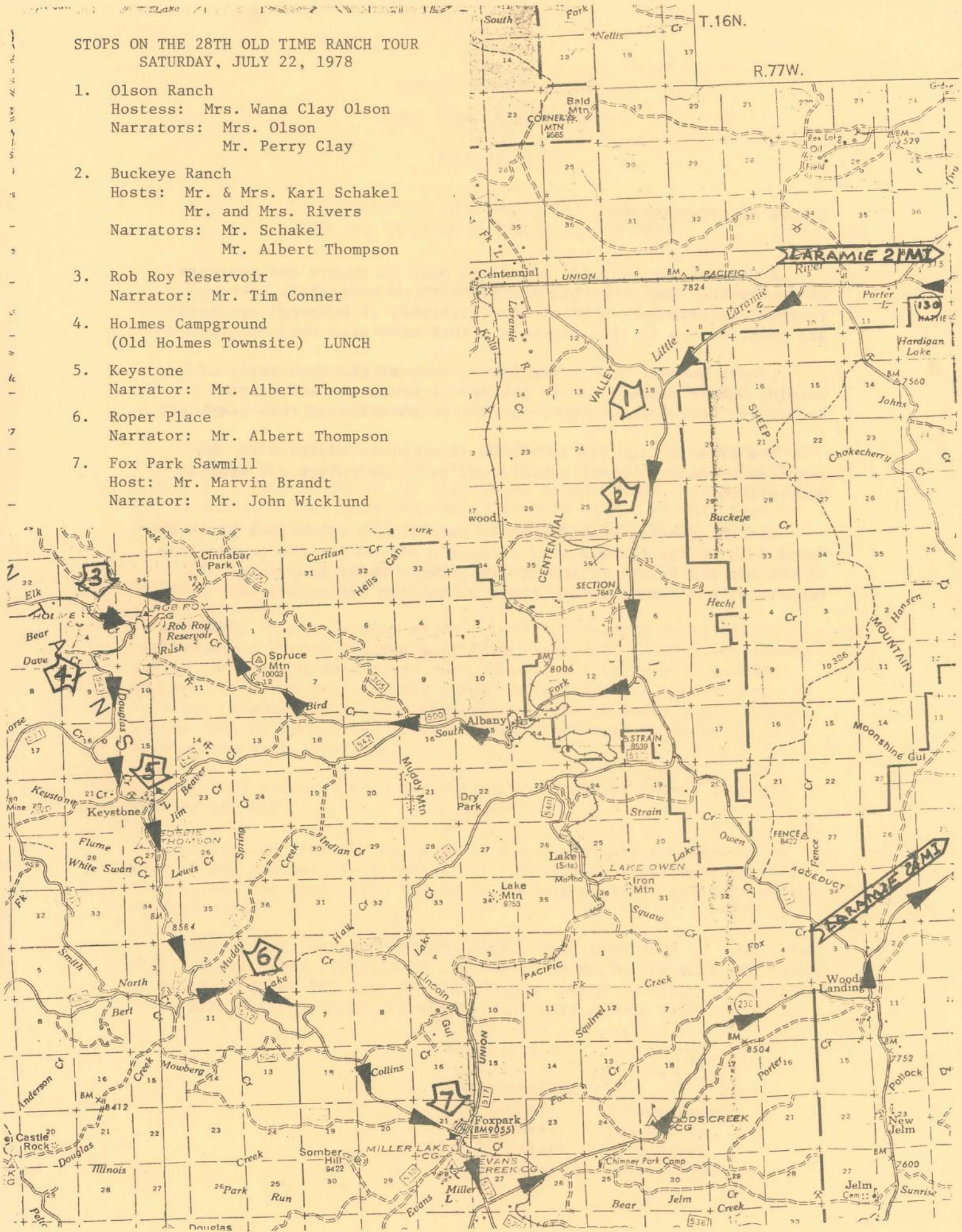


STOPS ON THE 28TH OLD TIME RANCH TOUR  
SATURDAY, JULY 22, 1978

1. Olson Ranch  
Hostess: Mrs. Wana Clay Olson  
Narrators: Mrs. Olson  
Mr. Perry Clay
2. Buckeye Ranch  
Hosts: Mr. & Mrs. Karl Schakel  
Mr. and Mrs. Rivers  
Narrators: Mr. Schakel  
Mr. Albert Thompson
3. Rob Roy Reservoir  
Narrator: Mr. Tim Conner
4. Holmes Campground  
(Old Holmes Townsite) LUNCH
5. Keystone  
Narrator: Mr. Albert Thompson
6. Roper Place  
Narrator: Mr. Albert Thompson
7. Fox Park Sawmill  
Host: Mr. Marvin Brandt  
Narrator: Mr. John Wicklund



A NOTE OF APPRECIATION . . . . .

