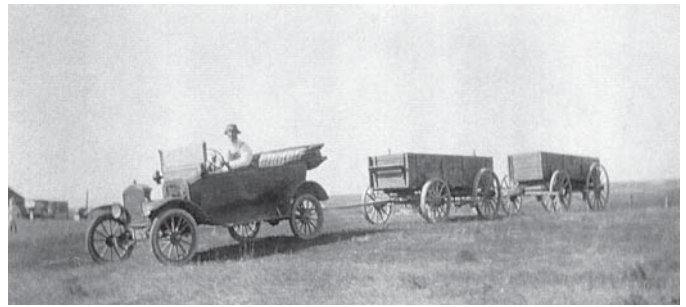
One year later, on April 1, 1911, a group of neighbors helped build Elva's house. The Sunday after its completion, the first Sunday school was organized in her house. The first school was held at a neighbor's house 3-1/2 miles from the homestead with Elva Enix being the teacher.

On February 19, 1913, Elva Enix became the bride of John Calvin Mers who had come to Wyoming in 1909 and worked on several large ranches in the area. In 1914, John Calvin Mers homesteaded a nearby half section but sold it during the thirties. John Calvin Mers and Elva Effa Enix Mers spent the following years working their farm and raising their four children, Lucerne Edwin (Ed), Ruth, Anabel (Annie), and Nellie.

In 1929, Calvin Enix sold his homestead and he and Lottie, along with their Fern and her husband, moved back to Iowa. In 1933, Cal and Lottie Enix both passed away.

John Calvin Mers and Elva Enix Mers stayed on the Slater Flats to raise their family. Times were hard for them as with many families during the 1930s. I can remember my mother, Annie, telling me how her mother had to hang wet blankets over the windows to help keep the dust out. My mother's brother, Ed, would have to go to school early on Monday mornings to scoop the dirt out so the teacher could sweep. However, farmers were more fortunate than others during this era as they had large gardens, chickens, and livestock for food, as well as their scant farm crops.

In 1944, after about four years of illness, Elva Enix Mers passed away; and in 1949, John Calvin passed away, leaving the Elva Enix Mers homestead to their four children. The three daughters (Ruth, Annie, and Nelle) transferred their share in the land to their brother, Ed, who continued to farm the land. In 1964, he sold the homestead farm to my parents, Jacob Goertz and Anabel Mers Goertz (Ed's sister), who added this farm ground to their existing wheat farm. My parents continued farming



John Calvin Mers hauling wheat



Ed, Ruth & Anabel (Annie) Mers, 1920s



Elva Enix Mers & John Calvin Mers, 1942

the land, raising winter wheat. I can remember as a child, the excitement of harvest and watching the combines making their way down the strips with wheat pouring into the bins.

My mother, Annie, passed away in 2005 and my father, Jake, followed in 2009. Their farm was divided between their four children with me receiving the Elva Enix Mers Homestead property, thus continuing to keep the homestead in the family.

The descendants of Elva Enix Mers have continually owned and operated the original property adding other lands in the area raising wheat, cattle, and other crops. The Elva Enix Mers Homestead land is currently in the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) and is planted in grass for the benefit of the soil and for the wildlife.

Last year our family celebrated the 100-year anniversary of the date when our Grandmother homesteaded the property. In June of 2010, family traveled from as close as three miles and from as far away as New York to join the celebration. Celebrants included Elva's grandchildren, great-grandchildren, and great-great-grandchildren, along with one of Fern's daughters, some of her children, and grandchildren. Family traveled from Texas, Iowa, Nebraska, New York, Colorado, and numerous Wyoming towns to join in the celebration. It was a time for our family to celebrate our heritage, learn about our past, and looking forward to future generations of Elva Enix Mers' descendants. Some unique aspects of the celebration included a meal of organically grown beef produced by Wyoming Pure (owned by grandson, Gregor and Cindy Goertz, and great-grandson, Jason and Josie Goertz). The celebrants also walked around the half section homesteaded 100 years ago by my grandmother, Elva Enix Mers, following the footsteps she took alongside her wagon, to mark her homestead claim.



Ed Mers starting tractor



Jacob Goertz harvesting wheat



Homestead at 2010 Centennial Celebration



Descendants of Elva Enix Mers followed her footsteps around her 320 acre homestead, 100 years later in 2010. Left to right: Nicole Mallatt, Shane Mallatt, Linda Tauger, Valerie Spradling, Gay Hughes, Stefan Tauger, Courtney Tauger, Rex Goertz, Allan Lawrence, Jim Conrad, Karen Conrad, Marion Washburn (friend), and Drew Hughes.



Wyoming State Sen. Jim Anderson, Sen. John Barrasso, Elva Effa Enix Mers Family, Mrs. and Gov. Matthew H. Mead, Rep. Cynthia Lummis, and Sen. Mike Enzi

The Mooney Ranch, 1911

The Mooney Family, Campbell County



Ranch overview

As told by Kathy Brown
Gillette News Record, September 19, 2011

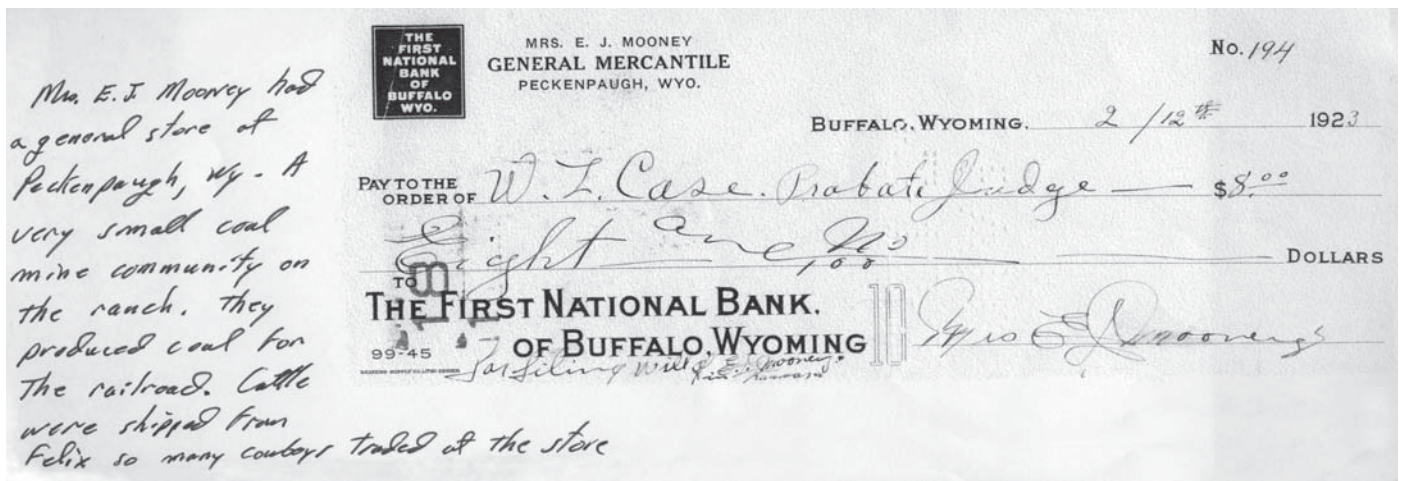
Life on the Mooney Ranch is inexorably linked to the railroad. For more than 100 years, the Burlington tracks have bordered a portion of the family's property north of Gillette. The steam engines of long ago passed by twice a day, marking time and family history. Now, they've given way to the swaying of modern coal cars by the hundreds passing on tracks within sight of the homes of brothers Dan and Allen Mooney and, sister Margaret Ann Hladky.

From the beginning, the railroad brought life to these valleys and hills of tall grass and endless views. Elias and Emma Mooney first moved to Wyoming from their home in Kansas in 1893 or 1894. That first winter, they lived in a dugout near Story with sons, Burt and John Dennis. There they survived with the help of outlaws Frank and Jesse James, who brought them a quarter of beef a few

times and left it on the porch of their dugout. "No money, no work," their great-grandson, Gordon Mooney wrote as he later summed up their first winter in Wyoming.

That was just a few years after the Johnson County War, and minor fights still erupted at times between homesteaders and large ranchers. That spring, the family moved to Buffalo and Elias and his son, Burt, worked for the Chicago, Burlington and Quincy Railroad near Arvada. In 1910, Burt moved to Felix, a siding on the railroad about 19 miles north of Gillette along Echeta Road. It was one of seven shipping points in Campbell County where the railroad kept section houses and crews.

The Mooneys, including son John Dennie, followed Burt to the area a year later, moving in a wagon to the site of their now 7,500 acre ranch (including BLM land and leases.) Gordon, a son of John Dennie, was born that same year. The Mooneys later added daughters Doris, Dorothy, Elsie, and



Mooney Check

Verlo Jean to their family. “I was still in three-cornered pants,” Gordon wrote of the journey to Felix.

It may have been the grasses on the prairie that first drew Burt to the area, and later his family. It’s a story common to Campbell County, said Allen Mooney, who with his brother and sister make up the fourth generation of the Mooneys on the ranch.

“What you hear all the time is that they contacted their folks wherever they were from and said, “The grass was belly high on a horse and free for the taking,” Allen said. Wild Horse Creek and other springs provided water for the family, who chose that site for a homestead.

It was also the site of a town called Felix, where cattle were shipped out, railroaders and cowboys bought groceries and got their mail, and where an underground mine fed the hungry steam engines with coal. It was there that the Mooneys built and operated a store. In 1916, Emma Mooney became the first and only postmistress of Peckenpaugh Post Office.

In the 1920 U.S. Census, the Felix District of Campbell County consisted of 56 people, ranging from “stock raisers” and ranchers, to railroad laborers and one grocery store clerk: Emma Mooney. While in existence, the post office was served from the railroad. The mail was placed in sacks and hung on a pole near the main car and the clerks on the mail car would extend a hook to pick

up the outgoing mail as they went past. To deliver mail, they threw a sack out the train car as they passed.

Felix was the name submitted for the post office’s title, but another office already had claimed it. So the name of Peckenpaugh, in honor of a prominent railroad man of the times, was submitted and accepted. The town of Peckenpaugh came into being, with houses curving around a bend near Wild Horse Creek just below the ranch house where Dan and Candy Mooney live today. Remains of the fireplace in Peckenpaugh’s saloon still stand.

The post office operated until 1926, five years after Elias’ death. At that point, Emma remarried and moved to Buffalo, then to Portland, Oregon, where a daughter, Olive, and son, Bill, lived. In later years, the last house standing in Peckenpaugh burned to the ground when a hobo riding the rails started a fire inside it one night.

John Dennie, grandfather of Dan Mooney, Margaret Ann (Mooney) Hladky and Allen Mooney, later took over the ranch. His son, Gordon, later followed suit. John Dennie’s children made up the third generation of Mooneys on the land.

For them, Peckenpaugh and Felix was their playground. “Peckenpaugh was a pretty thriving community,” said Margaret Ann, 74, who attended fourth grade in a one-room schoolhouse converted from her grandfather’s original homestead. That was in about 1946, when she was ten years old.



Gorden & Mildred Mooney



Mooney Ranch

Their ranch includes two railroad trestles. The highest at 4,200 feet elevation, was built in 1901. “We played on the trestles continually,” Margaret Ann recalled. “My name is carved in there somewhere,” That steel and concrete trestle, still standing, is at least 100 feet tall, still is the highest on the BNSF main line between Omaha, Nebraska and Billings, Montana., Dan Mooney, 58, said.

On a hill above the old town and Dan’s home, a large, 3-foot diameter rock still bears the initials of two men who engraved their calling card on its sandy surface. “B.A.P and H.P.P.” are carved into the rock, along with the date, 6/26/98. That’s 1898, when cattle ranchers had free range and the railroad tracks were being laid by crews including Chinese laborers. Thirteen years later, the Mooneys made a home there.

Dan said his father, Gordon, once showed him a grave of two Chinese laborers who died after

getting into a fight. They both worked for the railroad and were buried on the other side of the tracks among hills on the north side of the ranch.

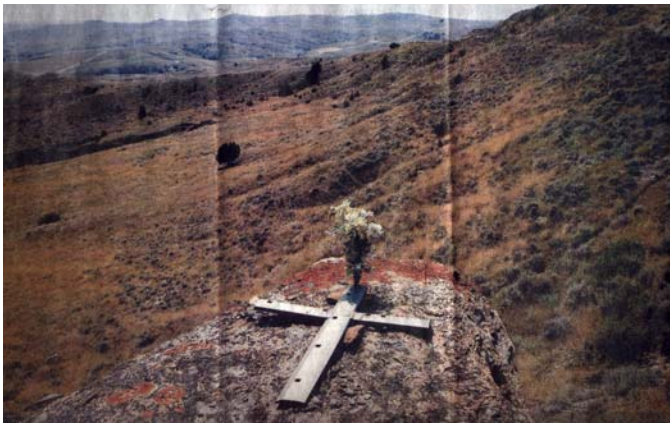
The Mooneys wonder at times just who left their marks on the rock. At the same time, they are leaving their own touches on the landscape. All around them are other reminders of their past. Allen Mooney’s home site includes John Dennie’s homestead – now converted into a cabin for hunters. The 66-year old lives within 100 feet of a small dirt bank that was another favorite play area. The children and their children have spent hours sliding down that bank. “Generations have played on that bank,” Margaret Ann said, adding that they would dig caves in the dirt. “It’s not as tall now. It’s gotten worn down.”

A shed Allen still uses – now covered by metal – was dug into the ground by teams of horses and a fresno. It included old railroad ties. And above it all, the family spread the ashes of the trio’s mother, Mildred Mooney, after her death in 2003. The family gathered on Mother’s Day that year at her favorite perch above Wild Horse Creek where she could see much of the ranch. A cross on a large rock and a bouquet of fresh flowers now marks the spot dedicated to Mildred, who also loved the ranch and contributed so much to its success.

There’s no forgetting this area’s rich history. The reminders are always close at hand. Peckenpaugh was a mining community, too. The ranch still contains evidence of that. “They mined the coal for the railroad. The rails and stuff, and the cars, are still buried in the mine,” Allen Mooney said.

Civilian Conservation Corps crews in the 1930s and the Abandoned Mine Land program in the 1980s extinguished two coal fires burning in the underground mine. “The smoke would belch out of the cracks in the ground around here,” Dan Mooney, 58, recalled. Once, Allen lost a cow when she fell as the ground gave way above the mine.

From the start, the Mooneys had to find work away from the ranch to survive. Nowadays, the family continues that trend. Dan Mooney works at the Coal Creek coal mine. Margaret Ann and



Cross & Overview



Dan, Margret Ann & Allen Mooney

her husband, Spike Hladky, have retired from their insurance business. Allen Mooney worked for the county for many years before, he, too, retired. “The ranch is not large enough to make a living on,” Allen said. “Our ancestors worked for the railroad.” Their father, Gordon Mooney, operated a trucking business and when he sold that went to work for Stockmen’s Bank before he died in May 2000.

The children, when they were young, grew up and attended schools in Gillette. It was after work hours that the family would travel to the ranch to do the

jobs needed, including branding, haying, or feeding and moving cattle. And without the contributions from the oil and gas industries, the ranch wouldn’t have survived, the three say.

Certainly, Echeta Road wouldn’t have been improved without the impact of those industries. “John Mooney at Felix worked for years trying to get the road to his ranch at Felix,” according to a story written by Zelma Fitch in the “Wheel of Time 1800s – 1984” about the Wild Horse Creek area. “Finally, it was surveyed and followed the railroad all the way to Croton Crossing on the north side at what is now Eaton’s Ranch.” The Eatons were the closest neighbor to the Mooney’s, three miles away. “During World War II, a coal mine was operated at Echeta and through that influence, the road was graded, elevated, and shaled to Echeta,” Fitch wrote.

What would Elias J. Mooney say about the changes that have taken place on the ranch since he died in 1921? “Originally, this ranch was one fence, except for the railroad. It just had an outside fence,” Allen Mooney said. “I think one of the things he would look at is how the pastures have developed into better pastures because of the cross fences.”

That was the influence of John Edward, the fourth child of Gordon and Mildred Mooney, who died from a 1975 horse accident on the ranch. John Edward Mooney worked for the federal soil conservation service in Sundance at the time of his death. “It was his idea to come up with a lot of the development”, Allen Mooney said. “So I’m sure what he (Elias) would think was, ‘Wow, look at the grass.’”

