



STOPS ON THE 29TH OLD TIME RANCH TOUR
SATURDAY, JULY 21, 1979

1. Plumbago Canyon Ranch (Radichal)
Narrator: Mrs. Tom Moore
2. Dumbell Ranch (Grieves)
Narrator: Myra Hanna
3. ORO Ranch
Narrator: Myra Hanna
4. PR5 Ranch (Flaharty)
Narrator: Myra Hanna
5. Verne Martens Ranch
Narrator: Valerie Christinck

5TH STAND.
PAR. N.

L A R A M I E
C O U N T Y

1. STAND.
PAR. N.

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.

Also 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 uncluttered and undamaged as possible. Please do not flip cigarettes or matches from cars.

A NOTE OF APPRECIATION

A word of appreciation should be made to owners of the ranches we will visit, 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, and to Mrs. Kay Barnett, for helping with the typing.

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 James Nelson, the Laramie City Engineer, 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-NINTH ANNUAL
OLD TIME RANCH TOUR

JULY 21, 1979

SYBILLE CANYON

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 PR5 Ranch. Restroom facilities are available there.

Members of the Laramie Kiwanis Club are serving as traffic controllers. Please follow their directions. It is 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

Henry Bauer	Fred Dudley
Jim Bowers	Robert Hymer
Agnes Burns	Dan Nelson
Jack Corbett	Bill Riedl

Stop 1. The Plumbago Canyon Ranch
(Written by Mrs. Tom Moore)

The Plumbago Canyon Ranch is located in the near center of Albany County, on Plumbago Creek, near Sybille Canyon. It is thirty miles north-east of Laramie, on Albany County Road, No. 12, in Plumbago Canyon.

The ranch consists of approximately 18,000 acres of foothill grass range, with several hundred acres of irrigated native hay meadows. The average elevation is 7700 ft., high of 8000 ft. 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 travelled 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. Their original one-room rock cabin still stands on the property. The original log barn, still in use, contains over 10,000 square feet. It houses the horsebarn, 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 drug in by the Radichals with a team of horses.

The ranch is one of the oldest in this area and continues to be occupied by members of the Radichal family.

The Radichals had four children, Arthur, Ella, Cora, and Marie. All are deceased. Presently living on the ranch are third, fourth, and fifth-generations-- Kathleen, daughter of Marie, and her husband, Tom Moore; and Bill and Larry Castle, sons of Kathleen; and their families.

The present ranch house was built in 1961, after a fire devastated the stately old two-story home built by the Radichals in 1910.

Stop 2. The Grieves Dumbell Ranch
(Written by Myra Hanna)

This place, formerly known as the Konold Ranch, was first homesteaded about 1886 by Michael C. Fitzmorris, who filed on a homestead in Section 2, Township 20, Range 72W, Albany County. He raised a family of 12 children, and engaged in the cattle business, raising Shorthorns. He ran his cattle on the Laramie Plains in the summer, and in the fall, in the hills around Longs Canyon, Bear Creek, and School Creek.

Fitzmorris took a water right out of Sybille Creek in 1887 to irrigate 35 acres of land, and on February 16, 1898, Ella Fitzmorris obtained water rights to irrigate 50 acres. Sheep Rock is a noticeable landmark of the area.

About 1902, Fitzmorris sold his outfit intact to John Innes, Neil Clark, and William Diaber of Cheyenne. Mr. Innes later bought out the partners, operating the ranch until 1920, and then he sold it to Claude Lewis, who in turn sold it to Al Konold and his son, William. Konolds operated it about two years when they sold it to the Swan Land and Cattle Company.

Ray and Ruth Eppler, and their daughter, Charlotte, lived on the ranch when they worked for the Swan Company. When the Swan Company started to liquidate, in 1945, this was the first ranch to be sold. It sold to investors in New York City, called the Sybille Corporation, and comprised all of the Swan holdings in Township 20,N, Range 74 W, about 100 sections or 68,000 acres.

