

# THE 55<sup>th</sup> OLD TIME RANCH TOUR

## STOPS ON THE 55<sup>th</sup> OLD TIME RANCH TOUR SATURDAY, JULY 22, 2006

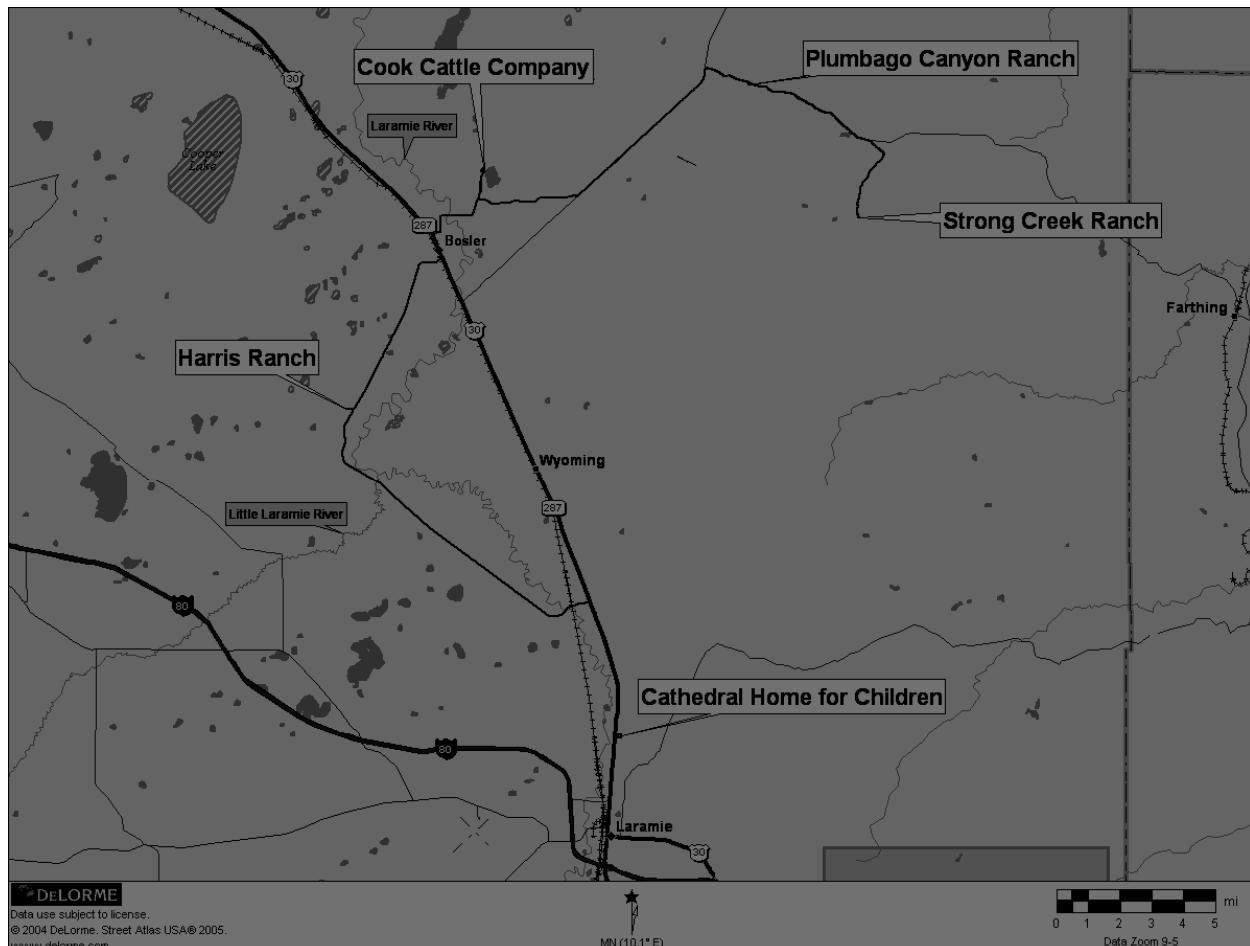
1. Cathedral Home for Children  
Hosts: Dan Harvey and Robin Haas  
Speaker: Dan Harvey
2. Harris Ranch  
Host: Ryan Wilson  
Speakers: Buddy Cremer  
Eva Wilson
3. Cook Cattle Company  
Host: Allen Cook  
Speaker: Margaret Page

