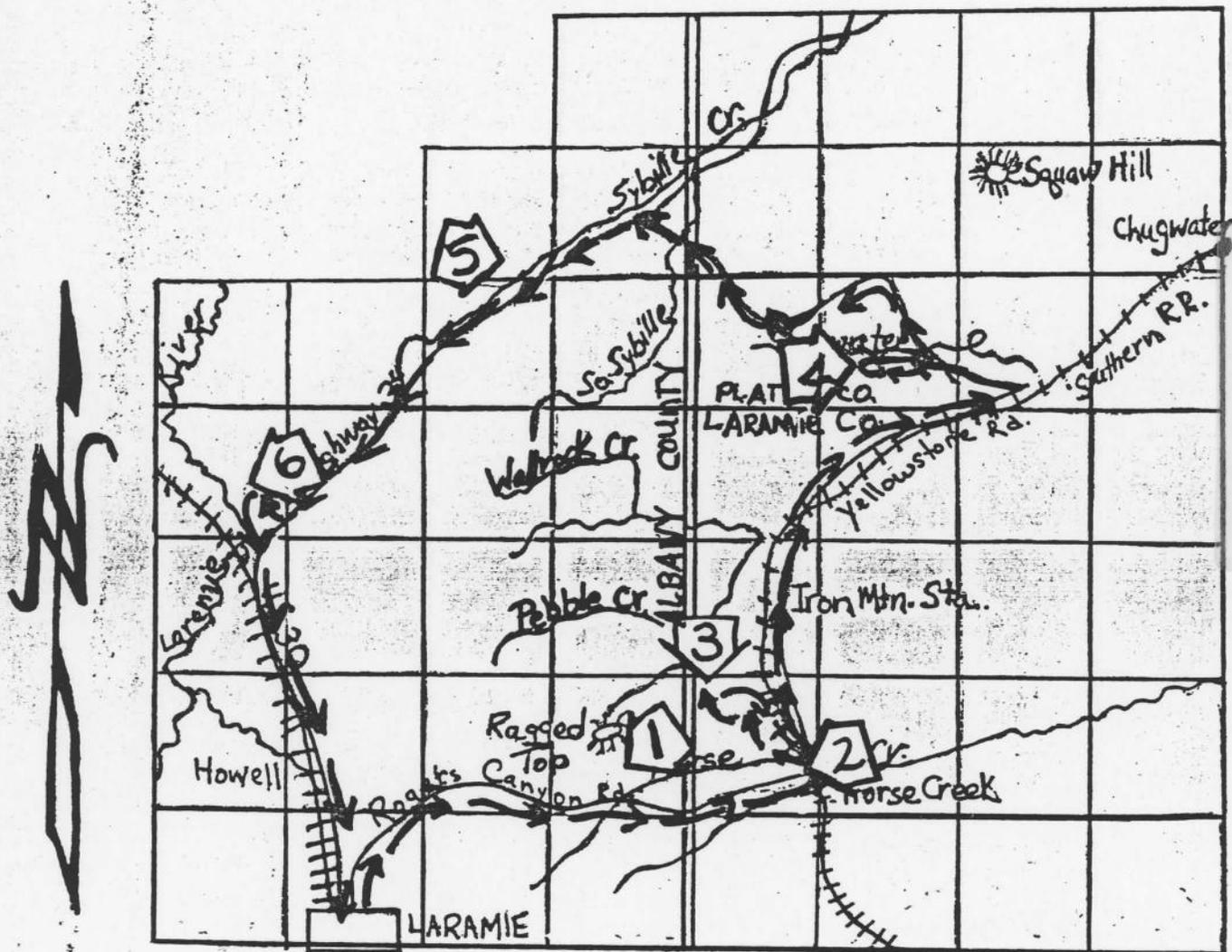


STOPS ON THE TWENTY-SEVENTH ANNUAL OLD TIME RANCH TOUR

Saturday, July 23, 1977

TO THE HAUNTS OF TOM HORN



1. Sermon (McKechnie) Ranch
Where Powell was killed.
Narrators: Todd Sermon,
Mrs. McKechnie, Frank
Bosler, Charles Salisbury

