

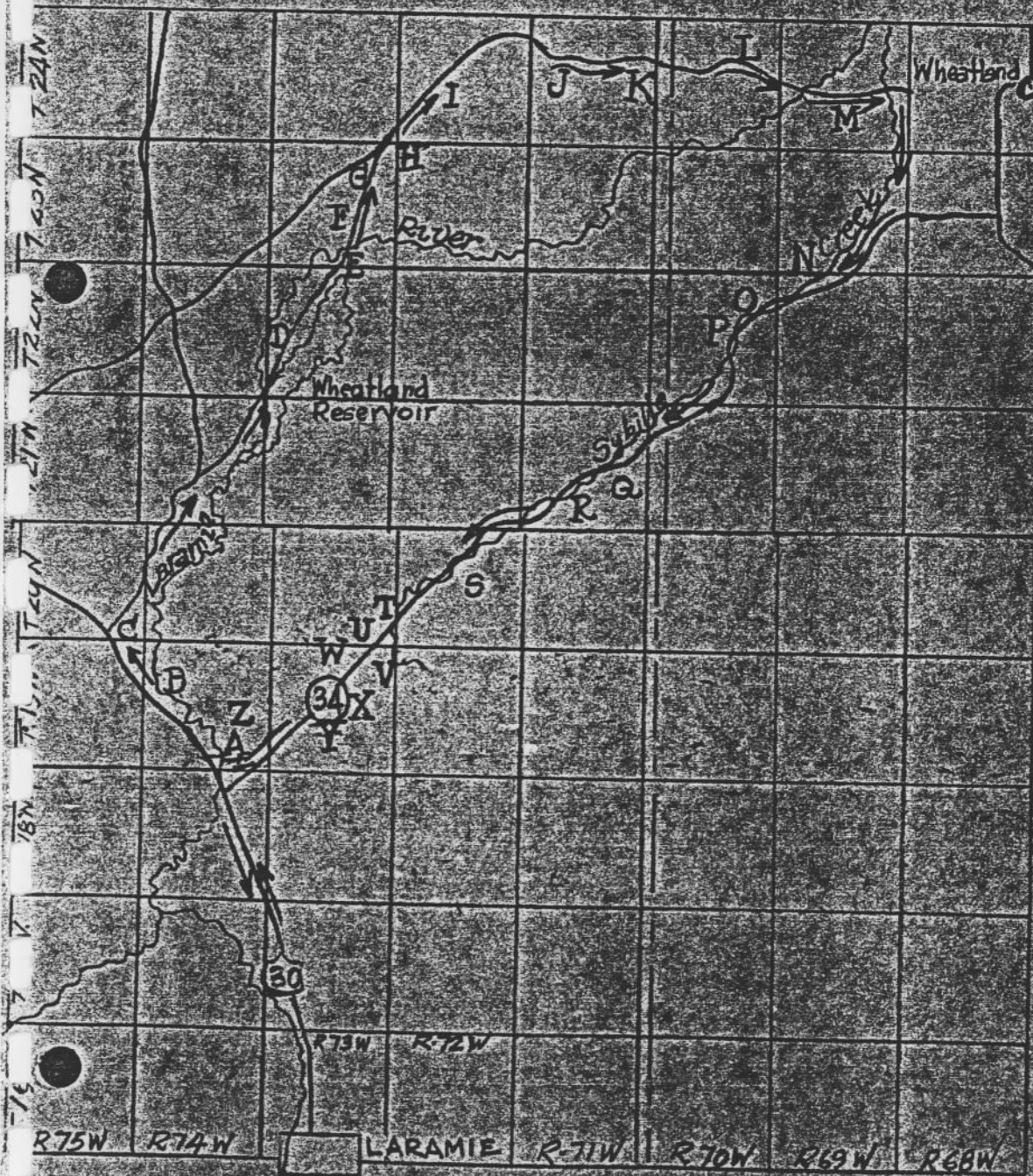
TENTH ANNUAL OLD TIME RANCH TOUR

Sunday July 17, 1960

A trip northeast of Laramie, past the Wheatland Reservoir and on to the Palmer Canyon (Hall Ranch) thence to the Mule Shoe and ~~Two Bar~~ Ranches of the Swan Land & Cattle Company and back on Highway 34 to Laramie.