4. Plumbago Canyon Ranch  
Hosts: Kathleen and Tom Moore  
Bill and Sharleen Castle  
Speakers: Kathleen and Tom Moore  
Bill Castle

### LUNCH

5. Strong Creek Ranch  
Hosts: Ray and Mary Beth Garson  
Jack and Aletha Garson  
Shan Garson  
Speaker: Ray Garson

**Sponsors:**      Laramie Kiwanis Club  
                          Albany County Historical Society



## The Fifty-Fifth Old Time Ranch Tour

### July 22, 2006

The Old Time Ranch Tours were conceived and promoted by Dr. Robert Burns. The series has continued annually since 1950, except 1982 and 2001. 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; the writings of Mrs. Kathleen Moore, Mrs. Thelma Garson, contributors named in the text, and anonymous authors of previous ranch tour booklets.

The 2006 Old Time Ranch Tour Chairperson: Bob Nelson

2006 Site Coordinators: John Rowland and Wes Bressler

|                    |   |                              |                              |                             |                             |
|--------------------|---|------------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Committee Members: | Henry Bauer<br>Kris Johnson<br>Maurice Wear | Darren Bressler<br>Tom Marks | George Janack<br>Ted Preston | Laurie Janack<br>Ted Staver | Jerry Johnson<br>John Swett |
|--------------------|---|------------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|

George Gladney 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® 2005 ([www.delorme.com](http://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. OBEY ALL SIGNALS at railroad crossings; DO NOT STOP ON THE TRACKS. Stay to the right at crests of hills. 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 CATHEDRAL HOME AND 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 and to Kris and Jerry Johnson for storing the portable toilets. 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 | Bank of the West | First Interstate Bank | First National Bank of Wyoming | Security First Bank |
|------------------------|------------------|-----------------------|--------------------------------|---------------------|

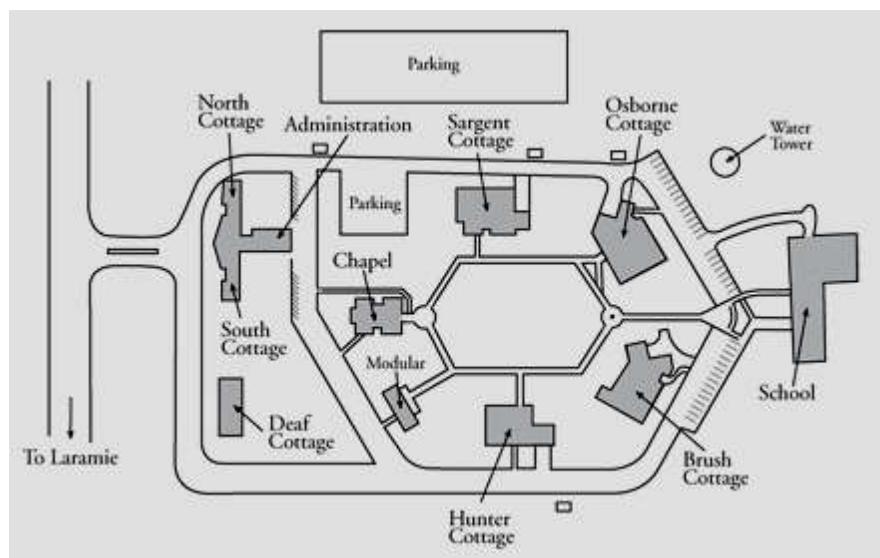
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| Albany County Public Employees<br>Federal Credit Union | Laramie Plains Community Federal<br>Credit Union | UNIWYO Federal Credit Union |
|--|--|-----------------------------|

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|---|---|
| Advantage Real Estate<br>Century 21 Real Estate<br>Center | Duane Toro Real Estate<br>The ACRE Company and<br>Richards Park |
|---|---|



**Ken Faulkner was a long-time member of the Albany County Historical Society and later of the Kiwanis Club of Laramie. He died in March 2006. Professionally, Ken was a livestock and sheep specialist at the University of Wyoming and its Agricultural Extension Service. For The Old Time Ranch Tours Ken was involved in site selection, planning the details of the tours, and on Tour Day handling the Potty Wagon. Ken's sage advice, insightful stories, and friendship are missed.**

### Stop 1: Cathedral Home for Children



The following was written by Marjorie Daley, Public Relations and Marketing Coordinator for the Cathedral Home for Children. The pictures came from Ms. Daley and the Home's Website.