2. Horse Creek Station
(Brief Rest Stop)

3. Tugman Ranch
Where Lewis was killed.
Narrator: Todd Sermon

4. Lunch at Miller Ranch
Where Willie Nickell was killed.
Narrators: "Mick" Miller and
Mrs. Viola (Nickell) Bexler

5. Christnick (Langhoff) Ranch
The Tom Horn Lookout
Narrators: Bill Riedl and
Charles Salisbury

6. Wallis (Coble) Ranch
Narrators: Jack Wallis and
Frank Bosler

NOTE-

- Much of the area of this tour is known as "rattlesnake country." It is suggested that everybody exercise extreme caution and keep children close to adults.
- This is not a "cadillac tour." The trip is on approximately 73 miles of pavement, 55 miles of dirt road and 33 miles of ranch road, trail and across open country.
- A short stop for those desiring gasoline will be made at the Horse Creek filling station, approximately 30 miles from Laramie on the way out.
- Cars can also drop out of the caravan for gas at the Shamrock Station, approximately 51 miles from Laramie on the way back. When the caravan turns left at Highway 34 cars wanting gas at Shamrock should turn right and go about 1.5 miles.
- Restroom facilities (outhouses) are available at the Horse Creek Station stop. Although the caravan will not stop, outhouses are available at the Sybille wild life sanctuary and the Shamrock Station has restrooms. At the time of this writing an effort is being made to provide outhouses at the site of the Willie Nickell killing where the tour will stop for lunch.
- For the sake of safety, it is suggested that families make rock climbing and similar activities "off limits." We are appreciative of being guests on private land and will try to leave it as unlittered and undamaged as possible. Please do not flip cigarettes or matches from cars.
- Members of the Laramie Kiwanis Club are serving as traffic controllers. Please follow their directions. It is as important to follow the parking directions when leaving a site as when parking. Whenever possible pull forward out of a parking spot rather than backing. Please allow the numbered lead cars to leave a site first. (Gates must be opened and traffic controllers must be ready to park cars at the next location.)

TWENTY-SEVENTH ANNUAL

OLD TIME RANCH TOUR

JULY 23, 1977

HAUNTS OF TOM HORN

This tour is sponsored jointly by the Laramie Kiwanis Club, the Albany County Historical Society, the University of Wyoming Summer School, and the Laramie Westerners. The owners and managers of the ranches we are visiting have displayed true western hospitality and cooperation in inviting us to visit them. We are grateful to them.

The Kiwanis Club has furnished finances in addition to the services of many of their members who serve as guides and traffic controllers.

Dr. Robert Burns organized these tours over a quarter of a century ago. We are grateful to him for this and also for so much of the information on the early ranches contained in his book.

Credit goes to Dr. Norman Smith, Dean of the University of Wyoming Summer School, and to his most cooperative and helpful secretary, Mrs. Jeanne Unruh, for the preparation of this pamphlet. Many others have been helpful in many ways. It would be difficult to list every one.

BRING YOUR CAR ALL GASSED UP AND READY TO GO: YOUR LUNCH, DRINK, YOUR FRIENDS AND SOME MOSQUITO DOPE. BE AT THE LARAMIE COURTHOUSE SQUARE AT 7:00 A.M. SO WE CAN MAKE FINAL ARRANGEMENTS. TRANSPORTATION MAY BE ARRANGED FOR THOSE NEEDING IT AT THIS TIME. WE WILL LEAVE PROMPTLY AT 7:30 A.M. SEE THE LAST PAGE FOR A LOG OF THE TRIP.

WE HAVE ARRANGED WITH THE POLICE TO ESCORT US OUT OF TOWN AND PART OF THE WAY.

KEEP A SAFE DISTANCE BETWEEN CARS. TURN LIGHTS ON IN TOWN. THE SPEED ON THE PAVED HIGHWAYS IS LIMITED TO 55 MILES PER HOUR AND SHOULD BE ABOUT 30 MILES PER HOUR ON DIRT ROADS (LESS ON TRAILS.) DRIVE CAREFULLY. RESPECT THE OTHER FELLOW. ENJOY THE SCENERY AND HAVE A GOOD TRIP.

Sincerely,

THE COMMITTEE
Agnes Burns
Bill Riedl
Robert Hymer
Charles Salisbury
Jack Corbett
Fred Dudley
Laurence Walker
Dan Nelson

THE LEGEND OF TOM HORN

Tom Horn was truly a colorful figure of the old west. He had become famous as a cavalry scout in Arizona and had served as a government interpreter. He had been adopted as a son by the Apache Indians and was one of the trackers of Geronimo. He was acknowledged as a champion rodeo cowboy. Later he served in The Spanish-American War.