A word of appreciation should be made to owners and managers of the ranches and other private property we will visit, forest rangers, archive personnel at the University of Wyoming, speakers and contributors to this brochure. They have been very helpful.

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.

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

Special mention should also be made of the assistance given by Marty Gill in the Laramie City Manager's office for the preparation of the map and Robert Wilson at The Laramie Daily Boomerang, all members of the committee and their sponsoring organizations.

Bob Hymer

TWENTY-EIGHTH ANNUAL  
OLD TIME RANCH TOUR

JULY 22, 1978

RANCHING, MINING, TIMBER TOUR  
FROM THE CENTENNIAL VALLEY TO FOX PARK

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.

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.

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 7:30 A.M. SO WE CAN MAKE FINAL ARRANGEMENTS. TRANSPORTATION MAY BE ARRANGED FOR THOSE NEEDING IT AT THIS TIME. WE WILL LEAVE PROMPTLY AT 8:00 A.M. SEE THE LAST PAGE FOR A LOG OF THE TRIP.

The tour will stop for lunch (approximately 11:00 a.m.) at the Holmes Campground. Restroom facilities are available there.

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.)

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

Designated tour marshalls will help coordinate the caravan by maintaining contact by CB radio. If you wish to contribute to this effort, see the lead car. Please do not engage in CB activity unless so designated.

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. DRIVE CAREFULLY. RESPECT THE OTHER FELLOW. ENJOY THE SCENERY AND HAVE A GOOD TRIP.

Sincerely,

THE COMMITTEE

Jim Bowers	Robert Hymer
Agnes Burns	Dan Nelson
Jack Corbett	Bill Riedl
Fred Dudley	Albert Thompson

Stop 1. The Olson Ranch  
(Written by Wana Clay Olson)

In October, 1900. John and Hulda Olson with their small daughter, Emma, and son, Harry, three months old, moved to the ranch which they purchased from George and Elizabeth Ann Hutton. It was not a long move, for they only came from what was known as the Pingre Ranch, north of the present Highway No. 130, not too far east of the North Fork bridge.

Mr. and Mrs. Olson were originally from Sweden. John received his citizenship papers in 1894. Before his marriage, he had worked for the Union Pacific Railroad and on the Phil Bath Ranch in the Little Laramie community.

A short distance from the buildings on the new ranch, the South Fork and North Fork joined to form the Little Laramie River. The original purchase was so small that the Olsons soon began buying land nearby. The lower and upper meadows to the south were bought from Sarah Bird in 1905 and 1909. Miss Bird had homesteaded this land, and the patent to the land was signed in 1892 by Benjamin Harrison, President of the United States.

Land was also available for homesteading east of the Olson Ranch, on the west side of Sheep Mountain, and at intervals John, Hulda and Charley Olson, John's brother, proved up on land. John soon purchased Charley's homestead. When John's son, Harry, was old enough he also proved up on a strip of land. Many years later, Harry also proved up on a secondary homestead on Bald Mountain, several miles northwest. During 1934, meadowland, which had been a part of the well-known and historic Walbol Ranch, but more recently known as the Dinwiddie Ranch, was purchased.

The Olsons built an eleven-room, log home during 1913. Ole Anderson and Gust Westerlund, skilled workmen with logs, constructed the house which today is still a fine, sturdy building. This home became a community center where for years annual Thanksgiving dinners were held. The local social club bought the turkeys, several women would each roast one and bring it back with dressing and gravy to the dinners. Everyone else contributed their special holiday dishes. Such a gala day of visiting, laughter, and general good times was looked forward to each year.

The present barn was also built of logs in 1917. with many stalls for work horses, saddle horses and a large haymow. This building was used for community barn dances for several years. Special occasions included the twentieth and twenty-fifth wedding anniversaries which the Olsons celebrated July 14 with relatives, friends and neighbors coming from miles around to the big dances.

John Olson and son, Harry, were soon raising Hereford cattle for exhibit at the Denver Livestock Show held each year in January. The calves were carefully fed and cared for from time of weaning until the January show. They always placed well in the shows and usually brought top prices. This was a routine and profitable ranch activity for 23 years.