And he’d be proud of the work and passion his descendants have shown in keeping the ranch together and thriving. “It’s very important,” Dan Mooney said. The future of the Mooney Ranch is just as important to them. “We all have kids that love it,” Margaret Ann said. “I think it will continue to just go on and on. It will continue to be a cattle ranch in some fashion.”

The Morse-Harris Family Ranch, 1882

The Morse-Harris Family, Campbell County



Wayne Morse and 4-horse hitch

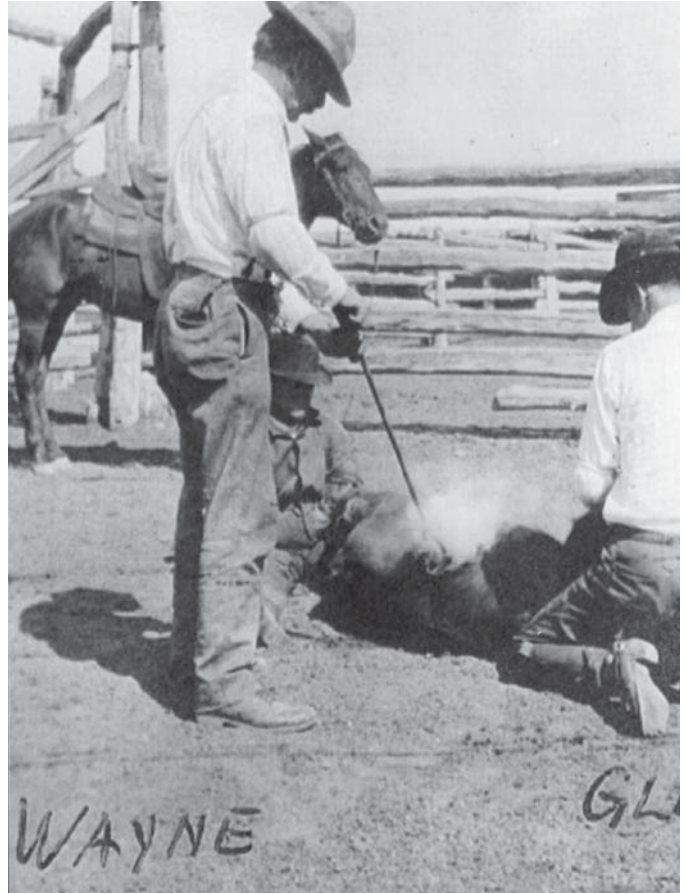


Mary, Dixie, Wayne, Jayne, Glenn Morse

As told by Charlene Harris Chamblin

The Morse-Harris Family Ranch sits nestled on Whitetail Creek in northern Campbell County, 38 miles north of Gillette. Huge, old cottonwood trees fed by spring water surround the ranch house. A one-room cabin that was once used as a stagecoach stop on the north end of the ranch sits in the front yard and is filled with cowboy tack and western memorabilia. A labyrinth of pipe and cable corrals prove that this ranch is indeed still very much a working cattle ranch.

Wayne Ezra Morse, born 1860 in Connecticut, was the oldest of ten children. As a young man fresh out of high school, he and a friend headed west, bound for Canada's Peace River or Montana's Judith Basin country. They traveled by train to Fort Morgan, Colorado, found work, and eventually migrated



Wayne & Glenn Branding, 1920

north, ending up at the T7 outfit in northeastern Wyoming. It was at the T7 that Wayne met up with Bill Rogers and the two men became friends and business partners, hunting deer and buffalo and selling the hides and meat to the miners in the Black Hills. As their fortunes grew, the two men decided to invest in land, build up a ranch, and then turn around and sell out to one of the big cow outfits. Will Ritchie of the Padlock Ranch told Wayne about a good spot by Whitetail Butte where there was a fine spring and rich, full meadows. The two partners located the spring and pitched a tent in the snow. The following summer they built a cabin and the first home on the Morse Ranch was established in 1882.

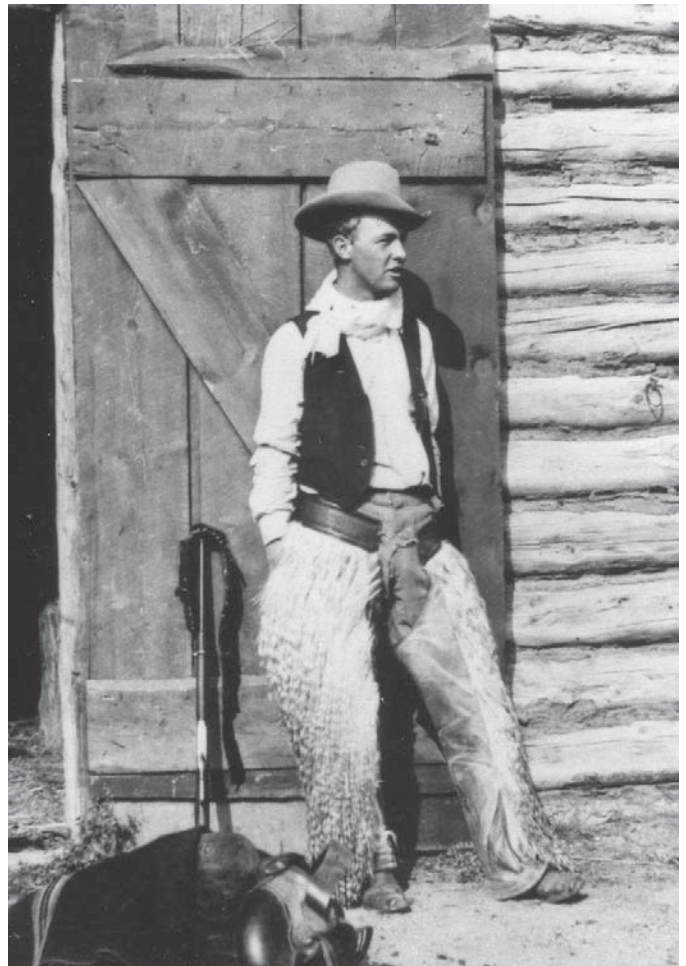
From horses to cattle to sheep, the Morse Ranch has a long and colorful history of life in the West. Wayne Morse repaired saddles, did taxidermy work,

and eventually got into the horse business. As the Indians would travel cross country from their winter hunting grounds to their summer hunting grounds they would stop and trade horses with Mr. Morse. Two spent mares for one good horse. Wayne would then cross these Indian mares with Percheron studs which resulted in an excellent cross for the lightweight wagon horses which he sold to the U.S. military. During World War I, Wayne sold approximately 3600 head of horses through the auction in Miles City, Montana. He also sold hundreds and hundreds of horses though the local market in Gillette. Decades later his granddaughter Jayne Morse Harris would carry on the tradition of breeding and selling top quality ranch horses and for several years held production sales at the ranch.

In 1895 Glenn Emigh Morse became the first born child of Wayne and Maggie Morse. A sister Ruth followed three years later. With a family to raise Wayne needed to upgrade the living arrangements at the ranch on Whitetail so he ordered a house kit from Montgomery and built a beautiful two-story house that still stands today. In 1911 Wayne Morse was kicked in the kidneys by a horse and became seriously ill. The doctor advised him to seek a warmer climate and the decision was made to go to California. Wayne bought 40 acres in Alta Loma and built a beautiful home in Cucamonga for his family to live in. They spent summers in Wyoming on the ranch and winters in California and Glenn and Ruth both received their education in California. After his high school graduation Glenn was given the choice of a college education or a cowboy education and without hesitation he chose the ranch in Wyoming.

On the open range of early day Wyoming it was the custom to trail up steers out of the New Mexico territory, summer the cattle on the hard short grass of Wyoming, and then ship the cattle out in the fall by rail. Glenn Morse, 21 years old, held the distinction of being the youngest wagon boss of the Laurel Leaf Outfit, a cow outfit owned by Robert Harris, a rich investor from England. Although he was much younger than most of the men, he was well-respected by the cowboys.

Glenn Morse spent 92 years on Whitetail Creek.



Glenn Morse



Wool bags



Branding on the Morse Ranch



Glenn Morse driving iron wheel tractor

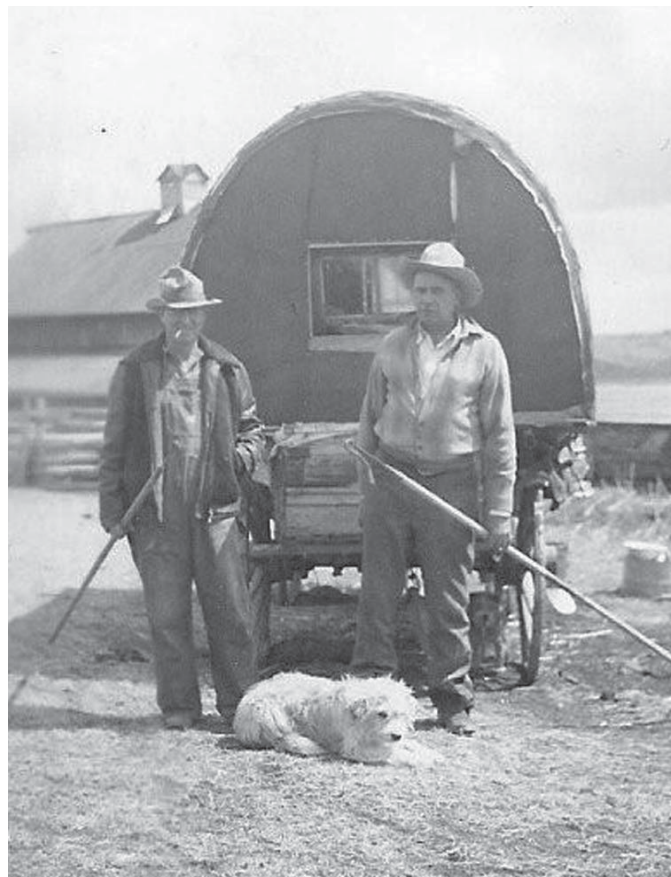


Glenn Morse on John Deere tractor with sickle bar



Glenn Morse, daughter Dixie, mother Maggie and father Wayne

One of the most respected and well-liked men of his day, Glenn and his wife Mary worked hard to foster and grow the ranch they bought from Wayne Morse. Many good times were had and many hardships were endured. Tough times called for tough measures and when the government conducted mandatory herd reductions during the Depression, Glenn complied. When the grass was gone and there was nothing for the cattle to eat, he shipped his cattle to the Sandhills of Nebraska. To



Glenn Morse and Dick Reed



Jayne on pet cow, circa 1943

diversify and survive in the ranching business he went into the sheep business with his friend Dick Reed of Sheridan. Glenn joked that he would make good money in the sheep business and then go back into the cow business and lose money and then would have to go back in the sheep business to pay the bills. Glenn and Mary Morse raised their four children on the ranch, Glenda, Wayne, Dixie, and Jayne. It was to Jayne, 13 years younger than her sister Dixie, to whom the torch would pass and to

whom the responsibility of maintaining the Morse ranching legacy would fall.

Mary Jayne Morse grew up riding the hills around Whitetail Butte. She would spend several hours a day amongst the pine trees and sagebrush, riding her half Belgian, half Quarter horse Sandy. She was born a cowgirl and remained a cowgirl her entire life. Her marriage to Nick Harris produced three children, Charlene, Bobby, and Brad. After she divorced she ran the ranch on her own. She loved rodeo and when her children started in high school rodeo she bought longhorn cows so she could provide top quality roping stock for the kids. Jayne rode good horses all her life and raised many top of the line horses from her Poco Bruno stud crossed on Hancock mares. Jayne had a passion for single steer roping and she imported Corrientes cattle from Mexico and contracted many of the region's top rodeos with her steers. While she kept her herd of longhorn cows all her life, she changed the ranch back into a yearling operation in later years to reduce the work load and halt the battle with Wyoming's long, hard winters. Wayne Morse must have got quite a chuckle to see his granddaughter Jayne take the ranch back in time a hundred years to the days of a yearling operation. Sadly, Jayne left us all too soon when she passed away in the fall of 2010 at the age of 70.

Now the next generation steps to the helm. Charlene and her husband Doug Camblin, Bobby and his wife Colleen, and Brad and his wife Delight are forming a partnership to run the Morse-Harris Family ranch. The spring rains of 2011 produced one of the best grass years in recent memory. The ranch at Whitetail Butte is stocked with 1900 head of yearling cattle. Jayne's ashes rest in a monument on a ridge on the Spring Creek pasture where she gathered horses as a girl. The legacy continues and the Morse-Harris Family Ranch remains the oldest ranch in Campbell County that is still owned and operated by the original family. It is a heritage to be proud of as Campbell County celebrates its 100th anniversary.



Jayne horseback on Juan



Longhorn cow with the two half diamond brand



Longhorn cows & calves, 2009



Jayne Harris cooks for branding in style



Morse Ranch



Longhorn cows, Spring 2008



Nanny on 4-wheeler



Branding at the Harris Ranch



Morse Harris Ranch spring floods, circa 2011



Wyoming State Sen. Jim Anderson, Sen. John Barrasso, Morse-Harris Family, Mrs. and Gov. Matthew H. Mead, Rep. Cynthia Lummis, and Sen. Mike Enzi



Ryan Harris, 5th generation, and Charlene Harris Camblin, 4th generation, on the Morse Harris Ranch

The Oliver Ranch/The W bar O Ranch, 1901

Descendants of Claude & Ardienna Oliver & Carl Kretschman Campbell County



Harriet Oliver



As told by the Oliver Family

William Morton Oliver was born on October 16, 1879 to John and Harriet Oliver. He was the second oldest child of nine children. John and Harriet's first child died at birth. William had five brothers, George, Ralph, Elza, Benjamin and Clyde and two sisters, Margaret and Rosa.

When William was 20 years old he came to Wyoming from Phillips County, Kansas. This was April 1900. He had been working for a man named Duncan. Mr. Duncan had made a trip to Wyoming and decided he would like to live here, so young William Oliver came with him to help drive his stock overland to Horse Creek in Crook County. Duncan had filed land adjoining the W.P. Ricketts ranch, which he later relinquished to Tom Platt and went back to Nebraska.

William Oliver filed on land that adjoined Duncan's. After paying his filing fees, William had just 50 cents left in his pocket. William returned to Nebraska to ship his possessions back to Wyoming. The train stopped in Moorcroft, Wyoming. He moved his possessions from Moorcroft with a four team and fifteen extra head of horses, breaking through deep snow drifts in almost every creek and draw until he could bring the wagon across. William went to work for W.P. Ricketts soon after. That fall his father, mother, four of his brothers and his two sisters came out to join William. Ralph stayed in Nebraska.

Using three wagons, two of which were covered, and driving their stock, the family left Reddington, Nebraska the summer of 1900 and were off to Wyoming. When they arrived William hadn't as yet built his cabin so the wagon boxes were removed from the running gears and placed on the ground and there they lived until a good sized log cabin was erected. There was no school for the younger children that year but as there were five children of



William Morton Oliver



Claude (Jeff) & Janet Oliver (sister)



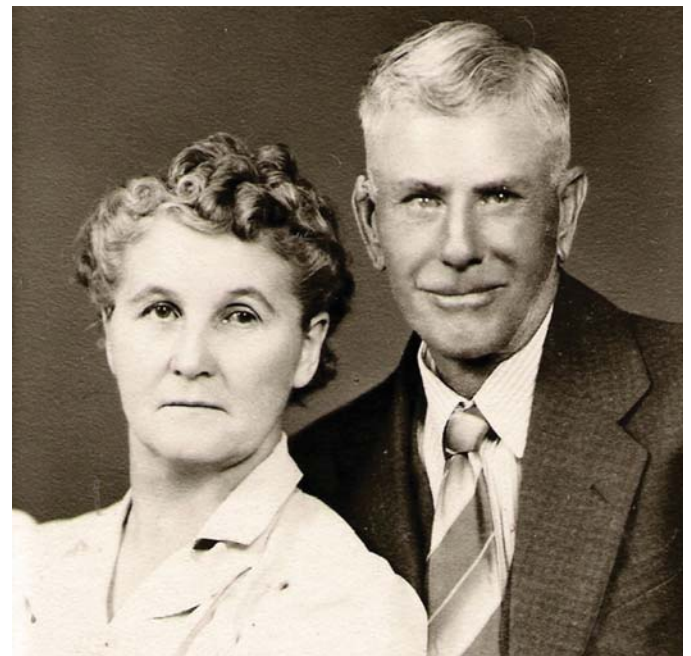
Oliver family

school age, a log school was built in 1901. It was later dismantled and stood at the William Oliver home place until 1966 when it burned down.

