

THE 54th OLD TIME RANCH TOUR

STOPS ON THE 54th OLD TIME RANCH TOUR
SATURDAY, JULY 16, 2005

1. Monolith Ranch

Host: City of Laramie
Speakers: Bruce Jones
Dick Little

LUNCH

2. Sand Creek Ranch

Hosts: Gary and Brenda Spiegelberg
Speaker: Gary Spiegelberg

4. Chimney Rock Ranch

Host: Bruce Lewis
Speakers: Shirley Lilley
Dicksie May

3. Wooden Shoe Ranch

Hosts: Jim and Sylvia Wear
Speaker: Jim Wear

Sponsors: Laramie Kiwanis Club
Albany County Historical Society



FIFTY-THIRD OLD TIME RANCH TOUR
Saturday, July 16, 2005

The Old Time Ranch Tours were conceived and promoted by Dr. Robert Burns. The series has continued annually since 1950, except 1982 and 2001. In 2001, the Tour was canceled due to the worldwide threat of hoof and mouth disease. Portions of the historical accounts printed here are taken without attribution and updated from the writings of *Wyoming's Pioneer Ranches* by Robert Homer Burns, Andrew Springs Gillespie, and Willing Gay Richardson; contributors named in the text; and anonymous authors of earlier Tour booklets.

The 2005 Old Time Ranch Tour Chairperson: Bob Nelson

2005 Site Coordinators: Maurice Wear and John Rowland

Committee Members: Henry Bauer Darren Bressler Wes Bressler Jerry Johnson Kris Johnson
 Tom Marks John Swett

Dicksie May and John Swett are the masters 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® 2005 (www.delorme.com) 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. Stay to the right at crests of hills. There is open range south of the cement plant; be careful passing cattle along the road. Please follow the directions of the traffic controllers. Be especially mindful of the fire danger. If you smoke outside your vehicle, please take your cigarette butts with you.

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.

Keep a safe distance between cars. We will travel at 20 to 35 miles per hour on gravel 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 FOUR RANCHES. PLEASE DO NOT REMOVE ANY ITEMS, INCLUDING ARTIFACTS FOUND ON THE GROUND.

Thanks: Many persons helped to organize and to promote this year's tour. In particular, we thank the publicity given to the tour by Bresnan Communications and the City of Laramie as well as the City's help in providing information about the Monolith Ranch. Thanks, too, to the Pepsi and Coca-cola Bottling Companies for the refreshments at lunch. Finally, we thank the members of the Laramie Kiwanis Club who helped in many ways.

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

American National Bank	Albany County Public Employees	Sauley Real Estate Corp.
First Interstate Bank	Federal Credit Union	Century 21 Real Estate Center
First National Bank of Wyoming	Laramie Plains Community Federal Credit	Duane Toro Real Estate
Bank of the West	Union	The ACRE Company and
Security First Bank	UNIWYO Federal Credit Union	Richards Park

Stop 1. Monolith Ranch (Van Buskirk and the Simpson Spring Ranch)

The Monolith ranch as known today was acquired by the Monolith Portland Cement Company through the purchase of several smaller ranches that were contiguous to each other. A portion of the Monolith ranch lying west of US Highway 287 was originally purchased from the Wyoming Central Land and Improvement Company by Peter W. Van Buskirk in 1879. His son, James Van Buskirk, lived on the ranch from 1881 until he sold to a Mr. Knight in 1918. During his early years on the ranch, James filed for about 6 water rights on 5 Mile Creek to irrigate pasture around his homestead in Section 25, T15N, R73W. Those irrigation rights are currently part of the Monolith ranch water rights. Mr. Knight sold the ranch to the Monolith Portland Cement Company.

In the area east of US Highway 287 there is an artesian spring in Section 3, T14N, R73W that was originally owned by Mrs. Caira M. Simpson. This ranch contained 1800 acres in 1901, and the numerous springs irrigated about 100 acres. A tenant, Mr. Marble engaged in the dairy business, raised oats, wheat, barley and potatoes. There is a large grove of trees near the ranch buildings that can be seen from the highway. Bill Goode, a confederate veteran and survivor of the Battle of Bull Run, lived on the place for some years. He used to dig up pitch pine posts and peddle them in Laramie for kindling and stove wood. He lost the place in the 1920's, and it was owned by Davis and Thomas for a few years until purchased by the Monolith Portland Midwest Company.