One load of calves went to California where they were fed for a year and shown at the Cow Palace in San Francisco. They took first place in the Hereford Show and were Grand Champions of the entire show. The University of Wyoming was successful in feeding, fitting and showing Olson calves at the Kansas City Royal and the Denver Livestock shows.

As time marches on, people become older and death takes its toll-- Mrs. Hulda Olson passed away on June 6, 1951, John Olson passed away September 23, 1955. A tractor accident took Harry Olson's life on March 17, 1964. The daughter, Emma Olson, later Mrs. Lloyd Wilson, lived on a ranch about four miles south of her childhood home and recently passed away.

The ranch is presently owned by Harry Olson's widow, Wana Clay Olson. Income from the guest business, fishing, and Hereford cattle sustain the ranch today. It is commonly known now as the T-K Ranch, the John Olson brand, registered first in 1894.

Stop 2. The Buckeye Ranch  
(Written by Albert Thompson)

The Buckeye Ranch was owned by Bussard and Ivinson. In the early days Bussard ran a large railroad tie making business and floated ties on both the Big and Little Laramie Rivers to the old Two Rivers station.

In 1880 the Dole Brothers came to Wyoming from Ohio and purchased the ranch and named it the Buckeye, the nickname of Ohio. Dwight Smith bought the ranch in about 1900 and sold it to C. J. Anderson in 1904. C. J. Anderson made many improvements on the place.

For many years the ranch was used as a halfway house for the miners and timber men traveling between Laramie and the Keystone country. My father, Sam Thompson, was working in the timber at this time. This is where he became acquainted with Ida Anderson whom he later married. I was born in the present big log house in 1908.

The huge barn would hold ten or twelve teams of horses and my grandmother, Mrs. C. J. Anderson, ran a boarding house for the travelers.

My grandparents, the C. J. Andersons, sold the ranch to my two uncles, John and Walter Conners, in 1918. Walter died in 1928 and John took over his share, selling the ranch later to Joe and Stevia Glenn. The ranch presently belongs to Karl Schakel and is leased by the Lester Rivers family.

The present abode of the Rivers was a bunk house for many years and is thought to be the oldest building in the Valley.

flow into Hog Park Creek of the North Platte River Drainage. Releases into the North Platte River Drainage are adjusted daily to replace water taken from the North Platte River Drainage on Douglas Creek. Hog Park Reservoir also has become a popular recreation site with extensive use by fishermen, campers, and picnickers. In addition, the reservoir is large enough to accommodate small boats and canoes.

Rob Roy Dam and Reservoir. Rob Roy Reservoir, with a capacity of about 9,000 AF, impounds and regulates the flow of Douglas Creek, a tributary of the North Platte River. Rob Roy Dam is a 95-foot high, 1,094-foot long, compacted earthfill dam located about 80 miles west of Cheyenne in the Medicine Bow Mountains. Rob Roy Dam is located on the upper reaches of Douglas Creek.

Controlled releases from Rob Roy Reservoir may be made through the gated outlet works tunnel through the west abutment of the dam. An ungated Morning Glory spillway also discharges into the tunnel through the west abutment. Storage releases from Rob Roy Reservoir are diverted into the Douglas Creek to Lake Owen Pipeline at a point on Douglas Creek 1.5 miles downstream from Rob Roy Dam. Water is passed through Rob Roy Reservoir to maintain minimum downstream flows.

Rob Roy Reservoir also has become a recreational attraction. Boat launches, camping, and picnic facilities are available. The reservoir is accessible from late spring to late fall.

Douglas Creek to Lake Owen Pipeline. The Douglas Creek to Lake Owen Pipeline diverts Douglas Creek and Horse Creek water into Lake Owen Reservoir. This pipeline was constructed using two miles of 24-inch and nine miles of 33-inch reinforced concrete pipe.

Rob Roy Reservoir releases are diverted into the pipeline by means of a small diversion dam on Douglas Creek. A diversion dam also is located on Horse Creek, a tributary of Douglas Creek, near the Douglas Creek Diversion Dam. The diversion dams are designed so water can be collected year round. The diversion dams also can bypass flows when necessary.

Lake Owen Reservoir. Lake Owen is a natural lake which was enlarged by construction of a small earthfill dam to provide a regulating reservoir and also a reduction in pressure between the Douglas Creek to Lake Owen Pipeline and the Lake Owen to Middle Crow Creek Pipeline. The reservoir, with a capacity of 750 AF, receives the discharge from the Douglas Creek to Lake Owen Pipeline.