Cathedral Home for Children began in 1910 as an Episcopalian orphanage. In 1972, the changing needs of the children who live at Cathedral Home encouraged the move to the present location on North Third Street. From one building housing girls, boys, and the administrative staff, the Home now has two boys cottages plus one under construction, two girls cottages, a chapel, school, a nurses' modular, and the original building which houses the administration staff and deaf cottage.

Cathedral Home's emphasis has also changed. Cathedral Home's population now includes children, ages 11 to 18, with emotional issues and resulting behaviors, as well as children who are deaf or hard of hearing. Residents come from all over the Rocky Mountain region, and most have serious issues of abuse, chemical dependency, or other traumas. Residents receive treatment

through counseling, special programs such as the Horse Program, and education. Many children are behind in their schooling, and Cathedral Home offers a fully-accredited, year-round school to help them achieve their educational goals.



Cathedral Home's Horse Program began in 1973 with several goals. One was to provide a wholesome recreational activity for the youths. For ranch children who became residents, horses were a safe and familiar haven in a confusing world. Another goal was the treatment of emotional problems.

Many of the children who come to Cathedral Home have severe emotional detachment problems resulting from years of abuse and dysfunctional relationships. Others have anger management issues, and all have low self esteem. Trust of adults, authority figures, and other residents is usually very difficult for children with these diagnoses. Animals can provide a non-threatening chance to create emotional attachments. Once that trust is built, the children learn to trust humans.



The Horse Program provides many teachable moments and concrete demonstrations of immediate consequences. Children often accept advice or suggestions while with the horses that they would resist under other circumstances. Horses are instrumental in teaching the self-esteem building principles of belonging, responsibility, autonomy, hope, mastery, and spirituality that Cathedral Home espouses. Listening and observational skills, discipline, and empathy are also taught by horses. Residents must learn to see and understand the horses' body language, and that these are living, feeling creatures. Again, these skills are transferable to humans and are the necessary skills most of us learn as children but often are not part of the Home's residents' previous lives. As the children care for the horses and learn to ride, they also learn to look past their hurt and rage and normal adolescent self-centeredness to build a relationship with other beings.

Another important part of Cathedral Home's therapy includes community service. It teaches

residents that they are part of a community and that they have something of value to offer society. Residents perform thousands of hours of community service every year, ranging from nursing home visits to reclaiming ranch land for the Department of Game and Fish. Using horses on community service projects increases service options and effectiveness of therapy. One excellent example is the summer pack trips. In the wilderness, the children work very hard to rebuild trails or otherwise improve their surroundings. The pack trips also drastically change their physical, mental and emotional surroundings and the children have the opportunity to try new, hopefully positive, behaviors and to stretch their comfort zones. Many times, therapists see concrete, positive changes in the residents as they return with more self-confidence, an increased ability to listen, and positive outlooks.

All the equipment and horses come from generous donors and volunteers. One important and kind gesture came from Bud and Clara Mae Knoell of Saratoga, who set up a memorial fund for their daughter, Sherri, after her death in 2001. The horses, equipment, feed and other necessities are donated by people in Wyoming, Nebraska, and Colorado. The Home can always use older child-proof horses in good shape and tack. There is also in desperate need of a truck and trailer to haul the horses to various projects.

More information about Cathedral Home services or the Horse Program is available by calling the Home or on its website at [www.cathedralhome.org](http://www.cathedralhome.org).

