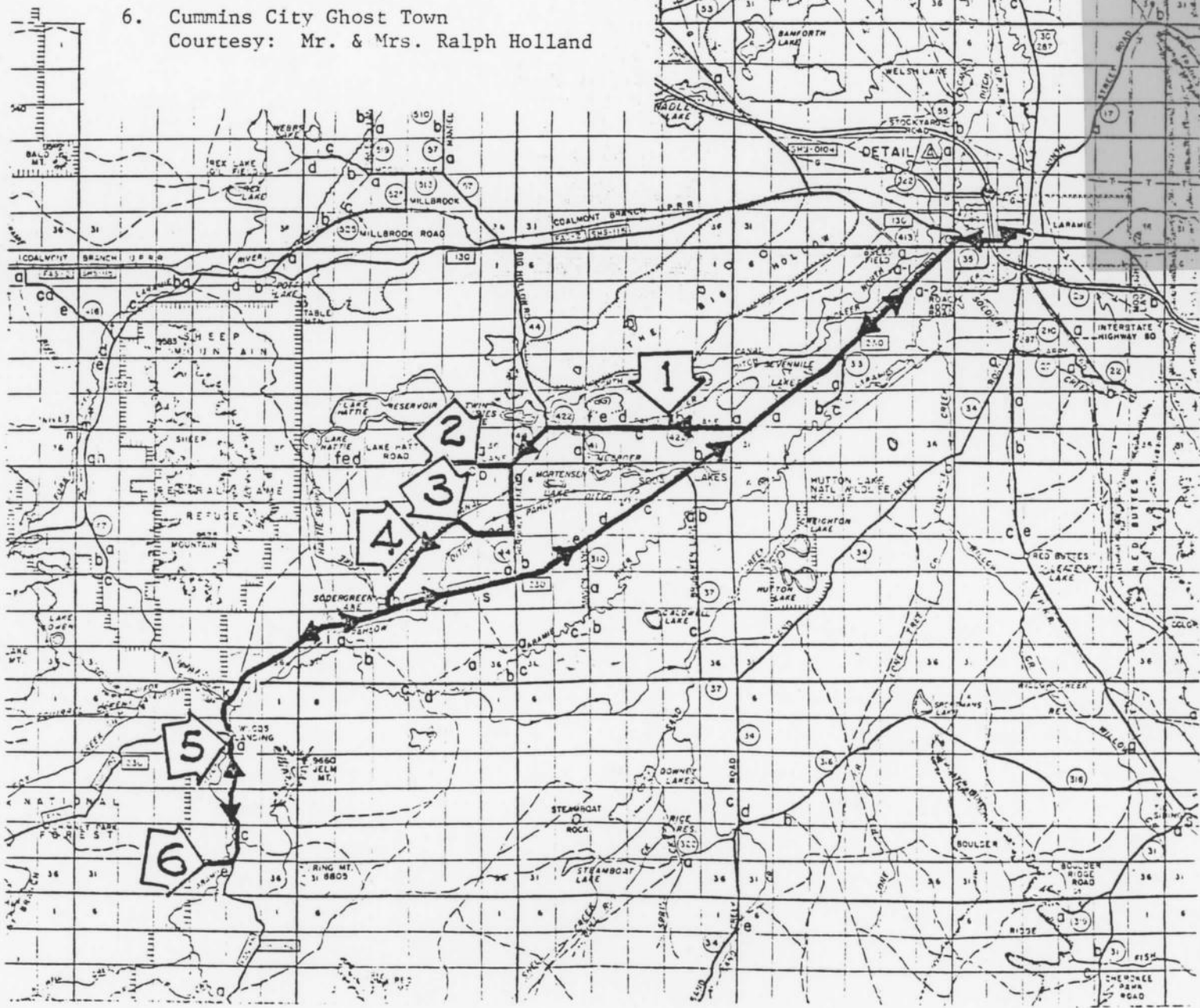


STOPS ON THE 31ST OLD TIME RANCH TOUR
SATURDAY, JULY 18, 1981

1. Harrison Talbott Ranch
Hosts: Mr. & Mrs. Harrison Talbott
2. The Elwood Hanson Ranch
Hosts: Mr. & Mrs. Elwood Hanson
Mr. & Mrs. Don Hanson
3. The Gilbert Engen Ranch
Hosts: Mr. & Mrs. Gil Engen
4. The Ferguson Ranch
Hosts: Mr. & Mrs. Garold Ferguson
5. Lunch at Woods Landing
Courtesy: Mrs. Lestum
6. Cummins City Ghost Town
Courtesy: Mr. & Mrs. Ralph Holland



