

Twentieth Annual Old Time Ranch Tour

Sunday, July 20, 1969

Area Covered: Some of Pioneer Ranches of the Cheyenne Area.

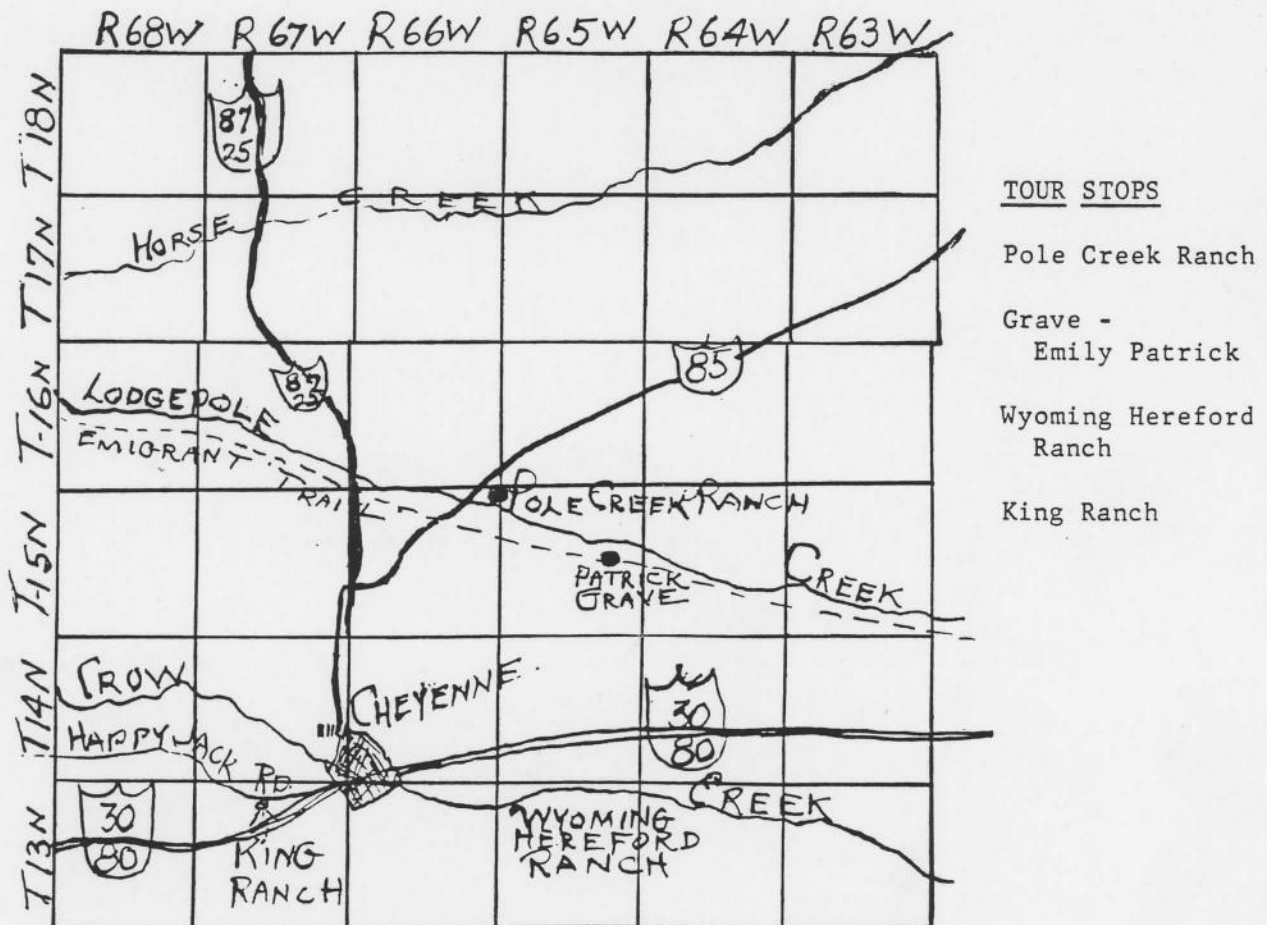
This tour is sponsored by the Albany County Historical Society, the University of Wyoming Summer School and the Kiwanis Club.

