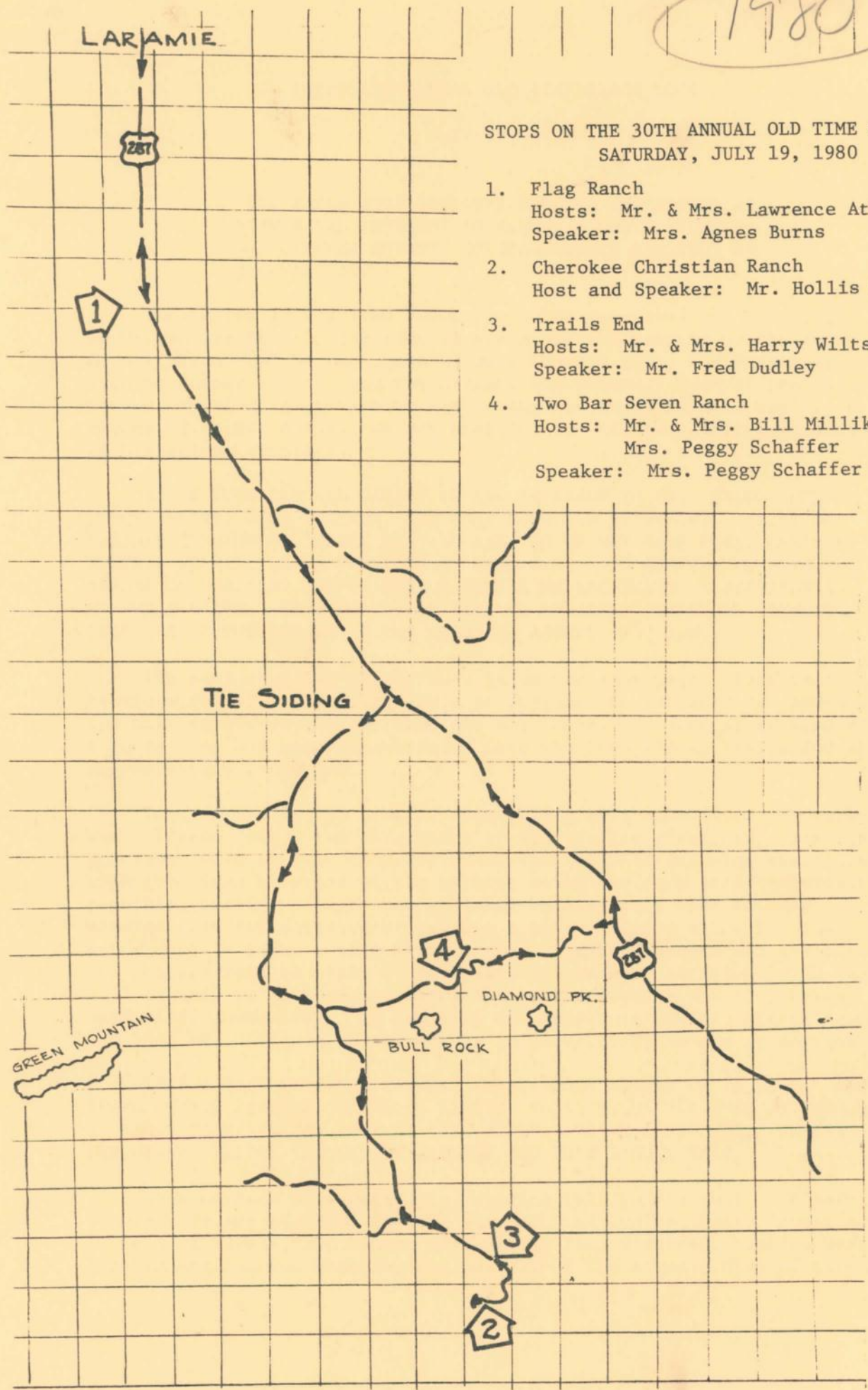


1980

LARAMIE

STOPS ON THE 30TH ANNUAL OLD TIME RANCH TOUR
SATURDAY, JULY 19, 1980

1. Flag Ranch
Hosts: Mr. & Mrs. Lawrence Atkinson
Speaker: Mrs. Agnes Burns
2. Cherokee Christian Ranch
Host and Speaker: Mr. Hollis Whitrock
3. Trails End
Hosts: Mr. & Mrs. Harry Wilts
Speaker: Mr. Fred Dudley
4. Two Bar Seven Ranch
Hosts: Mr. & Mrs. Bill Milliken and
Mrs. Peggy Schaffer
Speaker: Mrs. Peggy Schaffer



1

TIE SIDING

GREEN MOUNTAIN

BULL ROCK

DIAMOND PK.