In 1890 Horn went to work for the Pinkerton Detective Agency as a range detective. His success in apprehending rustlers brought him new fame and he found he could make more money by hiring out directly to ranchers.

It is claimed that from 1894-1896 Tom Horn cleared all of the rustlers out of the southern part of Wyoming. He acquired an unsavory reputation. His enemies accused him of many killings of small cattlemen. Of these were the Lewis and Powell murders which followed the Langhoff incident.

According to the story, Horn had been hired by the large cattle interests to gather evidence against rustlers. In 1893 it had taken him 13 weeks of observing the "Langhoff Gang," a group of squatters, before he accosted them allegedly in the act of butchering beef which did not belong to them and took them into Cheyenne for trial. (The site of the Langhoff incident will be stop #5 on the tour.) Horn's lookout point is on high rocks to left of the road. The slap on the wrist given the rustlers by the court was so light that Horn is supposed to have vowed not to bother with the law in the future.

The site of the Lewis murder is stop #3 on the tour. William Lewis, an Englishman, was not well liked by his neighbors. He was quite suspicious of other people. It was claimed that he had boasted of stealing cattle. He was killed on his ranch of 160 acres in the area known as the Iron Mountain district about 40 miles northwest of Cheyenne. He had ignored warnings to leave the country and was shot three times from a distance of about 900 feet.

Several other warning notes were sent out and many people left the area. But Fred Powell ignored his. He was the second person to be killed in the fall of 1895. It was obvious that the murder had been planned meticulously. Powell was shot from a ledge of rocks about 250 feet away. (The site of this killing is stop #1 on the tour.)

Large scale rustling stopped. Until the Spanish-American War in 1898, Tom Horn worked quietly as a cowboy for the Iron Mountain Cattle Company. Following the war Horn returned to the area to find that cattle stealing was again flourishing. The story then takes him to northwest Colorado where there was work "detecting cattle rustlers."

In the meantime bad feeling was building up in southeastern Wyoming that was to result in the murder of Willie Nickell. Many felt this was

an eruption of a war between cattle interests and the sheepmen as the Nickell ranch ran sheep. It was probably a case of mistaken identity as 14 year old Willie was wearing his father's hat and slicker. Willie was shot twice by a 30-30 from a long distance. This killing took place on July 18, 1901. (The site of this killing is stop #4 on the tour.) On August 4th, Willie's father, Kels Nickell, was, himself, shot 3 times. Although his arm was shattered, he recovered.

About this time Tom Horn was living at the Bosler or Coble Ranch near Bosler, Wyoming. He was well known for the braided work he did in leather and horsehair in his spare time. If time permits the tour will visit this site as stop #6.

Was Tom Horn guilty of the crimes attributed to him? There is still controversy about this as there was at the time of the story. There is no questioning the fact, however, that he was tried and convicted of the murder of Willie Nickell. He was hung on November 20, 1903.

If the reader is interested in more information about Tom Horn, the following bibliography may be useful. The information in this brief summary was taken from the first two sources.

Krakel, Dean F. 1954

The Saga of Tom Horn. The story of a cattlemen's war.
Laramie, WY, Powder River Press. U.W. Library B/H 784k

Henry, Will

I, Tom Horn.

J. B. Lippincott Co., 1975

Life of Tom Horn. An autobiography and vindication.

Published for John C. Coble by Lothian Book Co., Denver

U.W. Library Book No. B/H 784

Thompson, John Charles 1946

The Hanging of Tom Horn

The Westerners Brandbook 1945 pp. 111-129 (Denver Posse)

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Monagan, Jay 1946

Last of the Badmen. The legend of Tom Horn.

Indianapolis and New York: Bobbs Merrill & Co.

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Book Review in: The Westerners Brand Book (Chicago).

III: 6: 40. August 1946

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Denver Times, August 5, 1901. Wyoming Feuds Latest. Kels Nickell, father of assassinated boy shot three times.

Denver Times. May 22, 1902. Your Life is in Danger. A Wyoming rancher receives a dread warning, similar to those that preceded

the murders of Lewis and Powell.

Denver Republican. November 19, 1903. Horn's funeral this afternoon.

Paine, Lauran 1963

Tom Horn: Men of the West.

