

# THE 47<sup>th</sup> OLD TIME RANCH TOUR

## STOPS ON THE 47<sup>th</sup> OLD TIME RANCH TOUR

Saturday, July 18, 1998

**1. Como Bluff Overlook**

Host: Booth Brothers Land and Cattle  
Dean Speiser, Manager  
Speaker: Brent Breithaupt, Curator  
University of Wyoming Geological Museum

**2. Carlin Ranch**

Host: Paul Jeschke, Manager  
Speaker: Paul Jeschke

**3. Como Bluff Fish Hatchery**

Host: Leland R. McDonald, Superintendent  
Wyoming Game and Fish Department  
Speaker: Leland McDonald

**4. Heward 25 Ranch**

Host: Sharon and Bob Heward, Owners  
Speaker: Bob Heward

**5. Jarrard Ranch**

Host: Dick Jarrard, Owner  
Speaker: Dick Jarrard  
Les Cheesebrough

**6. Carlson Ranch**

Hosts: Evelyn and Tom Carlson, Owners  
Speaker: Tom Carlson

**Sponsors:**

*The Laramie Kiwanis Club*

*The Albany County  
Historical Society*

**DRAFT 1.1  
June 16, 1998**

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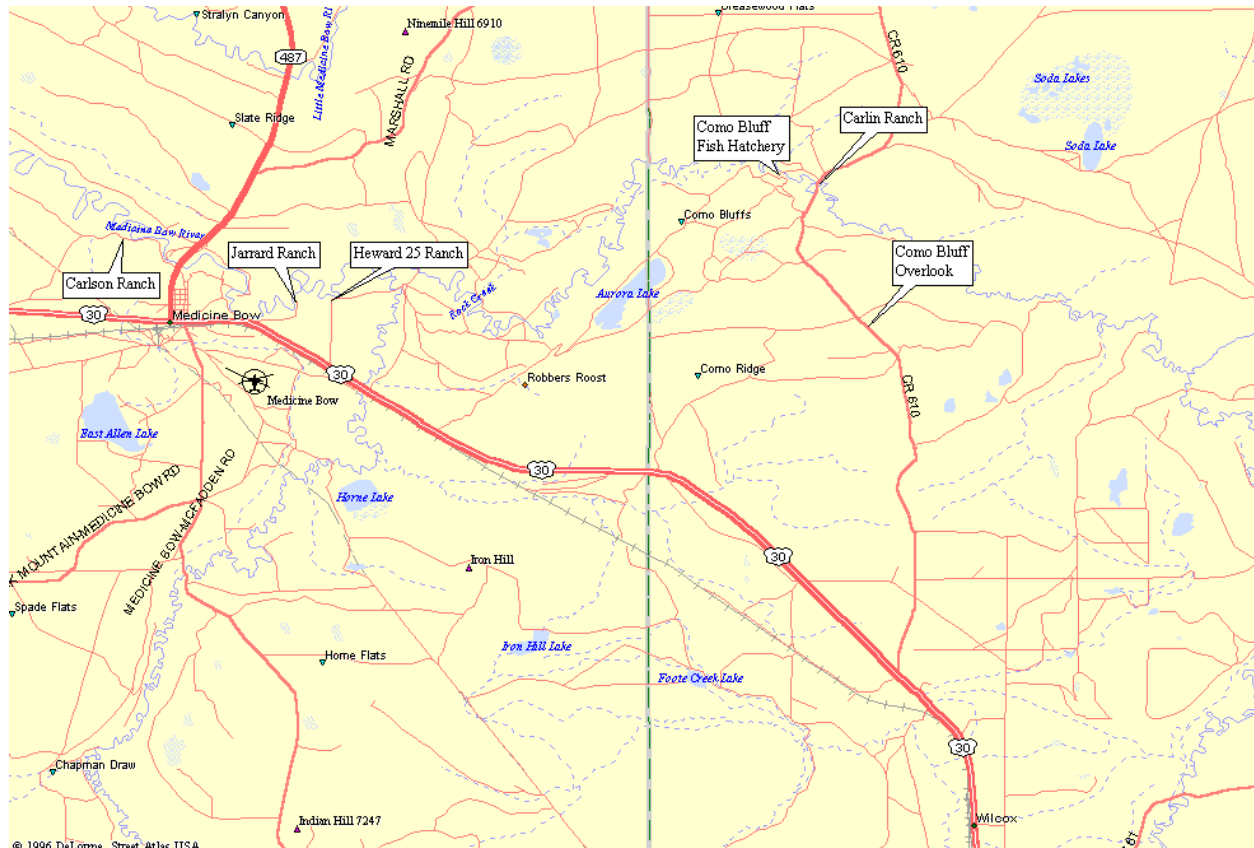
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*The Albany County Historical Society*