On May 6, 1909 William married Nina Saffel who



Nina Saffel



William and Charlotte

had also come to Wyoming to homestead on Wild Cat Creek adjoining William's. The small shack that served as Nina's homestead was moved to the W bar O headquarters and still stands on the property today. Once there, they built a large two-story house and this became the W bar O ranch headquarters.

William and Nina had four children, Thomas (Wayne), Claude (Jeff), William (Bill) and Janet Oliver. They later divorced and he remarried two more times.

For 65 years William Oliver had worked to build up his 160 acre plot until it reached 5,565 acres.



Jeff Oliver



Jeff Oliver

William built dikes along Horse Creek to flood irrigate nearby pastures. He set up the dam system to water the meadows for hay, by closing the gates he would flood the meadows and when he closed the gates the water would drain back into Horse Creek. This produced some of the best hay in the area. Instead of baling the hay he would sack it and even five years later the hay would still be green when opened to feed the ranch's cattle.

Folks may have thought of William Oliver as somewhat grouchy but that wasn't exactly true. He was just really quiet and had no tolerance for gossip. He was honest and he expected others to be, too. He was a hardworking man and there wasn't a single day he didn't work.

When William was 77 years old he became pinned between the wall of a shed and a tractor. He suffered broken ribs and was hospitalized in Gillette for two days. He left the hospital telling the doctors and nurses "I've got to get back, there's ranch work to do". William later fell and broke his hip while cutting some ice so his stock could get water. William could not move because of the broken hip until some neighbors finally went to look for him after they saw his pickup parked by the creek. They took him to the hospital and although hobbled he stayed for two days before leaving, walking out with the help of a cane. Again he told the staff he had ranch work to do. This is when his son Jeff returned to the ranch to help. It wasn't long before William pitched his cane in the back of his truck for good, claiming it was getting in the way of work.

William Oliver's book of life was closed on April 21st 1965 on a long and active role as a rider in his early days and farmer and rancher in later life. He had been in a field plowing and left his tractor in neutral apparently to go down to the creek. Here he was found face down in the water. He was 85 years old at the time.

Jeff continued running the ranch. Jeff married Helen Robb August 4, 1945. They had three children, Jerry, Terry and Berry. They later divorced. Jeff married Ardienna Curtis August 16, 1961 in Belle Fourche, South Dakota. Ardienna had six children from a previous marriage, Ruthie,



Terry, Jerry, Berry



Claude (Jeff) & Ardienna Oliver on Paint & Blackie



Jeff and Kelly



Carl & Ardienna, 2005



W-O ranch

Patty, Wanda, Janice, Jimmy and Jackie. Jeff and Ardienna later had two more children, Michele and Kelly. In 1969 Jeff adopted Ardienna's children making the family grow to eleven children. At times the boys would stay in the nearby bunkhouse (a former school house) when the main ranch house



Grandma Safell's homestead shack

got too crowded. Jeff continued to work the ranch and raise his family until his death on September 4, 1975, leaving the ranch to his wife Ardienna and his children. Ardienna stayed on the ranch and leased it out for a few years, she then married Carl Kretschman on June 22, 1978. In 1981 Ardienna



Kretschman Christmas card



Horse Creek

and Carl moved from the W bar O headquarters built by William Oliver into a house they built nearby. They began running their own cattle and operated the ranch together until Ardienna's death

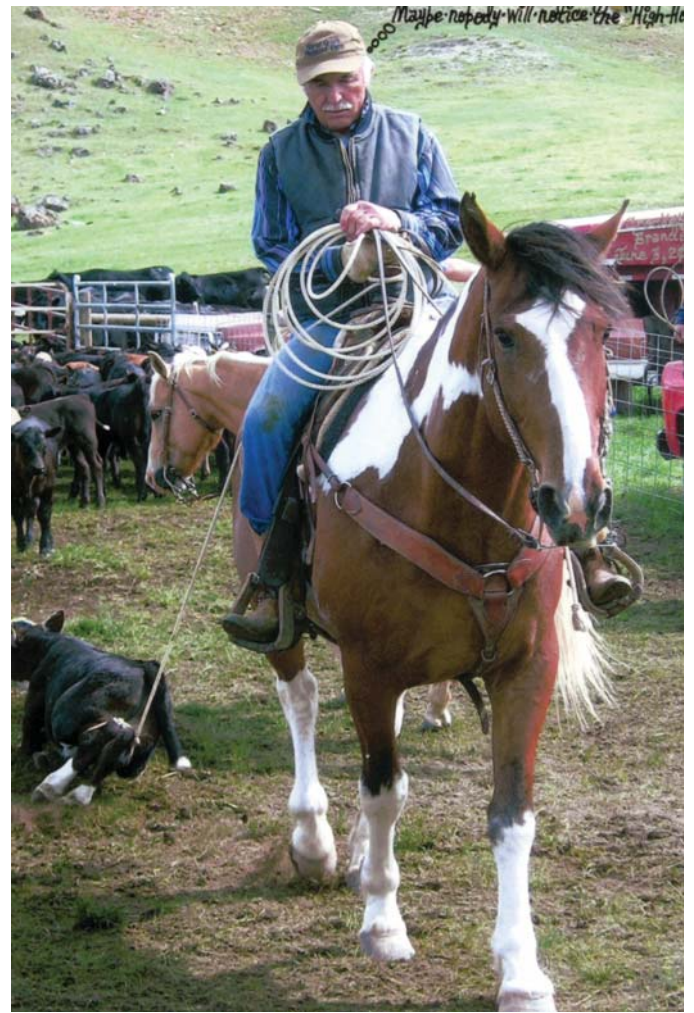


William Oliver Ranch headquarters

May 25, 2005. Jeff and Ardienna left the W bar O ranch to their children. Carl Kretschman still lives and operates the ranch as of today.



Carl Kretschman, 2006



Carl Kretschman, 2009



Wyoming State Sen. Jim Anderson, Sen. John Barrasso, Oliver Family, Mrs. and Gov. Matthew H. Mead, Rep. Cynthia Lummis, and Sen. Mike Enzi

The Parks Mitten/TA Ranch, 1906

The Parks Family, Crook County



Parks Mitten - TA Ranch on Trail Creek with Mitten Butte in background, 1940s

As told by Jan Parks Evans and various articles in the *Gillette News Record*

Being one of the first brands registered in the territory of Wyoming, the TA brand has a very storied past. Originally registered in Laramie, the brand then moved north to attain its position in history during the Johnson County War. Following the war, the brand moved to western Crook County in a ranch swap. In 1913, that part of Crook County became Campbell County, where the TA brand has resided since.

In the 1870s, Thomas Alsop owned the “T-open-A” brand and cattle, with his ranch being located near Laramie. “When Alsop registered the TA brand in 1874, it was the third brand registered in Wyoming Territory”, according to Catherine Parks, whose

husband’s family eventually came to own the brand. Catherine also recalled that Alsop, Charles Hutton, and Edward Creighton grazed 9,000 head of cattle in a pasture 100 miles long and 20 miles wide in the Laramie Valley.

In 1892, Dr. William Harris established his ranch in Johnson County with cattle bearing the TA brand, previously recorded in Thomas Alsop’s name. Being an absentee cattle baron, Doc Harris’ TA ranch was known as a refuge for the “Invaders”, who were cattle barons, and their hired guns. Over the course of three days in 1892, the TA Ranch was the site of the “Johnson County War”, a shoot-out between the “Invaders” and hundreds of enraged “rustlers”, who were the smaller local operators and their sympathetic supporters. That infamous war left bullet holes in the barn where the “Invaders”

were holed up and etched the TA brand into Wyoming history. Doc Harris continued to own the TA Ranch for another 12 years.

Meanwhile, the “Mitten Ranch” had been founded in 1884 in Crook County by “Dillon, Collins and Company”. (Both Dillon and Collins were nephews of Sidney Dillon, president of the Union Pacific Railroad in the 1870s and 1880s. The towns of Dillon, Montana and Sidney, Nebraska owe their names to Sidney Dillon.) The company’s brand, registered by 1886, looked like a mitten when it appeared in *The Sundance Gazette*. Dillon and Collins had established the Mitten Ranch on open range just west of Rocky Point, Wyoming, running 7,000 head of cattle. They established their headquarters on the head of Trail Creek. Mitten Butte, a Wyoming quadrant map identifier, was located just north of the ranch headquarters.

Building their herd up to 20,000 head of cattle, Dillon and Collins ran their cattle from the Little Missouri River to the Little Powder River. Kirkpatrick Brothers and Collins were building the railroad from Newcastle to Sheridan. The Mitten Ranch had Jack Hunter drive the wagon that supplied the beef for the construction gangs along the Newcastle to Dietz portion of the railroad. However, in the hard winter of 1887, Dillon and Collins lost all of their steers. In the spring, one of the men took a buggy to look for their brand. He found one steer on Olmstead Creek with the Mitten brand. He tipped his hat to the steer and left him be. (Jack Hunter would later buy a headquarters on Olmstead Creek).

During all of this, John Gammon had arrived in the Spearfish Valley area of South Dakota in 1878. Coming from Illinois, Gammon arrived with ranch equipment and 29 head of horses. A stallion named Marshall was included in that herd. Imported from France, it was the first Percheron horse to be brought to the Black Hills of South Dakota. The draft horse breeder next established a ranch on Crow Creek in Crook County, Wyoming. While living there, Gammon also served as a Justice of the Peace and the Crook County Treasurer. In 1894, Gammon purchased the Mitten Ranch from its founders, Dillon, Collins and Company. With

that purchase, Gammon’s “horse pasture” ran from the Little Missouri to the Little Powder, including Lightening Flats, Wyoming, an enormous 25-square mile range.

At the turn of the century, Doc Harris became partners with John Gammon on the Mitten Ranch. Then in 1904 Harris and Gammon decided on an outright land trade. Gammon proceeded to trail several hundred head of Percheron horses south of Buffalo to that infamous ranch house and barn that were the location of the 1892 Johnson County War. At the same time, Doc Harris trailed his TA-branded steers from that same location to northeastern Wyoming. With this third move of the TA brand, the Mitten Ranch was now also known as the TA Ranch. In 1905 Harris bought more land to add to his newly relocated holdings.

As the TA brand was working its way north across Wyoming, a young man by the name of William P. Parks was also headed for the state. Mr. Parks was born in Whitehall, Maryland on June 9, 1873. After finishing his education, he clerked in a store in Glenarm, Maryland for a year. The next year he worked for a farmer who paid him \$12 a month for 14-hour days. In 1893, at the age of 20, William Parks, driven by western fever, decided to fulfill his childhood dream by boarding a train headed west. Empty-handed, he boarded that train wearing a derby hat and carrying an umbrella, but soon traded them for western attire. “I was just a young fellow wanting to see the wild west so I came from Whitehall, Maryland by train and landed in Buffalo, Wyoming in 1895”, recalled Mr. Parks.

(This quest for knowledge and new frontiers came naturally as the first William Parks to depart England for the colonies was this country’s first public printer. In 1727, he founded the Maryland Gazette which was the first newspaper to print reports, which arrived by ship, from correspondents in London, Paris, and Moscow, and other European capitals. Parks, with his report on local events, was this country’s first columnist and he would send word of the colonies back to England.)

Arriving in Papillion, Nebraska (near Omaha) in 1893, Parks worked as a hired hand for two years

on a cattle feeding operation. By 1895, William's brother, Frank Bosley Parks (born March 11, 1877 in Shawsville, Maryland), had finished his schooling and joined his brother. The two travelled west by train to Wyoming, departing the train at Arvada. They worked as ranch hands on the U Cross Cattle Ranch on Clear Creek, owned by Pratt and Ferris. A man by the name of John Winterling was superintendent and William Parks soon became the foreman. After their 1895 arrival, William is quoted as saying, "For the next four years, I worked for the old U Cross outfit, general cowpoke and all-around ranch hand. That was near Clearmont. I took a homestead on Crazy Woman Creek, 30 miles from Buffalo."

In 1899, with a desire to learn the sheep business, William and Frank went to work as herders for Fred Waegele in the Buffalo area. Waegele took an interest in the two young men, giving them 2,000 head of sheep on shares. This arrangement lasted for three years. They ran their sheep on their homestead which was located on the south fork of Crazy Woman Creek in Johnson County (six miles from the Greub post office). By 1902, their sheep numbers had reached 10,000. William proved up on his land, living there for seven years.

The Parks' Brothers Company began looking for larger holdings and range. They'd arrived in Johnson County too late and it was already settled, too crowded for the size of range they wanted. In 1905, Frank bought and moved to a ranch known as the Perry Yeast Ranch, located about forty miles north of Moorcroft and fifteen miles west of Devils Tower. Then in April 1906, the brothers became the owners of Dr. William Harris' ranch which was known far and wide as the Mitten/TA Ranch. Subsequently, William sold the Buffalo ranch and moved to the Mitten Ranch in 1906, taking his herd of 10,000 sheep with him.

Back in 1904, William and Frank attended the World's Fair in St. Louis, Missouri. While there, they met Emma Anna Lenz, born January 5, 1877, in Lansing, Iowa (her ancestors had immigrated from Germany in the mid-1800s). After public schooling, Emma had attended Helena Business College in Helena, Montana. Upon completing



Emma Anna Lenz & Frank Bosley Parks, married Nov. 6, 1905



Emma Anna Lenz Parks & William P. Parks, married 12-12-06

the two year “commercial course”, she then worked there as an instructor for six months. She left Helena to accept a position with the Spokane Business College in Spokane, Washington. She taught there three years and also tutored students to supplement her income. Married November 6, 1905, Frank B. Parks and his bride, Emma, took up their residence at his ranch headquarters on the Little Missouri River, near New Haven, Wyoming.

Six months later, on May 1, 1906, the Little Missouri River was raging from a flash flood. A cowboy working for the Parks Brothers attempted to cross, riding a saddle horse while leading a span of horses in harness. “As soon as the swift current was reached, the rider found himself under the neck of his mount while the latter was trying to climb over him”, reported the *Gillette News*. “Being an expert swimmer, he managed to keep afloat with one hand, and with the other dished water into his horse’s face, thus turning it so that he could swim ashore and drag the horse after him.” He escaped the flood waters on the same side as where the ranch headquarters were located. The hired hand dived back in the water and untangled the team. The team then made it to the opposite bank, but they still needed unharnessed. Frank B. Parks decided he would cross the river to do it. Despite fearful protests from the hired cowboy and his wife Emma, Frank plunged in and his horse sank under him. Parks, who was likely struck by a hoof, surfaced only once while his agonized wife watched.

William Parks, still living at their Buffalo property, was notified by telegraph of his brother’s drowning. He left to help search for the body. Despite a \$200 reward offered in newspaper ads by Emma, the body was not found until noon on May 18, 1906. Articles in the *Sundance Gazette* and the *Gillette News* dated May 25, 1906, stated that despite a continual search effort, Frank Lytle, along with John Bateman, determined that the body should not have gone far due to the river’s narrow, short winding curves and that there was a heavy silt in the water. He used a common end gate to probe the stream, working downstream up. “The searchers’ attention was attracted upstream to his foxhound which sat on the bank of the river and howled most pitifully. They examined the dog and then paid attention to

the river and saw that directly below was a deep hole. Flies were buzzing over it and innumerable small fish were swimming near. As the men probed below the hole, one of the Parks’ hounds sprang into the water and buried its nose in the mud and sand. The body was found in the bed of the creek, on its left side, head downstream, and perfectly preserved below two feet of earth and gravel and ten inches of water. Men guarded the body awaiting the coroner and family desires of its disposition.” William had escorted Emma to Omaha to her aunt’s home two days prior the body being found. They returned to escort the body to Maryland for burial at the family home which Frank B. Parks had left ten years prior to 1895. (Jan Parks Evans has the black lace mourning dress worn by her grandmother and a photo of her wearing it.)

William and Emma determined they were business partners, friends and respected each other so they decided that they would make a life together. They married December 12, 1906 and began their life together on the Mitten/TA ranch, located in what was still western Crook County. They sold the Little Missouri Ranch where the drowning had occurred, the only land sold by Parks’ until the 1966 dispersal.

With Maryland and Iowa landscapes in mind, they began planting trees on Trail Creek. Their first home was a previously constructed log cabin. In the fall of 1907, they began the construction of a large ranch home as they were starting a family. Rough lumber for the ranch home was cut by William Parks’ own steam engine and saw mill. The finished materials and furniture were purchased in Omaha, shipped to Moorcroft, and freighted to the ranch by a string team of six to eight horses. Theirs was the first home in the county to have a coal stoker central heat system and steam heat radiators. The house had seven bedrooms and a half-basement.