In 1981 the City of Laramie purchased the lands known as the Monolith ranch from the Monolith Portland Cement Company for the water rights on the Laramie River. These ranch lands have the first priority water rights to 20.1 cubic feet per second (cfs) of water from the Laramie River. This priority entitles the ranch owner to claim up to 20.1 cfs whenever there is water in the river. The ranch was comprised of 11,440 acres at the time of purchase with four ranch houses. The City donated about 900 acres of ranchland along Highway 230 to the University of Wyoming in the mid-1980's. This land currently is the University Stock Farm.

The City leased ranch management to local rancher John Nunn during 1982-2002. Currently, the ranch is managed by a City staff person that is part of the Utility Division (Water Department). The long-term goal of ranch management is to optimize the eventual transfer from agricultural to municipal use of the Laramie River water right. The City completed a study in 2004 which outlined several long-term goals and task objectives for making this transfer.

After leaving the Monolith Ranch the tour will continue on Sand Creek Road. Many historic ranches are located on this drive, and the first ranch on the left is the historic Flag Ranch, now called the Monaghan Ranch. As the tour continues down the road you will see on your right the Hutton Lake Wildlife Refuge, named for Charley Hutton.

Stop 2. Sand Creek Ranch (Goetz Ranch)

The Sand Creek Ranch, also known as the Goetz Ranch, is located just below the Wooden Shoe Ranch. John Goetz, Sr., was born in 1850, and came to Wyoming in 1876. He was a baker by trade. After trying that for five years, he was in the sheep business with John Fischer and John Prah before starting in the ranch business at Bull Mountain. He settled on the Sand Creek Ranch in 1892 after selling the ranching operation at Bull Mountain. He purchased the W. W. Doyle and William Konold ranches, just below his holdings on Sand Creek and eventually bought the Hoge Ranch of 6000 acres. Konold had built the first ditch out of Sand Creek in about 1884. The Hoge Ranch stretched from the Laramie River through the Sand Creek bottoms, along about a mile of Antelope Creek and included the Hutton Lakes. John, Sr. ranched until 1910 when he left for California. At that time, his son, John Goetz, Jr., took over the operation.

John, Jr. died in 1945 and his wife Mae Mansfield Goetz (of the Oliver Mansfield Big Laramie River Ranch family) took over the operation of the ranch until the early 1970's when it was sold by her daughter to Booth Trucking of Ault, Colorado. Later it was sold to an absentee Englishman. Ed Goetz, his father and family are still in the area and are decedents of the first John Goetz. Ed spent lots of time visiting this ranch while it was in the Goetz Family.

In 1893-94 new improvements were built at the lakes. Logs were furnished by the Harnden brothers, and the walls were laid by Nick Lundquist. The barn was rebuilt from a former commissary building at Fort Sanders. The Hoge Ranch was not stocked, so raising and selling hay was the main business. A sketch of the Goetz Ranch by M. D. Houghton can be seen on page 201 of *Wyoming Pioneer Ranches*. Additional information about the Hoge ranch can be found in pages 196- 202 of that volume.

The next ranch on Sand Creek is the Wooden Shoe Ranch formerly the historic Lundquist Ranch.

Stop 3. Wooden Shoe Ranch (Nicholas Lundquist Ranch)

The Wooden Shoe Ranch was so named because its brand was a wooden shoe. It was settled by Nick Lundquist, who came to the United States from Sweden where he was born in 1839. He was a carpenter by trade and helped to rebuild Chicago after the great fire of 1871. He came to Laramie City from Waukegan, Illinois, with August Trabing, pioneer Laramie merchant, in 1881. That same year he made a homestead filing on Sand Creek. Also in 1881, he married in Illinois, and the couple returned to Wyoming to settle on the ranch.

Lundquist's skill at carpentry was used in making houses, barns and skillfully notched bucks, mortise joints, for fences. Some of these bucks were still in use along County Road 316 after some 90 years.

One house he built in 1890 was bought by the school district that needed it for a school, the Sand Creek Schoolhouse. Many of the local ranch children attended that school including the

Antelope Creek Johnson, Goetz, and later the Lilley family. Nick's wife and 2 children (Edith Lundquist Wurl & Everett Lundquist) had been living in the small house until one summer when they returned home from a visit to Illinois to find that Nick had built the big house for them. Nick was a carpenter, who not only built his family log home and the surrounding log cabins and barns but also built many buildings in Albany County.