### **Historic Site: Old Wyoming Station Overlook (See log. No stop.)**

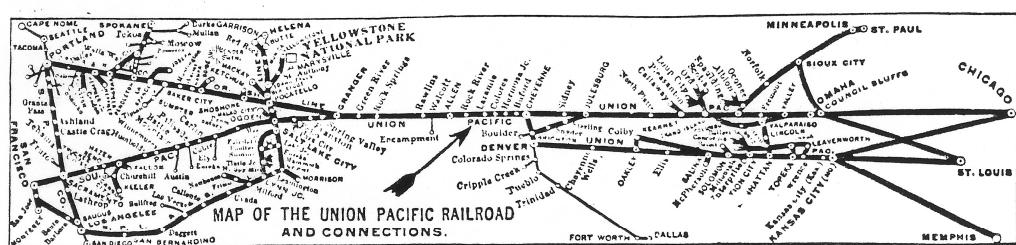
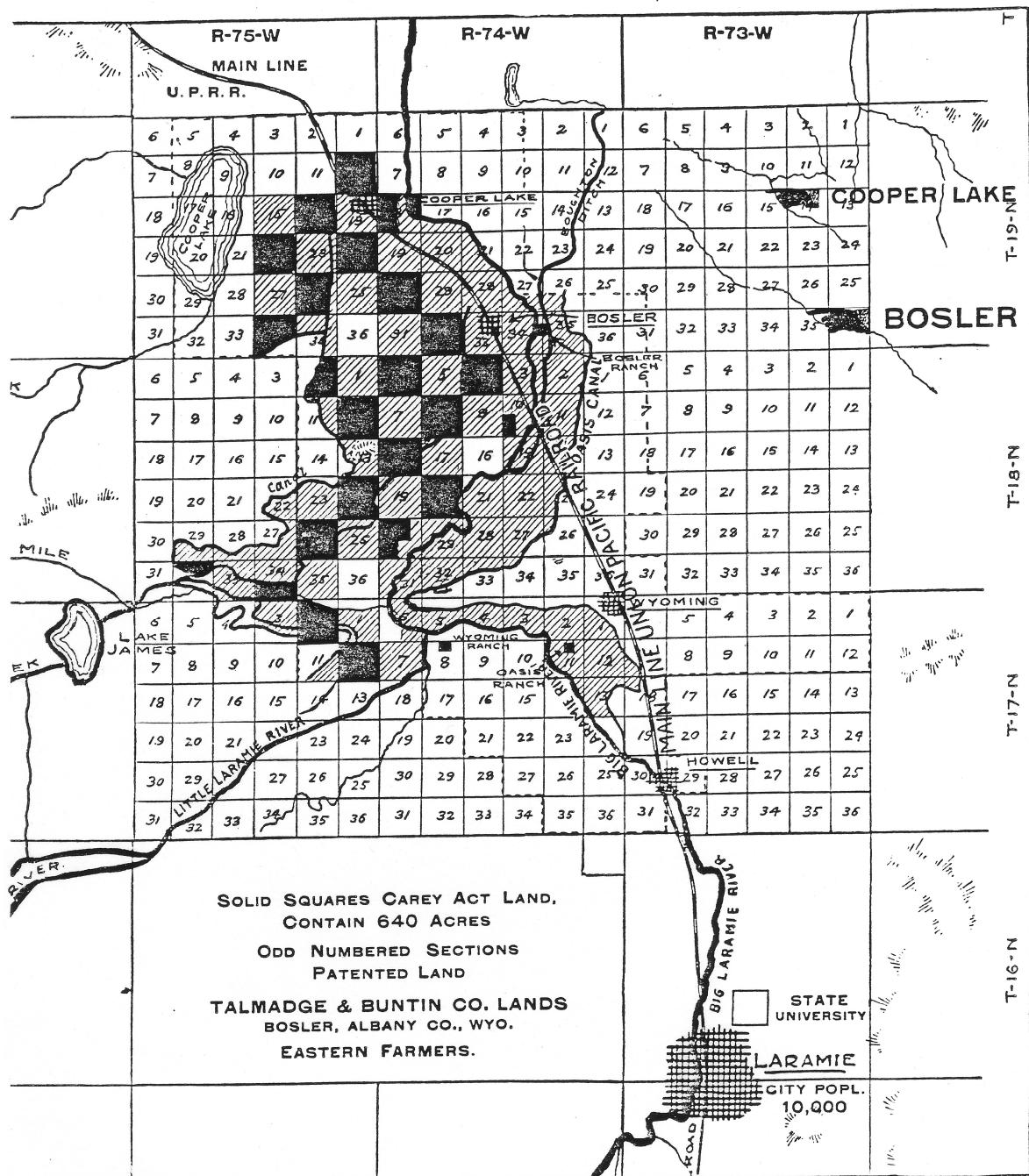
Old Wyoming Station was located across the river from the older Two Rivers Station. The Wyoming Station building was torn down and moved about 60 years ago. To the right of the road we are on can be seen the rail bed of a Y located at the station.