4

3

2

287

THIRTIETH ANNUAL OLD TIME RANCH TOUR

July 19, 1980

THIS RANCH TOUR INCLUDES RANCHES AND POINTS OF HISTORICAL INTEREST IN ALBANY COUNTY, WYOMING AND LARIMER COUNTY, COLORADO WHICH ARE WEST OF HIGHWAY 287.

The series of Old Time Ranch Tours was conceived and promoted by Dr. Robert Burns. The tour is now sponsored jointly by the Albany County Historical Society, the Laramie Kiwanis Club, the University of Wyoming Summer School, and the Laramie Westerners. Much of the information compiled for this book concerning the early ranches was first presented by Dr. Burns. We are grateful for his painstaking attention to historical accuracy.

BRING YOUR CAR ALL GASSED UP AND BE READY TO GO. BRING YOUR LUNCH, DRINK, YOUR FRIENDS, AND SOME MOSQUITO REPELLANT. BE AT THE LARAMIE COURTHOUSE SQUARE AT 7:30 A.M. SO WE MAY MAKE FINAL ARRANGEMENTS. WE WILL LEAVE PROMPTLY AT 8:00 A.M.. TO REDUCE THE TOTAL NUMBER OF VEHICLES AND TO SAVE GASOLINE WE ENCOURAGE PARTICIPANTS TO SHARE RIDES. TRANSPORTATION WILL BE ARRANGED FOR THOSE WITHOUT VEHICLES IF YOU REPORT TO THE LEAD CAR AROUND 7:30 A.M..

The projected log of the tour is on the last page. Note that restroom facilities are available at Cherokee Christian Ranch and also 1/4 mile on 80C beyond the turn off for the picnic area after Stop #3A. A lunch stop has been incorporated into the Stop #3B at Trails End at approximately 11:00 A.M..

Tour marshalls and traffic controllers will coordinate the caravan. Please follow the directions of the traffic directors. Especially important will be your cooperation at the railroad crossing associated with the first stop and at the parking sites for each stop. Wherever possible, parking will be accomplished so that cars need not use reverse gear for entering or leaving a site. Please allow the numbered cars to leave a site first. (Gates must be opened and traffic controllers must be ready to park cars at the next location.) CB radio will be used to communicate among the tour marshalls and to provide historical commentary. 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 35 MILES PER HOUR ON DIRT ROADS. DRIVE CAREFULLY. RESPECT THE OTHER FELLOW. ENJOY THE SCENERY AND HAVE A GOOD TRIP.

Many persons have helped to organize this year's tour. In particular, we are grateful for the work of Fred Dudley, Henry Bauer, Agnes Burns, Jim Nelson, Bob Hymer, Bill Riedl, Paul Stratton, Maurice Wear, Jim Zancanella, Don Prehoda, the members of the Kiwanis Club of Laramie

who assisted in traffic control, and the officers of the law who escorted us in various places along the way. Our largest measure of appreciation goes to our gracious hosts: Mr. & Mrs. Lawrence Atkinson, Mr. Hollis Whitrock, Mr. & Mrs. Harry Wilts, Mr. & Mrs. Bill Milliken, and Mrs. Ted Schaffer.

Stop 1. The Flag Ranch

The Flag Ranch (II:151-176) is situated at the confluence of Willow Creek and Lone Tree Creek, tributaries to the Big Laramie River. The history of this pioneer ranch of the Laramie Plains is closely tied to the history of its original owner, Bob Homer. The name "Flag Ranch" comes from the brand used on the livestock.

Bob Homer was born in Boston, Massachusetts. On a train trip to settle in California, Homer was persuaded to stop in Laramie. He liked Laramie so well he never did settle in California. Those of you from the Boston area may be familiar with the family of Captain John Homer who had a prosperous shipping business to India and other Far East trade centers around 1672. Bob Homer was a descendent of John Homer.

Homer was joined by a friend, Frank Sargeant, also of Boston. The two began their ranching business in August, 1871, on rented property at the tip of the Boulder Ridge. The first winter was disastrous. Having been advised that no sheds of hay were needed, a log house, a stable for horses and a corral were erected. About 2,000 sheep arrived in September. A four-day snowstorm with high winds began on October 13. Other storms followed until the middle of April. The sheep perished from starvation.

