



64th Annual Albany County

RANCH TOUR


Saturday, July 18, 2015

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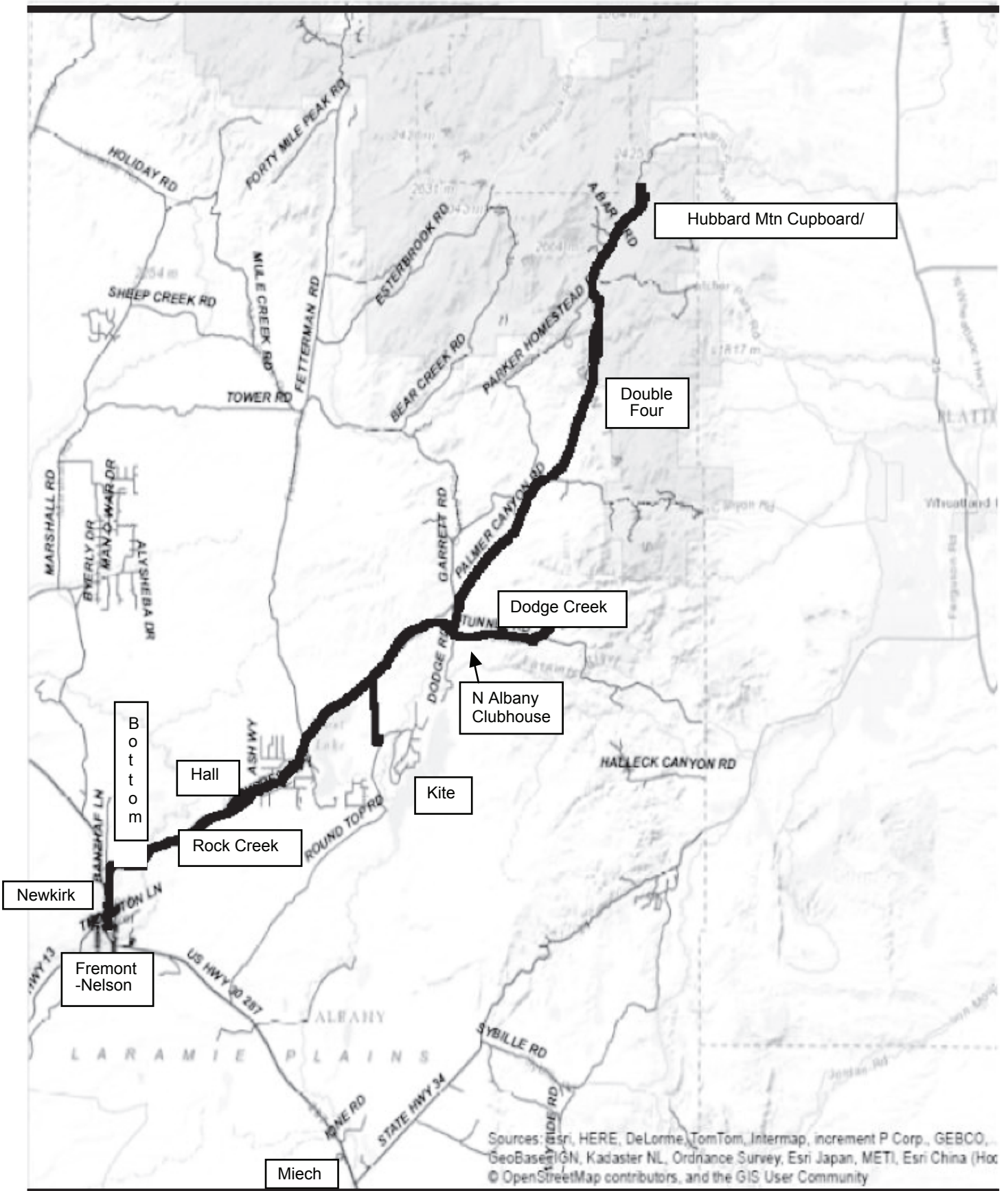
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2015 Ranch Tour Map



Master of Ceremonies: Dave Whitman

Committee Members:

Margaret Page

Sandra Eike

Sharleen Castle

Elnora Frye

Betty Wortman

Kirstie Wachholtz

Judy Thomas

Leslie Miech

Dicksie May

Shirley Lilley

Ruth Blake

Jill Zimmermann

Patrick Sheehy

Carolyn Durand

Chairperson: Leah Churches

Graphic Design: Tana Stith

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Rock River FFA Chapter

UW Amateur Radio Club



THE SIXTY FOURTH ANNUAL ALBANY COUNTY RANCH TOUR

The Old Time Ranch Tours was conceived and promoted by Dr. Robert Burns, in 1950. The tradition of the ranch tour has continued annually, except for 1982 and 2014.