Lake Owen to Middle Crow Creek Pipeline. The Lake Owen to Middle Crow Creek Pipeline is a 39-mile long, 26-inch, steel pipeline. Extremely high pressures, up to 625 pounds-per-square-inch (psi), occur in the line. The Douglas Creek water flows by gravity into Middle Crow Creek near Turtle Rock in the Vedauwoo area. The pipeline discharge into Middle Crow Creek is measured at a meter house near Ames Monument.

Stop 3. Rob Roy Reservoir  
(Written by Timothy R. Conner)

Prior to September 1963, Cheyenne's water supply consisted of a surface water collection system in the Crow Creek Drainage area and four groundwater well fields west of Cheyenne. This system was satisfactory until the city "outgrew" its supply. Investigations into the development of additional water supplies to supplement the existing surface water-groundwater supply system were initiated in the mid-1950's. Several alternatives were investigated. The most attractive alternative was to divert water from Douglas Creek, a tributary of the North Platte River. All waters of North Platte River in Wyoming are appropriated for hydro-power and irrigation projects, except in unusually high runoff years. Therefore, any water which is taken from the North Platte River Basin must be replaced or purchased from existing water users.

The best solution for meeting the city's growing water needs was to import water into the North Platte River Basin as replacement for water diverted from the Douglas Creek Drainage.

Sufficient unappropriated replacement water was located at the headwaters of the Little Snake River in the Sierra Madre Mountains of south-central Wyoming. The Little Snake River, a tributary of the Yampa River, is in the Colorado River Drainage.

Little Snake Diversion Pipeline, Tunnel, and Hog Park Drop. The Little Snake Diversion Pipeline, a trans-Continental Divide tunnel, and Hog Park Drop divert and convey water from the North Fork Little Snake River and its tributaries on the west side of the Continental Divide, into Hog Park Creek on the east side of the Continental Divide. Hog Park Creek, a tributary of the Encampment River, is in the North Platte River Drainage.

The main line of the Little Snake Diversion Pipeline is a 36-inch diameter reinforced concrete pipeline that collects water from the North Fork Little Snake River and its tributaries by several in-channel diversion dams. The pipeline system also collects inflow from small streams and sidehill runoff by means of small inlet structures.

The water collected by the pipeline is transported under the Continental Divide by a nine by eight foot, unlined, horseshoe-shaped tunnel. The tunnel is 3,480 feet long with a 20-foot vertical drop from the west tunnel portal to the east tunnel portal. Maximum capacity of the tunnel is about 340 cubic feet-per second (cfs). The trans-Continental Divide tunnel discharges into the Hog Park Creek and then into Hog Park Reservoir.

Hog Park Dam and Reservoir. Hog Park Reservoir, with a storage capacity of about 2,970 AF, was constructed for the primary purpose of controlling channel erosion in Hog Park Creek. Hog Park Dam is a 60-foot high, 500-foot long, compacted earthfill dam built on Hog Park Creek and located about 2.8 river miles upstream from Hog Park Creek's confluence with the Encampment river. Hog Park Dam was completed in 1965, and has maintained a full reservoir during most of its operation. The discharges from Hog Park Dam

Stop 4. Holmes Campground. Site of old town of Holmes.

Holmes was established as a town for people working at the nearby Rambler Copper Mine approximately 1875-80. The post office for the area was at old Holmes. There were probably about 25-30 workers and their families living at Holmes at the time. All of the buildings were constructed of logs. There was a store, post office, boarding house, one or two saloons and several private cabins. The town was established in this location because of the good spring. Commercial mining ceased after 1910, and the town was deserted. The buildings later deteriorated and were removed by the Forest Service. In later years the post office was moved from Holmes townsite to Keystone by Victor Carlin, the postmaster. The Forest Service established the campground on the old townsite in the late 1930's.

Stop 5. Keystone  
(Written by Albert Thompson)

Keystone was established as a settlement in about 1877 as the Keystone mining district and a large mine was located at this point. A ten stamp mill was built to crush the ore from the mine but it was never a paying proposition for anyone except the stock promoters.

My grandfather, C. J. Anderson, was the millwright at the Keystone mine for several years and my mother, Ida, was born there in 1890. The Keystone mine was worked for several years but was eventually sold by the county for taxes to C. V. Carlin, called the mayor of Keystone, who willed it to the Salvation Army before his death.