In 1872, the present site of the Flag Ranch was purchased from George and Charles Brown. Starting again with 1,000 head of ewes, the herd thrived reaching nearly 4,700 head of sheep in 1881. Sargeant eventually married and returned to Boston.

Several additional ranches were purchased to form the present Flag Ranch. The Rice and Lindsey ranches on Lone Tree Creek were added because of a spring and good hay. The W. A. Simpson place, one of the oldest in the area, was owned by the Boswells in 1901 and sold to Homer in 1902. The ranch of Al Konold, sold to Homer in 1894, was located about a mile southeast of Hutton Lake. George Poole, a blacksmith who had a shop in the Ford garage until the 1948 Holliday Building fire, had an area where irrigation ditches were dug and where wire grass seeded in the 1890's can still be seen. The Livingston Ranch in Red Buttes eventually also passed to the present owners. The J. F. Soule Ranch (Soule was player-coach on the U.W. football team and later the first Dean of the College of Liberal Arts) owned a ranch with James Gilmore which Homer acquired around 1900. The James McGibbon Ranch, south of Red Buttes on Willow Creek, also became part of the Flag Ranch.

Finally, the J. W. Collins Ranch was sold to Fred Klick of the Flag Ranch. The Flag Ranch was then sold to Otto Burns of the Pitchfork Land & Cattle Company and is now managed by Lawrence Atkinson.

Two of the original buildings were lost to fire. The Big House of the Homers was made of logs and had 21 rooms. Fire destroyed it in November, 1933. Another log building was lost five or six years ago.

The Cherokee Trail (IV:109, 110 and I:53)

In 1848, after a part of the Cherokee Nation of Indians had ceded their lands in Georgia to the United States, a party was organized and sent to the Pacific coast to look for a new country in which to locate their people. They came west by the Arkansas Valley route to the mouth of Squirrel Creek, a tributary of the Arkansas River. They ascended this creek to the divide, thence crossing to the head of Cherry Creek, following this stream to its junction with the North Platte River. They pushed on northward along the eastern base of the mountains until they reached the spot where Laporte is now located. Here they plunged into the mountains, following a route that led them past what is now known as Virginia Dale and over the divide to the Laramie Plains; thence on west to California. On their return from the Laramie Plains, by the way of what is now St. Cloud or Cherokee Park, they evidently camped one night. They then went southward to Laporte and thence went southward to the Arkansas on their return trip. There is a tradition to the effect that they were surprised at Cherokee Park by a war party of Ute Indians that had come through Sand Creek Pass, over Boulder Ridge and down Sheep Creek. The Cherokees are said to have fled to the top of Cherokee Hill, where a battle resulted with the Cherokees victorious. The dead Cherokees are supposed to have been buried under the mounds at the top of Cherokee Hill, but further exploration has proved that there are no graves here and the mounds were erected by squaws and children when their Arapahoe and Cheyenne braves were on a hunting trip. The reason for their action was presumably to keep busy and show industriousness to their returning braves.

An early pioneer, Tom Quillan, was curious about these mounds on Cherokee Hill and excavated the mounds covered with stones and found only solid ground beneath the stones and dirt. He later located on a homestead in 1872 in Larimer County, in Rattlesnake Park, in a gulch now bearing his name. In 1885, he purchased a ranch on Meadow Creek at the foot of Cherokee Hill, living there for many years and finally selling out and moving to Fort Collins.

A marker has been put up on the Cherokee Trail near Wagon Hound Creek, north of Arlington and close to I-80.

Stop 2. Cherokee Christian Ranch (Cherokee Park - Old St. Cloud I:53-56)

The St. Cloud Post Office was established in 1884, largely through the efforts of Henry T. Miller, at his home at what we now know as Cherokee Park. The post office was there for a few years, but the ranchers of the area decided on a more central location to them at the C. T. Woods ranch home.

The first record of an early settler on what is now Cherokee Park, was when H. E. Tedmon had a pre-emption claim there. This was in the early 80's, for in 1883, Henry T. Miller bought this pre-emption relinquishment from H. E. Tedmon and built a house there. Miller ran both cattle and horses, using the A brand on both, but after 1884 he branded his colts with an H T connected. While Mr. Miller and his family lived at what he called St. Cloud, he was influential in establishing the St. Cloud post office. It was located there for a few years, then moved to the C. T. Woods ranch.