Don Cameron started a dairy at Wyoming Station in 1871. Wyoming was quite a shipping center in the early days for the ranchmen of the Little Laramie Valley.

Ora Haley came to Fort Sanders in 1868 where he operated a butcher shop. Later he had a butcher shop in Laramie. The firm was named Haley and Fox. In February, 1871, Haley slaughtered a 4 year old steer, the first one raised from a calf on the Laramie Plains and fed only the native short grasses of the region. The carcass weighed 982 pounds and the fat was fully two inches thick over the ribs. Haley carried on businesses in several states and founded one of the first fortunes based on the natural grasses of the Western states. Luther Fillmore, who owned this land for a while, was the Wyoming superintendent of the Union Pacific Railroad and came to Laramie in 1869. Oscar Sodergreen stated that Fillmore lived on his ranch at Wyoming Station in 1873 when he visited there. The ranch passed to Tallmadge and Buntin, land promoters, who, in turn, sold it to Eastern people who still own it.

### **Stop 2. Harris Ranch**

The Harris Ranch had about 700 head of buffalo (American bison) in 1985. Originally, seven buffalo were acquired from Hot Springs State Park near Thermopolis, Wyoming. But the



wanderings of the herd angered the neighboring ranchers eventually forcing its sale. (From The Laramie Daily Boomerang, July 12, 1985, Business and University Section, p. 12) Now Buddy Cremer and the Wilsons have only cattle. Ryan Wilson now runs the ranch, a cow-calf operation with 400 head of cattle on 30,000 acres.

The Harris Ranch is one of the ranches carved from the land offered by Tallmadge and Buntin, Co. of Chicago in 1908 under the Carey Act. The 15,000 acres opened by the State of Wyoming under the Carey Act, Segregation No. 50, was composed of alternate sections (640 acres each), once part of the Ora Haley Ranch. (See the accompanying map.) The location of the Harris Ranch house is found near the center of the larger map. In the center column labeled "R-74-W" one of the top sections is labeled "6." Under section 6 readable section numbers are 7, (skip), 19, (skip), 31, (skip), 7, (skip), 19, (skip). This last section is section 30. (Note section 31 below it.) The Harris home is on section 30. The Company offered special excursion trains with private sleeping and dining cars from Chicago to Bosler, Wyoming, on the first and third Tuesday of each month. Persons interested in the land made these trips to the Wyoming Station.

Quotations from the sales brochure, "Irrigated Farm Lands in the Big Laramie River Valley, Albany County, Wyoming," show that the skills of the land salesmen were honed well by 1908.

"With the healthiest climate in the world for man or beast, rich soil, abundance of water with which to irrigate, with the highest grade of stock to be fattened with the crops raised, and with the certainty that the profits will not be reduced on account of disease, there is no such thing as failure in the BIG LARAMIE RIVER VALLEY.

"Living in a climate which is ideal and unexcelled, with its mild, dry winters, delightful summers, with their cool, pure and intoxicating atmosphere (in fact, Albany County is renowned as a summer resort), enjoying the most favorable educational advantages, church and social privileges; with the best modern railroad facilities--the UNION PACIFIC RAILROAD, one of the greatest trunk lines in the world; to live in and near a modern, up-to-date city of 10,000 inhabitants, within five hours automobile ride of the beautiful city of Denver, Colorado; surrounded by mines of gold, copper, iron, coal, and other minerals, within immediate access of lumber mills and free timber for building and domestic purposes; within 20 hours of Kansas City and Omaha and 36 hours of Chicago by rail; within easy reach of all the greatest markets of the United States; a highly intelligent class of people as your neighbors; in a valley surrounded by beautiful mountains and watered by rivers, creeks, springs and flowing artesian wells, where you will have millions of acres of free, open range, upon which your sheep, horses and cattle may graze and where you will be able to secure homes and land at the most reasonable prices."