**June 16, 1998**



THE FORTY-SIXTH OLD TIME RANCH TOUR  
Saturday, July 18, 1998

The Old Time Ranch Tours were conceived and promoted by Dr. Robert Burns. The series has continued annually since 1951, except 1982.

The 1998 Old Time Ranch Tour Chairperson: Bob Nelson

1998 Site Coordinators: Ken Faulkner and Arlow Hulett

Committee Members: Bob Bacon Henry Bauer Fran Dickman Jim Hand  
Millard Johnson Michael Peck Bob Purdy Dick Strom Maurice Wear

Millard Johnson is the master of ceremonies.

An annotated map of the tour is on this booklet's front cover. The map was created using DeLorme's Street Atlas USA® 4.0 (800) 452-5931 and is used under its license agreement. The projected tour log follows the narrative.

Rest rooms are available for each stop at the trailer carrying the outhouses.

**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 the 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 25 to 35 miles per hour on gravel roads and at 50 to 55 miles per hour on paved roads. Drive carefully. Respect the other fellow. Enjoy the scenery and have a good trip.

**Parking:** Your cooperation is appreciated 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 GUESTS OF THE RANCHES AND HISTORICAL SITES. PLEASE DO NOT REMOVE ANY ITEMS, INCLUDING ARTIFACTS FOUND ON THE GROUND.

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

**Thanks:** Many persons helped to organize and to promote this year's tour. In particular, we thank the publicity given to the tour by the Laramie Daily Boomerang, TCI Cablevision of Wyoming, and the Laramie radio stations KOWB, KCGY, KLDI, KRQU, KIMX and KUWR. We also thank the Wyoming Recreation Commission and Dick Strom's Rambouillet for lending the equipment for the rest room facilities. Thanks, too, to the Coca-Cola and Pepsi Bottling Companies for the refreshments at lunch. Finally, we thank the members of the Laramie Kiwanis Club who helped.

During your next visit, please thank the fine people at the Laramie businesses that supported this Tour.

The Bank of Laramie	Albany County Public Employees	Brian Broderson Realty
First Interstate Bank	Federal Credit Union	Century 21 Real Estate Center
First National Bank of Wyoming	Laramie Plains Federal Credit Union	Duane Toro Real Estate
Community First National Bank	Security First	Espeland Realty of Laramie
	UNIWYO Federal Credit Union	

## Stop 1: Como Bluff Overlook



The following description was edited for the booklet from the writings of Brent H. Breithaupt and Elizabeth Southwell, Geological Museum, University of Wyoming. Please remember this site is on private land and today we are visiting with the owner's permission. If you return to this site, please obtain permission first.

The renowned fossil beds in the Como Bluff region in the northwestern part of the Laramie Basin, southeastern Wyoming, have provided museums throughout the world with skeletons of Jurassic Period dinosaurs. Discovered in 1877 by two employees of the Union Pacific Railroad, these deposits are still being excavated by paleontologists. Although the quarries at Como Bluff have some of the greatest assemblages of Jurassic Period faunas, ranging from the giant dinosaurs to tiny, early mammals, visitors driving past this paleontological landmark will find little to distinguish it from other outcrops in the state. A "Point of Interest" marker on Wyoming Highway 30 indicates to the passer-by that over 100 years ago the unobtrusive ridge to the north was covered with dinosaur bones and fossil collectors.

Como Bluff is an east-west trending anticline (upfolding of strata), roughly ten miles long and one mile wide. The southern face of the ridge is a slightly vegetated, gentle slope of Cretaceous Period strata. The northern face of the ridge is generally barren of vegetation and exposes outcrops of the late Jurassic (150 million years ago) Morrison Formation. Pastel colored, variegated claystones and sandstones of this formation yield the characteristic dinosaur fossils.

Deposited in a subtropical, lowland flood-plain environment marginal to the regressing, shallow inland Sundance Seaway, the Morrison Formation is several hundred feet thick and represents millions of years of deposition. Originally deposited horizontally close to sea level, these units have been folded and uplifted to an elevation of over 7,000 feet, in association with Rocky Mountain tectonism.