The ranch was leased for 10 years to John H. and Marie Bell of Iron Mountain. Elwood Hanna was foreman for John H. Bell on the Konold Ranch from 1947 through 1957. Elwood and Myra Hanna lived on and ran the Konold Ranch from 1952 to 1958. Bells gave up the lease, and it was leased to Fred Phifer of Wheatland, who bought the ranch, and sold it later.

Pat and Kathleen Ryan Moore bought the south part of the Konold, south of Highway 34, and later sold it to Jimmie and Gloria Grieve, of the Dumbell Ranch, in 1967. The west part of the ranch, north of Highway 34 was sold to Taylor Clark, and in 1975 to William R. Jones of Wheatland, and a part recently sold to Gilbert Smith of Bosler. The lower north part was sold to Fred and Mickey McGuire, of Wheatland.

Today, Jimmie and Gloria Grieve, together with their son-in-law, and daughter, Lee and Ellen Allen, and daughter Kresta, operate the ranch.

Stop 3. The ORO Ranch (Written by Myra Flaharty Hanna)

The ORO Ranch on South Sybille Creek was founded in 1895 by Gustav W. Rosentreter, who was born in Schoenlanke, Germany, January 31, 1874, and came to the United States to Laramie, Wyoming, June 13, 1890, at the age of 16 years. He worked as a cowboy on the roundups for the Mitchells' HR Ranch, the Ogalalla Ranch northwest of Douglas, the Pugsley outfit on the Powder River, and the Quarter Circle L Ranch north of Gillette.

Gus Rosentreter filed on his homestead on the South Sybille Creek, south-west of Wheatland, in 1895. It is now part of the ORO Ranch, the land mainly in Platte County, with some in Albany. The final patent was issued on September 6, 1902, and was signed by President Theodore Roosevelt. He first built a house, 22' X 24', with four rooms, this being the first improvement, and a chicken house out of flat stone that is still standing today; later, a corral, small shed, and horse pasture.

On November 24, 1897, Gus Rosentreter married Julia L. White, a local school teacher, in Cheyenne, Wyoming, and they moved to his homestead. Their daughter, Myrtle A. Rosentreter Flaharty was born October 23, 1898. Julia passed away October 4, 1902, and Gus later remarried, to Iva Ankeny, August 31, 1904. Two sons were born to this marriage, Floyd and Lawrence.

He got a bunch of young cottonwood trees on Sand Creek in Platte County, divided them in three bunches, and he and Leslie Sommers planted them at the Sommers, Roved, and Rosentreter ranches in the summer of 1906. A fine apple orchard was later planted, and he obtained water rights out of South Sybille in 1899 to irrigate 67 acres of bottom land. He bought more adjoining land and enlarged his ranch. In later years, the other outbuildings, and new garage and barn were built, and the hay meadows improved.

Gus Rosentreter ran commercial hereford cattle with the ORO brand on the left ribs, the brand being used in the late 1890's, and recorded in 1909. They also used the VLV brand, with Floyd using the 7N brand, and Laurence the JY brand. He also ran two-year old steers for many years, along with his cow herd.

Known as a good horseman, Gus Rosentreter raised and broke many good saddle horses, and rode until he was 92 years of age.

His daughter, Myrtle, became a school teacher, attending the U.W. summer school, and teaching at the local Sybille School. She married Earl Flaharty, and they moved to the PR5 Ranch in 1926. His sons, Floyd and Laurence, both remained in the ranching business, Laurence moving to the JY Ranch on Deadhead Creek around 1940, with his wife, Marie, and son Larry, and daughter Myrtle Marie. Gus' wife, Iva, passed away in 1957.

Honored as "Wyoming's Oldest Homesteader" still residing on his original homestead, Gus Rosentreter was presented with a certificate by Senator J. J. Hickey at a ceremony held at the Platte County Fair and Rodeo in Wheatland, August, 1962.

The ORO Ranch was operated by Gus Rosentreter and Floyd and Helen Rosentreter until 1966, when Gus retired and moved to Wheatland, after ranching some 71 years. Floyd and Helen Rosentreter continued to operate the ranch after Gus Rosentreter passed away, March 9, 1968, at the age of 94 years. Floyd died in May, 1971.