Barre, Mass. Barre Publishing Company.

U.W. Library Hebard Room B/H 78 4p.

POINTS OF INTEREST ALONG THE WAY

(Please refer to the log for approximate location and time of arrival.)

1. CYRUS MANN Ranch to the left two miles. Once a producer of cream-colored horses with white manes and tails. Entering King Brothers ranch now owned by Howard Carroll.
2. THE SPUR. A limestone ridge of the Laramie Mountains extending in a northwest direction from the southeast.
3. ROGERS CANYON. Named for Oscar Rogers who hauled timber to Laramie in the early days.
4. Leaving ROGERS CANYON. Middle fork of Horse Creek to the left. The old Rogers Ranch located to the south. Rogers owned a shed where he could house 15,000 head of sheep in a blizzard. In one blizzard he lost 7,500 head. To the left is the ANORTHROSITE deposit used in the production of aluminum.
5. RAGGED TOP a prominent landmark to the left. The teeth extend upwards like those of a saber-toothed tiger. Dirty Em Mt. a mile south of Ragged Top acquired its name from the untidy habits of a woman homesteader who resided at its base.
6. SERMON Ranch (formerly McKechnie Ranch) also known as Horse Creek Ranch. Trip will be across ranch to where Fred Powell was assassinated in 1895 on Horse Creek. Note picturesque GREEN TOP MT. to the south and to the right.
7. HORSE CREEK STATION. Advise travelers to fill their gas tanks here if needed. Outhouses available. McLaughlin and Whitaker Ranches nearby to left.
8. Trip will be across TUGMAN RANCH to old LEWIS RANCH site where Bill Lewis was assassinated in 1895.
9. MILLER RANCH. Trip will be across ranch to SITE OF WILLIE NICKELL'S ASSASSINATION July 18, 1901. Note Laramie Peak to the north. Highest peak in Laramie Range and is 11,000 feet above sea level.

10. BILLY CLAY RANCH. He was a Virginian and was a descendant of the great statesman Henry Clay who imported the first registered Short-horn cattle to Virginia. He was one of the first pioneer cowboys who worked for the SWAN LAND & CATTLE COMPANY. He had "color" enough for another Owen Wister. Billy Clay lived on Mule Creek. There are several good ranches below this one on Mule Creek.
11. SOUTH SYBILLE, a stream where many old ranches were located. William Owen states that Sybille was named for a member of the firm Sybille, Adams and Company who ran a post at Fort Platte situated immediately at a point of land at the Junction of the Laramie with the Platte.
12. DOVER'S RANCH. Road passes between the two houses. This ranch was settled in the early days by Christ Christen.
13. LANGHOFF RANCH on right. Now owned by Tom Christnick. Langhoff and friends apprehended by Tom Horn and tried for allegedly butchering beef which did not belong to them. Horn's lookout point on high rocks to left of road. This incident occurred early in fall of 1893. The tour will stop here.
14. SYBILLE WILDLIFE RESEARCH UNIT. In 1948 the Wyoming Game and Fish Commission purchased this 3,081 acre unit of land located 34 miles southwest of Wheatland, Wyoming on State Highway 34. Sybille is a scientific research unit and not a game refuge or preserve. Activities and projects at Sybille are specialized and of a practical nature rather than research for research's sake. Studies at Sybille are keyed to the needs of game and habitat management and organized to answer questions and develop techniques that can be directly applied to wildlife management in the state.
15. SCHOOL CREEK. Received its name from the pretty school teachers who came here to see the beautiful scenery in the canyon. They had to ride horseback to get here.
16. FITZMORRIS RANCH. Settled by a pioneer couple in the early 80's. They raised and educated 12 children. This ranch and all of the railroad land from the Laramie River to the limits of such land in Township 20 N. Range 74 W., was owned by the Sybille Corporation and contained about 100 sections. This land has since been sold to several ranchers.
17. SHEEP ROCK. A large landmark much higher than any of its neighbors. From a distance it resembles a sheep.
18. LONG CANYON. Its creek flows into the Sybille from the southwest. It gets its name by being so straight for so great a distance. This canyon appears as a great "gouge" out of the earth. It is inhabited by rattlesnakes, and is notorious for them.