Key to Map

- A= Bosler
- B= Cooper Lake Station
- C= Lookout Station
- D= Wheatland Reservoir
- E= Reservoir Spillway
- F= Geo Dodge Ranch
- G= No. Albany Club House
- H= Sid Sturgeon Jr. Ranch
- I= Ralph Hall Ranch
- J= Palmer Canyon Road
- K= Bovee Ranch
- L= Lunch Site
- M= Old Mule Shoe Ranch
- N= Old Two Bar Ranch
- O= Jones Ranch
- P= Shamrock Station
- Q= Old Langhoff Ranch
- R= Wyo. Game & Fish Station
- S= Old Fitzmorris Ranch
- T= Morton Pass
- U= Sybille Springs
- V= Deadman Cave
- W= Site Last Buffalo Killed
- X= Plumbago Canyon
- Y= Wall Rock Canyon
- Z= Boughton or Lobie Ranch



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Sunday, July 17, 1960

This tour is sponsored by the Albany County Historical Society, the University of Wyoming Summer School, the Kiwanis Club, and the Wyoming and Denver Westerners.

The tour has been arranged by Dr. Robert H. Burns, A. S. Gillespie, George Berges, Bill Riedl, Wesley Seamands, and Mr. and Mrs. Forrest S. Blunk.

The route is over country roads with some high centers, and drivers are cautioned to take care that modern cars do not scrape the high centers. By riding the centers the cars with low clearance will not hit these centers. There are a few rocky high centers on the route for this year. Generally speaking the roads will be good.

This year the tour will visit ranches in the northern part of Albany County, then travel east to Sybille Creek, and follow the valley of the Sybille. Stops will be made at the Wheatland Reservoir; the Ralph A. Hall Ranch, where the queen will be crowned; and the Old Mule Shoe Ranch, on the Sybille Creek, where the Wolfjen family settled. (A daughter of that family married the late Senator John B. Kendrick, large cattle and ranch owner, who served as Governor and U. S. Senator for a period of time.) The tour will then be conducted to the Old Two Bar Ranch which has been making history on the Sybille Creek for almost a century. At one time it was the main cattle ranch for the Swan Land and Cattle Company which owned the largest number of cattle in the state of Wyoming during its peak days. From there we will go back onto oil road on Highway 34. The next stop will be at the Jones Ranch which was owned by the Swan Brothers first, and then went into the ownership of the Swan Land and Cattle Company. From there we will continue up the Sybille Creek. If time permits, two additional stops will be made along Highway 34. The first will be at the Old Langhof Ranch, now Martens, at the right side of the road along the creek, which was the site of a rustling incident in the early days. The next tentative stop will be at the Fitzmorris Ranch which lies to the left, close to the road. This was a part of the Swan holdings and is one of the first ranches of this area. We will continue on up the Sybille Creek to the divide and go through the Morton Pass, where you will notice to your right about half a mile or more, a grove of trees which are the Sybille Springs. These with Plumbago Creek make up the head waters of the main Sybille.

Leaving the Morton Pass the caravan will cross a bridge, and to the left, close by, will be seen two caves. In June of about 1901 a dead man was found in one of those caves. He perished in a blizzard when he attempted to walk from the Iconoclas Mine, near the head of Halleck Canyon, to Laramie. He went into that cave for shelter, and sat down on a ledge in the rear of the cave. The place was about the size of a small sitting room chair. He evidently went to sleep and never awakened. His overcoat was over his knees and he was in such a position that he could not fall over.

Just to the west of those caves, less than three-quarters of a mile is where S. W. Gillespie killed the last buffalo in southeastern Wyoming, in July 1881. To the left, above the caves about a quarter of a mile, is where Plumbago Canyon comes out of the hills, and is where the Radichal family settled in about 1887. That property still belongs to the family.

The Swan Land and Cattle Company round-up wagon used to make camp close to where the bridge now stands, as did the Coble round-up wagon which worked with the Swan Land and Cattle Company. In 1901, the largest bunch of cattle that was ever gathered in one drive, in this century, was brought onto the round-up grounds. There were three thousand and five hundred head. It took two and a half days to sort that bunch of cattle for brands, and to cut out the beef steers.

The Swan Land and Cattle Company's brand, in the beginning, was a horse-shoe on the left side and two horizontal bars on the left hip, and "under-bits" in each ear. Tom Swan acquired the horse-shoe brand from Aunt Mary Earhardt, who lived just north of what is now the Diamond Horseshoe Motel.

The Coble brand was a half diamond over an E on the left side of the cattle. They also used a half diamond over a Z on the left hip on a large number of their cattle. For an ear mark they cropped the right ear and under half-cropped the left. At one time they put a wattle in the center of the forehead. To do this they would make a "V-shaped" slit down the center of the skull, leaving a piece of skin hanging. It would draw and shrivel up until it looked round in appearance. This "V-shaped" slit would be about three-fourths of an inch wide and about three inches long.