With crops that "include every variety produced in the humid areas of the temperate zone" many were lured to the area. Wheat: "Average yield 50 to 70 bushels to the acre." Potatoes: "Yield 300 to 600 bushels to the acre." Barley: "Average yield 60 to 140 bushels." Oats: Average yield per acre, 70 to 135 bushels." Sugar beets: "Average yield 20 to 25 tons per acre."

Prairie land not then under any irrigation system was offered at \$8 to \$15 per acre. But the patented land with title and perpetual water rights was offered at \$30 to \$50 per acre depending on location and distance from town.

### **Stop 3. Cook Cattle Company**

The Cook Cattle Company has formerly been known as the Boughton Ranch, the Coble Ranch, the Wallis Ranch, the Frank C. Bosler, Sr. Ranch and the Diamond Ranch.

The Boughton Ranch was settled in 1884 by an Englishman named E. S. R. Boughton, who purchased it a year earlier. Boughton developed the ranch from a sage brush flat to produce hay on the meadows which yielded up to 2000 tons of hay. For water he built a dam across the Laramie River and dug out a ditch which was 10 feet deep at the bottom and three to four feet deep, quite large for its day. John Whitaker bought the ranch in about 1892 from Boughton. Whitaker improved the ranch until the winter of 1899 when he lost 500 cattle from his herd of 1500. Wyoming's Pioneer Ranches reports that a continuous blizzard started on January 19th that year and lasted through the first day of April. He then sold it in the spring of 1901 to the Iron Mountain Ranch Company, owned by John C. Coble and Frank C. Bosler, Sr., who owned the Iron Mountain Ranch Company. Five or six years later Coble sold his interest to Bosler. In 1906, Bosler bought the 7L Ranch and Frank Harrison's holdings in Rock Creek and organized the Diamond Cattle Company. After Frank's death in 1917, Mrs. Bosler continued to operate the ranch until she sold it to the Wallis Brothers in 1939. They in turn sold it to John Bell.

This is the ranch where Tom Horn, the famous livestock detective, made his headquarters from 1900 until his arrest for the killing of Willie Nickell. Tom Horn was hanged for that murder.

### **Stop 4. Plumbago Canyon Ranch**



Plumbago Canyon Ranch 1920



Plumbago Canyon Ranch 1987

The Plumbago Canyon Ranch is located in the near center of Albany County on Plumbago Creek near Sybille Canyon. It is thirty miles northeast of Laramie on Albany County Road 12 in Plumbago Canyon. The Canyon has a small stream flowing out onto the plains north into the Sybille Creek. West of Plumbago Canyon S. W. Gillespie killed the last buffalo in southeastern Wyoming in July 1881. The word "plumbago" is the name of a crystalline form of carbon ore, graphite, mined in the canyon.

The ranch consists of foothill grass range, with several hundred acres of irrigated native hay meadows. The average elevation is 7700 feet with a high of 8000 feet. It is a cow-calf and yearling operation.

The old Radichal Ranch, as it was known, began as a homestead of one section of land in the year 1887. This was the new home of William and Maria Radichal. William came to Laramie to work for his brother-in-law, August Trabing, who owned one of Laramie's first trading posts. Maria came to Laramie from Sweden. She had cousins in Laramie. The couple traveled to Wayside, Wisconsin, the home of William's parents, to be married. Then they came by "Pioneer" train back to Laramie, along with a wagon, team of horses, and three milk cows, to begin life on their homestead.

The Radichal's first home was a tent on Plumbago Creek during the summer and fall of 1887. Before the winter storms hit they completed the one-room stone cabin which still stands on the property. Within the next year they build a two room log house. The first barn was built in 1888, and the fences were erected in 1889-1891. They raised potatoes and had milk cows. They sold the butter and potatoes in Laramie to William's brother-in-law.