The fossil fauna from Como Bluff is dominated by large herbivores that lived in a subtropical environment vegetated with pines, ginkos, tree ferns, undergrowth ferns, and scouring rushes. The six types of sauropods found at Como Bluff are *Apatosaurus* (the correct name for *Brontosaurus*), *Diplodocus*, *Camarasaurus*, *Haplocanthosaurus*, *Pleurocoelus*, and *Barosaurus*. Other large herbivores that inhabited the region during the late Jurassic were *Stegosaurus*, *Camptosaurus*, *Laosaurus*, and *Dryosaurus*. The diversity of herbivores led to a corresponding abundance of carnivores, such as *Allosaurus* and *Coelurus*, *Ornitholestes*. Many other fossilized animals have been found at Como Bluff, including lungfish, frogs, salamanders, turtles, lizards, rhynchocephalians

(lizardlike reptiles represented only by tuataras today), crocodylians, pterosaurs, and a diverse group of early mammals.

### **The History of Como Bluff**

In 1877, Professor Othniel Charles Marsh of the Yale College Museum received a rather cryptic letter and some large bones from Messrs. Harlow and Edwards from Laramie, Wyoming. They reported their findings of numerous large “mammalian” fossils. The two men were actually William Harlow Reed and William Edward Carlin, the section foreman and the station attendant at the Union Pacific Railroad Como Station at the northwestern end of Como Bluff. The spur of the Union Pacific Railroad that extended down the valley north of Como Bluff near Aurora Lake (Como Lake) is now abandoned. Professor Marsh had crews collecting dinosaurs in Colorado for several years prior to 1877, and his confrontations with archrival fossil collector Professor Edward Drinker Cope of the Philadelphia Academy of Science had already become legendary. Knowing this, Reed and Carlin used fictitious names and sent their letter from Laramie to keep their information secret. Marsh was very interested in the bones that were sent, immediately recognizing them as belonging to a large sauropod dinosaur. The fossils were, in fact, found in the same fossiliferous formation that was being excavated in Colorado, the Morrison Formation, common throughout the Rocky Mountain region. Marsh sent one of his Colorado field assistants (Samuel W. Williston) to check on the fossiliferous sites in Wyoming. Williston reported that the amount and diversity of bones at Como Bluff far exceeded any site that had yet been found. Marsh then instructed his field crews to devote major attention to the Como Bluff area. Reed and Carlin continued their work for the railroad and assisted Williston and Marsh’s field crews with collecting. Although Carlin eventually was hired by Cope. Reed was a devoted and loyal employee for Marsh, enduring collecting in -20 to -30°F blizzards, as well as Marsh’s strict regulations. Reed eventually left fossil collecting to become a Wyoming sheepherder. However, soon after, he was drawn back to paleontology with appointments at the University of Wyoming Museum, Carnegie Museum and American Museum of Natural History, where for many years he made extensive dinosaur collections.

Collections for Marsh resulted in 26 new species of dinosaur, many with complete or nearly complete skeletons, and 45 new species of Jurassic mammals, most of which were from the site, Quarry 9. The original skeleton of *Brontosaurus* found by Reed was described and figured on the basis of material from Como Bluff from Quarry 10.

Although Marsh’s crews from the Yale College Museum did most of the collecting at Como Bluff from 1877-1889, Cope’s field crews also collected there to some extent during the same time, with skirmishes of fist fighting, rock throwing, and bone smashing occasionally occurring between the rival camps. Starting in 1897, the American Museum of Natural History sent collecting crews to Como Bluff after Cope’s and Marsh’s crews had left the area. The American Museum crews, under the direction of Walter Granger (Professor Henry Fairfield Osborn’s chief collector), found that most of the localities at Como Bluff were barren of fossils. They did, however, find several new dinosaur-bearing quarries, one being the famous Bone Cabin Quarry on an adjacent ridge of the Morrison Formation several miles north of Como Bluff. This quarry had abundant dinosaur fossils, with over 50 partial skeletons discovered. Major collections were made for the American Museum from

Wyoming quarries from 1898-1903. By the early 1900s, museum crews from Carnegie Museum, the University of Wyoming and other eastern museums were also making collections in the area. Although by 1903 most collecting in the Como Bluff area had subsided, museum crews even today continue to excavate dinosaur bones and small, reptilian amphibian, mammalian material from the region.