After leaving the bridge we soon come to a graveled highway on the left which is the Old Wheatland Road, coming out of Plumbago Canyon, the site of the Radichal Ranch. Looking south and to the left along the Laramie range, one sees the clefts of three canyons sloping to the west. These are, in order: Gate Creek, Middle Creek, and most prominent, Wall Rock Canyon, early-day hangout for the wolf pack.

Looking to the right one can see the big ranch which was settled by an Englishman named Boughton, in 1884. The meadow was made on prairie land that was covered with sage-brush. Boughton had two railroad rails fastened together in an A shape, and the outer edge sharpened; and it took sixteen horses to pull it, cutting off all sage-brush and leveling the high spots. After that big job was done, he built the Boughton Canal and soon started to apply water to the virgin land. It was not long until the ranch was yielding two thousand tons of hay. During the early 1890's Boughton sold the place to John Whitaker and after a heavy loss from the cattle-killing winter of 1899, the place was sold to John C. Coble and Frank Bosler, Sr. In about 1903 Mr. Coble sold his interest to Mr. Bosler and after his death the ranch passed into the hands of his widow. In due course of time she sold it to Wallis Brothers. With a partner, the Wallis family continues to operate there.

Bring your car, your family and friends, some water or other beverage, and be at the Albany County Court House Square a few minutes before 7 a.m. on Sunday, July 17, 1960. The tour will depart promptly at 7:00 after a few instructions. The rate of speed is fixed at 50 miles per hour on Highways 30 and 34, and 30 to 40 miles per hour on the intermediate roads. Keep a safe distance between the cars, especially on the highways so that the fast oncoming traffic can duck in to keep out of the lane of the eastbound cars. The tour is not as long as many we have made. The distance will be 164 miles. If we stay on schedule we will return at 5:30 p.m.

The ranchmen on this route welcome the tour and will give some history of their ranches. They are, however, fearful of fire so take every precaution in smoking, or better, do not smoke, and if you do, grind every stub in the dirt. PLEASE do not flip the stubs out of the car window, but put them in the ash tray.

On a previous tour a very embarrassing incident occurred at one of the stops. A man was seen carrying an armful of branding irons from a building to his car. He was politely told to return them to the place he found them, which he did, but the owner was short of several irons. The man was picking up souvenirs and did not realize he was doing any harm. We are asking that no one pick up souvenirs unless permission of the owner has been obtained. The articles may look worthless, but at the same time they have a value to the ranchman or they would not have been left there.

The following "log" or schedule of the trip will be useful to those taking the trip:

PLACE	ELEVATION	TIME	MILEAGE	
			Approx.	Local/Trip
LARAMIE (Court House Square)	7165	7:00		
Diamond Horseshoe	7200	7:08	2.0	2.0
Aunt Mary Earhardt		7:09	1.8	3.8
Frank C. Bosler, formerly King Brother's Ranch		7:13	3.1	7.4
Oasis Ranch, to left two miles		7:16	3.1	10.5
Roy Lundberg, formerly Bill Krieger Ranch, right		7:17	.7	11.2
Art McKechnie, and Jr.		7:17	.3	11.5
Wyoming Station		7:20	.8	12.3
Laramie Peak, 90 miles to the north		7:20	.8	12.3
Oasis Ditch		7:22	3.3	15.6
Boughton Canal		7:24	1.5	
Highway 34, to right, to Wheatland		7:24		
Laramie River	7000	7:25		
Ghost Ranch, right		7:25	3.5	19.1
Bosler		7:26	.4	19.5
Clint Wallis Ranch, formerly Old Boughton-Coble-Bosler Ranch		7:27	.5	20.0
Homestead Filling Station		7:28	1.2	21.2
Schmale Brothers Ranch #1		7:29	1.1	22.3
Cooper Lake		7:32	1.5	25.1
Lookout		7:35	2.8	27.9
Lookout Knolls to right, where body of boy was found in 1890. Never identified		7:36	.4	28.3
Schmale Bros., formerly S. W. Gillespie Ranch, to right eight miles		7:37	.7	29.0
Lookout and Kite road, also to reservoir road. Entering R. R. Nelson land		7:38	.8	29.8
Laramie Peak, straight ahead	7200	7:42	1.2	31.0
Cattle Guard. Entering Schmale Bros. land formerly Gillespie land.		7:44	1.3	32.3
Schmale Bros. branding corrals and lake		7:47	1.1	33.4
Cattle Guard. Entering Bell and Hirsig land, formerly owned by the Swan Land and Cattle Company		7:50	1.3	34.7
Chalk Bluffs, left		7:54	1.3	36.0
Miser Lake		7:54		