The Radichals worked long and hard to build their ranch and despite the many obstacles such as wolves that killed cattle and horses, blackleg and other cattle diseases, large land and cattle companies that tried to discourage the homesteaders, they did make it.

The original log barn, still in use, contains over 10,000 square feet. It houses the horse barn, milking barn, calving pens, and provides protection for the cows during calving and severe winter storms and winds common to this area. The logs used in this building are pitch pine, some as large as 3-4 feet in diameter and as old as 300 years. They were obtained from the surrounding hills and dragged in by the Radichals with a team of horses.

Kathleen Scherrer Moore wrote in Mary Kay Mason's *Laramie, Gem City of the Plains*: "In 1910, the Radichals, with the help of Mr. Berner, a carpenter, and Mr. Wymore, a painter, built a large two-story frame house. The house, shown in the 1920 photo, was furnished with lovely Victorian furniture that was shipped by rail to the Bosler station and then hauled to the ranch by team and wagon." That house burned in January 1961 and was replaced that same year by the present ranch house.

The ranch is celebrating its 119th anniversary this year and is one of the oldest in this area. The ranch continues to be occupied by members of the Radichal family, who raise cattle.

The Radichals had four children, Arthur, Ella, Cora, and Marie. All are deceased. Arthur had one son, Jack Radichal, who was a rancher near Wheatland. Marie had two children, Kathleen and Bill Scherrer (deceased). Kathleen had four children, Bill and Larry Castle, Charleen Castle Wallen, and Elaine Castle Springer. Presently living on the ranch are third, fourth, fifth, and sixth generations--Kathleen and her husband, Tom Moore; Bill and his wife Sharleen. Bill is the ranch manager. Six grandchildren of Kathleen are the fifth generation of the Radichal family on the ranch. There are now three great grandchildren.

When we leave the Plumbago Canyon Ranch yard and continue along County Road 12, we will be traveling through the Ranch.

### Stop 5. Strong Creek Ranch



Orval Garson's House

Niles R. Strong homesteaded 160 acres in the late 1880's under the original Homestead Act. He got a patent on this land in 1893. Strong sold it to a fellow by the name of Sylvester B. Woodman in 1898 for \$350. When Strong was not at his homestead, he traveled about the country selling kitchen cabinets. These cabinets were made of metal and had many lettered compartments for sugar, salt, spices, flavorings, flour, etc.

Mr. Woodman owned other land in the area and sold his holdings to Albert and August

Radichal, nephews of William, in 1903 for a sum of \$3150. The house which is still being used was built by the Radichal Brothers in 1907.

For a few years these buildings were used as a way station from Laramie to Wheatland. The stage carried mail, express, and freight over this route until the road was changed.

In 1938, Orval L. Garson bought this ranch. During the years he enlarged the ranch to 11 1/2 sections. He started by raising sheep but within a few years changed to cattle, first Herefords and then to a Hereford Angus cross. Orval raised his family on this ranch. He retired in Laramie in 1970, and his son and his family are operating the ranch at the present time. Figure 1 shows Orval Garson's House.