These Old Time Ranch Tours strive to create interest in the heritage which we have in our ranching business in the West and to acquaint people taking the tour with the present-day operating ranches and their heritage from the early days of ~~making~~ <sup>promoting</sup> beef and wool from grass.

The Tour has been arranged by Robert H. "Bob" Burns, Bill Riedl, Tubby Hodges, John Paulsen with the Assistance of Alice Robbins, Oliver Knight and others.

The route of this year's tour will be over Interstate Highway 80 to Cheyenne and then on either oiled or well graded roads to the three ranches which will be visited: the Pole Creek Ranch of the Warren Livestock Company, the Wyoming Hereford Ranch and the Wyoming Corriedale Ranch.

Map of the Tour of Three Pioneer Ranches of Cheyenne Area.



The Wyoming Highway Patrol has offered to conduct our tour on the highway and provide a patrolman to show our group the route on the different Interstate and local highways. They suggest that the 40-50 cars expected to join the tour keep close together and travel with LIGHTS ON and maintain a speed on the Interstate Highway of 60 miles per hour so that other users of the highway will not be passing and cutting into the line of cars. However, the Interstate four-lane highway will overcome some of this trouble which was quite prevalent and sometimes dangerous on the two-lane highway.

Our first stop will be at the Pole Creek Ranch of the Warren Livestock Company. This was the North Headquarters of this Company who had land scattered from the old Wheeler Ranch on the Colorado Line to Horse Creek on the North and to the eastern outskirts of Laramie on the west. During the early days this was a stage stop on the Lodge Pole Trail and the old log building still stands on the ranch and is used as a storage place. Lodge Pole Creek, which runs by the ranch, heads near Pole Mountain east of Laramie and runs some hundreds of miles to the North Platte area of Nebraska. It is said to be the longest creek in the world. Mr. Dave Cook, former manager of the northern part of the Warren Livestock Company ranches, will show us around the ranch. The ranch was sold recently to a Colorado group of livestock raisers with Mr. Paul Etchepare as leader. The present cattle foreman at the Pole Creek Ranch is Mr. Rodewahl.

One of the first Australian-type-shearing sheds erected in Wyoming is located here on the Pole Creek Ranch. A side trip will be made to the grave of Emily Patrick about a mile southeast of the ranch buildings. She died on the Pole Creek Trail and the gravestone is marked August 9, 1867. She was ten years of age and died of children's diseases which were common and often fatal in those days before the era of modern treatment and vaccines.

The Warren Livestock Company has been a pioneer in the sheep and cattle business in the Cheyenne area and have developed outstanding types of sheep and cattle. They have developed the so-called WARHILL type of sheep, a mutton and wool type growing fleeces of one-half blood grade of wool and early maturing lambs of good conformation which the feeders are quite fond of.

The next stop will be at the world famous Wyoming Hereford Ranch which is likely the oldest purebred Hereford ranch in the West, if not in the world. This ranch was organized by Aleck Swan and Joseph Frank, who called it the Wyoming Hereford Cattle and Land Association Limited, of London where they sold 100 thousand Pounds Sterling of six percent first mortgage debentures. As security, the subscribers had the property of the Wyoming Hereford Association including 18,879 acres of fenced land and two adjoining ranches of 120,000 acres. All of the lands were located about three miles from Cheyenne. Swan and associates sought this capital so they could stock the pasture with fine Hereford cattle from England. Among the trustees for the English debenture holders, who were to provide cash for expansion of operations, was Colin J. McKenzie, Chairman of the Swan Land and Cattle Company. (FRINK, M., JACKSON, W. T. and SPRING, A.W. "When Grass was King", Pp. 220,297, Univ. Colo. Press 1956: Cited from Prospectus of Wyoming Hereford Cattle and Land Association Ltd. LSER WRCIS).