It was about 1885 or '86 that Mr. Miller decided to sell his property to Mr. and Mrs. William Campton and move to Fort Collins. William Campton was born May 21, 1838 at Dubuque, Iowa. He married Miss Phoebe A. Dyer on November 30, 1861. Their six children were Thomas, William, Francis, George, Charles and Mrs. Bessie Bell. George Campton is the only one of the family now living, and he resides north of Fort Collins on the farm of his son-in-law and daughter, Mr. and Mrs. Alford Maxfield.

The Camptons came to Larimer County from Missouri in 1885, and soon after that they purchased the beautiful Cherokee Park on the North Poudre and developed one of the most hospitable and popular resorts in the Rocky Mountains. It was in 1895 that the popular mountain resort was completely destroyed by fire, but with true western energy he soon rebuilt it on a larger scale, and added several cottages for the accommodation of summer guests. The main hotel was surrounded by the numerous log cabins. Often the place was filled to overflowing when around 200 guests might be there seeking the refreshing climate of the mountains during the heated period of the year. Several of the children helped in the operation of the resort for years, and after Mr. and Mrs. Campton were no longer able to assume the responsibilities, William or "Uncle Bill", as he was most generally known, and Bessie Campton Bell, and her husband Jack Bell, managed the resort. Mrs. Bell was an especially good cook and one of her specialities was lemon pies. The Camptons ran both cattle and horses, but more horses than cattle, for they needed the horses for the use of their guests at the resort. They branded both with the UK. At one time Mr. Campton bought 30 head of Mexican Mustangs, small horses to be used by guests, and his son "Bill" broke these horses to ride.

It was in 1908, while Mr. and Mrs. Campton were living there, that the post office was moved back to Cherokee Park, and the name changed from St. Cloud to Cherokee Park. The post office was continued at Cherokee Park for many years, until in 1933, when it was discontinued.

Cherokee Park has passed in and out of several hands since the passing of the Camptons, but at the present time it is owned and operated as the Cherokee Christian Ranch. Several churches use the site including The Church of Christ in Laramie and The Meadowlark Church of Christ in Fort Collins.

Stop 3. Trails End

For many years the late Frank C. Miller (III:474-475), travelled with the Buffalo Bill Circus throughout the United States and Europe. He was born and reared and died in Fort Collins. He built up the Trails End Ranch originally owned by Alford Cornelison and purchased by Frank Miller on January 10, 1920, with later additions in 1925 and 1927 (I:56). The Arthur Johnson's, who have a summer cottage at Trails End, found an old mail box with the name covered by many coats of paint. When the paint was removed, the name Cook appeared and seemingly this man once received mail at Trails End. Frank Miller's Trails End was the show place of the area for some 20 years. He spent some \$100,000.00 in developing this show place and many local residents remember seeing his marvelous skill in expert shooting and knife throwing. His expert shooting was a feature at many fairs and rodeos and he gained national and some international fame through 50 years of performances. He fitted up what probably was the largest private zoo in the west containing 1,400 wild animals and birds, including herds of buffalo or bison, elk, white and mule deer, antelope, brown and black bears, coyotes, foxes, wolverines, badgers, etc., as well as wild ducks, geese, eagles, hawks, owls and game birds, principally pheasants; plus a trout rearing farm. Visitors to Trails End around 1919 were particularly impressed with the large trout, lying under the foot bridge, unafraid, which came up to the surface to "gulp down" any bread or other morsel thrown to them. Today the pens and fences can be seen, and although uninhabited, the heritage left by Frank Miller, a superb showman, is an indelible experience remembered by all those who were privileged to see him at Trails End, and at Rodeos and Fairs elsewhere.

Trails End is on the North Fork of the Cache la Poudre river which runs down through La Porte and Fort Collins to the Platte River. The Cache la Poudre received its name in 1836 when a Frenchman named Virees Robidoux, with a small group of men, camped by this stream. They were attacked by a band of Indians and the first words uttered by Robidoux were "Cache la Poudre", which means "Hide the Powder", and from that time the stream has been known by that name.

Today, Trails End is owned by Mr. and Mrs. Harry Wilts who work the ranch and are collectors of memorabilia from the history of Trails End.