## 2006 Old Time Ranch Tour Log

| <b>Location</b>   | <b>Arrival Time</b> | <b>Departure Time</b> | <b>Local Distance</b> | <b>Total Distance</b> |
|---|---------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Third Street and Grand Avenue   |                     | 7:30 AM               |                       |                       |
| Third Street and Curtis Street  |                     | 7:32 AM               | 1.1                   | 1.1                   |
| Right into Cathedral Home for Children driveway   |                     | 7:35 AM               | 3.1                   | 3.1                   |
| <b>Stop 1: Cathedral Home for Children</b>  | <b>8:00 AM</b>      | <b>8:45 AM</b>        | <b>3.4</b>            | <b>3.4</b>            |
| Turn right onto U.S. 30   |                     | 8:45 AM               | 0.3                   | 3.7                   |
| Turn left onto Country Road 51, Howell Road   |                     | 8:52 AM               | 4.7                   | 8.1                   |
| Cross Union Pacific Railroad tracks--OBEY SIGNALS   |                     | 8:53 AM               | 5.2                   | 8.6                   |
| Cross bridge over Big Laramie River   |                     | 8:53 AM               | 5.4                   | 8.8                   |
| Bear right onto old railroad grade  |                     | 8:55 AM               | 6.2                   | 9.6                   |
| Pass Biddick Ranch entrance on right  |                     | 9:06 AM               | 10.8                  | 14.2                  |
| Old Wyoming Station--Y to right   |                     | 9:12 AM               | 13.3                  | 16.7                  |
| Turn left into Harris Ranch   |                     | 9:19 AM               | 15.9                  | 19.3                  |
| <b>Stop 2: Harris Ranch</b>   | <b>9:20 AM</b>      | <b>10:10 AM</b>       | <b>16.3</b>           | <b>19.7</b>           |
| Return to Howell Road and bear left   |                     | 10:11 AM              | 0.1                   | 19.8                  |
| Cross Union Pacific Railroad --OBEY SIGNALS   |                     | 10:24 AM              | 5.7                   | 25.4                  |
| Turn left onto U.S. 30 at Bosler  |                     | 10:24 AM              | 5.8                   | 25.5                  |
| Bosler  |                     | 10:25 AM              | 6.0                   | 25.7                  |
| Right onto County Road 740, Lone Lane   |                     | 10:27 AM              | 6.8                   | 26.5                  |
| Bear right  |                     | 10:29 AM              | 7.6                   | 27.3                  |
| Iron Bridge over Big Laramie River  |                     | 10:29 AM              | 7.8                   | 27.5                  |
| <b>Stop 3: The Cook Cattle Company</b>  | <b>10:40 AM</b>     | <b>11:30 AM</b>       | <b>10.0</b>           | <b>29.7</b>           |
| Bear left   |                     | 11:34 AM              | 1.0                   | 30.7                  |
| Left onto Wyoming 34  |                     | 11:41 AM              | 4.1                   | 33.8                  |
| Turn right onto Sybille Road (County Road 12)   |                     | 11:49 AM              | 9.8                   | 39.5                  |
| Turn right into Plumbago Canyon Ranch   |                     | 11:53 AM              | 11.3                  | 41.0                  |
| <b>Stop 4: Plumbago Canyon Ranch</b>  | <b>11:55 AM</b>     | <b>1:10 PM</b>        | <b>11.4</b>           | <b>41.1</b>           |
| Turn right to leave Plumbago Canyon Ranch   |                     | 1:11 PM               | 0.1                   | 41.2                  |
| Turn right onto Wayside Road (County Road 11)   |                     | 1:23 PM               | 4.4                   | 45.5                  |
| <b>Stop 5: Strong Creek Ranch</b>   | <b>1:25 PM</b>      | <b>2:25 PM</b>        | <b>7.3</b>            | <b>48.4</b>           |
| <b>The caravan will disband. Return to Laramie by following County Roads 11 (Wayside Road) and 12 (Sybille Road) and then Wyoming 34 and U.S. 30 as described below. You may turn right onto County Road 12, and a longer trip will take you onto Wyoming 34 beyond the Tom Thorne/Beth Williams Wildlife Research Center at Sybille. Again, to return to Laramie, turn left onto Wyoming 34.</b> |                     |                       |                       |                       |
| Return to Wayside Road (County Road 11)   |                     | 2:26 PM               | 0.2                   | 48.6                  |
| Turn left onto Sybille Road (County Road 12)  |                     | 2:30 PM               | 3.1                   | 51.5                  |
| Pass Plumbago Canyon Ranch on left  |                     | 2:37 PM               | 7.5                   | 55.9                  |
| Turn left onto Wyoming 34 toward Bosler   |                     | 2:38 PM               | 8.8                   | 57.2                  |
| Turn left onto US 30 toward Laramie   |                     | 2:51 PM               | 19.6                  | 68.0                  |
| <b>Return to Laramie</b>  |                     | <b>3:15 PM</b>        | <b>37.1</b>           | <b>85.5</b>           |