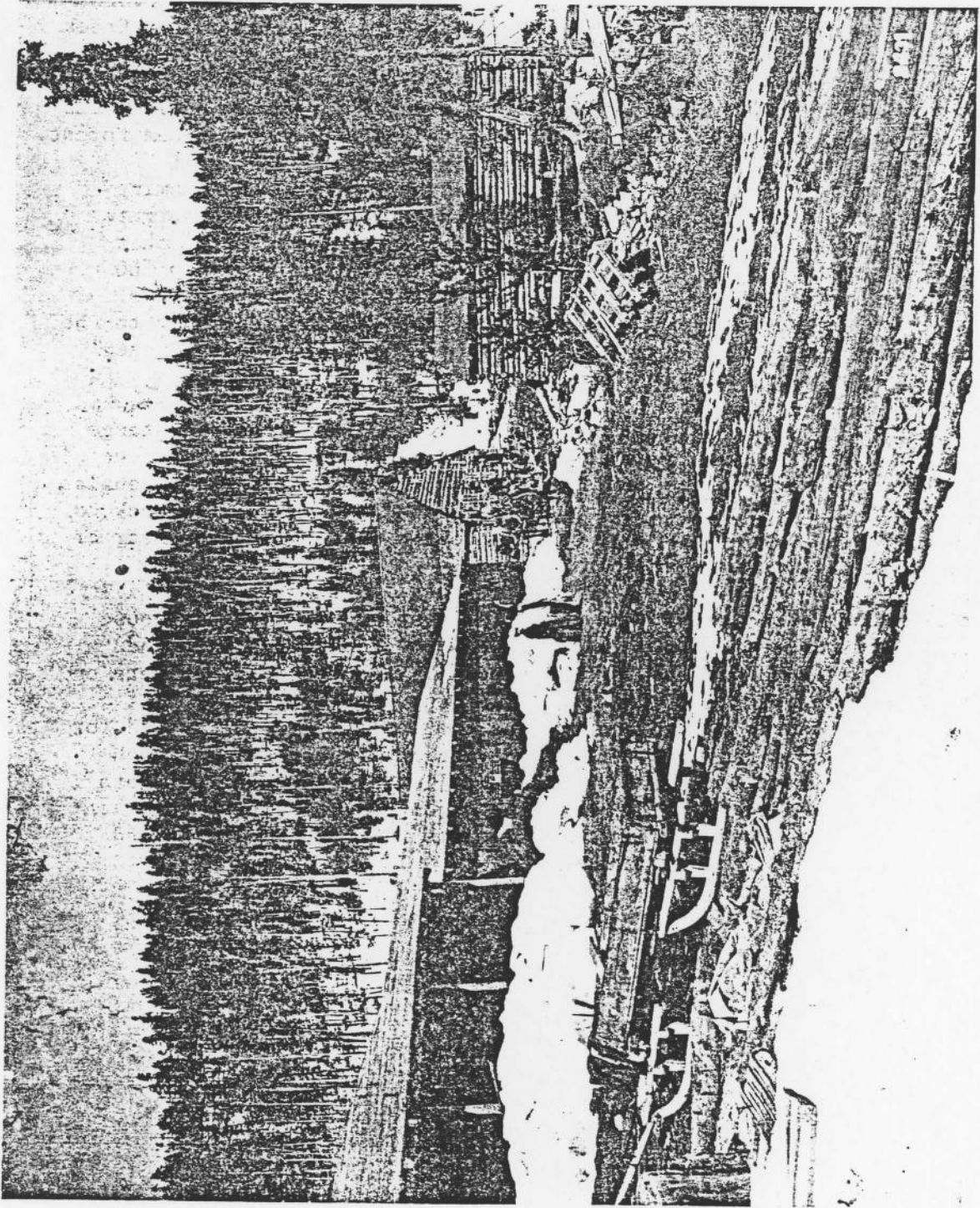
During the early 1900's the Carbon Timber Company established a larger railroad tie camp at Keystone and cut timber on the Douglas, Elk Creek and Devils Gate Creek watersheds, floating them in the creeks to the Platte River and on to Ft. Steele where they were loaded on railroad cars for shipment to the Laramie tie plant for treatment. This continued until 1914 when a lawsuit was won by the Forest Service forcing the payment of a large stumpage claim causing the timber company to claim bankruptcy.

In 1920 the Wyoming Timber Company, formed by P. J. Quealy of Kemmerer and managed by C. D. Williamson of Hanna, resumed operation on Muddy and Spring Creeks, near Keystone, and operated there until 1940 when the Union Pacific Railroad refused to buy river driven ties and forced the company to cease operations.