PLACE	ELEVATION	TIME	MILEAGE	
		Approx.	Local	Trip
Crossing the Gillespie and Rock Creek road		7:55	.9	36.9
Cattle Guard, corrals and load- ing docks of Bell and Hirsigs Cattle Guard			2.7	40.4
Boswell Springs road Traveling on Fort Laramie and Fort Halleck road which was made in 1862		8:10	3.2	43.6
Passing between fancy rock pillars onto Kite land	7000	8:13	.6	44.2
Canal to Reservoir site Kite Ditch Laramie River		8:15	.6	45.0
Stop at Wheatland Reservoir at house.		8:15	.2	45.2
Leave the tenants house at Kite Ranch, big house to left.	7000	8:30		
Cattle Guard on the Reservoir Dam		8:32	.5	45.7
Off of Reservoir Dam		8:33	.3	46.0
Frank Boyd's land		8:35		
Good view from bluff of Kite Ranch		8:35	.7	46.7
Outlet on No. 3 of Wheatland Reser- voir		8:36	.3	47.0
Spillway for Wheatland Reservoir		8:37	.4	47.4
Cattle Guard leaving Adam Boyd land		8:40	1.0	48.4
Bull Camp Peak to right	7000	8:45	1.7	50.1
Sugar Loaf to right, a cone		8:46	1.1	50.2
R. E. A. Line		8:48	1.4	51.6
Wheatland Reservoir Spillway		8:50	.4	52.0
Cattle Guard leaving Adam Boyd and entering G. W. Dodge land				
Telephone line from Wheatland Reservoir to Wheatland		8:52	.6	52.6
Cattle Guard entering George Dodge's horse pasture		8:54	.3	52.9
George Dodge;s Ranch		8:56	.6	53.5
Cattle Guard		8:57	.1	53.6
Laramie River Bridge		8:58	.3	53.9
Cattle Guard		9:00	.4	54.3
Cattle Guard between Dodge and W. I. Palmer ranch to right		9:04	1.4	55.7
North Laramie Community Hall		9:05	.5	56.2
Crossing Kennedy and Wheatland road		9:05		
W. I. Palmer Cattle Guard		9:07	1.0	57.2
Garrett road takes left		9:08	.6	57.8
Cattle Guard between Palmer and Sidney Sturgeon Land		9:09	.6	58.4
Duck Creek	7000	9:10	.6	59.0

PLACE	ELEVATION	TIME Approx.	MILEAGE Local/Trip
Cattle Guard between Sidney Sturgeon and H. A. True Land		9:12	.6 59.6
Notch Peak to right		9:14	1.1 60.7
Cattle Guard on H. A. True Land		9:15	.3 61.0
Old John Mertz now Brooks Ranch, to right		9:16	.7 61.7
Cattle Guard		9:19	1.1 62.7
Cattle Guard between True and Hall Ranches		9:19	.6 63.3
Hall Cattle Guard		9:20	1.2 64.5
Cattle Guard between Hall and Bovee Ranches		9:23	.5 65.0
Lee Mountain to left (Wolf Pack Mountain)		9:25	.7 65.7
Gas Line		9:26	.8 66.5
Junction of Garrett road		9:27	.4 66.9
Ashley Mountain to right		9:28	.6 67.5
Cattle Guard between Ralph Hall and Bovee Ranches		9:29	.1 67.6
Cattle Guard between McAuley and Hall Ranch		9:31	1.3 68.9
Lee Montgomery Ranch to left		9:32	.4 69.3
Cattle Guard between McAuley and Hall		9:34	.5 69.8
Ralph Hall Cattle Guard		9:37	1.0 70.8
Ashley Creek and Cattle Guard		9:39	.6 71.4
Ralph Hall Ranch. Crowning of queen (for that occasion will stop 45 minutes)		9:40	.2 71.6
Leaving Hall Ranch		10:25	
Back to junction of Wheatland road		10:29	.2 71.8
Cattle Guard, Hall land		10:30	.4 72.2
Hall land		10:34	1.3 73.5
View of Laramie River and Wheatland Flats ahead of us		10:35	.4 73.9
Palmer Canyon	6600	10:39	1.1 75.0
Dinner stop on Palmer Creek		10:44	1.3 76.3
Cattle Guard between Hall and Bovee Ranch leaving after dinner	6200	11:50	1.5 77.8
View of Wheatland Flats	6000		
Platte County line		11:59	1.9 79.7
Cattle Guard, deer country		12:00	.7 80.4
Bovee's Ranch	5000	12:00	.5 80.9
Bovee's Cattle Guard		12:02	.9 81.8
Bovee's Cattle Guard		12:06	2.1 83.9
Laramie River		12:08	.7 84.6
Bridges		12:12	2.2 86.8
Mule Shoe Flats		12:12	
Cattle Guard	4600	12:13	.5 87.3
Cattle Guard and bridge		12:14	.8 88.1