Although fossil bones are rare in the Como Bluff region today, dinosaur bones collected during the “bone rush” (1877-1903) can be seen at the Geological Museum in Laramie. The two limb bones outside the front doors of the museum came from Como Bluff quarries. The *Apatosaurus* skeleton in the museum was found in exposures of the Morrison Formation several miles north of Como Bluff near Sheep Creek.

## Stop 2: Carlin Ranch



The following account is from writings by Paul Jeschke and *Wyoming's Pioneer Ranches* by R. H. Burns, A. S. Gillespie, and W. Richardson.

The Carlin Ranch was homesteaded in 1883 by George Carlin. George operated the ranch about five years. He was in the sheep business in a rather large scale using land that he leased from the Swan Land and Livestock Company for \$2,500.

Several large springs on the ranch supplied water to irrigate land that produced 80 – 90 tons of hay. Bad winters hit and caused heavy loss of sheep that drifted away in the storms. This was a severe loss, and then he learned that all improvements were on land belonging to the Swan Company. Thoroughly discouraged, he moved away. Whether he abandoned the land or sold it to the Swan Land and Livestock Company is in dispute.

The Swan Land and Livestock Company, known also as the Two Bar, used the Carlin Ranch as its western headquarters. The Two Bar ran cattle on the ranch until the early 1900's when they switched to sheep. In the 1940's, Swan Land and Livestock began selling out. In 1945, L. G. (Buck) Harding bought the Carlin Ranch. L. G. Harding ran sheep on the ranch until his death in 1972. At the ranch's peak, L. G. Harding ran as many as 50,000 head of sheep on the ranch.

In 1972 the Harding-Kirkbride Corporation bought the Carlin Ranch. They ran sheep and cattle on the ranch until the mid-1980's when they switched the corporation entirely over to cattle. The Carlin Ranch is now basically a yearling operation.

### Stop 3: Como Bluff Fish Hatchery



The following details are edited from the writings of Leland McDonald, Superintendent of the Como Bluff Fish Hatchery, and the account in *Wyoming's Pioneer Ranches*.

The Como Bluff Fish Hatchery is located 6 miles north of Rock River on State Highway 30. Then travel another 8 miles on the Marshal Road (Albany County 610) to the hatchery sign. At the hatchery sign travel west 0.5 miles into the station.

The fish hatchery staff includes; the Superintendent Lee McDonald, Asst.

Superintendent Ed Berry, Fish Culturist Nikki Johnson, and Fish Culture Technician Dan Kurttila. The phone number at the hatchery is (307) 378-2420. Mail can be sent to Box 218, Rock River, Wyoming 82083 or email at [lmcdon@missc.state.wy.us](mailto:lmcdon@missc.state.wy.us). The fish hatchery is open to the public daily.

The Como Bluff Fish Hatchery was built after the turn of the century as a private fish hatchery. Thomas H. Boylan homesteaded below the Carlin Ranch on Rock Creek about 1909. Boylan did not enter the livestock business, but he did straighten out the channel in the horseshoe-shaped curves in Rock Creek. He kept the creek from filling in these places and filled them with fresh water from the springs located in almost every draw. After filling the ponds with water, Boylan stocked them with trout. It was a wonderful place for a fish hatchery. Boylan eventually raised fish as a business and contracted to furnish fresh mountain trout to the railroad dining cars.

The property was purchased by the Wyoming Game and Fish Commission in 1939 after the Red Buttes Hatchery south of Laramie was abandoned due to lack of suitable water. Other early fish hatcheries in Wyoming included the Story Fish Hatchery in Story Wyoming and the TenSleep Fish Hatchery near TenSleep. Very little work was done at Como Bluff during World War II because nation-wide most of the country's resources were going into the war effort. The hatchery went into full production in 1946.

The original fish hatchery building is now used for a wood shop and storage of fish feed. The foundation of the original house is visible near the production ponds. The “new” hatchery building was built in the 1950’s as were the residences.

The hatchery was built at this location because of the availability of 1,400 gallons per minute of high quality water from four natural springs. The springs are located on the Carlin Ranch both upstream and downstream from the hatchery.

The original mission of the Como Bluff Fish Hatchery was to raise fish to stock into Wyoming waters to enhance declining fish populations.