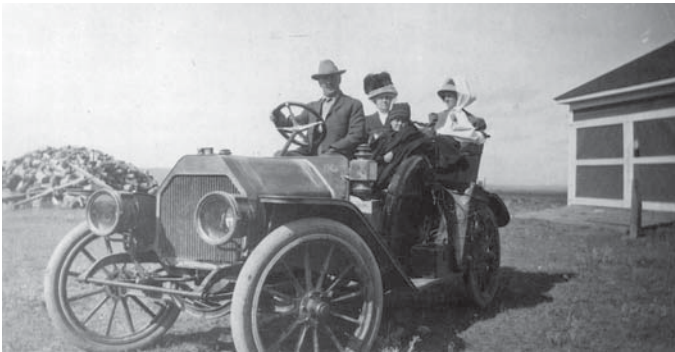
They initially ran steers on the open range. The severe winter of 1911-12 nearly wiped out their livestock. However, William was able to re-finance and continued the operation, converting it back over to a sheep operation. William Sr. felt that sheep were better suited to the climate. Mr. Parks said



Branding at TA Ranch on Trail Creek in 1910, lost the steers in 1911, hauled in on railroad to Moorcroft, trailed to the ranch



Freighting from Moorcroft, WY to ranch, ca. 1910



Overland Car 1911, W.P. Frank & Emma



My driving team, Emma Parks, 1911

that “sheep are a man’s best bet because of the two crops realized.”

William Sr. and Emma had six children and eventually six grandchildren:

1907-1964: Georgia Emma married Thomas Sharkey in 1942, no children.

1909-1993: Frank Lenz married Barbara Walters in 1940, two children: Donna Jean, 1946 and Gary Walter, 1944.

1911-1996: Ruth Mary married Claud Hall in 1934, one child: Jon William, 1941.

1914-1974: William P., Jr. married Catherine Rangunot in 1938, 3 children: Helen Joan, 1939-2011, William P. III, 1941, and Janet Kay, 1946.

1915-2007: Alta Elizabeth married Roy Andres in 1944, no children.

1918-2010: Jessie Belle married Merle Barnhill in 1954, no children.

At this time in history, the open range was being homesteaded. William Sr. gave homesteaders sheep on shares to help them get started. He also provided a market for their grains from their farming efforts. During the drought and Depression, the Parks’ would leave a sheep wagon out on the range filled with provisions for homesteaders to take from.

The ranch ran mostly sheep until the 1940s, building up to 40,000 head. Parks’ sawmill produced lumber to build the ranch’s barns, sheep sheds, and machinery sheds. Many of the young men in the area were employed on the Parks Ranch, giving William Sr. high regards as a boss and Emma the same for her cooking. However, the ranch hands who did not meet their expectations would find their last pay check at mealtime. After each meal, the plates were washed and set back on the table, upside down. Anyone terminated would flip their plate over at meal time and find their last check.

William Sr. was a wonderful gardener, irrigating his 1-2 acre garden with water stored in a concrete open storage tank. With much protest, the least experienced ranch hand would help William Sr. with the garden. Emma preserved food by canning,

pickling, and preserving, along with baking, sausage making, etc. (According to Catherine Parks, the hams were cured in brine. The top of the brine would have mold on it but the ham was perfectly cured.) They would butcher a sheep or hog on a regular basis as they would consume the meat quite readily with so many to feed. They had a large ice house to store root vegetables.

Education was a priority for the family. They established a school in their home (eight students) and then helped establish a school district to gain educational access for the growing community. They also boarded teachers in their homes.

Emma, who was featured in the 1925 book, Women of Wyoming by Cora Beach, also provided community support and helped neighbors with medical problems, as the nearest doctor was 60 miles away. "She drove her team many miles with children, even once throwing a baby from her arms into a snowdrift as the sleigh was upsetting," wrote her daughter, Jessie Barnhill. Mr. Parks recalled that during all of the years on the ranch, they never had a doctor in the house. They helped care for neighbors hit by the flu epidemic of 1917.

In 1923 Emma moved their children to town for high school. "A milk cow was led behind the wagon the whole 64 miles," remembered Frank L. From this point in time on, William Sr. and Emma maintained two homes, one at the ranch and one in Gillette.

As soon as Frank L. and Bill Jr. graduated from high school, they attended Barnes Business College in Denver. The two brothers then helped to operate and grow the family ranch during the drought, the Depression, and World War II. As sheep herders became less available, fences were built on the ranch and dams were constructed to develop stock water supplies after the drought of the 1930s.

William and Emma insisted all four girls graduate from the University of Wyoming with degrees in teaching. The four sisters initially taught in Wyoming schools. (At that time, if a woman married, she had to give up her position as her husband was support to her and someone else



Old log house on TA Ranch (when it was the Mitten Ranch), ca. 1912



Emma & her children in front of her home, Frank, Ruth, Bill, Alta, & Georgia, 1916



Frank L. Parks on Cat he used to build resevoirs after 1930s drought



Cal Sams forming stack of bucked up hay at Mitten Ranch, ca. 1938



Frank the winter he herded, early 1930s



Chester Beagle (died 1981), wool hauler



William & Emma, Jessie, Alta, Frank, Bill Jr., Georgia, & Ruth, 1934



William Paul Parks Jr. & Frank Lane Parks, 1935

needed her position.) After the war, the sisters and their husbands located in Arizona, Nevada, California, and Washington.

Being a progressive businessman, William Sr. would have machinery auctions and cattle sales periodically to enable doing something different with the business structure and operations. With their sons, Bill Jr. and Frank L., the Parks increased their holdings to 110 sections (70,000 + acres) by buying out homesteads. They also had the first irrigated meadows in Campbell County.

Along with hired help, Bill Jr. and Frank put up the ranch's hay. They rode many miles horseback on the 70,000 acres before trucks and trailers. Horses weren't started until they were four years old and they were done by age 12. Bill Jr. was struck by lightning two times. (His son Bill III says you can watch the electrical storms coming up Trail Creek, kicking up the dust.) Both of the brothers learned to fly and purchased a plane in the 1940s.

William Sr. retired in 1940 and Emma had a stroke in 1942, resulting in her left arm and leg being paralyzed. In 1940 the beautiful "mansion" on Trail Creek was transformed into a duplex, so to speak, with Frank L.'s family living on one side and Bill Jr.'s on the other. Catherine Parks, married to Bill Jr. in 1938, said that Emma was such a wonderful influence. Emma was a role model for her, teaching her to cook, etc. They all had wonderful times on the ranch.

The family formed Parks Land and Livestock in 1946. Under Parks Land and Livestock, their sisters would own two-thirds of the ranch, with Bill Jr. and his brother Frank L. only to own one-third. Bill Jr. wanted to begin restructuring ranch ownership to ensure the massive holding would stay in the family. In 1949, Bill Jr. and his wife Catherine, along with their children Helen, Billy, and Jan, left the family business. The young family moved from the "mansion" on Trail Creek into a primitive log cabin, ten miles west, on a part of the ranch used for winter range. Their new place was located on Trail Creek and the Little Powder River.

Bill Jr.'s concern became reality after William Sr.

died in July 1964. Two years after the patriarch's death, Parks Land and Livestock was sold to the Trail Creek and the Rocky Point Grazing Associations for \$700,000 or \$29.50 an acre. Each grazing association was financed by a 40-year FHA loan. These loans were created by the government so that large holdings being sold could be bought by young, neighboring ranchers. To qualify, these ranchers also had to have winter range for their animals.

At the time of the TA Ranch sale, Bill III was able to buy the TA brand from the family corporation. His Aunt Alta made sure it stayed in the Parks family as it had been since 1906.

Upon marrying Paulette Norfolk in 1960, Bill III ranched with his father, Bill Jr. However, the drought of 1961 sent him to work on the Parks TA Ranch. Bill III worked for his Uncle Frank L. who managed the family ranch until 1962. Bill III said when they cleaned the north side of the barn, the Mitten Ranch branding irons were still there. 1962 was a year of bad spring flooding. No one could leave the Park TA Ranch for six weeks as the roads were washed out. Paulette said "enough of this" and they moved to the Horse Creek Sunny Side Ranch where Bill worked for her parents, Paul and Billie Norfolk.

At the time the Parks TA Ranch sold in 1966, the Rocky Point Grazing Association encompassed 24,000 acres in Crook County, and the Trail Creek Grazing Association encompassed 38,000 acres in Campbell County and Powder River County, Montana. Bill III and Jan Parks Evans became shareholders in the Trail Creek Grazing Association. This allowed each to run 144 cow/calf pairs for six summer months. Over time, as other shareholders have sold out, Bill III, Jan, and their sons, William P. Park IV (Will) and Jason Evans have purchased additional shares. They now own about one-third of the Trail Creek Association.

Back in 1949, when Bill Jr. had moved off of the old TA Ranch, they moved to their headquarters on the Little Powder. The original log cabin part of the house was built in the 1890s. (Bill Jr. added on to the house in 1950 and 1956.) In 1917, William



Putting up hay on TA Ranch, Trail Creek



Ranch hands cutting logs at William Parks TA Ranch sawmill



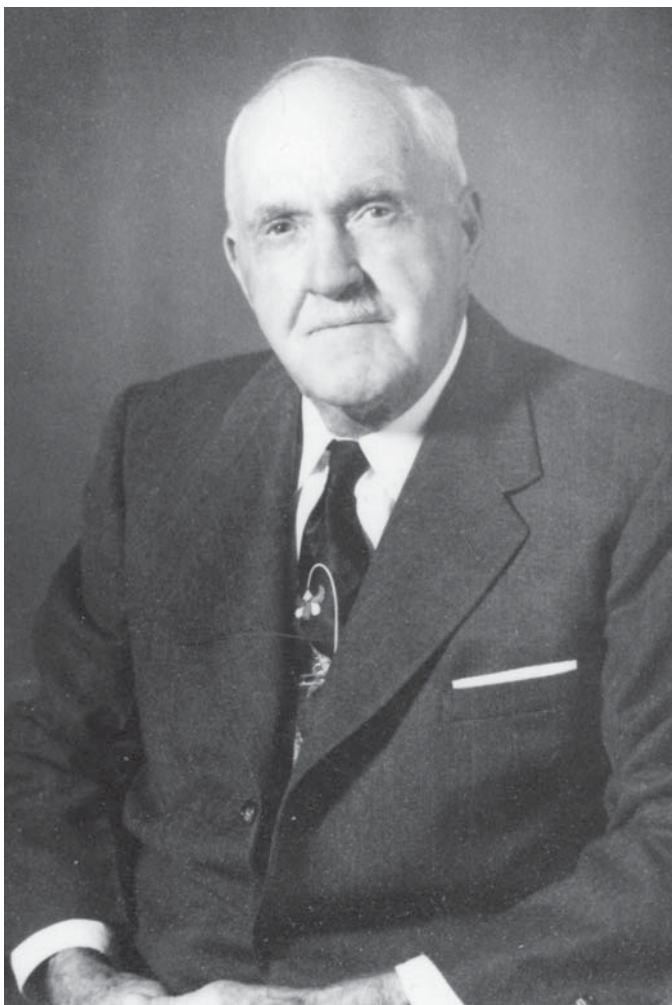
William Parks had ranch auctions every 20 years, get rid of old & start over; vehicles at one of those sales



Ranch auction that was held periodically



Emma & W.P. Parks in Gillette home, ca. 1940



William P. Parks Sr., in his 80s, late 1950s



Jan Parks

Sr. had a barn built there using lumber from his sawmill. Bill Jr. leased additional grazing land through the years. He ran Hereford cattle until he started a cross breeding program in the mid-1960s. He developed and improved the hay meadows with irrigation projects in the late 1960s.

“Parks Ranch, Inc.” was created by Bill Jr. and Catherine for the land ownership when Bill III, Jan, and their families came back to work with the family ranch in the late 1960s and early 1970s. Bill Jr. and Catherine wanted to avoid what had happened with the main portion of the family holdings. They also allowed for each ranch family to own their own stock. Catherine’s aunt, Marie Audap Hunter, was married to a neighbor rancher, Harry Hunter. Bill Jr. had been leasing her ranch for some years and son Bill III was ready to again ranch with his dad. In 1962, Bill Jr. and Catherine bought the Hunter ranch from the widow Marie, and at that time Bill III and his family moved there. Then in 1970, Bill Jr. leased a ranch in Montana so that Jan and her family could come to the ranch. With the three families working together, another ranch was bought in Montana in 1971. Each family ran their own cattle but worked together on haying and cattle work. The Evans’ started out with bred heifers from Bill Jr.’s Hereford heifers crossed with Angus bulls. Those baldy heifer calves became good cows, a new thing at that time.

Bill Jr. and Catherine followed the family example. He served on school boards, Federal Land Bank and Farm Credit boards, built phone lines with the neighbors, built a community hall...making it a better place to live. Catherine was politically active, serving on committees and boards. She was elected to the Wyoming State House in 1972 and the Wyoming State Senate in 1978. She helped make sure coal mines wouldn’t do irreparable environmental damage with laws and monitoring. She helped acquire the Wyoming Experimental Farm that is now the Complex. (Grandson Will Parks had to work with her legislation when re-routing the Belle Fourche River through the coal mind where he worked).

William P. Parks Jr. (Bill Jr.) was killed on January 21, 1971, on a county road on ranch land along



William & Emma married 12-12-06; started house after winter broke, Mitten Butte on right

Trail Creek. He and a ranch hand were headed out to feed cows in the morning when they were hit by a driver coming over a hill on the wrong side of the road.

Bill III and Jan and their families operated the land together until 1978 when they dissolved Parks Ranch, Inc. Daughter Jan Evans continues to operate the land that was divided off of the old TA Ranch in 1949. Son Bill III operates the land that Parks Ranch, Inc. bought from Marie Hunter, the widow of Harry Hunter.

The Jan Parks Evans Ranch, 1906 (The Triple Quarter Circle Ranch)

The Jan Parks Evans Family, Campbell County



Bill Parks Jr, 1936

As told by Jan Parks Evans

Jan Parks Evans continues the Parks family ranching heritage on the same land that her parents, Bill Jr. and Catherine Parks, carved out of the Parks TA Ranch in 1949. She runs Angus cows, calves, and yearling heifers on the ranch. Like the Parks men before her, she is committed to improving the land that she operates on. Her list of improvements includes leveling meadows on both river and creek bottoms, along with building dikes to not only improve hay production but also to preserve rain water and snow melt. Most of the meadows can be flood irrigated but others can be pump irrigated from the flooded Little Powder River. Trail Creek, Dry Creek, and Dry Trail



Bill Jr & Catherine Parks at the TA Ranch after honeymoon

(creeks on the ranch) all produce strong grasses... just as it was back in 1884 when “Dillon, Collins and Company” moved into the country to establish the Mitten Ranch.

The ranch is operated using rotational grazing practices. Water pipeline is being added to certain locations, thus allowing the ranch to reach its grazing potential. Cattle are handled following the “low stress cattle management practices” of the late Bud Williams. Jan and her son Jason summer cattle on Trail Creek Grazing Association pasture and then winter on her Little Powder River Ranch. This is the same grazing pattern that Parks TA Ranch stock used from the early days of the ranch until 1949. As proof of the history of the area, there are paths worn

into hillsides that Bill Jr. told Bill III were made by horses, most likely by John Gammon's Percheron work horse herd. The horse numbers reached the hundreds. Jan's and Bill III's ranches meet at a joint "L" corner. They help each other with cattle work, and Bill III's son, William IV (Will), also trades help with them.

Jan participated in rodeos in high school and on into her twenties. Jan has two children, Tammy (1964) and Jason Evans (1970). Tammy is a University of Wyoming graduate and does oil and gas leasing in Texas. Jason, a graduate of Sam Houston State, Huntsville, Texas, continues to live in Huntsville, where he owns an insurance adjusting business. Jason and his wife April have two daughters, Paisley (2005) and Hartley (2010), and one son, Canyon (2007).

Tammy and Jason both began "riding the range" on the ranch at the age of four. They each began rodeoing at that same age. Through time, Jason competed and won at both the National High School Rodeo Finals and College National Finals Rodeos, along with his three trips to the PRCA's National Final Steer Roping. In 2003, he was the All-Around Cowboy at Cheyenne Frontier Days.