A. H. or Aleck Swan introduced Herefords to Wyoming. His firm, Swan Bros. paid Mr. Miller of Beecher, Illinois \$10,000 for 40 head of bulls in the spring of 1878. Aleck Swan allied himself with George Morgan, the advance agent of

English Hereford promotion. The Wyoming Hereford Company had no connection with the Swan Land and Cattle Company, proper, except for the fact that some shareholders had stock in both companies. The ranch on which the purebred Herefords were carried totaled some 30,000 acres on Crow Creek just east of Cheyenne. George Morgan was engaged as manager and made a number of importations direct from Herefordshire in south central England. One of his early importations was the purchase of the entire herd of Mr. J. H. Yeomans of Stratton Court, comprising some 200 head, which were shipped from Liverpool on April 16, 1883. Another large importation was made in 1884 including 186 bulls bred in England. The herd at Cheyenne numbered over 500 head at one time and included more than 300 breeding cows and a sensational array of stock bulls, among which were Rudolph by the Grove 3rd., Lord Wilton 2nd., Victor by Winter de Cote, and Sir Thomas of G. S. Burleigh's breeding. From this herd at Cheyenne a large number of purebred bulls went out to spread the fame of the "white-faces" through the northern range. All enterprising ranches and breeders of Montana, Wyoming and elsewhere obtained stock from this herd and its influence on the future cattle stock of the Intermountain region was tremendous.

Mr. Culbertson of Illinois, embarked on a series of importations from England. One of his first important moves was to send George Morgan to England to select a first class bull and a few heifers for importation. This was in the year 1879. Mr. Morgan gladly made the journey back to his native haunts and had the judgement, or the rare luck, to select a bull which had been named ANXIETY by his breeder. Anxiety's dam, Helena, was a noted show heifer and her rather high condition made her breeding career precarious and hence her owner's anxiety concerning this calf sired by Longhorns. The calf came and was named Anxiety, and posterity in the Hereford world of cattle had the sire which was to found the most famous strain of "white-faces". (Sanders, A. H.)

John Clay in his book "My Life on the Range" speaks of the rise and fall of Aleck Swan and Joseph Frank as promoters of various livestock enterprises. (Pp.49-54).

The Wyoming Hereford Ranch has been in operation continually since the first importation in 1883 from Liverpool to Cheyenne. The tradition for fine Hereford cattle has been maintained throughout the years and the herd is noted today as one of the finest collections of "white-faces" in the country. One of that name is buried on the ranch and the headstone of his grave is just in front of the WHR office. This bull was produced by Otto Fulscher of Holyoke, Colo., and used at WHR. A few years ago WHR purchased and imported the bull "Vern Diamond" from the de Quincey herd in England. This bull had a strong loin and rear quarter which were points to be strengthened in the breed and his progeny were successful in making some improvement in the Hereford conformation.

Recently the Wyoming Hereford Ranch has changed ownership, and the new owners are dedicated to carrying on the tradition of good Hereford cattle on this famous ranch. The new Manager, Ted Thomas, has been raised with Hereford cattle and has years of experience as fieldman for the Hereford Association. He feels that a bull should be raised so that he can perform on grass feed without too much pampering and extra rich concentrated feed.

George Morgan's son, Ed, was also the manager of the famous English ranch, known as the Millbrook Ranch, and owned by the Douglas Willan, Sartoris and Company of England. This ranch was located on the Little Laramie River and is presently included in the Markley Ranch. (Burns, Gillespie and Richardson).



At the time of his death George Morgan was associated with T.F.B. Sotham, a noted Hereford Breeder in Missouri. He is buried in Greenhill Cemetery at Laramie and the date of internment was August 30, 1903.