The current mission of this and other Wyoming Fish Hatcheries is to provide fish for stocking. Hatchery fish are not stocked in all waters but are reserved for locations where habitat conditions do not allow for natural recruitment, such as lakes and reservoirs. Hatchery fish are also used to reintroduce native species and to insure their continued survival.

Currently, the Como Bluff Fish Hatchery produces rainbow trout, brook trout, golden trout from an isolation facility, splake, and Bear River cutthroat. Fish are primarily stocked in the Laramie Region or transferred to Game and Fish rearing stations.

The Como Bluff Fish Hatchery stocks or transfers 500,000 fish or 33,000 pounds each year. It is one of eleven state fish hatcheries or rearing stations.

We hope you enjoy your visit for lunch at the Como Bluff Fish Hatchery.

#### **Stop 4: Heward 25 Ranch**



The following account is taken from writings provided by Sharon Heward.

The Heward 25 Ranch was homesteaded by the Vandever family. It was their intent to raise potatoes. Evidently, they were not very successful at this venture.

The Vandevs were credited with helping build the Vandever Ditch that provides water for the three ranches we are visiting in the area.

The ranch was then purchased by



Charles Richards. The Richards started by growing grain whose production decreased each year until they finally switched to alfalfa. The alfalfa, too, did well at first and then the production declined until they switched to hay. Hay is still being grown today.

John Heward purchased the ranch in 1947 from Charles Richards' son, Arlow. He continued to raise hay and started buying cattle to stock the ranch. He purchased cattle from Dolling and got the 25 brand from them. The brand is still used today and is used in the ranch's name.

John and Belina Heward raised three children on the ranch: Sherry, Ron and Bob. They turned the ranch over to the youngest son, Bob, in 1973 and moved to town. John still helps with calving and goes north in the summer to help Ron with haying on the 7E ranch, which is the original Heward homestead. The homesteads were taken out by John's father Robert Heward and his brothers and sister, Jack, Mark, and Annie, and their mother Agnes a few years after they came to this country from England.

## Stop 5: Jarrard Ranch



The following account is based on an interview with Les Cheesebrough in 1998.

The Jarrard Ranch was homesteaded in 1907 or 1908 by Mary Boles. The water rights on the Medicine Bow River are dated in 1908. Joseph Cheesebrough, who was Mary's brother, moved his family to the ranch in 1918. Joseph bought the ranch at that time. Les Cheesebrough was Joseph's son.

Les sold the ranch to Amel and Oscar Schamalle from Nebraska in 1945. They had homesteaded on the Little Basin. On this ranch they ran mostly Hereford cattle.

The Schamalle's sold to Richard Fisher and Remo and Alfred Chase around 1950. They ran sheep and cattle on the ranch.

Jarrard purchased the ranch in 1995 or so and continues to run cattle. The fields are planted entirely in alfalfa.

## Stop 6: Carlson Ranch



The following history is edited from the writings of Evelyn and Tom Carlson.

Before the homesteaders, the Sioux, Arapaho, and Shoshoni camped on this ranch and surrounding country side in the summer and went down the Platte River in the winter in southeast Wyoming. Evidence of their teepee rings is circles of rock used to hold the teepees in place during the constant winds.

Emil Grooman moved from Carbon and homesteaded this ranch in the late 1800's. He remained here until the 1930's.

Rusty (Emil) and Andy Nelson took over in the 1930's. Matt L. Nelson, Rusty and Andy's father, homesteaded the present Cronberg ranch that adjoins this ranch. Rusty and Andy built the two room log sauna house that is still located near the present home. Finn John built the log barn in the early 30's. The brothers purchased grazing ground in approximately 1946 from George Sturgeon, who lived at the Beer Mug. They lived on the ranch until they passed away. The ranch then belonged to their niece and nephew, Joyce and Billy Nelson. Billy had come to live with the uncles when he was thirteen years old. Joyce was living with her dad in Rock Springs and at the age of fourteen came to live with the uncles after her father died. The children finished school in Medicine Bow. Joyce left for a couple of years; Billy left for a year.

Both were married. Bill sold his share to his sister Joyce and her husband Tuffy Griffith. Bill went to Texas after the last uncle died and came back only for visits. The ranch ran primarily cattle and for a while had 100 head of sheep. Farming and haying were done with horses until Joyce began high school and then with old tractors. When the last uncle died, he had been in the nursing home for a while, and the cost put the ranch in financial difficulty and eventually forced the sale of the ranch. Joyce and Tuffy Griffith ran the ranch for two years.