Tragedy again struck on Parks Ranch land on July 22, 2008. Going out to look at flood waters after a storm, Jan was accompanied by two men working for her and her companion, Buster Jeffress. Driving east on the Trail Creek county road, they traveled the length of Jan's ranch and then further on to the east to the old Parks TA Ranch. An hour later, on their return trip through the ranch, their pickup crashed into a chasm created when a fill in the county road was washed away by flood waters. Three were injured and Buster Jeffress was killed. Over the span of 103 years, three very good men were taken from the ranch.

Jan Parks Evans, like her grandfather, served on the Campbell County Board of Commissioners for three terms, from 1993 to 2003. For Jan, the joy of carrying on and expanding/modifying what previous family had done on the ranch is the gratifying part of ranching. There are many challenges to be sure, but what a journey.



Little Powder River Ranch buildings, 1940



Catherine Parks was the camp cook as sheep & cattle trailed to Moorcroft Railroad or Belle Fourche, South Dakota, 1943



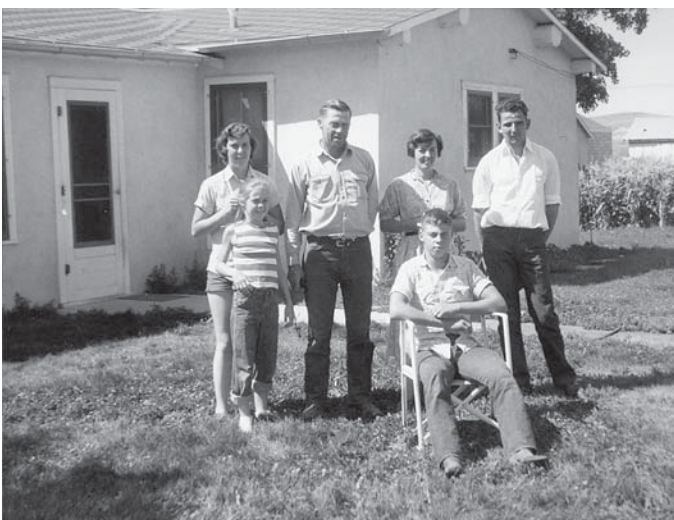
Catherine Parks with Jan, Helen, & Bill III at their new home on Little Powder River, winter 1949-1950



Bill Jr. & Catherine Parks family, Jan, Bill III, & Helen, 1954



Catherine & Bill Parks Jr., 35th anniversary, June 1973



Bill Jr. & Catherine at Little Powder River Ranch, Helen, Jan, Bill III, & French exchange student, 1956



Jan Parks (Evans) with Hereford (polled) heifer & her calf, 1962



Jan Parks Evans Ranch, Little Powder River, 2013



Wyoming State Sen. Jim Anderson, Sen. John Barrasso, Mrs. and Gov. Matthew H. Mead, Parks Evans Family, Rep. Cynthia Lummis, and Sen. Mike Enzi



Jan Evans at branding pot, modern day!



Little Powder River Ranch barn built by William P. Parks in 1917, using lumber from his sawmill, taken in 2013

The Olmstead Creek Ranch, 1910

The William P. Parks III Family, Campbell County



Marie & Harry Hunter, new house on Olmstead, late 1920s



New house on Olmstead, Marie Hunter with 4 horse hitch, late 1920s

As told by Jan Parks Evans

Bill Parks III continues the Parks family ranching heritage on Olmstead Creek with his TA brand going on the Angus cows and calves he runs there. His ranch might include the land where the “Dillon, Collins and Company” owner saw his lone surviving steer after the brutal winter of 1887.

Bill III has operated the ranch since his parents, Bill Jr. and Catherine, bought it from her aunt, Marie Hunter in the spring of 1968. Bill III and his family moved there from the Horse Creek Sunnyside Ranch. In addition, Bill III’s operation consists of his shares in the Trail Creek Grazing Association where his cattle summer on Dry Creek and Bowman Hill. He is also president of the board for the Association. His cattle winter on the meadows and range land of the Montana place that the family corporation originally bought. Bill III added pipelines and cross fences to improve his ranch’s beef production. His operation includes haying and winter feeding.

Bill III’s oldest son, William IV (Will), now owns and operates the ranch that originally belonged to Western Union Beef Company. It was known as the “Half Circle L” and in the 1890s its foreman was Peter Ricketts. Eventually, Ricketts became the owner. Later on, the ranch was purchased by Bert Norfolk for his son, Paul Norfolk. Paul Norfolk

was Will’s grandfather as he was the father of Paulette Norfolk Parks. The ranch is now known as the “Horse Creek Sunnyside Ranch”.

Bill participated in rodeos from high school through to PRCA Steer Roping. Bill III and his ex-wife Paulette had two sons, William P. IV (1961) and Pete (1966). William IV and his wife Darla operate the Sunnyside Ranch. He has also worked at a coal mine since the mid-1980s. Will has two children, Justin and Megan, and four stepchildren, Trent, Dan, Oryn, and Cassie. Pete and his wife Chris live in Vancouver, Washington. They have a daughter, Kendal, and a son, Zane William. Bill III married Brenda in 1986. Bill III’s stepson, Derek Gortney, and his wife, Michelle, live in Burleson, Texas, along with their three daughters: Mia, Kennedy, and Avery.

Bill III’s Olmstead Creek Ranch was homesteaded by Harrison M. (Harry) Hunter, Jr. The patent was signed by President William H. Taft on March 3, 1910. Harry was born May 23, 1879, in Omaha, Nebraska. In 1890, his parents, H. M. Hunter, Sr. and Margaretta, took a desert claim in Inyan Kara, Crook County. On March 29, 1891, Margaretta died giving birth to their 14th child. Mr. Hunter Sr. took the children back to their Nebraska property. However, his eldest son, Jack, stayed in Wyoming. Jack Hunter subsequently worked for Dillon, Collins & Company’s Mitten Ranch on Lightning

Flats and Trail Creek. He also worked for J.P. Gammon on the Mitten Ranch, after Gammon's 1894 purchase of the ranch. Jack Hunter then purchased 320 acres from Hughy McConnell in 1897 on Olmstead Creek. The elder H.M. Hunter Sr. and his children returned to Wyoming in 1900. Jack's brother, Harry Hunter Jr, worked on the Baugh Ranch north of Moorcroft before homesteading on Olmstead Creek near his brother Jack's property.

In March of 1921, Harry Hunter married Marie Audap (born in France on February 22, 1881), who was the aunt of Catherine Parks. Harry and Marie built their large new home in 1928. Harry ran cattle, along with a few sheep. He was a good rancher, putting together a very nice ranch which included developing the hay meadows along Olmsted Creek. A big, strong man with a good sense of humor, Harry had a great memory. He had a wealth of information on the history of the area but it was all lost when he died of a heart attack on the Olmstead Creek bank while cutting out a beaver dam on August 8, 1957. He and Marie had no children but had taken in her niece, Anna Audap, who came over from France to live with them. Anna later married a neighbor rancher, Ed Norfolk (who was a cousin of Paul Norfolk), who ranched near Soda Wells. Marie's sister, Louise, and her husband, Gabriel Rangunot (both born in France) came to Olmstead Creek in 1923. They homesteaded to the west of the Harry Hunter home site, but moved to Buffalo to school their children. Harry and Marie also took in Marie's sister Louise's three children. Catherine Rangunot (Parks), her brother Raymond, and sister Dorothy (Edwards) lived with Harry and Marie for a couple of years.

After being widowed, Marie Hunter leased to Bill Parks Jr. in 1962. In 1968, Marie sold the ranch to Bill Jr. and Catherine. Marie died of a stroke at Pioneer Manor in Gillette on June 1, 1969.

As he ranches today, Bill Parks III has the TA brand from one grandfather and the homestead from the other grandfather.



Anna Sudap Norfolk, Harry Hunter, Gabe & Louise Rangunot-Olmstead, late 1920s



Harry Hunter feeding Hereford cows, Olmstead Creek, 1930s



Harry & Marie Hunter Ranch on Olmstead Creek, 1930s



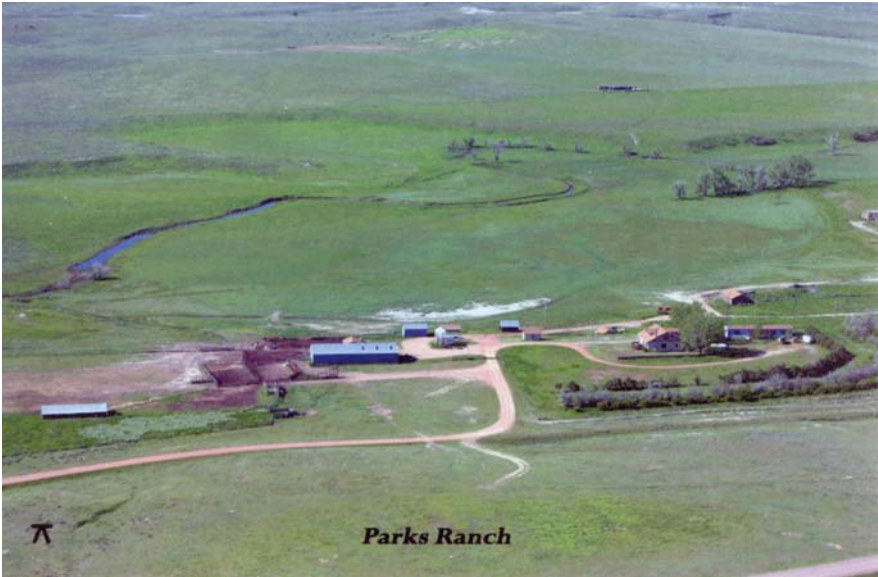
New car, Marie & Harry Hunter with niece Anna Sudap (Norfolk) & visiting family, 1930s



Bill III & Bill Jr. breaking colts, 1955



Bill III



Bill Parks TA Ranch on Olmstead Creek, 2011



Bill Parks III



Bill Parks III waiting for branding to start, 2007



Wyoming State Sen. Jim Anderson, Sen. John Barrasso, Gov. and Mrs. Matthew H. Mead, Parks Family, Rep. Cynthia Lummis, and Sen. Mike Enzi

The Paul Family Farm, 1909

The Paul Family, Laramie County



James & Rosa Paul & 3 sons, 1896

As told by the Paul Family

It has been written that the Chinese word for catastrophe also contains the word for opportunity. This has been the case for the Paul family.

James Paul (1865-1942) and Rosalie Paul (1874-1959) had a comfortable life in Estherville, Iowa at the turn of the 20th century. He worked for the railroad and she was his young wife caring for seven children. After the tragedy in which two sons died, the family made plans to move west.

In 1909 James Paul came to Wyoming with his oldest son Raymond Paul (1893-1980) and staked claim to a 320-acre homestead northeast of Cheyenne. The rest of the family soon followed,

arriving on the train with their belongings.

They lived in a dugout while their new house was being built. This cement house is still standing and is the only remaining building from that era for miles around. It had running water brought by gravity from the well. Eventually the farm had a barn, shop, chicken house, hog pen, and root cellar, which are all gone now. Later James Paul planted some apple trees around the house. He and his granddaughter Shirley watered them with buckets of water from the well. They soon found that the climate here is not the same as that in Norway or Bohemia and the apple trees all died. The family ate rhubarb from their garden instead of their own apples.

They raised wheat, oats, hay, and seed potatoes in the fields and had a vegetable garden near the well. They had cattle, hogs, and chickens, and used horses for transportation and farm work until the 1920s. They sold cream and eggs in Cheyenne.

The family grew until there were ten children. The school-age ones walked one mile each way to the Paul School located southeast of the homestead.

For marriage, high school, and college, one by one the children left home, most not to return to live on the farm except John Paul (1897-1984) and Woodrow Paul (1912-2001).

John Paul expanded the Paul landholdings and made many of his own tools and farm equipment. He had a working radio long before the Rural Electric Company brought their electricity here. He bought a violin, taught himself to play, and then made music for local barn dances (which, along with picnics, were the few social events for the homesteaders).

Woodrow Paul returned from the Navy after World War II to operate the Paul lands. With the good earth in mind, he retired many old fields before the federal government had any programs to pay



John Paul with field corn



Original Paul homestead, 1921

farmers for that. Woodrow's wife, Olympia, whom he met in New York City during World War II, and his descendants have endeavored to carry on his good work. Olympia Paul worked as a draftsman in Cheyenne for many years to bring in extra income when needed.

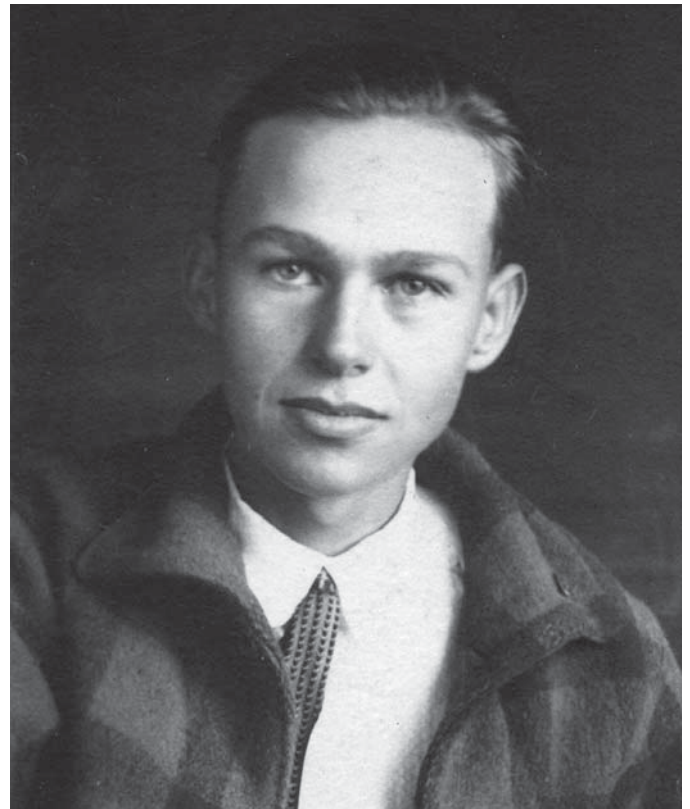
Raymond Paul had a 120-acre homestead southeast of the original farm house. He had no car so he rode a bicycle across the prairie to Cheyenne and back. He finally rented his land out and moved with his wife Jeanette to Cheyenne. He had a barber shop and later worked for the Union Pacific Railroad. His grandchildren still own his homestead.

When James and Rosa Paul bought a car in 1921, they designated Woodrow (then eight years old) as the family driver and then had him drive into Colorado on what passed for roads back then, to see the mountains a little better. He became a superb driver and drove until the day before he went into the Veterans Administration Nursing Home in 1993. His son Ronald also learned to drive at a very early age and was good help on the farm.

The weather and economic conditions got bad in the 1920 and 1930s. When the family needed money, James Paul would leave the farm and work for the railroad, even into his 70s. Rosa Paul and the remaining children would take care of the farm while he was away.



Paul homestead with car, 1921



Woodrow Paul, high school photo



Olympia Paul & son Ronald in farmyard, 1948



Woodrow Paul, 1981

County living could make a person crusty. Rosa Paul once asked her little granddaughter Shirley, who had a pet chicken she had named Mary Louise out at the farm, how she had liked her dinner. Shirley replied that it had been good. Grandma Paul smiled and said "That was Mary Louise you ate".

Bad things can happen here such as frightful windstorms, whiteout snowstorms, and hailstorms that sound like freight trains coming. We sometimes must buy high and sell low. Then there have been the deaths of humans and animals. Any living thing out here can be alive one minute and gone the next. James Paul died on his homestead in 1942. After the Blizzard of '49, Woodrow Paul and his neighbor helped each find their animals buried in the snow.

So why do we continue here? Because we set our own course for the day. We answer to ourselves (and God and the government, not necessarily in that order).

With our past now set in stone and our present graced with the ever changing beauty of nature, day and night, we can only look forward to a future in which Pauls will be here to appreciate all this. Overall, Wyoming has been good to us and we wish the same for all Wyoming's residents who respect her.



Paul family reunion, 2003



Wyoming State Sen. Jim Anderson, Sen. John Barrasso, Mrs. and Gov. Matthew H. Mead, Paul Family, Rep. Cynthia Lummis, and Sen. Mike Enzi

The Rifle Pit Ranch #1, 1890

The Smith Family, Crook County



Old house at Rifle Pit Ranch

As told by Robert Smith

In 1890 Stephen Smith and his brothers, William, George, and Ben, moved to Crook County, Wyoming from Lead, South Dakota after emigrating from England in 1880. He homesteaded on Rifle Pit Divide in 1890 (part of the original homestead is still owned and operated by Paul Smith) and his brothers and in-laws (James Marr) homesteaded and bought adjacent property.