The forerunners of the modern Herefords, the "hide and horn" producers of early day Texas are depicted in a well known picture on arrival near Cheyenne in the 1880's at the Arp ranch between the Wyoming Herford Ranch and the settlement of Cheyenne. These steers were selected from the trail drives for the excellence and spread of their horns and one of the steers "Geronomo" was exhibited in many places in the West in the 80's. (Seventy Years Cow Country", P.44).

Frank S. King went to New Zealand in 1914 and brought back the first Corriedale sheep to America. At that time he was associated with his brothers, Bert and Joe, in the F. S. King Bros. Company at Laramie, but later he disposed of his interests in Laramie and started the Wyoming Corriedale Company at Cheyenne. He was the first Secretary of the American Corriedale Association. The Corriedales of the Wyoming Corriedale Company have been "tops of the breed" since the flock was established, and today Art King, a son of Frank, and Jerry, a grandson, are carrying on the flock and their sheep are well known, not only throughout the United States but also in New Zealand and South America. They have been successful to a marked degree in keeping the distinctive fleece of the Corriedale and combining with it an efficient body which quarantees an efficient mutton producer as well as a wool producer.

Today the King Ranch is raising mostly Hereford cattle, inasmuch as the amount of labor required is much less with cattle than with purebred sheep. However, the name of the King Bros. is closely associated with the developing livestock industry of Wyoming and they are among those of English descent which have transferred the English heritage of good livestock throughout America.

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FURTHER READING concerning the Pole Creek Ranch, Wyoming Hereford Ranch and the King Corriedale Ranches.

Warren Livestock Company Ranches

Wentworth, E. N.

America's Sheep Trails. Pp. 309,537.

BURNS, R. H. and PARKER, L. C.

They Know the Score. A study of the ram improvement program of the Warren Livestock Company at Cheyenne.

Record Stockman(Denver) 1948. Annual Edition. Pp. 289, 291, 292,294, 297,298 & 300.

COOK, Dave (Foreman, Pole Creek Ranch)

Mutton and Wool. A veteran sheepman speaks his mind about some trends in the business.

The Westerner (Record Stockman Publ.,Denver) 9:2: 11,32-36. March 1946. (Wool File 2907).

Wyoming Hereford Ranch

ANONYMOUS

Various items from BRANDS (Cheyenne). See UW Archives C30c Why.

1. George Morgan Importation. Three cars of Herefords from Illinois and England.

Democratic Leader: Cheyenne. Feb. 3, 1886.

## Wyoming Hereford Ranch (Cont.)

## Anonymous

2. Great Breeding Establishment Sold. Wyoming Hereford Ranch buys Hereford Corporation Property.  
Brands. I:2: Nov. 1, 1921.
3. Prince Domino now Stressed on WHR.  
Brands V:2: Nov. 1, 1925.
4. Otto Fulscher Acquired Interest in WHR.  
Brands. V:4: Jan. 1926.
5. Fulscher and Kepler Unit is now at WHR East of Cheyenne.  
Brands. VIII:2: Nov. 1928.
6. Death takes Prince Domino.  
Brands. IX:4: May 1930. (American Hereford Journal)
7. Greatest Registered Hereford Ranch in the United States, by H. Altman  
Brands. Oct. 1921 to Feb. 1931.
8. Monument Marks Prince's Grave.  
Brands. X:9: Feb. 1931 (Record Stockman)
9. Illustration. "Old Mexico Steers owned by J. W. Hammond, from an original photograph taken near Cheyenne in the early 80's. Mr. Hammond stated the buckskin steer in the center of the group was called Geronimo, and could with ease jump out of the highest pole corrals". (This illustration in WHR files).  
SPRING, Agnes Wright.  
70 Years Cow Country. P. 44.

BURNS, R. H., GILLESPIE, A. S. and RICHARDSON, W. G.  
Wyoming's Pioneer Ranches. Pp. 266-276, 487-518.

CLAY, John  
My Life on the Range. Pp. 201-209.

NORDYKE, Lewis  
Angel of the Range. George Lazear, improver of WHR Herfords. 8 illus.  
Saturday Evening Post. Nov. 3, 1945, Pp. 26, 27, 69, 70 & 72.  
UW LIBR. AP 2 S2.