19. LONG CANYON PEAK to the left. It is the highest peak and the sharpest pinnacle in this vicinity.
20. MORTON PASS. A divide between the Laramie Plains and the Sybille hills. It is practically the same height as Laramie.
21. SYBILLE SPRINGS to the right by the grove of trees. These springs are the headwaters of the Sybille proper. However, the creek about the SPRINGS is called Sybille from there the Plumbago creek enters the Laramie Plains. The creek flows within a few yards of the springs. A noted watering place and here the Swan Company used to pull in with their roundup wagons. Bud Gillespie here saw the largest roundup in his memory, some 3,500 head of cattle gathered in one drive at this point. The Coble wagon was working with the Swan wagon in this roundup.
22. DEAD MAN'S CAVE received its name from a man that was found dead in June 1900. To the left you will see two groups of caves in the limestone formation. The man's body was found in the cave to the left of the two furthest south. He started on foot to Laramie in March 1900 from the Iconoclas Mine on the Bluegrass. A blizzard came up and he became exhausted and went into the cave for shelter and sat down in the back end of the cave, which was quite comfortable and resembled an arm chair. To get out he would have had to fall forward. He had his overcoat spread over his knees. It is presumed that he fell asleep and never aroused. Mike Fitzmorris, a boy, found the body while looking at a swallow nest. He was frightened and started home on a high lope. He met a prospector by the name of Gavett who went back with Mike to investigate. He thought the man was asleep but he was dead and was buried a few yards from where he was found.
23. PLUMBAGO CANYON with a small stream flowing out onto the plains north to form Sybille Creek. William Radical and his wife settled in that canyon in 1886. In front and west of Plumbago canyon the late S. W. Gillespie killed the last buffalo in these parts in July, 1881. The Laramie Plains are in front of you. This is a vast tract of land between the Laramie Mts. on the east, the Medicine Bow Mts. on the west, the Boulder Ridge to the south, and almost to Bates Hole to the north. These plains average 7,000 feet in elevation.
24. BOUGHTON RANCH. When you turn to the right off of Highway 34 on route to the Boughton or Coble Ranch, you are travelling through the Wall Rock Pasture which is about six by eight miles in size. Then you go into the work and saddle horse pasture of the Boughton or Coble Ranch. The Boughton Ranch was settled in 1884 by an Englishman of that name. John Whitaker bought the ranch from Mr. Boughton and sold it to the late John C. Coble and Frank C. Bosler, who owned the Iron Mountain Ranch Company. The beneficiary, Mrs. Frank Bosler, sold it to the Wallis Brothers. This is the ranch where TOM HORN made his headquarters from 1900 until his arrest for the killing of Willie Nickell. The tour will stop here.

25. THE OASIS DITCH was built by Ora Haley in 1890 to irrigate the Oasis, Wyoming and Ghost Ranches. Wyoming Station on the UPRR was Ora Haley's shipping point after 1901 when the cut-off was made to Rawlins which left OLD WYOMING STATION some five miles to the west where the bend of the Laramie River is located. Ora Haley was the richest man ever in the cattle business in Albany County and built the home in Laramie now occupied by the AMERICAN LEGION HOME.

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Continued from Back Cover

<u>PLACES, LOCATIONS AND STOPS</u>	<u>TIME</u>	<u>MILEAGES</u>	
		<u>LOCAL</u>	<u>TOUR MILES</u>
South Sybille (11)	2:26	0.6	100.7
DOVER'S RANCH HOUSE (12)	2:36	0.1	100.8
Highway #34. Turn left toward Laramie	2:29	1.0	101.8
FLAHARTY RANCH on right.	2:33	2.1	103.9
<u>STOP # 5: THE OLD LANGHOFF RANCH (NOW CHRISTNICKS) (13)</u>			
"TOM HORN LOOKOUT	2:39-3:10	4.1	108.0
Sybille Wildlife Research Unit (14)	3:16	3.8	111.8
SCHOOL CREEK (15)	3:23	4.7	116.5
FITZMORRIS RANCH (16)	3:27	2.0	118.5
SHEEP ROCK on the right (17)	3:28	0.6	119.1
LONG CANYON (18)	3:33	3.2	122.3
Long Canyon Peak to the left (19)	3:35	0.9	123.2
MORTON PASS (20)	3:39	2.0	125.2
SYBILLE SPRINGS to the right (21)	3:40	0.3	125.5
DEAD MAN'S CAVE on the left (22)	3:43	1.1	126.6
PLUMBAGO CANYON (23)	3:45	0.5	127.1
TURN TO THE RIGHT off of Highway #34 toward the Boughton (Wallis) Ranch (24)	3:53	5.8	132.9
<u>STOP # 6: THE OLD BOUGHTON RANCH (NOW WALLIS)</u>	4:01-4:31	4.0	136.9
JUNCTION WITH HIGHWAY #30, turn left.	4:37	3.5	140.4
BOSLER	4:41	2.2	142.6
Crossing HIGHWAY BRIDGE ACROSS LARAMIE RIVER			
Crossing Boughton Dith			
Crossing OASIS DITCH (25)	4:46	2.5	145.1
LARAMIE, The End of the Tour	5:14	16.2	161.3