My father, Sam A. Thompson, was timber boss for the Wyoming Timber Company during that time, moving to Keystone in 1927 where he supervised the operation on upper Douglas Creek, Dave Creek, Horse Creek and all the small tributaries of Douglas Creek.

I went to work for him on April 27, 1923 and worked at all types of jobs. I ran the annual tie drives to Ft. Steele during the years 1937, 1938, 1939 and 1940. At the conclusion of the 1940 tie drive I moved to Laramie and went to work on the Union Pacific Railroad.





HEADQUARTERS CAMP CARBON TIMBER

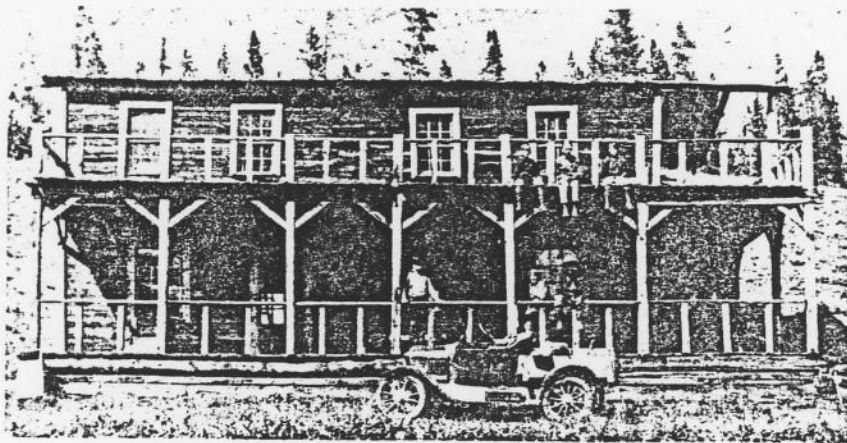
Stop 6. The Roper Place  
(Written by Albert Thompson)

I first remember Billy Roper as a prospector in the summer of 1923. He had dug a mine shaft on the land at the mouth of Smith and North Creek and cleared the trees and dug ditches on both sides of the creek in order to make a meadow of about twenty acres. The hay he raised was used to feed several tame deer and saddle horses of ranchers, notably Bert Wallis who stayed at his place when checking the cattle that grazed on the forest.

Billy Roper related to me the story that when he came to Wyoming from Denver with a team of horses and a wagon that he had to open gates and ford the rivers between Denver and Ft. Collins. I would say that this took place in the 1880's. When I first knew him he was about 60 years of age and had always lived alone on his claim. Several years before I knew him he had torn down an old flume that carried water to the Jackson Placer and built the present two-story building. However, he lived in an old cabin nearby which he called the Boars Nest.

I used to ride a saddle horse from Keystone to Roper's, a distance of five miles, in the evening and the next morning I would ride to the Platte River and back to check on the railroad ties floating down Douglas Creek. I would stay with Mr. Roper on the second night and ride back to Keystone the next day. This went on for about a month until the rear of the tie drive had passed the Roper Place.

Billy Roper died in 1932 and is buried just across from his house. He died in the wintertime so we had to hook up a four-horse team and sled to go down from Keystone for the funeral. About twenty men were on the trip. He had specified that he was leaving a ten gallon keg of whiskey to pass out to the mourners. The ensuing celebration lasted for a week. He was also famous for his dandelion and rhubarb wine, which he sold to the timber workers for \$1.00 a gallon. After Roper's death the Forest Service took possession of the land as it had never been patented and it now appears that the buildings will be demolished and the land returned to its original state.



THE ROPER PLACE IN THE 1920'S

Stop 7. Fox Park

Fox Park has been a timber community for many years. Grant Thomas started a store here for lumber jacks in 1911. When he was asked what name should be given to the area, he said, "Call it Fox Park because of the foxes out in the park (meadow)." The Union Pacific Railroad came to Fox Park in 1912 giving the lumbermen an opportunity to get their timber to the market easily.