ORNDUFF, Donald R.  
The Hereford in America. Anxiety Herefords 3rd and 4th. Pp. 44-47, 53-56.

PERRY, George Sessions  
Bob Lazear and his Herefords. 9 illus. in color.  
Country Gentleman. Sept. 1948, Pp. 18, 19, 117-121. (UW LIBR. 630.5 C832)

SANDERS, A. H.  
The Story of the Herefords. Pp. 120, 422, 426, 430, 436, 485 & 702.

SIMPICH, Frederick and STEWART, B. Anthony  
Grass Makes Wyoming Fat. Welcome to Wyoming.  
National Geographic Magazine, LXXXVIII: 153-188, 13 illus. in black and white and 19 illus. in color. Aug. 1945.  
Illustrations of WHR. Record Sale Price of \$20,000 for a heifer.  
P. 155.  
Spring Roundup. Plate VII. Ranch Buildings from hill. P. 174.

WENTWORTH, E. N.  
America's Sheep Trails. Pp. 324, 325 & 557.

Wyoming Corriedale Company. F. S. King Brothers Company

BURNS, R. H., GILLESPIE, A. S. and RICHARDSON, W. G.  
Wyoming's Pioneer Ranches. Pp. 521-557.

"Log" of Twentieth Old Time Ranch Tour  
 Sunday, July 20, 1969

6.

PLACE	Approx. Time	M I L E A G E S	
		Local	Trip
LARAMIE (Courthouse Square)			
Leave via Grand Ave., East on US 30	9:00	0.0	0.0
Turn Right and over over-pass to US 80	9:06	4.0	4.0
Lincoln Monument on left: Summit of US 80: Elev. 8800 ft.	9:13	6.8	10.8
Vedauwoo on right. Keep on US 80.	9:20	5.9	16.7
On Left: Lone Tree Rest Area.	9:23	3.6	20.3
On Right: Interchange to Otto. Keep on US 80.	9:39	15.8	36.1
Turn left on Wheatland Interchange (Also Casper)	9:50	10.4	46.5
Turn right on Torrington Interchange	10:00	9.6	56.1
Turn right at Pole Creek sign after crossing Pole Creek.	10:07	7.3	63.4
STOP: Pole Creek Ranch of Warren Livestock Company	10:08-10:38	0.4	63.8
STOP: Emily Patrick Grave	10:41:11:11	1.1	64.9
Left turn at Pole Creek Ranch. Sign on top of hill.	11.13	1.5	66.4
Through underpass and turn left onto US 87.	11.21	7.3	73.7
Turn off on Central Avenue Interchange	11:34	11.1	84.8
Turn right into LIONS PARK: STOP FOR LUNCH.	11:35-12:35	0.5	85.3
Through Cheyenne in convoy by Wyoming Highway Patrol and Cheyenne Police			
Pass Frontier Oil Refinery on right.	12:48	4.9	90.2
STOP: Wyoming Hereford Ranch	12:55-1:55	5.8	96.0
Pass Frontier Oil Refinery on left (Truck Route to US 80)	2:05	6.0	102.0
Cross Cheyenne-Greeley-Denver Highway	2:07	1.0	103.0
Pass under two (2) over-passes.	2:10	1.2	104.2
Turn left onto US 80.	2:10	0.2	104.4
Turn right leaving Interchange	2:11	0.2	104.6
Turn left: Happy Jack Road. Sign on right of road.	2:11	0.2	104.8
Pass through tunnel under Denver road.	2:12	0.3	105.1
Cross North and South Road and go West.	2:15	2.7	107.8
Pass Wyoming Angus Ranch on right.	2:16	0.9	108.7
Turn left at KING RANCH sign: CORRIEDALE RANCH.	2:17	1.1	109.8
STOP: KING RANCH: CORRIEDALE SHEEP CO.	2:21-3:21	0.5	110.3

END OF TOUR