We are pleased that you have decided to join us on this exclusive tour of northern Albany County, an area rich in the history of agriculture and ranching in Wyoming.

Just a few things to keep in mind:

Safety: Safety is a primary concern. Tour marshals will coordinate the caravan. Keep lights on while traveling on paved highways. Stay to the right at crests of hills. Be careful making turns on and off paved highways. Please follow the directions of traffic controllers. Please keep children and pets with you at all times. Neither the committee, individually or collectively, nor the sponsoring organizations accept any responsibility for accidents. A trailing car will inform the lead vehicle of any delays.

Keep a safe distance between cars. We will travel at 15 to 35 mph on gravel roads and at 50 to 55 mph on

paved roads. Drive carefully. Respect other drivers. Enjoy the scenery, and have an excellent trip.

Parking: Your cooperation is necessary at parking sites. Parking is accomplished so that cars need not use reverse gear for entering or leaving a site. If you have difficulty walking, please inform the first traffic director at each site so a close-in parking place may be found. Please allow the numbered cars to leave a site first so tour personnel may direct traffic.

Courtesy: WE ARE THE GUESTS OF THE RANCHES AND HISTORICAL SITES. PLEASE DO NOT REMOVE ANY ITEMS INCLUDING ARTIFACTS FOUND ON THE GROUND!! PLEASE PICK UP ANY TRASH.

If you smoke outside your vehicle, please be careful and take your cigarette butts with you. Fires are an ever present danger, and the dry grasses and old timbers of some structures offer excellent kindling.

2015 Ranch Tour Itinerary

1. Drive by Bob and Gayle Miech Ranch (North and East of Hwy 30 at junction of Hwy 34)
 2. Drive by Carl & Alice Shaffer Ranch (East in and around Rock River extending to Fetterman Rd)
 3. Drive by Fremont Nelson Ranch. (West shortly before you enter the city of Rock River)
 4. **STOP:** Rock River Park: Ranch Tour caravan rendezvous at Park
 5. Drive by Newkirk Ranch – West of Hwy 30, north of Rock River
 6. Drive by Bottom Ranch owned by True Ranches LLC – north of Fetterman Road
 - **POINT OF INTEREST:** Solar Well – Jerry & Evelyn Kennedy Rock River Ranch
 7. Drive by Hall Ranch
 8. **STOP:** Kite Ranch – Hosted by Jim Mathis
 9. **STOP:** North Albany Clubhouse – Darlene Palmer, speaker
 10. **STOP:** Dodge Creek Ranch – Hosted by Jerry and Evelyn Kennedy
 - Lunch provided by Albany County Cattlewomen
 - Beef Education Presentation by Leah Churches
 11. Drive by Double Four Ranch, owned by True Ranches LLC
 12. **STOP:** Laramie Peak Fire Department – Hosted by Duane & Tiny Bromley Walker
 13. **STOP:** Hubbard Mountain Cupboard Lodge – Duane & Tiny Bromley Walker, speakers
- Return to Laramie

2015 Ranch Tour Mileage

Location	Distance
Leaving Rock River on Hwy 30/287	0.0
Right Turn onto Fetterman Road/County Road 61	3.1
Rock Creek	3.5
Hall Ranch	6.0
West Cypress Way Sign	11.4
East Cypress Way Sign	12.7
Slight Right onto Palmer Canyon Road/Wheatland Reservoir	15.1
Wheatland Reservoir Restroom	16.2
Kite Ranch Road	21.0
Kite Ranch Entrance	26.5
Kite Ranch Buildings	27.0
Solar Well (Right side of Road)	32.5
Back on Palmer Canyon Road	33.1
Example of a Water Pipeline	34.6
Right Turn onto Tunnel Road	38.0
North Albany Clubhouse	39.6
Dodge Creek Ranch	42.3
Kennedy Lake (Lunch Stop)	43.4
Turn Right onto Garrett Road/ County Road 713	46.6
Turn Right onto Palmer Canyon Road	48.1
Shipping Corrals (Right Side of Road)	51.4
Hay Meadows (Left Side of Road)	54.7
Medicine Bow Ranch Turnoff	57.3