THIRTY-FIRST ANNUAL OLD TIME RANCH TOUR

July 18, 1981

OLD TIME RANCH TOUR INCLUDING RANCHES AND POINTS OF INTEREST EAST
OF SHEEP MOUNTAIN BETWEEN HIGHWAYS 130 AND 230

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.

The projected log of the tour is on the back cover. A lunch stop has been incorporated into Stop #5 at Woods Landing. There are restroom facilities in the buildings.

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 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.

Please take special precautions concerning safety. Keep children right with you at all times. Neither the committee, individually or collectively, nor any of the sponsoring agencies accept any responsibility for accidents.

Many persons have helped to organize this year's tour. Credit goes to Dr. Norman Smith, Dean of the University of Wyoming Summer School, and his most cooperative and helpful secretary, Mrs. Jeanne Unruh. We thank Mrs. Mayme Lestum for the use of the picnic grounds at Woods Landing. Jim Nelson prepared the map. Dorothy Soule, the Monolith Company, the Daily Boomerang, and Radio Stations KOWB and KOJO helped with advertising. The members of the Kiwanis Club of Laramie assisted in traffic control. We appreciate the work of officers of the law who escorted us in various places along the way. We thank Reverend Wilson who served as chaplain.

Sincerely,

THE COMMITTEE

Henry Bauer
Agnes Burns
Jack Corbett
Fred Dudley
Robert Hymer
Bill Riedl

Stop 1. The Harrison Talbott Ranch
(Written by Mrs. J. H. (Leah) Talbott)

The Talbotts became Albany County residents on April 26, 1952, moving onto the Al Hunziker Ranch from Fort Collins, Colorado.

On September 6, 1955, we moved from the Sand Creek Ranch, as we called it, to this location with lease option to buy. The purchase was finalized on January 11, 1957. Thus we have lived here over 20 years. In researching the abstract, I found that in the 20 years prior to our purchase of this ranch, it had been sold and resold 10 times. This in itself tells the story of unproductivity.

The first obstacle we had to overcome was the monicker of "foreigners". Land leveling, new irrigation methods, building improvements were frowned upon and were often discussed and criticized, but they were part of our basic plan so we continued with them. We had a Grade A Dairy for 7 years which seemed a never ending job, but it did bring in the cash so necessary for survival.

As things began to fall into place, we were able to acquire more adjoining lands. To the original 800 acres, we have added 3 sections of land in the Big Hollow, and in June of 1967, we purchased the Pahlow Ranch, approximately 1,200 acres from Wm. Spiegelberg. Again through perseverance, conservation practices, land levelings and fertilization, we have turned mediocre lands into better producing grasslands and pastures, outstanding hay meadows and premium quality hay.

Our son, Jim; his wife, the former Janet Gietz; and their 5 children live on the Pahlow place, and have been a part of the operation, and its success, for 9 years.

Although we have accomplished much and have seen many improvements, ranching is a never ending profession and much remains to be done.

It has been 6 years since you visited us on your 1975 Old Time Ranch Tour. Our operation has remained basically the same. Jim and Janet still work with us. Their two oldest boys are now a senior at U.W. and a sophomore at Sheridan Junior College. More land leveling, seeding, buildings and general improvement practices are still being carried on. The challenges faced by the ranchers are never ending, i.e., water shortage or floods; depressed market for products; inclement weather; and the never ending work; and always the help shortage. But we, as well as the other ranchers where you tour, will continue on for the love of nature, basic freedoms and the joy of seeing our plans accomplished, or at least partially so.

I leave this as a parting thought. Environmental protection is not new. The rancher and farmer and agriculturist have practiced environmental protection for many, many ages. They are the oldest protection agency because it is so necessary for agriculture to succeed.