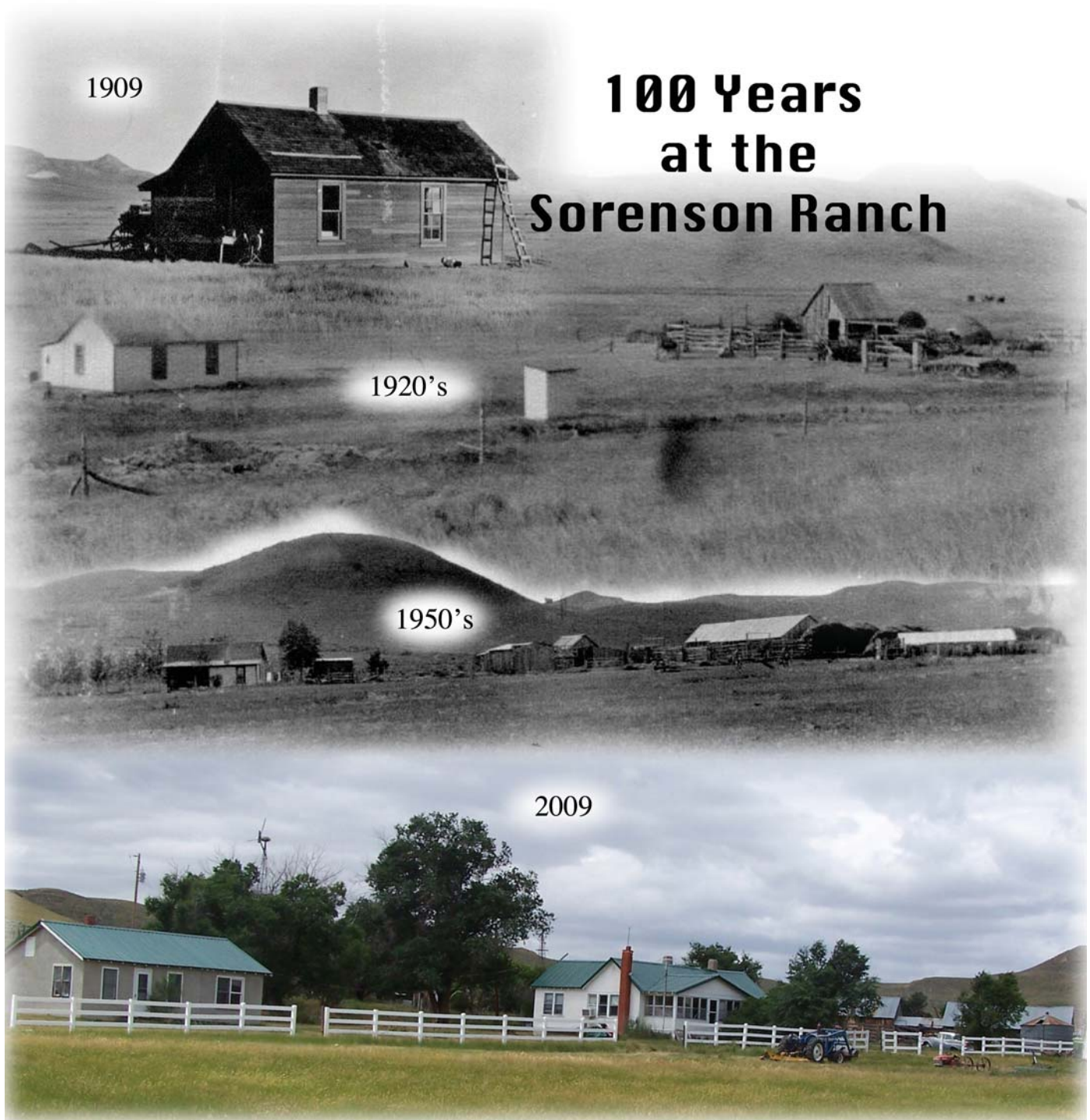
He purchased the property that he built the family home on (the property in this submission) from his brother George in 1901 along with several other

parcels that were adjacent. After his death in 1912 the farm was taken over by his son B. Alex Smith who purchased the interest in the property from his brothers and sisters. Upon his death in 1973 he left the quarter sections containing the original home to his grandson Robert Smith with the remainder going to his son Paul Smith who has been farming on this property along with some adjacent land to the west, some of which was part of the original place (the 160 acres to the west, and 80 acres to the south) and some which was purchased in the 1960s, since he was a boy, he still farms the entire property. I have recently moved back to the farm with my wife to help take care of the place.

On a hill above the original house (which is currently being remodeled) you can still find the depression of the rifle pits for which the divide was named. Apparently, around 1890 there were rumors of an impending attack on the divide and in preparation the settlers dug several fighting positions overlooking what they perceived as probable avenues of attack – fortunately the attack never came. I can remember playing in them when I was a kid, and my Dad remembers them being much deeper when he was a kid.

The Sorenson Ranch, 1909

The Sorenson Family, Campbell County



As told by the Sorenson Family

Chance and Cole Sorenson are the seventh generation of their family to live the ranching life in Wyoming. At the ages of 8 and 9 they

can be found on almost any day working with livestock on their parents' ranch near Spotted Horse in northeast Wyoming. Their parents, Neal and Amanda Sorenson, are among the few ranch-raised Wyomingites who are fortunate, dedicated, and

determined enough to carry on their family's legacy and passion for ranching. They raise registered Angus cattle on the ranch and also lease part of the ranch Neal's great grandfather, Charlie Sorenson, homesteaded in 1909. Charlie's grandchildren still own and operate the original ranch on Horse Creek about 27 miles north of Gillette.

Chance and Cole are too young to realize what a rich history of ranching in Wyoming their family has. They do not yet know about their father's ancestors who came to Wyoming in the 1860s, '70s and '80s from Scotland, England and Denmark by way of Canada, New York, Illinois, and Nebraska to settle and ranch near Buffalo, Ucross, Arvada, Powder River, and finally Wildcat and Horse Creek north of Gillette.

Neal's great-grandfather, Charlie Sorenson, was a second-generation Wyoming rancher. Charlie's wife Florence was the great-granddaughter of one of Wyoming's first ranchers, Peter Watt, who came to ranch near Buffalo in 1878. She was also the granddaughter of William H. Holland who came to Buffalo in 1868 from Illinois at the age of 28 after fighting in the Civil War, and Alexander Campbell who came from Ontario to ranch near Ucross in 1886.

Charlie's parents, Peter Sorensen and Aunine "Anine" Poulsen were married in Denmark on March 13, 1883, and came to America on their honeymoon. Somehow the spelling of Peter and his older brother Chris Sorensen's last name (spelled with an "en") was changed to Sorenson (with an "on") when they arrived in New York.

From New York the young couple followed Chris to a Danish community in Nebraska, arriving on July 3, 1883, ages 17 and 20. Charles (then called Carl) was born in Minden, Nebraska, on August 1, 1888. The family moved to Wyoming around 1890 and rented a ranch on Piney Creek near Ucross and later homesteaded on Clear Creek. In 1903 Peter sold his homestead on Clear Creek and bought a ranch on Powder River, fifteen miles downriver from Arvada. This was a better producing place so there was more income from ranching; also Anine and Peter ran a very lucrative "road ranch" where the stage which



Charlie on Fresno



Charlie Sorenson hauling lumber from Arvada to his ranch on Horse Creek



Charlie & Florence Sorenson in front of team hitched to a hay mower



Florence Sorenson (in wagon) feeding the branding crew at the Sorenson Ranch, 1934



Fresno dam



Margaret, Florence, Charlie, & Glenn Sorenson, ca. 1918



Robert C. Sorenson holding Robert L. Sorenson with Doug Smith (Charlie's two grandsons), ca 1947

ran between Arvada, Wyoming, and Moorhead, Montana, stopped six days a week. By 1910 the family consisted of Peter and Anine, six sons and two daughters. A third daughter had died when they lived on Piney Creek. In 1914 Florence Holland taught the younger Sorenson children, the younger siblings of her future husband.

The following account of Charlie Sorenson is taken

from family history stories written by Florence Holland Sorenson 1889-1970:

From herding mares Charlie Sorenson went on to "repping" for various outfits. The cattle outfits sent cowboys to each roundup wagon to represent their interests there - that is, to sort out and brand each outfit's own calves in the spring roundup and in the autumn to gather their own cattle for shipping or for wintering. Each "rep" took his own bedroll, sometimes a teepee, and nine or ten horses to ride during the roundup. The "host" roundup wagon furnished the food.

As soon as Charlie was 21 on August 1, 1909, he filed on his homestead. (The homestead on Horse Creek was located in Crook County at that time and Charlie rode horseback the 80+ miles to Sundance to file his claim.) He lived on it the required number of months each year while continuing his work with the cow outfits. His first "shack" consisted of one 14' x 16' room, very sturdily built. In the summer of 1915, before we were married, he had two rooms - a pantry and porch - added. It was there that I came as a bride. We moved our belongings the first week in October. Most of our furniture we had bought from his parents, who had moved to Oregon in August of 1915. This was the last summer of his old cowboy life and, while it was a hard, rough way of living and earning a living, I am sure he missed it. He had worked as a "rep" for the Creswell's and for Wayne Morse.

On September 29, 1915 he married Florence Holland of Buffalo, Wyoming, and they began living on his homestead the year around and began ranching in earnest. His original one-room house was enlarged the summer previous to their marriage to three rooms, a pantry or storage room, and a porch had been added. Florence continues, *"These were the years of ups and downs experienced by all ranchers through dry years and wet years, hot summers and severe winters.*

During these years Charlie had built up a small herd of cattle (21) and some horses which he kept at his father's until we moved to the homestead in late November, 1915. We had "batched" two months at his father's old place until he finished that

year's work for the Wyoming Securities Company. In August of 1916, while we were in Sheridan attending a circus (my first) he was approached by the manager of the Wyoming Securities Company, who now also owned the J-O who was wanting him to move to Sheridan to manage the livestock. We considered it several days and decided we would go, so in September of that year we moved to what was known as the "Home Ranch". He was in charge of the cattle and I cooked the meals for any men who were there at 35 cents a meal. My busiest month I had a profit of \$200.00, besides having our meals. Our grocery orders were large enough that the grocer delivered there the six miles to "Old Number six" ranch where we lived. It was a good six room house; of course, not modern. We also boarded and roomed the teacher, Myrtle Cooley. The "Home Ranch" is now the Wyoming Girls' School at Sheridan. "

A year after their marriage Charlie and Florence were away from the ranch almost two years, during which time he was cattle foreman for the Wyoming Securities Company in Sheridan County with headquarters where the Girls' School is now. His brother Alfred took care of the ranch until he entered the service in World War I. After that, the J. O. Bennick family lived there and ran the ranch. The two older children, Margaret and Glenn, were born in Buffalo during this time.

We got along very well financially until the drought of 1919, which set us back, but we got by. By now the three rooms were crowded so we added the present kitchen in the fall of 1920 before Robert was born, January 29, 1921, and the next summer we enlarged the house even more by adding a dining room. We had also acquired more land as time went by. The first few years we were on the homestead our fall income was from the sale of cattle; then, toward spring, Charlie would break and sell a team or two, also sometimes a saddle horse or a few unbroken horses, the last to the government. In time he also raised and sold grain. Later we supplemented our income by dairying and during the Depression by making American cheese.

Three children were born to the Sorensons - Margaret, January 30, 1917; Glenn, May 18, 1918;

and Robert, January 29, 1921. They attended rural school until ready for high school, at which time Mrs. Sorenson and the children moved to Gillette for the school weeks for three years. After that the children were boarded and roomed.

During a shortage of teachers, I taught the Horse Creek Butte School for two years while the children were small. Charlie took the children and me each Monday morning to the Oscar Bennick home which was near the school. Mrs. Bennick cared for the children while I was at the school and boarded us. As soon as supper was over the children and I walked to the J. O. Bennick house nearby, which we had rented. I did my school home work there and we slept there, going back to Bennick's in time for breakfast. It was a strenuous two years with the weekends being crammed with mending, sewing, baking, and the like. Since we were not within reach of a school when Margaret was ready for second grade we boarded and roomed her with the Bennick's. She had gone a half year to me at the Horse Creek Butte School. A school was established a mile and a quarter from us to care for two neighbor families - the Underwood's and the George Eisele's- and us. Glenn started the next year and Robert two years later. Their teachers included Zelma Weaver Fitch, Leta Coulter, Lela West, Harriet Reed, Mrs. Barron, Jessie Lee Morrow Tays, and Helen Tysell. When Margaret was ready for the tenth grade we moved to Gillette during the school year. Robert attended there one year then stayed at the ranch the next two years, preferring to ride six miles to the Wildcat School to attending in town.

Water, or the lack of it, was often the big problem. The first spring we were on the place Charlie hired Charlie Okeson to drill a well. It was a good flow but so hard and so bitter to the taste that it could not be used for laundry, cooking, drinking, etc., so water had to be hauled in barrels. One was very careful indeed as to the amount of water he used. Also, we caught every drop off the roof. Sometimes we got water from the Horse Camp, at others from Buck's and often from Rickett's reservoir. We had a water "purifier" - a four gallon affair. There was a lower two gallon stone jar with a faucet and an upper one which sat on it. In the bottom of it was a

hole with a metal pipe sealed into it. Onto the metal pipe was a removable block of Tripoli stone through which the water filtered. I do not know how effective it was in keeping the germs out of the lower jar, but the water was clear. The Tripoli stone had to be washed each week to remove the "trash" on it."

The water situation was improved in 1929 by drilling a well on the hillside behind the house where an abundance of soft water was produced. It was at this time that the Depression came so we were unable to pipe the water to the house. For several years Charlie and the boys transported the water in cream cans on a wheelbarrow - the one Father Sorenson had brought from Nebraska many years ago. Later a cart made with the old surrey wheels was used instead of the wheelbarrow.

Writing of the surrey reminds me of our various means of transportation. When we were married Charlie had a sled and a one-seated buggy with folding top. After Glenn was born the buggy was too small, so we traded it to Bob Severance for a two-seated surrey with a fringed top. For some reason Charlie later removed the top. We used this until 1922 when we bought a secondhand two-seated Model "T" Ford from Merrill Giffin, which we used for four years, at which time we got a used Dodge Touring car, which we used until 1928 when we bought a new Dodge Sedan. However, it rode so rough that we traded it in on a new Dodge Sedan which served faithfully for several years. It was followed by a used Studebaker and a new Hudson. The first few years we were on the homestead there were always several weeks each winter when we used the sled, but winters became milder until it was no longer possible."

Through the years of hard winters and drought-plagued summers, Florence and Charlie raised their three children and also cared for many others at their ranch on Horse Creek. Charlie plowed the required 40 acres on his homestead for the first time around 1909 or 1910 with his team of horses and a walk-behind one-bottom plow. It took him 40 days averaging about an acre a day. Later, Charlie's younger brother, Alfred, homesteaded an adjoining section. Together the brothers farmed 200 acres. They had two 2-bottom plows which were pulled by

4 horses each and then each brother had a seat atop his plow from which he drove the teams instead of walking behind. In 1929 Charlie purchased his first tractor - a 1929 John Deere D. With this he could farm an acre an hour with his three bottom trip plow. Stories were told that they got up to where they were farming 300 acres a year and sometimes would farm all night by hanging a lantern out on a rod over the wheel of the tractor. They planted wheat and oats most of the time but at least one year they planted the two hundred acres to corn and it really wintered the cows well.

In 1929 the Sorensons also purchased a 1929 Dodge truck that would hold 110 bushels of wheat, one of the biggest in the country at the time, and a 1929 Dodge sedan, and added an overshot hay stacker and a buck rake - both horse drawn. They were also able to finish the ranch house. Then they had a real problem - the Depression hit.