Oscar March bought the place and ranched there for many years and even operated a dude ranch with guests from all over the United States. Dicksie May, one of our speakers today, worked on the ranch for three summers. Oscar's widow sold the ranch to the present owners, Sylvia and Jim Wear.

Nick Lundquist built the large barn which still stands at the Five Mile or J. W. Collins Ranch. He built the large barn at the Flag Ranch of Bob Homer, now the Monagan Ranch. He built the Lee Kerfoot barn, the Hohnholz house, and many houses and barns for various ranchers. He ran a few cattle, but for the most part followed his carpenter trade as he was kept busy with his skill in barn and house building.

The ranch was on the North Park road which went from Fort Collins to Tie Siding and then along the Boulder Ridge to Sand Creek, past Steamboat Lake and Red Mountain over to the Big Laramie River and onto North Park. The Lundquist place was about 16 miles from Tie Siding or about midway between Tie Siding and the Big Laramie River. It was one of the old time road ranches on this route used for overnight stops. Edith L. Wurl, a daughter, told of the ranch housing some 70 to 80 horses for an overnight stay for freighters traveling from Tie Siding to the upper Big Laramie River area.

He had trouble keeping the Texas steers of Charley Hutton off his meadows, for these "long-legged critters" ranged the whole country from the Big Laramie River crossing to the upper portions of the Big Laramie River country. There were no fences in those days. So the ranch was overrun with Texas steers belonging to Charles Hutton. It was necessary to run them off every day.

Page 192 in *Wyoming's Pioneer Ranches* shows a pen and ink sketch of the Lundquist ranch, one of the best sketches made by the school-teacher M. D. Houghton around the turn of the last century. Houghton taught school and worked as a hand while making sketches of ranches for the owners.

After leaving the Lundquist ranch, the tour continues to follow Sand Creek, and on the left you will begin to notice a large field of rock formations. These are located on the historic Antelope Creek Johnson ranch (now owned by Marie and Bruce Lewis). As the ranch tour proceeds south the red rock formations continue to be fascinating.

You will soon be traveling downhill where on the left you will see what is known as the Chimney Rock Ranch, formerly the historic Fred Collins ranch.

Stop 4. Chimney Rock Ranch (Fred Collins Ranch)

Dicksie May contributed to this account as well as details for earlier text in this booklet.

The Chimney Rock Ranch was formerly the historic Fred Collins ranch. Frank & Shirley Lilley managed this ranch for 35 years. At one time Chimney Rock Ranch was a part of what is now the Monaghan Ranch, formerly the Pitchfork Land and Cattle Company and The Flag Ranch, and included the Five Mile, Swastika/Payne, August Wurl and Running Water Johnson ranches. There have been many owners, i.e., Fred and Ralph Klink, Frank Bosler, Mark Hersig, Ludlow & McCarty, The Grazing Association, Western Union, and Chimney Rock Ranch, Ltd, and now owned by Marie Lewis and her son, Bruce.

Some Old Time Ranch Tour participants may remember our stop at the sheepshearing shed on the Chimney Rock Ranch in 1992. That sheepshearing shed has since been moved to the Territorial Prison site. When you visit there, you will see a structure with an interesting history. The shed was built on the Swastika or Windhurst Ranch, now part of the Chimney Rock Ranch. Alex Johnson of the University of Wyoming Wool Department in 1935 listed the shed as one of only 20 Australian type sheds built in Wyoming and Northern Colorado between 1916 and 1920. It had 10 "drops" or shearing stations and cost \$2,800 to build. (Judith Hancock Sandoval's [Historic Ranches of Wyoming](#) has two pictures and descriptions of this sheepshearing barn. One shows the outside of the barn, and the other shows the sheep chutes inside.)

Otto Gramm and Neal Roach built the large, sheepshearing shed and a series of small lambing sheds. In the barns, the shearing stations were on the second level unlike other barns in which the shearing level was only a few feet higher than the level of the pens. Here the entire ground floor was used as a sweat shed. The sheep were kept on the lower level overnight to get warm, which makes the fleece come off better. Then they were driven out and up a ramp to the shearing level. After the shearing, the sheep were pushed down the slides to the pen on the lower level.