Left Turn onto Cottonwood Park Road	57.4
Double Four Ranch	64.2
Double Four Ranch Headquarters	66.2
Fletcher Park Road Junction (stay on Cottonwood Park Road!)	69.8
Corrals	72.1
Hubbard Mountain Cupboard Lodge	75.9
Laramie Peak Fire Department	76.0

To Get to I-25

Right Turn onto Harris Park Road	79.1
Left Turn onto Fish Creek Road	90.8
Junction with I-25 – Right Turn to Wheatland	99.0

BEEF up your BEEF Knowledge!

1. One dollar in cattle sales generates approximately how many dollars in additional business activity? _____
2. The U.S. has less than 10% of the world's cattle inventory. What percent of the world's beef supply does it produce? _____
3. What is the single most popular beef dish, eaten more than once a month by the average person? _____
4. To get the same amount of Vitamin B12 found in a 3 oz. serving of beef, how many 3 oz. servings of chicken breast would you have to eat? _____
5. What day of the year, in the U.S., is the single largest beef day (amount consumed)?



- Farmers and ranchers provide critical winter habitat for 75% of Wyoming's wildlife.
- Wyoming ranks 17th nationwide in alfalfa hay.
- Wyoming ranks 15th nationwide in beef cow numbers.
- Wyoming has nearly 30.169 million acres of land used for production agriculture.
- \$1 billion: The value of the Agriculture industry in Wyoming. The output of the agriculture industry in Wyoming annually approaches or exceeds \$1 billion.



Try this recipe tonight!
ROCK & ROLL BEEF WRAPS

- 1 pound Ground Beef (93% lean or leaner)
 - 1 cup water
 - 1/3 cup uncooked quinoa
 - 2 tablespoon dry ranch dressing mix
 - 1/4 teaspoon black pepper
 - 2 cups packaged broccoli or coleslaw mix
 - 4 medium, whole grain or spinach tortillas (7-8 inches diameter)
- Optional Toppings:** apple slices, red bell pepper strips, cucumber slices, carrot slices, sliced almonds or chow mein noodles

Heat large, nonstick skillet over medium heat. Add Ground Beef; cook 8-10 minutes, breaking into crumbles and stirring occasionally. Remove drippings.

Stir in water, quinoa, dressing mix and pepper; bring to a boil. Reduce heat; cover and simmer 10-15 minutes or until quinoa is tender. Stir in slaw; cook uncovered, 3-5 minutes or until slaw is crisp-tender, stirring occasionally.

Divide beef mixture evenly among tortillas; garnish with toppings, as desired. Fold over sides of tortillas and roll up to enclose filling.

Visit www.beefitswhatsfordinner.com for this and more recipes.

Learn More!

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2015 RANCH TOUR

1. DRIVE BY BOB & GAYLE MIECH RANCH

This ranch is located North and East of Highway 30 at the junction of Highway 34. The Miech's ranch is located in Section 3, 11 and 14, Township 18 North and Range 74. The original homesteaders in these sections were James Fenwick, State of Wyoming and Loyd Conwell. The Miechs purchased this ranch in January 1970 from Peter Galt. At the time, they lived in Laramie and moved to the ranch in June after their children were out of school. They have a cow-calf operation. In order for them to feed their cattle, they put up hay in the summer, and they lease land for grazing.



2. DRIVE BY FREMONT NELSON RANCH

The Nelson ranch buildings are on **the left at** Rock Creek shortly before you enter the town of Rock River. Nelson was born in Nova Scotia, Canada. He married Estella Moore who came from Nebraska. After arriving in Wyoming he homesteaded around 1890 on Rock Creek, His daughter is Audrey Brokow. Carl & Alice (Quealy) Shaffer currently own part of this ranch.