In November, 1970, the Rosentreters divided and sold the ORO Ranch. Laurence Rosentreter bought the southeast half, mainly comprising range-lands; and Elwood and Myra J. Flaharty Hanna, a granddaughter of G. W. Rosentreter, bought the north half, including the meadows, some rangeland, and ranch headquarters. So the ranch passed to the third generation, and Susan Hanna is the fourth generation.

Today, Elwood and Myra Hanna operate the ORO ranch as a unit with their PR5 Ranch, the places being only a mile apart with land adjoining, divided by Highway 34, both ranch headquarters being located in Section 7, Township 21, Range 70W, Albany County.

Stop 4. The PR5 Ranch
(Written by Myra Flaharty Hanna)

The PR5 Ranch on North or main Sybille Creek was homesteaded in 1890 by Louis Peterson Roved and his brother, Martin, who came from Denmark. Lou first filed on his 160 acre homestead in Section 7, Township 21, Range 70W, in Albany County, and built a one-room log cabin in 1890. Later on he took up additional homestead land until he had a full section. His brother, Martin, also filed on a homestead, gradually securing a section of adjoining land.

The bachelor brothers dug part of the irrigation ditches by hand, and planted an apple orchard which was one of the first in the neighborhood. They obtained water rights out of main Sybille Creek to irrigate 81 acres, in 1899. The cottonwood trees were brought up from Sand Creek by Gus Rosentreter in the summer, 1906. Lou built up his cattle herd, and ran them on open range on the Laramie Plains in the summer. He used the PR5 brand on the right ribs; "P" stands for Peterson, and "R" for Roved, first used in the 1890's, and recorded as the original state recording October 13, 1909.

The brothers leased the ranch to Earl and Myrtle Rosentreter Flaharty on May 1, 1926. Earl Flaharty was born near Delta, Pennsylvania, June 6, 1889, and came to Cheyenne, Wyoming in the spring of 1909, at 19 years of age, to work on the John L. Jordan Ranch at Iron Mountain. He filed on a homestead, later selling it to the Jordans, and worked for them 16 years. On November 4, 1924, Earl Flaharty married Myrtle Rosentreter, a local school teacher, in Cheyenne, and in 1926, the Flahartys moved to the Roved Ranch.

Earl and Myrtle Flaharty bought the Roved whiteface cattle, and the PR5 brand when they leased the ranch. He also used his EF brand. The Roved brothers moved to Wheatland and retired, Martin passing away in 1926, but Louis lived until 1934. The Flahartys lived in the log house for six years, during this time, Clifford and Myra Jean were born. In 1931, Earl and Myrtle Flaharty bought the PR5 Ranch from Lou Roved, and in the summer of 1932, built the present white frame house. School for Clifford and Myra was held from the fall of 1932 to May, 1941, in the bunkhouse, built in 1930.

In 1937, the Flahartys bought the Leslie and Dave Sommers Ranches on North Sybille Creek, adjoining the PR5 Ranch, adding meadow land and pasture, including Poe Mountain, 7,125 feet, named for an early-day trapper; Trail Creek pastures; and Copper King pasture, named for an early-day mine. The Leslie Sommers Ranch was started around 1888 by a Mr. Cook, a railroader in Laramie, who got Territorial water rights in 1887 for 40 acres on main Sybille Creek.

Earl Flaharty added to the PR5 Ranch by buying several homesteads, and land from the Swan Land and Cattle Company, or Two Bar, on the Laramie Plains, when they liquidated in 1947. He built a reservoir on Trail Creek, cement dams on Sybille and Canyon Creeks, improving the irrigation system

and meadows with conservation work. He developed a good herd of commercial hereford cattle, a cow-calf and yearling operation, topping the market in Omaha many years.

The house was modernized in the 1940's, and in the summer of 1947, R.E.A. came up Sybille valley, and Cliff Flaharty wired the house, out-buildings, and also installed the T.V. tower and piped T.V. to the house in 1954. Cliff now lives in Littleton, Colorado, and is a senior engineer in aerospace for Martin Co.

During the years and early 1950's, Earl Flaharty built all new out-buildings, including calving sheds and barn; all that is left of the original buildings is the old shop that is remodeled.