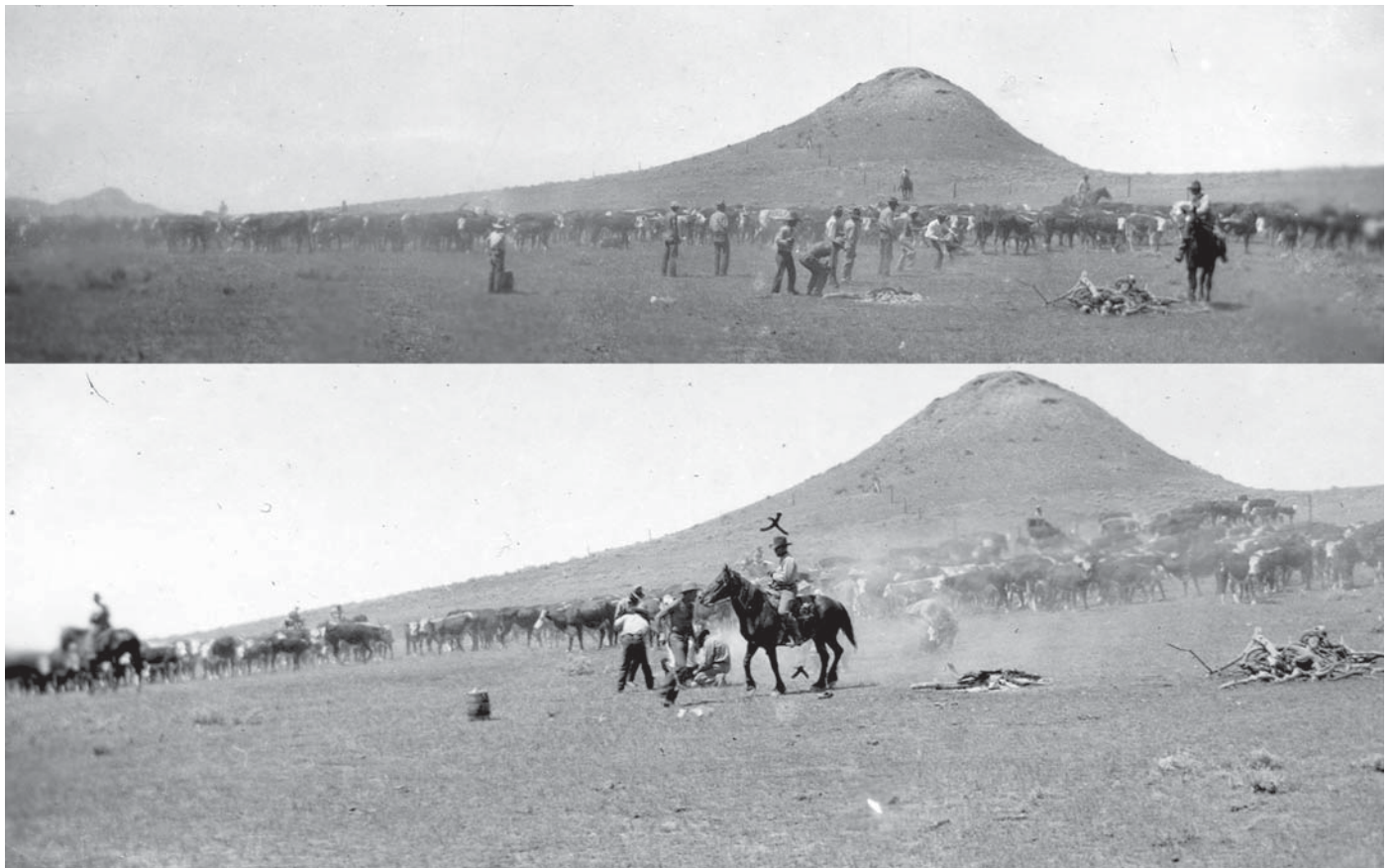
During the Great Depression in the 1930s the ranch was able to sustain 14 people -Florence, Charlie, Margaret, Glenn and Bob Sorenson; Florence's sister, Ruth Cook, and her four children, Edward, Jean, Louise and Phoebe Cook, Florence and Charlie's niece, Dorothy Weigel, their hired man, Charles Hunt, as well as the local teacher and her husband. In 1930 Ruth's husband, Ben Cook, had been killed in a horse accident near Buffalo. Ruth and her four small children moved in with Florence's family at the ranch and stayed for a few years. Charlie and Florence sold milk, cream, and cheese and Charlie worked outside jobs whenever he could. With the help of everyone at the ranch they also raised a large garden. Steve Sorenson remembers his father, Bob, telling about those summers during the Depression when all of the children took shifts around the clock watching the garden. Water was carried in buckets and the kids had to make sure that no bugs were allowed in the screened garden. They were able to raise enough food to get everyone through the hard years. Steve remembers his father saying that his grandmother, Florence, and Aunt Ruth would get up in the middle of the night and make sure everyone was watching his row. They had to keep grasshoppers and locusts out and pinch potato bugs. He said the bugs were all over the screen above the garden. Bob told

about taking his old horse, Bill, to find grass so he could survive.

In 1935, because of the extreme drought, Charlie and Florence had to sell all of their cows except six milk cows. The Federal government bought them and Bob and Charlie drove the cows to town to be loaded on the train. On the way to town they camped near the Morel place, which was about half-way to town or 15 miles from the ranch. Many other ranchers were moving their cows the same day. The herds were spaced out along the road and Charlie used his truck parked across the barrow pit to separate his herd from the others. He and Bob camped beside it. In the middle of the night a thunderstorm stampeded the cows. Charlie yelled to Bob, "Jump in the truck. It's a stampede!" They both made it to the truck and Bob said the cows ran past them all night. They held onto their horses out of the back of the truck. The next day, they rode into town and found all of their cows mixed in with everyone else's in a big bunch of hundreds of cows. So all the ranchers decided that Charlie

and another cowboy would pair them up and cut them out and the kids and others would hold them up. Then they'd keep picking up bunches of cows and move them onto the train. Bob said it was the longest day of his life - a terrible long, hard day full of lots of cussing. The dust was so bad it was up above the ankles of his horse and he wasn't able to see his horses' feet all day. Finally at the end of the day they got most of the cattle worked and the kids finally got something to drink and some food. He was only 13 at the time. Charlie boarded the train with his cows the next morning and told Bob to take the three horses home. He said to tie up stirrups on the two empty horses and turn them loose and they'd head for home, just follow them. Bob said that he was home in two-and-a-half hours, 30 miles. He said the horses were running so hard down the barrow pit. Charlie rode the train to Omaha every year until the year he died.

In 1937 Bob planted oats in the dust under a government program - near Middle Prong Road. People kept going by and saying he was a fool to



Branding at Sorenson Ranch; Charlie Sorenson is the rider with the X above him, his horse is Bobby, 1934



Winter feeding: Bob, Glenn, & Margaret on top of drift, Charlie on wagon, Alfred Sorenson & Charlie Hunt behind wagon, ca. 1930



Steve Sorenson at the ranch in the 1941 Dodge Weapons Carrier

Sorenson Ranch Tractors 1929, 1947 and 1962

Glenn,
Florence, Charlie
and Bob Sorenson
approx 1929



Doug Smith, Charlie and
Robert L Sorenson
approx 1947



Bob and Jan Sorenson
approx 1962

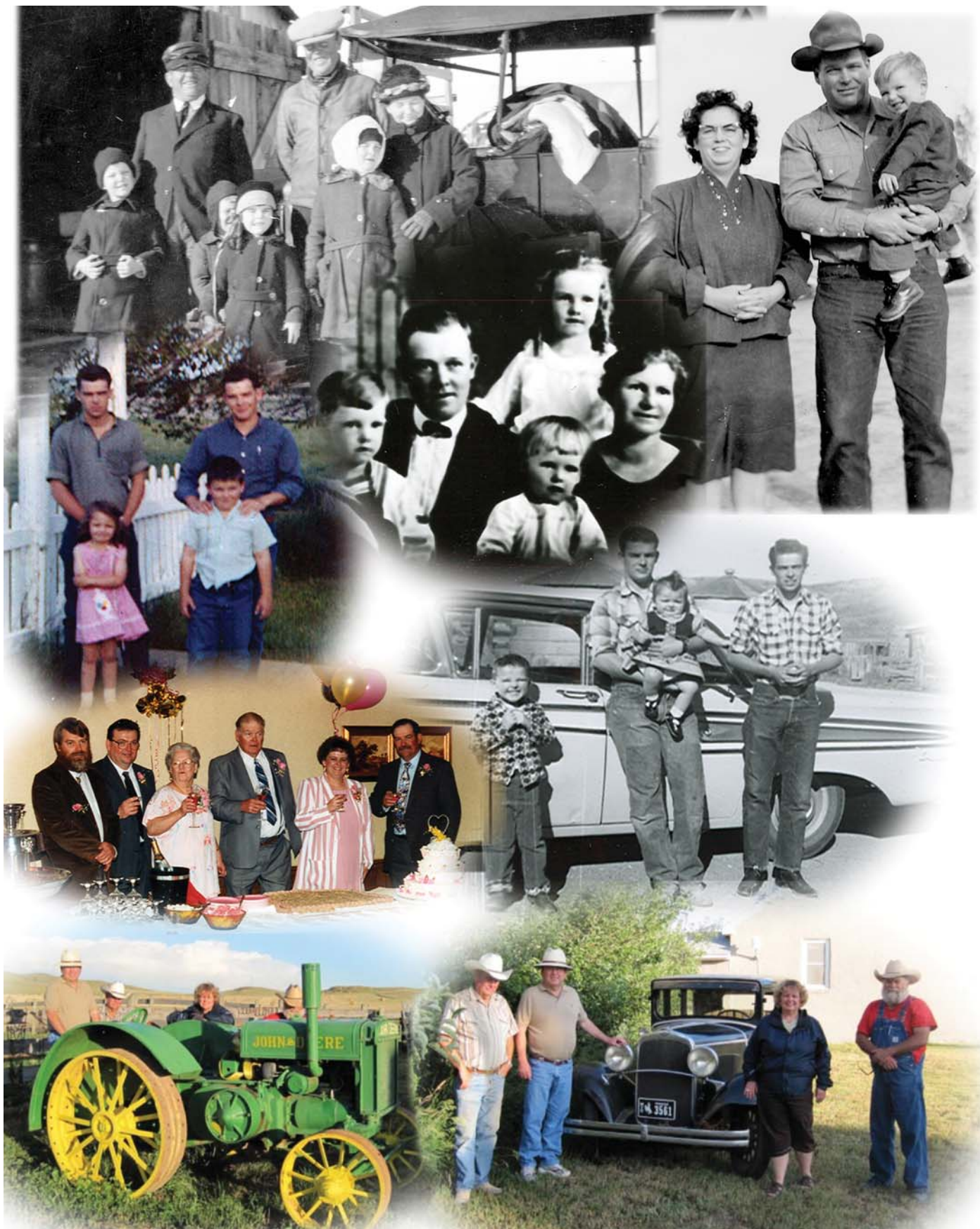


do it. About half way through the field the old D quit - the magneto had failed which was common in the old D's. Bob and his mother were living at the ranch and Charlie was working on another ranch. Bob had been reading in a magazine where you could get a high-powered magneto somewhere and Florence somehow scraped up the 12 dollars to buy it and it made the D run wonderfully until it was finally retired around 1951. After Bob got all the oats planted in spite of the jeers from neighbors the drought broke and the rain set in. The crop went around 100 bushels per acre to the delight of the whole family. The word was that in 1937 the grass was as high as the horses' bellies and nobody had any cows because they'd sold them during the drought.

Bob (Robert C. Sorenson), Charlie's youngest son, completed "Normal Training" while in high school so he could be certified to teach school and taught at the McCue School near the Tanner Place on Middle Prong. While teaching there Bob met his future wife, Bonnie Berry, at a school meeting in Spotted Horse. Bonnie was teaching at Dan Carson School and had come to Wyoming in 1936 from California at the age of 16 to live with her mother who was also a teacher. When he was 19 years old, in 1940, Bob bought the "Ford Place" which borders his parents' homestead for \$2 per acre. The Ford Place is still a part of the Sorenson Ranch.

In the early '40s Bob attended college in Spearfish, majoring in history, and in 1941 he went to California to work for Lockheed building planes. Bob and Bonnie were married on June 28, 1941, in California. Bob enlisted in the U.S. Army Air Corps in 1942 and remained in the service until the end of WWII. Bob's older brother, Glenn, who had been working in the CCC camps at Devil's Tower and Tongue River, was given a chance to enlist in the Army infantry in 1940 or '41. Glenn ended up spending 18 months in a German prison camp in 1944-45, and both Glenn and Bob survived airplane crashes during WWII.

When they returned from the war, Bob and his family returned to the ranch and Glenn purchased a ranch near Arvada in 1946. Bob attended Sheridan College in 1947-48, moving his family to Sheridan during the school year. During the bad winter of



Sorenson Families



Steve Sorenson at the ranch, 2003



John Deere D restored with Steve & Ryan Sorenson at ranch's 100th anniversary, 2009. John is Charlie's grandson, Ryan is Charlie's great-great-grandchild, 5th generation on the ranch

1949, Glenn became very ill with appendicitis and Bob went to Arvada to take care of Glenn's ranch, Bonnie and their two boys, Robert and Steve, returned to the ranch.

In December of 1949 after a hard day's work, Charlie Sorenson died of a heart attack at his ranch. Bob then moved home with his family and bought the ranch from his mother for \$15 per acre in the spring of 1950, with the agreement to run her cows for her for 20 years. The ranch then consisted of 3800 acres when combined with the Ford Place which Bob had purchased in 1939. In 1961 Bob also purchased the 100-acre "Clark Place" which had belonged to Bonnie's mother, Lora Berry.

In the early 1950s Bob purchased the ranch's first four-wheel drive vehicle, a 1941 Dodge Weapons Carrier. Before that time, horses were used for feeding. In 1965 Bob traded the weapons carrier in on a 1965 Ford 4X4 pickup at Stockman's Motors in Gillette. In 2011 Steve found the same Weapons Carrier for sale in Sheridan. The family purchased it and it is now back at the Sorenson ranch. The title still has Bob Sorenson's name on it as the person who bought it from the dealership never had it changed over.

Bob and Bonnie's three sons also went into the farming and ranching business. Charles farmed for several years while in college in the 1970s. In 1974 Robert bought a ranch near his father's. Steve returned to the Sorenson Ranch to help Bob in 1974 as well and has been ranching and farming there ever since. He also taught school for 20 years in Gillette. When Bob and Bonnie moved to town in the late 1990s, Robert leased part of the ranch and Steve bought Bob's cows and leased the home place where he still ranches. When Robert retired in 2008, his son Neal leased the part of the original Charlie Sorenson Ranch that Robert had leased. Thus Chance and Cole, Neal's sons, became the seventh generation of Sorenson's to enjoy the ranching life in Wyoming and the fifth generation of Sorenson's on the Charles and Florence Sorenson ranch.



Sorenson Family, Wyoming State Sen. Jim Anderson, Sen. John Barrasso, Mrs. and Gov. Matthew H. Mead, Rep. Cynthia Lummis, and Sen. Mike Enzi

The Swartz Ranch, 1905

The Ed and Troy Swartz Families, Campbell County



On the Swartz ranch

As told by Julie Mankin, *The Gillette News Record*, May 23, 2011

Toughness may have coursed through the veins of all of the families who settled Campbell County, but it appears surprisingly undiluted in 24-year old Toni Swartz. As the fifth generation now ranching lower Wildcat Creek north of Gillette, she's already built up a herd of 20 head on her family's 107-year old ranch. Biding her time while the ranch supports her father and grandfather, Toni moonlights – as a welder.

There was nothing typical about her great-great-grandfather, either. Marchies “Harve” Swartz was a square-jawed bruiser with daunting German cheekbones and unflinching eyes. He was a teenager in 1885 when his family left Dakota Territory and landed near Devils Tower, about eight

miles east of what's now Hulett. They built a home there and the place is still called Swartz Divide.

A couple of year later, Harve began cowboying for several major area ranches including the Half Circle L, the T7, and the Mitten. In 1900 he started working for Jim Collins at the T J Ranch on Olmstead Creek. The massive open-range T J spread was established by an Englishman named G de S Hamilton in 1885 which is the same year Hamilton's partner Frederick Bennett registered the brand. Upon Bennett's death in 1891, Hamilton partnered for 16 years with Malcolm Moncreiffe – one of the two Scottish brothers who established polo in northeastern Wyoming.

When Collins left to start his own ranch in 1902, Swartz took his job and became his brother-in-law. He married Kate Hunter who in 1890 had

survived a three-week wagon trip with her family from Nebraska to Upton. "The Indians annoyed them considerably in the sand hills," wrote her daughter-in-law Josephine Swartz in a memoir. "Although they didn't start any skirmishes, they were constantly trying to get into tents at night." However, when Kate's mother died in 1891 attempting to birth her 14th child, Mr. Hunter took them all back to Nebraska. On a return visit in 1904 to see her brother Jack Hunter and sister Florence Collins, Kate married Swartz.