3. DRIVE BY CARL & ALICE (QUEALY) SHAFFER RANCH

Located in and around Rock River off Hwy 30. This ranch runs a cow-calf operation. Original land patents held in this same area are Hattie Hansen, Alexander Zeck, John Humphrey, John Lewis, Joseph Simmons, Lawrence Barnes, William Donnell, James Kelly, William and Joseph Durbin, Paul Kendall and the Union Pacific Railroad.



4. ROCK RIVER PARK WHERE TOUR BEGINS

Meeting location to commence the ranch tour.



5. DRIVE BY NEWKIRK RANCH

As you leave Rock River the Newkirk ranch is on the **left** side of Hwy 30. Ernie and Donna (Smith) Newkirk purchased the ranch in 1979 from the children of Fred and Anna May Gibbs which mainly consists of hay meadow. Ernest passed away in 1983 from leukemia. The ranch started with a cow operation which they sold in 2002 due to the drought but continue to pasture cattle when possible. Donna kept the operation going with help from her three sons and she delivered mail to the Garrett Community which she continues to do at the present time. The ranch is presently run by Donna, Roger and Tammy Humphrey Newkirk and their daughters, Cassidy and Jacie.



They have two ranches, the Newkirk Ranch and the Arrowtail Ranch which Donna inherited from her father, Nat Smith. The two ranches go together; one has pasture land and the other hay meadow. They presently run drought-tolerant Rambouillet sheep that were started by Donna's father, Nat Smith. The next ranch on the left side of the highway from the Newkirk's is the Menke Ranch.

6. DRIVE BY BOTTOM RANCH CURRENTLY OWNED BY THE TRUE RANCHES

The Bottom Ranch is located on the East and West side of Hwy 30 at the Fetterman Road Junction of the road. The Bottom family came to Wyoming from Custer, SD, in 1912. Sometime after 1920, Ray Bottom purchased this ranch from the Frank Bosler family. In the 1950s, at the Bottom Ranch turnoff, a tourist resort called Billy the Kid existed. In 1957, Ray and Mary sold the ranch to their son, Tom, and presently the ranch belongs to the True Family out of Casper. Once you turn east on Fetterman Road, the True property will be on the left side and the Carl Shaffer land is on the right side. The True family runs a cow-calf operation with Terry Vallier as ranch manager.



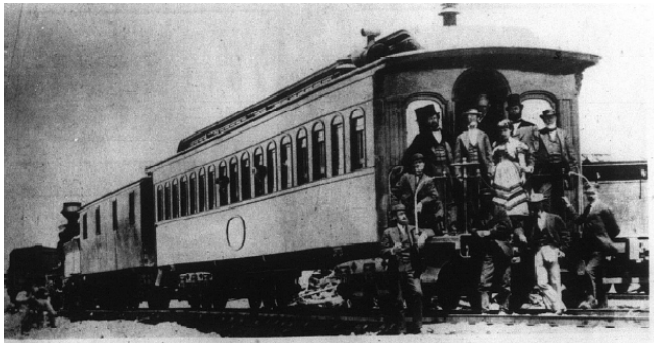
INTERESTING FACT: The artist for the distinctive Wyoming license plate was Allen True, ancestor of the founding family of True Ranches LLC. That fact, alone, leaves no doubt that True family roots grow deep in the Cowboy State!

POINT OF INTEREST: after you go by the item 6 and start down the hill toward Rock Creek. There is a wind mill solar well about 1/4 mile east of the Road and is in sight from the top of hill till you make the turn North. That is on the NW corner of Jerry and Evelyn Kennedy's Rock River Ranch.

7. DRIVE BY HALL RANCH

This ranch is located on the left two miles after you get on the Fort Fetterman Road from Highway 30. Flake and his brother, Ralph Hall came to Wyoming from NC. Flake was married to Belle Gillespie and Ralph's wife was Cynthia Gillespie, both from NC where they married. They secured land patents in and also purchased land from other homesteaders in the area. Today this ranch is very large and is owned by descendants of the original Hall homesteaders. The location of the ghost town of Rock Creek is 1.5 miles from the ranch buildings. The town was founded when the railroad reached it in 1868. It then became an important junction for freighters and stages heading north. At the town's peak during cattle shipping season, 100 car loads of cattle would be shipped out every day. With the coming of railroads in Montana the interior Wyoming Stage and Freight business northward was discontinued. By 1899, the town was essentially abandoned by the UPRR. In 1902 the UPRR sold the town to William Taylor. The Ghost Town buildings were destroyed by vandalism, in the late 1970's.