PLACE	ELEVATION	TIME Approx.	MILEAGE Local/Trip
Leaving Mule Shoe Flats		12:15	1.6 89.7
Mule Shoe Ranch was settled by the late C. W. Wolfjen and wife. While on this ranch they attended the Wyoming Stock-Grower's Association meetings and took an active part July 23 and 24, 1874, The late John B. Kendrick was their son-in-law.			
Leaving Mule Shoe Ranch on Sybille Creek		12:17	.4 90.1
Right turn at canal		12:30	
Miller Ranch		12:34	1.3 91.4
Highway 34, Conoco Station		12:42	2.9 94.3
Cooley Hills		1:48	3.2 97.5
Sand Creek to left		1:48	1.2 98.7
Turn right at Cattle Guard 4800		1:51	.4
The famous Old Two Bar Ranch, now owned by the Howe Brothers		1:54	.9 100.0
Leaving the Two Bar Ranch		1:54	.3 100.3
Squaw Mountain to right		2:30	.3 100.6
Sybille Creek		2:36	2.6 103.2
Tuscon Creek		2:38	1.3 104.5
Jack Radichal's mail box		2:43	3.5 108.0
Blue Grass Creek		2:44	1.6 109.6
Old Henry Mudd Ranch to left		2:45	110.2
Halleck Canyon to right, old Soldier road from Ft. Laramie to Fort Halleck		2:46	
Tommy Moore's mail box		2:47	1.1 111.3
Sybille Creek		2:48	.5 111.8
Jones Ranch. Settled by his nephew, Will F. Swan, now the property of Earl Blevins		2:48	.2 112.0
Leave Blevins'		2:49	1.1 113.1
Shamrock Filling Station		3:06	
South Fork of the Sybille Creek		3:08	.5 113.6
Ned Dover Ranch to left		3:08	
Albany and Platte County Line		3:09	.5 114.6
Earl Flaherty Ranch to right in deep valley		3:11	1.9 116.0
Mule Creek Hog Backs, south-east		3:13	1.5 117.6
South Sybille Road		3:47	.3 117.9
Middle Sybille Creek to left		3:50	
Verne Martens, originally the Fred Langhof Ranch		3:55	2.8 120.7
Main Sybille			.8
Magnitite Mines		3:56	.8 121.5
State Game and Fish Station		3:58	.2 121.7
School Creek to right		4:00	1.9 123.6
		4:03	2.1 125.7

PLACE	ELEVATION	TIME Approx.	MILEAGE Local/Trip
Old Fitzmorris Ranch, now the property of the Sybille Corporation		4:05	1.9 127.6
Sheep Rock to right		4:06	.1 127.7
Bear Creek to left			
Uranium claims		4:09	2.5 130.2
Long Canyon to left, home of the rattlesnakes		4:10	.8 131.0
Long Canyon Peak to left		4:11	1.0 132.0
Main Sybille Canyon		4:21	.8 132.8
Morton Pass		4:22	1.0 133.8
Sybille Springs to right, by a grove of trees		4:24	.4 134.8
Last crossing of the Sybille		4:25	1.4 135.3
Dead man's cave to left		4:25	
Plumbago Canyon to left		4:26	.1 135.7
Last buffalo killed 3/4 of a mile west		4:26	.5 136.7
Farley Homestead, on right, now owned by Mr. and Mrs. Ben Smith		4:27	.5 137.2
Smith's home to the left		4:30	1.0 138.2
Smith's son-in-law's home to the right		4:30	1.0 139.2
Wallis and Miller Ranch to right		4:31	2.1 141.3
Good view of Elk Mountain right across the plains		4:32	2.1 143.4
Oasis Canal		4:36	2.1 145.5
Boughton Canal		4:37	.7 146.2
Junction of U. S. Highway 30 from Wyoming 34		4:38	1.2 147.4
Laramie		5:10	16.6 164.0