--JUST A BIT OF HISTORICAL DATA--

Although the Pahlow Ranch has only 3 transfer dates since the original homesteading in 1900, the abstracts for both ranches have a common element in that the first entries on both are by an Act of Congress on July 1, 1862. This was the approval of lands to be available for the building of a railroad. Shares available were 1 million for \$10.00 a share at the interest rate of 7% with the cost not to exceed \$10,000 per mile. The names of Cyrus McCormich, John Duff, Fred and Oliver Ames appear many times prior to the 1900 and 1908 homestead dates on the abstracts of both ranches.

Stop 2. The Elwood Hanson Ranch

The Hanson Ranch was homesteaded in the 1890's by Frank and Johannah Parker each having 240 acres in their own individual names making the 480 acres in the main place. In 1892 they started to build an irrigation ditch from the Big Laramie River which was eight miles to the ranch. This was completed in 1895 and was called the Parker Ditch. It now carries water for three ranches in this valley.

The Parkers sold the ranch to David and Carrie McCulloch in 1901; some time later the McCulloch's sold to O. D. Berroth and O. E. Webb. Berroth and Webb sold to John and Lillian Loughrey and Theodore and Olive Dimon in January of 1912.

In 1920 Andrew and Hannah Hanson purchased the ranch as he had the land he had homesteaded just west of this place. They farmed and raised cattle here. The homestead is two and one-half miles west and they proved up on 160 acres in about 1910. Andrew and Hannah had four children, Elwood, the oldest, and three daughters, Irene, Werdna, and Betty. The homestead is now owned by Everett and Margaret Johnson.


In 1940 Elwood and Edna Hanson purchased the ranch. They milked cows, sold hay and had a few sheep to get started. Later on they bought a few cows and started in the cattle business in a small way. Elwood and Don baled hay for some years on a custom basis. Since buying the place Elwood has replaced or remodeled all the buildings. Where the original barn stood is now a new home that his son, Don, and family live in. Elwood and Don built this home in 1962 and Don has since added onto the south end of the original house. Elwood has just recently remodeled their home so it is quite different from the original house. Don is the oldest son of Elwood and Edna Hanson. Carol Atkinson, their daughter, lives in California. Don and his wife, June, have two children, Loree and Brett, who think the ranch is the only place in the world to live.

Between Elwood and Don they run about 150 head of Angus cattle and sell hay each year from about 2,000 acres, some of it being on the Little Laramie River.

Stop 3. The Gilbert Engen Ranch

The land that became the Flying Heart Ranch was homesteaded in 1894 by Mr. and Mrs. Christian Gabrielson. They tried farming for a few years but the soil contained so much gravel that production dropped each year. They then started irrigation and raising native grasses which they cut for winter feed for their stock.

The Gabrielsons milked cows and sold butter in Laramie. During the next twenty years they acquired one and a half more sections of land. They built a home, two barns, sheds, a shop and a bunkhouse all out of logs cut from the timber area above Woods Landing. They planted cottonwood and willows to alleviate the desolation of the prairie they had come to call home.

They raised a family here and in later years it was their eldest son, Axel, who became the owner. He in turn, added land to the ranch, most of which was well known for its quality. Axel married Edith Christensen and their family of two daughters, Donna and Ialene, grew up here on the ranch. The ranch was sold to Ialene and her husband, Gilbert Engen, in 1958 following the death of Axel. The brand  Flying Heart was acquired by Axel and was used on his cattle for many years and used for the ranch name.

Christian Gabrielson and Maria Salerstrom migrated from Norway and Sweden respectively, met and were married in Laramie, where they lived for several years while he worked on the Union Pacific railroad. The first few years of their life was sad, as the children died in infancy with the exception of the eldest. The object of homesteading was the hope for a healthier life for their subsequent children which proved to be true as all of those born on the ranch lived to adulthood.

From the farm life of their native countries, Christian and Maria learned to be ranchers in a climate completely different from what they had known. They taught love of America and love of this land to their children and with hard work made a good life for themselves.