The Swastika Ranch was built by George Hutton. The Paynes came up from Texas with horses and cattle. Don Payne, Sr. and later his son were on the ranch. They named the ranch the Windhurst Ranch. After Payne left, Bill and Harry Tatham owned the ranch, and then Otto Gramm and Neal Roach. Fred Klink bought the ranch to add to the McGibbon and Flag Ranches. The Flag Ranch, also known as the Pitchfork Land and Cattle Company and now as the Monaghan Ranch, included the Five Mile, Swastika/Payne, August Wurl and Running Water Johnson ranches. There have been many owners, i.e., Fred and Ralph Klink, Frank Bosler, Mark Hersig, Ludlow & McCarty, The Grazing Association, Western Union, Chimney Rock Ranch, Ltd, and now Marie Lewis and her son, Bruce.

The Swastika brand was abandoned and not used during World War II for obvious reasons. Harold Clay, manager of the Pitchfork Ranch (formerly the Flag Ranch and now the Monaghan Ranch) for several years in the 1950's, bought the brand from the Klinks. Perry and Gloria Clay, ranchers on the Little Laramie, later own the brand.

If you were to continue another approximately 2 miles south on the Sand Creek Road you would

be on the William “Will/Bill” and Edith Lundquist Wurl homestead which is still owned by their decedents. At this location you will see the prominent landmark called Chimney Rock. Depending on where you stand Chimney Rock looks like a chimney or, when looking on the east side of the rock, it looks like a camel (hence some people call it Camel Rock). Chimney Rock stands at the Wyoming-Colorado stateline. If you proceeded about one mile south of the stateline on Sand Creek road you would see the place that Bill Wurl’s grandfather and father, Wilhelm & August Wurl, homesteaded. This ranch is now listed on the Colorado State List of Historic Places. August owned a home in Laramie and was considered a Wyoming resident since he conducted all his business in Laramie and his children attended school there.

Return to Laramie

Upon leaving the Chimney Rock Ranch retrace your path to County Road 316 where you will bear right onto County Road 316. The road will lead to US 287 where you will turn left toward Laramie.

2005 Old Time Ranch Tour Log

Location	Arrival Time	Departure Time	Local Distance	Total Distance
3 rd and Grand		7:15 AM		
I-80 and 3rd Street		7:17 AM	0.9	0.9
Turn off US 287 to Cement Plant		7:23 AM	3.4	3.4
Cross Union Pacific Railroad tracks		7:24 AM	3.7	3.7
Turn left onto Sand Creek Road		7:25 AM	4.2	4.2
Start of Tour		8:00 AM	4.6	4.6
Cross first cattle guard		8:06 AM	6.5	6.5
Turn right onto River Ranch Road		8:11 AM	8.1	8.1
Stop 1: Monolith Ranch	8:25 AM	9:20 AM	12.1	12.1
Leave ranch toward Sand Creek Road		9:20 AM	0.0	12.1
Turn right onto Sand Creek Road		9:32 AM	4.0	16.1
At junction with CR 37, bear left on Sand Creek Rd		9:57 AM	12.3	24.4
Turn right toward Sand Creek Ranch		10:07 AM	15.8	27.9
Stop 2: Sand Creek Ranch	10:10 AM	11:05 AM	16.5	28.6
Leave Sand Creek Ranch toward Sand Creek Rd		11:05 AM	0.0	28.6
Right onto Sand Creek Road		11:07 AM	0.7	29.3
At junction with road to CR 316, bear right		11:09 AM	1.3	29.9
Entrance to Wooden Shoe Ranch		11:10 AM	1.4	30.0
Stop 3: Wooden Shoe Ranch	11:10 AM	12:30 PM	1.7	30.3
Leave Wooden Shoe Ranch		12:30 PM	0.0	30.3
Back to County Road		12:31 PM	0.2	30.5
Entrance to Chimney Rock Ranch		12:39 PM	2.9	33.2
Stop 4: Chimney Rock Ranch	12:40 PM	1:35 PM	2.9	33.2
Leave Chimney Rock Ranch		1:35 PM	0.0	33.2
Chimney Rock Ranch Entrance, go right		1:36 PM	0.2	33.4
Bear right onto County Road 316		1:36 PM	0.4	33.6
Turn left onto US 287 toward Laramie		1:59 PM	13.6	46.8
3 rd and Grand		2:27 PM	29.9	63.1