L O G

PLACES, LOCATIONS AND STOPS	TIME*	MILEAGES*	
		LOCAL	TOUR MILES
Leave Albany County Courthouse Square	7:30	0.0	0.0
MALODY HOMESTEAD on the right	7:32	0.5	0.5
CYRUS MANN ranch to left two miles. (1)**	7:38	3.5	4.0
KINGHAM CORRALS	7:41	1.0	5.0
THE SPUR (2)	7:42	1.4	6.4
Entrance to ROGER'S CANYON (3)	7:46	1.6	8.0
ROCK QUARRY. Where most of the rock used in the University Buildings was quarried.	7:49	0.4	8.4
Leaving ROGERS CANYON. (End of pavement) (4)	7:54	2.5	10.9
Keep right at intersection - follow Route #17	7:58	2.0	12.9
Ragged Top, a prominent landmark to the left. (5)			
Leave Route #17 at intersection	8:04	3.0	15.9
SERMON (McKechnie) RANCH (6)	8:08	1.5	17.4
<u>STOP # 1: SITE OF POWELL KILLING</u>	8:20-8:50	2.6	20.0
Return to Route #17	9:02	2.5	22.5
Pass COURTNEY DAVIS RANCH. Formerly Hi Andrews Ranch	9:16	7.3	29.8
Cross Railroad Tracks	9:16	0.2	30.0
<u>REST STOP AT HORSE CREEK STATION (7)</u>	9:17-9:32	0.2	30.2
Pass Tugman Home	9:32	0.2	30.4
Leave Highway to cross Farthing Ranch property	9:40	5.6	34.0
Cross Railroad Grade	9:43	0.7	34.7
<u>STOP # 3: SITE OF LEWIS KILLING (NOW ON TUGMAN RANCH) (8)</u>	9:51-10:21	2.3	37.0
Cross Railroad Grade	10:33	3.0	40.0
Return to Highway	10:37	1.0	41.0
Pass JORDAN RANCH HOUSE, on Chugwater Creek			
*(end of pavement)	10:49	10.0	51.0
Crossing COLORADO & SOUTHERN RAILROAD	10:59	5.0	56.0
Old AL RANCH to the left on Chugwater Creek	11:01	1.0	57.0
Old HUGH McDONALD RANCH to right on Chugwater Creek	11:03	1.0	58.0
Crossing COLORADO & SOUTHERN RAILROAD	11:05	1.0	59.0
Turn left at Junction. Road to WEDEMEYER RANCH			
(Note old Ned Foss Ranch house on right)	11:09	1.9	60.9
Turn left at Ranch Road	11:21	6.0	66.9
WEDEMEYER RANCH HOUSE to right (formerly Morrison Ranch)	11:36	2.5	69.4
LEE MILLER RANCH HOUSE (9)	11:52	4.0	73.4
<u>STOP # 4: SITE OF NICKELL KILLING (NOW ON MILLER RANCH)</u>	12:24-1:30	7.4	80.8
THIS IS ALSO THE LUNCH STOP			
Return to LEE MILLER RANCH HOUSE	2:02	7.4	88.2
Pass Old BILLY CLAY RANCH HOUSE (10)	2:06	2.3	90.5
Observe Hog-Back on West Rim of Dead Head Basin,			
Cross Mule Creek	2:10	2.0	92.5
Old BRAY RANCH	2:14	2.1	94.6
"MICK" MILLER RANCH HOUSE. Note Squaw Mt. ahead	2:25	5.5	100.1

Continued -- Inside Back Cover

* Mileages and times are approximate

** Numbers in parentheses refer to items listed under Points of Interest