Stop 4. The Ferguson Ranch

Mr. Ferguson has recently combined four of the early day ranches to develop one of the finest cattle ranches on the Laramie Plains. The home ranch is what was known as the Jonas Berglund Ranch, from about 1890 to 1942 when it was taken over by his daughter and son-in-law, Bertha and John Pearson. Jonas Berglund came to this country from Sweden and lived on the Sodergreen Ranch in 1889 where he was employed hauling logs and working in the timber. He first rented this property from Jacob Johnson and later purchased three quarters of a section from him. He later acquired much more land. While he was employed at the Sodergreen Ranch, he spent his spare time in constructing a log house, hewing, fitting and numbering the logs so it could be dismantled and moved to this location. The house is not recognized because it has been stuccoed and otherwise remodeled.

The Ferguson Ranch (continued)

Mr. Ferguson has made many improvements in the physical properties of the ranch as well as introducing many of the more modern and scientific approaches to the cattle business. In addition to the Berglund Ranch, he has added the Nate Johnson Ranch located about a mile to the north of us, the Ole Ericson Ranch located on Fox Creek a few miles north of Woods Landing and the McBroom Ranch.

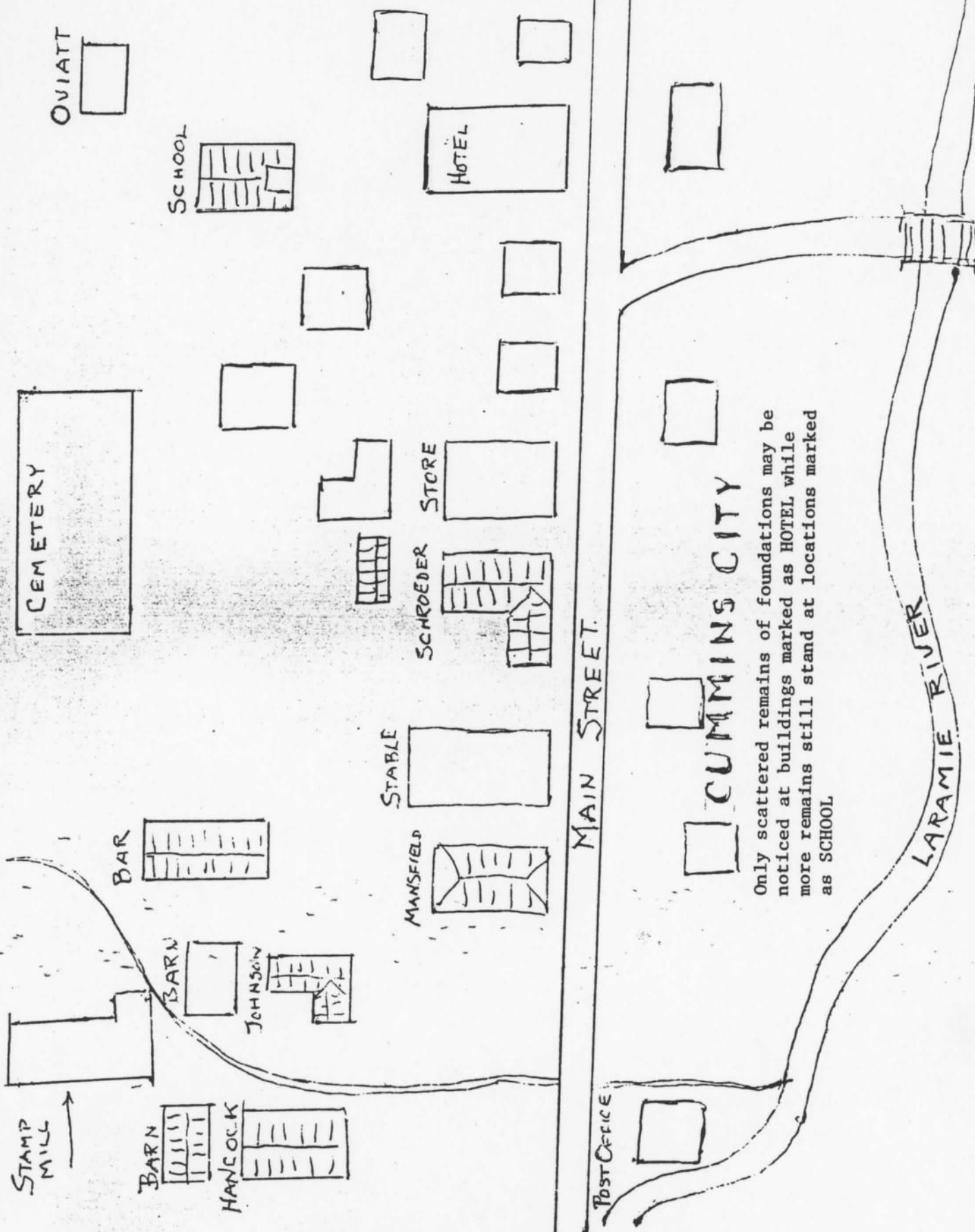
Stop 5. Woods Landing LUNCH STOP

This location was named after Sam Woods who operated a timber business in the early days. He floated logs down the Laramie River, taking them out at about this spot where he had a large saw mill. At the present time the dining hall and the business here is operated by Mrs. Mayme Lestum, who with her late husband developed the business. Mrs. Lestum has kindly invited us to use this area for our picnic lunch. Good meals are served at the main dining hall and while it is always possible to secure a light lunch and refreshments on short notice, anyone interested in a full dinner could omit the trip to Cummins City and Ring Mountain and join the tour as it returns through Woods Landing at about 2:15 p.m. We are grateful to Mrs. Lestum for the use of this picnic area.

Stop 6. Cummins City