From the UPRR Museum and picture of Rock Creek from *Wyoming Tales & Trails*.



INSPECTION PARTY from the East views Rock Creek in 1869. In the party is a man named Bushnell, one of the early directors of the Union Pacific Railroad. (Union Pacific Railroad Museum photo)

Inspection Party at Rock Creek UPRR



Remains of Rock Creek Stores & Stable

POINT OF INTEREST: after the Hall turnoff is a pen and remains of a wood corral on the right. These facilities were from the time that cattle and sheep were trailed then loaded on the Rail Road at Rock River. The corrals were about 8 miles apart for trail stops. After those pens is Miser Creek--- to the East of Miser Creek about 100 yards you can see the old Rail Road grade, it crosses the Fetterman Road at that point on its way to old Rock Creek Station.



8. KITE RANCH – JOHN MCGILL, ORIGINAL HOMESTEADER – HOSTED BY JIM MATHIS FAMILY

The original patent holders on this ranch were the UPRR and Samuel Garmon. John McGill came from Lanarkshire, Scotland, and arrived in Wyoming in 1868. His first wife was Helen Owen and she died in 1902 and in 1907 he married Fannie Marsh, who was born in NE. Her father was the warden of the state penitentiary in Laramie. He first filed on this land in 1876 and named it after his brand the Kite! He built a Rock House in 1901, which had all the modern conveniences: hot and cold water, steam heat and a bathroom. The rocks were yellow sandstone which John and a companion hauled from Duck Creek Hills with four-horse teams and wagons. Each had a wagon and hauled the stones approximately 7 to 8 miles to the site of the new house. At one point, John McGill owned a township, 36 sections or 36 square miles. At one point, he ran 4,000 head of cattle. John McGill sold all of his holdings to the Toltec Livestock Company in 1915 and died in 1918. James D and Mary Mathis



The Kite House and Buildings – Pictures from the 1995 Ranch Tour

purchased the ranch from Doug Brickman and James Hedstrom and are the present owners. It is named the Gittaway Ranch. They raise Angus crossbred cattle, and utilize the Kite Ranch for summer grazing. Jim Mathis will be speaking today.

A2495800-5	JOHN M. & JOAN W. MCGILL 262 MCGILL LANE LARAMIE, WY 82070
	
LOC: LRC,BS,LSH	
A2496000-9	JOHN M. & JOAN W. MCGILL 262 MCGILL LANE LARAMIE, WY 82070
	
LOC: RRC	



2013 Wyoming Brand Book – Kite Brand continues to be in the McGill family

Cow/Calf Pair from Calving Season 2015 shared by Jim Mathis

9. NORTH ALBANY CLUBHOUSE

The piece of property where the Club House is located is on the original patent belonging to Leroy Carmichael and later belonged to William Palmer. The building was built in 1928. It has been used for social events and dances, general elections, non- denominational Sunday school, 4-H meetings, school programs, weddings, birthdays and Christmas celebrations. The land was donated by William Palmer, whose homestead was just northeast of the club house. Darlene’s husband, Budd Palmer, is a descendant of William Palmer who came to Wyoming from Kansas. He married Norma Roath from Indiana. Palmer Canyon was also named after this family. The North Albany Clubhouse is on the National Register of Historic Places. We are honored to have Darlene Palmer speaking to us about the history of the North Albany Clubhouse.