Stop 4. The Two Bar Seven Ranch

This ranch is one of the first recreation or guest ranches in the area and its annual rodeo was a well known event in the latter part of June. Ted Schaffer (I:78 and II:326) and his family operated the ranch and since Ted's death, his wife, daughter and son-in-law continue to run it. This ranch was formerly the Jane Wallace place. Just west of the buildings is a large rock grade built by the Denver, Laramie and Northwestern Railroad around 1910, and about a mile upstream is an open park where the railroad construction crew had a camp and one can still see the rock circles where they anchored their tents. About 1.5 miles westward from the ranch is a natural amphitheatre in which a rodeo ground has been constructed, making a useful feature in a natural setting. The scenery surrounding the ranch is some of the best in the area.

REFERENCES TO INFORMATION

- I. Anonymous
The Larimer County Stock Growers Association, 1884-1956
Fort Collins, Colo. - Don Art Printers, 345 E. Mountain Ave.
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- II. Burns, R. H.; Gillespie, A. S. and Richardson, Willing G.
Wyoming's Pioneer Ranches
Laramie, Wyo. - Top of the World Press - 1955
- III. Dunning, Harold Marion
Over Hill and Dale - In the Evening Shadows of Colorado's Long's Peak
Boulder, Colo. - Johnson Publishing Co. - 1956
- IV. Watrous, Ansel
History of Larimer County, Colorado
Fort Collins, Colo. - The Courier Printing and Publishing Co. - 1911

STOP #4: TWO BAR SEVEN RANCH

Leave Two Bar Seven Ranch Yard	2:00	0.0	68.6
Turn left onto US 287	2:13	3.2	71.8
Tie Siding Post Office	2:23	10.1	78.7
Arrive in Laramie	2:37	27.1	95.7

**Alternate route from Trails End to Two Bar Seven Ranch (weather and circumstances permitting)

Leave Trails End area	12:30	0.0
Right onto County Road 80C	12:35	0.6
Right onto County Road 59	12:42	3.1
Right onto Two Bar Seven Road	12:57	7.9
Bear right at Y	1:04	11.8
Gate	1:06	12.4
Bear right at Y	1:08	12.6
Gate	1:13	13.7
Gate	1:16	14.2

L O G

PLACES, LOCATIONS AND STOPS

MILEAGES*

	<u>TIME*</u>	<u>LOCAL</u>	<u>TOUR</u>
Leave Albany County Courthouse Square	8:00	0.0	0.0
Third and Russell Streets	8:02	0.7	0.7
Turn right to Flag Ranch	8:12	8.4	8.4

Beware of Railroad Trains--obey the traffic directors, please.

Reach Flag Ranch House	8:20	12.2	12.2
<u>STOP #1: FLAG RANCH</u>			
Leave Flag Ranch House	8:55	0.0	12.2

Again, beware of Railroad Trains--obey the traffic controllers, please.
DO NOT STOP ON TRACK!

Turn right onto US 287	9:04	2.9	15.1
Tie Siding Post Office	9:14	11.5	23.7
Right turn onto County Road 31	9:15	11.6	23.8
Fork with County Road 319--stay on 31	9:20	14.8	27.0
Enter Roosevelt National Forest (Colo.)			
County Road 59	9:25	18.2	30.4
Stop Sign--left onto County Road 80C	9:40	24.6	36.8
Enter Cherokee Ranch	9:52	27.7	39.9
Cherokee Ranch House	9:54	28.2	40.4
<u>STOP #2: CHEROKEE CHRISTIAN RANCH</u>			
Leave Cherokee Ranch House	10:35	0.0	40.4
Enter Trails End	10:40	0.9	41.3
Stop for description	10:41	1.0	41.4
<u>STOP #3A: TRAILS END</u>			
Leave area	11:20	0.0	41.4
Right onto County Road 80C	11:21	0.1	41.5
Enter Trails End (Rest area ¼ mile beyond on 80C)	11:22	0.2	41.6
Stop for Lunch	11:30	0.8	42.2
<u>STOP #3B: TRAILS END--walk to picnic area</u>			
**Leave Trails End area	12:30	0.0	42.2
Right onto County Road 80C	12:35	0.6	42.8
Right onto County Road 59	12:42	3.1	45.3
Leave Roosevelt National Forest (Wyo.)			
County Road 59	12:59	9.6	51.8
Right onto US 287	1:08	16.1	58.3
Turn right into Two Bar Seven Ranch	1:16	22.1	65.1
Fork in road--bear right	1:22	25.0	67.2
Two Bar Seven Office Yard	1:29	26.4	68.6

*Mileages and times are approximate.

**Alternate route from Trails End to Two Bar Seven Ranch (weather and circumstances permitting). (See inside back page)