In 1958, the Flahartys leased the PR5 Ranch to their son-in-law and daughter, Elwood and Myra J. Hanna, and their daughter, Susan, who are still operating the ranch. Elwood Hanna was born at Bayard, Nebraska, near Chimney Rock, to a ranching family, and came to Wyoming around 1940. He was foreman for John H. and Marie Bell on the Konold Ranch on upper Sybille from 1947 to 1957. He and Myra J. Flaharty were married June 8, 1952, and lived on the Konold Ranch until January, 1958; their daughter, Susan, being born in 1956.

The Hannas bought the PR5 Hereford cattle, and the PR5 brand, and continue to use it, along with the E3, Quarter Circle MJ, and SL brands.

The new house where the Hannas live was built in the fall of 1958. The Flahartys retired, and moved to Wheatland to make their home in 1960. Earl Flaharty passed away August 30, 1974, at the age of 85 years.

Elwood and Myra J. Hanna bought part of the ORO Ranch, started by G. W. Rosentreter, Myra's grandfather, in 1970, and are buying the PR5 Ranch. Today, they operate the two ranches together as a unit, being the second generation on the ranch, with Susan Hanna the third generation, and continue to improve it, with hope of the future.

Stop 5. The Vern Martens Ranch
(Written by Valerie Christinck)

Around 1886 Fred Langhoff homesteaded this area. He married Evelyn Farrell, a girl from the Little Laramie. The Langhoffs raised three children while on the ranch. They lived on the ranch less than 10 years when it was taken over by some people by the name of Hoffman from Cheyenne.

A man by the name of Hartwig Martens was placed on the ranch by Hoffman to manage it. Martens eventually bought the land, livestock, and equipment. Hartwig Martens married Blanche Owens from Tie Siding. They raised three sons, Mark, Verne and Julius, and a daughter Lucy. Hartwig died in 1910 and through the hard work of his wife and children the ranch was kept together.

In the 1930's Verne Martens obtained the ranch. In 1930 Verne married Minnie Needham from North Dakota. They had two daughters, Norma and Valerie.

Verne increased the ranch size and managed a respectable cow, calf operation until his death in 1968. The ranch is now owned and operated by his daughter and her husband, Mr. and Mrs. Tom Christinck.

L O G

MILEAGES*

PLACES, LOCATIONS AND STOPS

TIME* LOCAL TOUR

Leave Albany County Courthouse Square	8:00	0.0	0.0
Cross 3rd & Curtis Streets	8:05	1.3	1.3
Pass Diamond Horseshoe	8:07	1.6	2.9
Pass O.K. Corral	8:11	3.8	6.7
Turn right at Wheatland Cut Off (Highway 34)	8:24	10.8	17.5
Turn right into Plumbago Canyon on County Road 12	8:36	10.5	28.0
Turn right into Plumbago Canyon Ranch	8:38	1.6	29.6

STOP #1 PLUMBAGO CANYON RANCH

Turn left on Highway 12 leaving ranch	9:15		
Turn right on Highway 34	9:17	1.6	31.2
Cross Morton Pass (same altitude as Laramie)	9:22	2.1	33.3
Turn right into Dumbell Ranch	9:32	6.4	39.7

STOP #2 DUMBELL RANCH

Turn right onto Highway 34	10:10		
Pass Sybille Wildlife Research Unit	10:16	4.0	43.7
Pass outhouses at Wildlife Unit	10:18	1.1	44.8
Turn right at ORO Ranch	10:28	5.9	50.7

STOP #3 ORO RANCH

Cross Highway to PR5 Ranch	11:00	2.0	52.7
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STOP #4 PR5 RANCH

LUNCH & Restrooms at PR5

Turn right onto Highway 34	12:30	1.0	53.7
Turn right into Vern Martens Ranch	12:36	4.8	58.5

STOP #5 VERNE MARTENS RANCH

Turn right onto Highway 34	1:15	.2	58.7
Turn left onto highway 30	1:54	25.9	84.6
Arrive in Laramie	Approximately 2:21	17.5	102.1

*Mileages and times are approximate