In 1972 the ranch was purchased by Glen and Helen Dunlap. It was then the Heart B ranch. Glen and Helen lived in Garrett at that time. In 1983 the present house was built. The Dunlaps leveled and seeded the backfields in to Garrison. The ranch was run as a cattle ranch, and the Dunlaps owned the ranch until 1985.

In 1988 the ranch was purchased by Dave Taylor, a Ford dealer in Longmont, Colorado. He owned it until 1993. Taylor built the road up so the main headquarters was accessible year round. He leveled and reseeded some of the fields and built the large shop. He ran Angus cattle.

In December 1993, Tom and Evelyn Carlson purchased the ranch. They are presently running a commercial Angus herd and registered Quarter Horses. Besides being a rancher, Tom is also a veterinarian. The Carlsons purchased Union Pacific Railroad property that joins the ranch to expand the hay and grazing ground. They have put in several open faced sheds, pipe alley, pipe corrals, and the livestock scales.

Over the years five oil wells were drilled; none was productive. Several windmills were put in, two of which are still active. The Carlsons added two more water wells and many miles of underground pipeline to provide water to other areas of grazing ground.

## **Return to Laramie**

Return to Laramie by returning to US 487 and turning right. At US 30 in Medicine Bow, turn left. US 30 enters Laramie as Third Street.

## The 47th Old Time Ranch Tour

Saturday, July 18, 1998

Place	Time	Local Distance	Total Distance
<b>Third and Curtis, Laramie</b>	<b>7:15 AM</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Rock River Staging Area</b>	<b>8:30 AM</b>	<b>37.8</b>	<b>37.8</b>
Leave Rock River	8:30 AM	0.3	38.1
Turn left onto US 30	8:30 AM	0.3	38.1
Left onto Marshall Road, CR 610	8:37 AM	6.3	44.1
Bear right toward overlook area	8:45 AM	11.2	49.0
<b>STOP 1: Como Bluff Overlook</b>	<b>8:45 - 9:40 AM</b>	<b>11.4</b>	<b>49.2</b>
Return to Marshall Road; turn right	9:43 AM	0.3	49.5
Cattleguard and sign of Carlin Ranch	9:44 AM	1.1	50.3
Bear right toward Carlin Ranch	9:47 AM	2.8	52.0
<b>STOP 2: Carlin Ranch</b>	<b>9:50 - 10:45 AM</b>	<b>3.1</b>	<b>52.3</b>
Return to Marshall Road; bear left	10:47 AM	0.2	52.5
Turn left toward Fish Hatchery	10:48 AM	0.7	53.0
<b>STOP 3: Como Bluff Fish Hatchery</b>	<b>10:55 AM - 12:25 PM</b>	<b>1.5</b>	<b>53.8</b>
Return to Marshall Road; turn right	12:34 PM	0.8	54.6
Turn right toward Medicine Bow	12:48 PM	8.7	62.5
Carbon County Line	12:54 PM	13.4	67.2
Turn right toward Heward's 25 Ranch	12:59 PM	18.2	72.0
<b>STOP 4: Heward 25 Ranch</b>	<b>1:00 - 1:55 PM</b>	<b>19.2</b>	<b>73.0</b>
Return to US 30; turn right	1:59 PM	1.0	74.0
Turn right toward Jarrard Ranch	2:02 PM	2.3	75.3
<b>STOP 5: Jarrard Ranch</b>	<b>2:05 - 3:00 PM</b>	<b>3.4</b>	<b>76.4</b>
Return to US 30; turn right	3:04 PM	0.8	77.2
Medicine Bow's Virginian Hotel	3:05 PM	1.7	78.1
Turn right onto US 487	3:05 PM	2.0	78.4
Turn left into Carlson Ranch	3:06 PM	2.7	79.1
<b>STOP 6: Carlson Ranch</b>	<b>3:10 - 3:50 PM</b>	<b>3.8</b>	<b>80.2</b>
Return to US 487; turn right	3:54 PM	1.4	81.6
Turn left onto US 30	3:56 PM	2.2	82.4
Rock River	4:12 PM	20.2	100.4
<b>Third and Curtis, Laramie</b>	<b>4:47 PM</b>	<b>58.4</b>	<b>138.6</b>