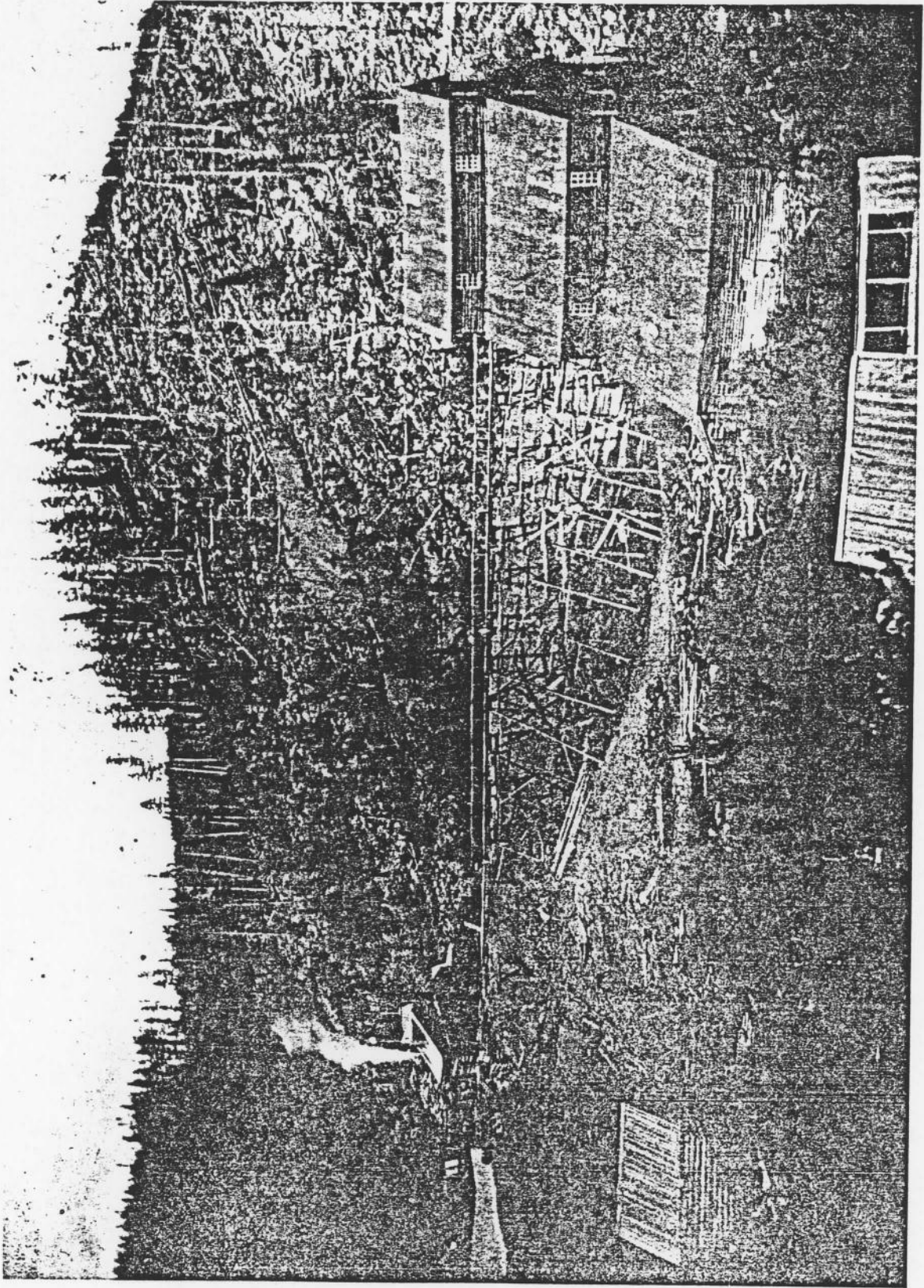
The Standard Timber Company came to the area in 1914 to cut ties for the railroad. Otto Gramm, the postmaster in Laramie in 1916, also had a store at Gramm, six miles south of what is now Fox Park. He cut lumber for railroad ties and "props" (supports for mines) at Fox Park. He had a timber camp here and two sawmills.

Osea Nelson had a logging camp here in 1914 for props and ties. Other early developers were Stroup and Shepherd, and the Fox Park Timber Company. John Wicklund came to the area in 1931 as camp superintendent for the Midland Fuel and Timber Company. In 1946 John Wicklund and Melvin Brandt opened a sawmill down by the Roper place. Their firm opened the big mill here in Fox Park in 1949. This mill burned to the ground in August 1959, and it took two years to build it back. The new mill has operated on this site since 1961.

Mr. Wicklund, who is now retired, will take our tour through the mill today in groups of 20 or 30.

\* \* \* \* \*

The pictures in this brochure were loaned courtesy of Mr. Albert Thompson.