Winter at Dodge Creek Ranch 2014 • Photos shared by Jerry Kennedy

10. DODGE CREEK RANCH – JERRY& EVELYN KENNEDY

Original Homesteader was William Henry Kennedy from Iowa and he married Dorothy Quirk from Colorado. His patents were along Dodge Creek. His brothers Ralph R., John F. and Harold "Pete" also came from Iowa and had title to land patents in the same area as William. At one point the brothers ran the ranch under the name of "The Kennedy Brothers". Originally, the ranch ran over 2,000 sheep. For awhile, they raised both cattle and sheep. The ranch is currently owned by Jerry and Evelyn Kennedy. Jerry is the son of William H. Kennedy. Their operation raises crossbred cattle, with Angus based genetics. Jerry's brother, William Gene and his wife, Joyce Kennedy own a ranch in the same area. This ranch is part of the land homesteaded by Charles and George Vail who were highly educated but not practical ranchers or stockmen thus they returned to their home in Pennsylvania. These Kennedys call their ranch the Vail Ranch. Dodge Creek Ranch also operates a hunting outfitting business featuring customized hunts. Jerry and Evelyn will be hosting our lunch stop today.



Hunting Photos shared by Dodge Creek Ranch

11. DOUBLE FOUR RANCH – OWNED BY TRUE RANCHES

Original Homesteaders and owners were John McFarlane, William & Cecily (Atkinson) Sturgeon, John Newkirk, George W. Parker and William Atkinson. This ranch was purchased by True Ranches LLC, in 1957. The ranch foreman, Scott Dunlap, was raised on his parent's ranch nearby in Northern Albany County. True Ranches LLC now owns and operates seven different Wyoming-based ranches, two farms and two feedlot operations. Angus, Black Baldy, Charolais and Hereford cattle are raised at the ranches and finished at the True Family feedlots.

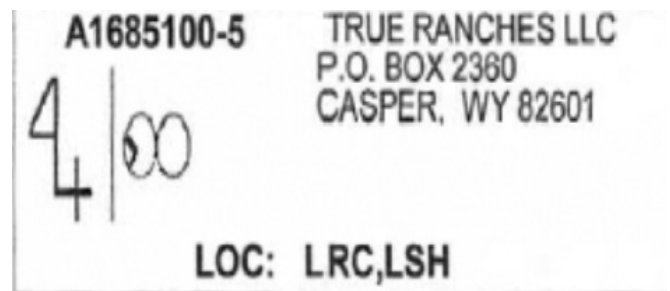
The Double Four was devastated by the Cow Camp and Arapaho Fires, in the summer of 2012. The Cow Camp Fire burned approximately 8,500 acres and the Arapaho Fire consumed over 100,000 acres, both of mountainous and prairie land. A quote from the True Family organization about the fires: "These fires were devastating to the operations on the Double Four but as an organization we continue to prevail with the hard work and dedication of our people. With Mother Nature taking the lead, the Double Four country side has begun the recovery process."



Branding Time on the Double Four • Photo courtesy of TSLN



Fire Damage from 2012 Fires • Photo courtesy Leah Churches



Double Four Brand, 2013 Wyoming Brand Book

12. LARAMIE PEAK FIRE DEPARTMENT

This Fire Zone was created in 1965 and the building was first approved in early 2012 with the grand opening held on Saturday, September 8, 2012. This was right after one of the worst fires ever recorded in Wyoming which was in June and July 2012 at Laramie Peak Wyoming. The Arapaho fire destroyed more than 100,000 acres of beautiful land and forests. Original Homesteaders were Joseph & Nannie Rutherford who also homesteaded the property where Hubbard's Mountain Cupboard is located. Tiny Walker who works at the Fire Department and lives across the road was raised there. She will be sharing the history of the fire department with us today.



The Laramie Peak Fire Department



Arapaho Fire – 2012

13. HUBBARD MOUNTAIN CUPBOARD LODGE aka Laramie Peak Lodge

Joseph and Nannie Rutherford had land patents in Sections 11, 14, 15, 22, Township 27, Range 71. They sold the ranch, in 1928, to Victor and Jennie (Garrett) White and moved to Wheatland. The Whites started a grocery store, and later sold to Carl "Dutch" and Bunny (Hart) Hubbard who added a dance hall, bar, sleeping rooms and a cabin. Dances were held every Saturday night for many years, although there was a period when that didn't happen. Currently the owners hold events and dances, many of which are combined with the Laramie Peak Fire Department for fundraising. The current owners and operators are Jeff Switzer and Shanna Bunker. Duane and Tiny Walker will be sharing the history of the lodge with us today.



Picture from the Hubbard Mountain Cupboard Website

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A yellow metal cowbell is positioned to the left of the text, partially overlapping the word "Cattle".