Hamilton began closing out his T J holdings in 1910 and sold the old T J brand to his esteemed foreman, along with the cattle carrying it on the range. The cattle of Harve's grandson Edward, still carry the 126-year old brand. With his job ending, Harve bought 320 acres on Wildcat Creek from Lew Woodward. He and Kate had eight children in 16 years and "the girls were as good on a horse or at working cattle as were their brothers," Josephine said.

The Swartz family continued to build their holdings. The government offered homesteading incentives to World War I veterans and soon a nurse friend of the Swartzes sent three recovering soldiers to Wildcat Creek. Harve made a deal to help them prove up if he could buy the land. "We have a pasture up north that's basically those three homesteads," said Troy Swartz, 49, who works the ranch with his father today. "We call it Jeff's Pasture because one of the soldiers had the last name of Jeff."

The ranch adjoined that of Harve's brother-in-law and fellow T J foreman, Jim Collins, and the two ranches are still adjacent on Collins Road. Although the clans aren't tied as closely anymore, more than a century of neighboring and the occasional confused UPS driver means they still drop in on each other.

As fast as the Swartz Ranch grew, it doubled with the purchase in 1929 of the eastern half of J.C. Gupton's historic ranch. "The Guptons homesteaded a lot of this Wildcat country from the Scott or Daly ranch all the way down through here," said Troy. "They were smart – they got all the creekbottom. There were Guptons everywhere



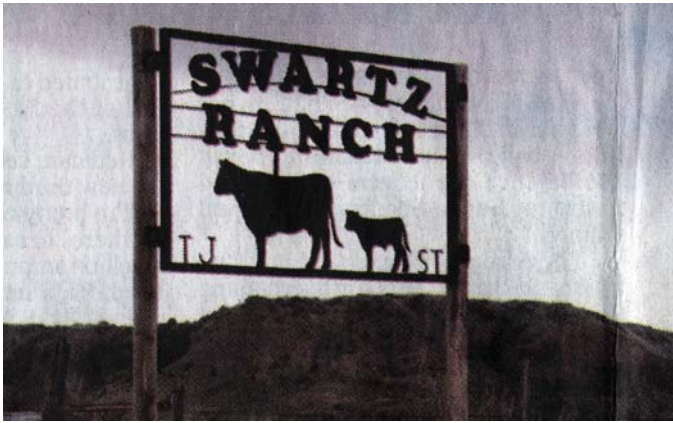
Harve Swartz married Kate Hunter; they had 8 children.

until they started selling out in the dirty '30s." In fact, the Guptons had been in what's now Campbell County since 1877, when Marmaduke Jefferson ("Bose") Gupton left his family of 10 in Kentucky in search of gold.

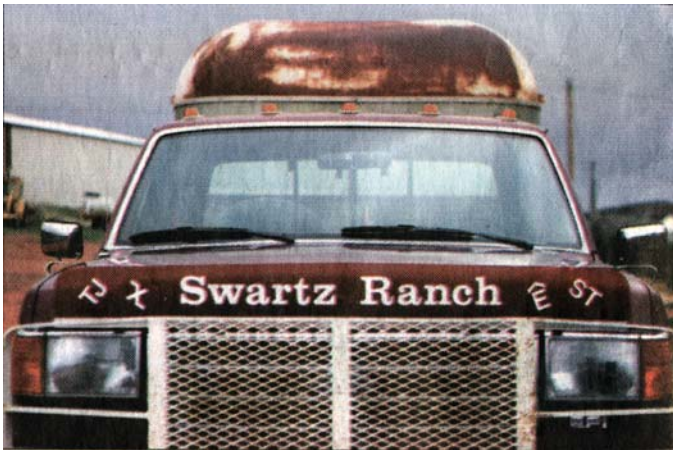
Striking out in both the Black Hills and the Big Horns, he homesteaded on Skull Creek near Newcastle. A decade later, his entire extended family followed including his father Chesterfield, his brother Steve, and his brother, J.C. along with J.C.'s wife, three kids, and brother-in-law. J.C. homesteaded on Wildcat and had acquired 30 sections before his failing health prompted him to sell part to Swartz. In 1892, a year after Gillette became a town, he also built a home at the northwest corner of Third and Carey.

"There were no trees; only sagebrush," wrote his great-granddaughter, Roxinne Gupton Dunne. "Water was hauled from a railroad well by a man who sold it for 50 cents a barrel. Since it was so expensive, it was used only for drinking and melted snow served everything else."

J.C.'s stepdaughter Effie married ranch hand Bill Rooney who had also worked for "Hard Winter"



Ranch sign



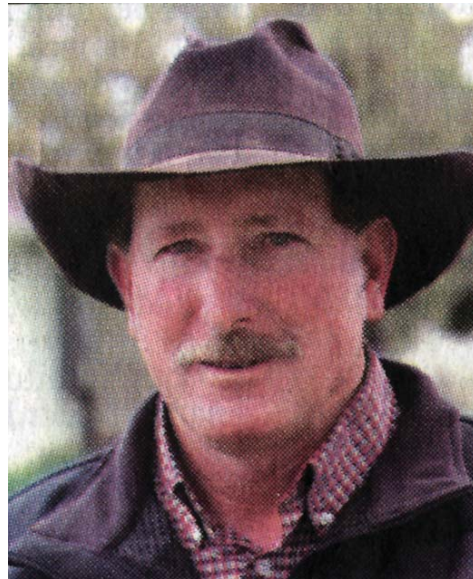
The Swartz family uses a brand from 1885



Josephine Swartz painted the Swartz headquarters, 1970s



Ed Swartz & ranch horses, which are preferred to 4-wheelers



Troy Swartz raised 6 children on the ranch

Davis at the Half Circle L. They couldn't make it ranching on Rawhide Creek so Bill partnered on a livery stable south of the Goings Hotel and Effie established a maternity hospital at 103 Kendrick. It became Rooney Hospital, and during the Depression the Rooneys accepted chicken eggs and meat – or nothing – in payment for health care. The facility later became the McHenry Hospital which was the precursor to Campbell County Memorial.

Harve's son Grover Harrison ("Heck") and his wife Josephine bought the ranch from Harve and Kate. They in turn, passed it to their son Edward and his wife Midge in 1972. Rather than wolves and rustlers, Ed feels his biggest nemesis has been excess water from coalbed methane wells on the ranch. The effects of the water are also starting to bother his son Troy who works the ranch with his father.

"The chemical composition of the water breaks down the soil," said Troy, who lives in the house his grandfather Heck built. "Since 1999, a year-round stream of methane water has cut a deep channel into the bed of Wildcat where for almost a century we were able to ride across or drive cattle across. Now it's cut 2 feet deep and I don't know how it can ever be repaired." It was a creek crossed eons ago by Harve and Kate's four spunky daughters who had a tendency to throw the hired hand in a horse trough. Troy and his wife Pam later raised five girls on the



Wyoming State Sen. Jim Anderson, Sen. John Barrasso, Swartz Family, Mrs. and Gov. Matthew H. Mead, Rep. Cynthia Lummis, and Sen. Mike Enzi

ranch (including Toni) and a son, Weston.

Twenty-two year old Weston has a small herd of cattle and plans to pursue a petroleum engineering degree at the University of Wyoming. He helps on the ranch on his days off from an oilfield supply house, as do his older sisters who still live in Gillette. Toni, who is building massive mining machinery when she's not out ear-tagging and vaccinating cattle, wants to continue the legacy of her hard-driving ancestors. "It's neat to see how we got to where we are and all the struggles everyone went through," she said. "I wish I could have been around to see it."

What she'd have seen of Harve Swartz would leave no doubt about his fortitude. As a boy of 9 in Dakota Territory, he'd playfully put his thumb on the barrel of a rifle he thought was unloaded and goaded a friend to shoot. The boy obliged, and it blew Harve's thumb entirely off. While in Campbell County, he'd been shot in the leg by Ed DeFord whose daughter Josephine later married

son Heck. In 1940, while helping move a loaded sheepwagon, Harve fell and was crushed by a wagon wheel. He survived his fatal injuries a full seven weeks.

After finally succumbing, Harve's pallbearers included a who's who of Campbell County – Wayne Morse, Walt Monnett, Tex Martin, Harry Chassell, Roy Montgomery and J.A. Allison, among others. In fact, Harve's buddy, Tex Martin, was no yellow-belly. He rode with the vigilantes who hung murderer Diamond L. Slim back in '03. Yet when Martin became county sheriff in 1934, it was Harve who he recruited for his muscle.

"If Tex went up against somebody mean, he'd deputize Harve and take him along for the arrest," Troy said. The retired cowpunchers were 62 and 63, respectively, at the time.

The Weaver Ranch, Inc., 1887

The Weaver Family, Albany County, Wyoming & Larimer County, Colorado



Tie Siding, 1900. The Weavers had a hotel, general store, & livery stable here. (J. E. Stimson photo, Wyoming State Archives))

As told by the Weaver Family

The Weaver Ranch was established on Fish Creek in Colorado in 1886 when Adeline J. Weaver (Adeline) purchased property at Virginia Dale, Colorado, with the north fence line of this property being the Wyoming/Colorado state line. The Weaver Ranch was established in Wyoming in 1887 when Adeline purchased 80 acres in the south end of Albany County near the Colorado property. In 1893 Adeline purchased a full section in Wyoming south of the 80 acres and within a mile of the property in Colorado. From 1904 to 1931, Adeline purchased additional property at Tie Siding, which included part of the old town site.

Adeline and her husband Noah also had the general store at the town site of old Tie Siding, Wyoming. They, along with their in-laws, the Woodards, established the livery stable and small hotel at Tie

Siding. Later, the Weavers established a general store in Laramie. Their son Adrian Sr. was born in Laramie, Wyoming Territory in 1889, the year before Wyoming became a state.

Adrian Sr. took his family to California during World War II where he worked for Douglas Aircraft. The ranch was leased out while Adrian attended Veterinary School at Colorado A&M. After graduating in 1952, Adrian married Geraldine Pence and they moved to Lusk where he practiced veterinary medicine and where their first daughter Susan was born in 1954. The family moved to Laramie in 1955 when Adrian bought out Dr. Floyd Carroll's veterinary practice. The twins, Maxine and Mourine, were born in Laramie in 1956. Upon his move back to Laramie, Adrian started buying cattle to put on the ranch. He continued to lease out the ranch until 1958 when he bought part of the Stevenson ranch which joined with the Weaver

property already owned at Tie Siding.

In 1960 Adrian bought his first registered Black Angus cattle and in 1962 he moved his family to the ranch at Tie Siding. As Adrian built the ranch operation, he cut back on his veterinary practice and in 1969 he sold part of the property at Tie Siding and purchased property at Fort Collins, Colorado. The 2000 feet difference in elevation provided for less harsh winters, less winter feed requirements for the livestock, and alfalfa hay for winter feeding. In 1972 the Weavers purchased part of the Lembcke Ranch at Red Buttes just north of their property at Tie Siding. The Cottonwood Ranch at Sedgwick, Colorado was purchased in 1988 to provide additional pasture and hay ground. As the Weaver Ranch evolved, property was purchased and sold to meet operational demands.

Susan, Maxine, and Mourine grew up on the ranch helping with all aspects of the ranch operation. Susan worked part time for the ranch upon graduating from Colorado State University and returned full-time to the ranch in 1989. Maxine has worked part-time and full-time for the ranch since 1984. Upon her retirement from the State of Wyoming in February of 2011, she is again working full-time at the ranch. Mourine returned to the ranch with her children Sheldon and Darby in 1995. Sheldon worked part-time for the ranch while going to Colorado State University. Following graduation in 2010, Sheldon is now working full-time on the ranch. Darby graduated in 2011 from Houghton College in New York and is currently employed by Houghton College.

The Weaver Ranch today consists of property in Albany County, Wyoming, Larimer and Sedgwick Counties, Colorado, and Duell County, Nebraska. We are seedstock producers of registered Black Angus cattle, selling primarily 2-year old registered bulls and 2-year old bred commercial heifers. Our cattle are selected for calving ease, balance traits, and good disposition. All the cattle spend at least one summer at Tie Siding or Virginia Dale at the 7500 feet elevation. We Pulmonary Arterial Pressure (PAP) test all our sale bulls at the 7500 feet elevation and we periodically PAP test the heifers at that high elevation as well. Our customer base



Susan (mounted) & Mourine with Adrian at Tie Siding hay field, 1963



Weaver Ranch buildings at Tie Siding, 1964



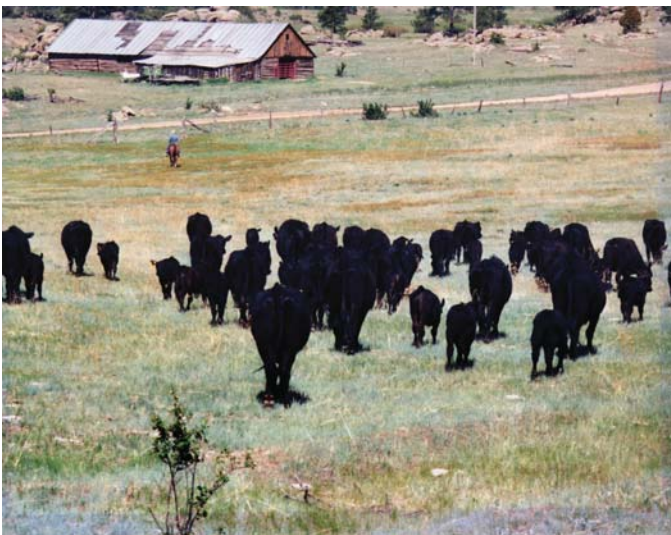
Trailing cows from Tie Siding to Virginia Dale, Colorado



Weaver Ranch buildings at Virginia Dale, 1996. The barn in the foreground was the livery stable at old Tie Siding.



Trailing cows from Tie Siding, Wyoming to Virginia Dale, Colorado, 1998



Adrian moving pairs at Virginia Dale, 1996. The barn in the background was the livery stable at Tie Siding.



Adrian taking a break from moving cattle at Tie Siding, with grandchildren Darby & Sheldon, 2001

is primarily Wyoming and western Colorado, but our cattle have gone to Nebraska, New Mexico, and Texas as well. In an effort to diversity and address weed control, we started purchasing Boer/Spanish meat goats in March 2006. The kids that are not kept for herd replacements are sold as meat goats and have gone to markets in Texas and New Jersey.

Adrian passed away on December 11, 2010. When Adrian was once asked at a gathering of Tie Siding pioneer families why his family settled at Tie Siding, he said it was because “they liked the fresh air.” Susan, Maxine, and Mourine, Sheldon and Darby plan to continue the Weaver Ranch and our Registered Angus Seedstock operation.

We consider, as Dad did, that “ranching is our business.”

The log barn the Weavers used as the livery stable at old Tie Siding was moved to the ranch at Virginia Dale. It still stands today and is used to store hay and equipment.



Adrian Weaver receiving award at the Denver Stock Show, 2009



Adrian Weaver receiving the 2009 U.S. Livestock Industry Leader of the Year by the Record Stockman at the 2009 National Western Stock Show and Rodeo



Wyoming State Sen. Jim Anderson, Sen. John Barrasso, Weaver Family, Mrs. and Gov. Matthew H. Mead, Rep. Cynthia Lummis, and Sen. Mike Enzi

The Wright Ranch, 1906

The Wright Family, Campbell County



Wyoming State Sen. Jim Anderson, Sen. John Barrasso, Wright Family, Mrs. and Gov. Matthew H. Mead, Rep. Cynthia Lummis, and Sen. Mike Enzi

Other 2011 Centennial Ranch Families

The Have Not Ranch, 1909

The Clifford Oedekoven Family, Campbell County

The Oedekoven Ranch, 1909

The Leon Oedekoven Family, Campbell County

The Underwood Ranch, 1902

The Harry Underwood Family, Campbell County

Wyoming State Parks & Cultural Resources
Historic Preservation Office

Barrett Building, 3rd Floor

2301 Central Avenue

Cheyenne, WY 82002

Phone: (307) 777-7697

Fax: (307) 777-6421



Cover Photo: Pahasha Ranch, 1911, The McCreery Family, Campbell County
2011 Centennial Ranch