KEYSTONE MINE AND STAMP MILL ABOUT 1900

MILEAGES

<u>PLACES, LOCATIONS AND STOPS</u>	<u>TIME</u>	<u>LOCAL</u>	<u>TOUR</u>
STOP #3 ROB ROY			
Turn left on road leaving Rob Roy	11:00	2.0	53.0
Turn left to Holmes Campground	11:05	2.0	55.0
STOP #4 HOLMES CAMPGROUND			
LUNCH Restrooms at campground			
Turn left on road leaving Holmes	12:15		
Pass Rob Roy Dam	12:23	3.0	58.0
Pass Collection Structure	12:25	1.0	59.0
Pass Crossroad	12:28	.4	59.4
Keystone River	12:32	1.2	60.6
STOP #5 KEYSTONE			
Turn right on Fox Park Road	1:05	1.7	62.3
Notice dredging piles from placer mining on right	1:06	.7	63.0
Pass entrance to Bobbie Thompson campground on right	1:07	.6	63.6
Turn right on side road	1:17	3.4	67.0
Cross Douglass Creek	1:18	.3	67.3
Turn right on road to Roper Place		.1	67.4
STOP #6 ROPER PLACE			
Return to main road	1:50	.8	68.2
Turn left to Lake Creek Lodge		.2	68.4
Pass Lake Creek Lodge	1:54	.7	69.1
Cross Lake Creek - Note Benton Mine on left			
Rejoin main road	2:01	2.5	71.6
Fox Park	2:08	4.0	75.6
STOP #7 FOX PARK SAWMILL			
For those who are interested, 30 people at a time may tour the sawmill.			
This is the end of the tour.			
Cars will leave Fox Park on an individual basis.			
Turn left upon leaving sawmill and drive south to Highway 230.			
Turn left at Highway 230 (paved) and proceed east 38 miles to Laramie		1.4	77.0
Pass Woods Landing		9.0	86.0
Arrive in Laramie	Approximately 4:00	28.0	114.0

\* Mileages and times are approximate

L O G

MILEAGES\*

<u>PLACES, LOCATIONS AND STOPS</u>	<u>TIME*</u>	<u>LOCAL</u>	<u>TOUR</u>
Leave Albany County Courthouse Square	8:00	0.0	0.0
Turn right on Highway 130 in West Laramie at "Y" intersection. Begin crossing Laramie Plain	8:09	2.0	2.0
Pass Herrick Lane (Route 12)	8:13	6.0	88.0
Pass marker of Overland Trail crossing	8:18	5.0	13.0
Notice - snow on Never Summer Range to the south in Colorado	8:23	3.0	16.0
- Red Mountain below and in front of Never Summer			
- snow on Snowy Range (Medicine Bow Peak) to the west-northwest			
Note site of old Overland RR Station on right	8:24	1.0	17.0
Note old unused irrigation ditch on right	8:26	2.0	19.0
Notice Sheep Mountain straight ahead	8:27	1.0	20.0
Notice Table Mountain on left	8:30	3.0	23.0
Pass "Jack's Place" on left	8:31	1.0	24.0
Pass Vee Bar Ranch on right	8:32	1.0	25.0
Note Town of Centennial straight ahead			
Turn left on Highway 11	8:33	1.0	26.0
Enter Centennial Valley			
Note 1932 WPA-CCC buck fence on mountain above to the left			
Pass Twist Ranch	8:34	1.0	27.0
Pass "91" Ranch	8:35	1.0	28.0
Pass Russell Ranch (now Talbott) in hollow to right	8:36	1.0	29.0
Pass original Centennial Road	8:37	1.0	30.0
Turn right into Olson Ranch	8:38	1.0	31.0
STOP #1 OLSON RANCH			
Turn right on highway leaving Olson Ranch	9:20	2.0	33.0
Notice - Sheep mountain on left			
- Centennial Ridge on right			
- Little Laramie River on right			
Turn right into Buckeye Ranch	9:23	2.0	35.0
STOP #2 BUCKEYE RANCH			
An old stage stop and postoffice			
Turn right on highway leaving Buckeye	10:00	1.0	36.0
Note Middle Fork Valley through ridge on right			
Pass old Bill Hecht Ranch on left and Buckeye School on right	10:03	1.0	37.0
Pass Campbell ranch on right	10:04	.5	37.5
Pass Patterson ranch on right		.5	38.0
Pass road to Lake Owen on left	10:06	1.0	39.0
Pass McNealey (Anderson) ranch on left	10:09	2.0	41.0
Cross Railroad Tracks		.5	41.5
Go through Albany and leave pavement	10:10	.5	42.0
Cross Railroad Tracks		.1	42.1
Enter Forest		.2	42.3
Turn right at fork in road	10:17	2.7	45.0
Turn left to Rob Roy Reservoir	10:29	6.0	51.0