This settlement had its early beginning as a timber and tie camp and was known at that time as JELM. It was said to have been named after a timber worker by that name, who with his partner, a man named Smith, cut some of the first ties in that area and floated them down the river to Laramie City. After some prospectors found some small deposits of copper in the area, a man named John Cummins promoted the idea that there was gold in the hills and he and his wife, along with a close friend, Doc Thomas, reaped a harvest in selling mining claims and promoting other swindles. It was a "boom town" and its name was changed to Cummins City. Cummins lived in the forty room hotel which had been erected in the city until his creditors finally caught up with him. It is reported that he died in Denver before the date of his trial arrived.

There is evidence that the name of the post office remained as JELM and that after the collapse of Cummins City the post office was moved down stream to a location a few miles below Woods Landing. One enterprise which might have had legitimate motives was "The Inter-Ocean Water Power and Mining Company". It was incorporated with a capital stock of 300,000 shares at a par value of \$1.00 each. The president of the company was a Dr. C. C. Clark and the treasurer was Mr. Frank Smith who had been ranching just south of Cummins City on the place now owned by Mr. Ralph Holland. The settlement was said to have had a population of about 300 persons. The map in this pamphlet which was prepared by Mr. Conrad Hanson shows the location of some of the buildings.



Only scattered remains of foundations may be noticed at buildings marked as HOTEL while more remains still stand at locations marked as SCHOOL

PLACES, LOCATIONS AND STOPS	TIME	MILEAGES	
		LOCAL	TRIP
Leave Courthouse Square	8:00	0.0	0.0
Highway "Y" West Laramie	8:07	3.5	3.5
Seven Mile Lake	8:13	5.5	9.0
Nine Mile Lake	8:14	1.0	10.0
Turn right at Pahlow Lane	8:15	1.6	11.6
Old Pahlow Ranch on right	8:16	.5	12.1
Note land improvement			
STOP 1. Talbott's Ranch	8:21- 9:00	3.4	15.5
Note Pioneer Canal			
Gelatt Lake on right (Public Fishing)			
Cattle Guard and Twin Buttes Turnoff	9:04	2.2	17.7
Turn right at Lake Hattie Road	9:06	1.4	19.1
STOP 2. Hanson's Ranch	9:08- 9:50	1.1	20.2
Return to Harmony Lane			
Turn right on Harmony Lane	9:52	1.2	20.3
Note Mortenson's Ranch on left			
Turn right at dirt road	9:57	2.0	22.3
Cattle guard and ditch (Keep right)		1.2	23.5
Turn Left		.5	24.0
Ditch		.4	24.4
STOP 3. Engen's Ranch	10:02-10:45	.8	25.2
Turn right at dirt lane		.4	25.6
STOP 4. Ferguson's Ranch	10:50-11:30	.4	26.0
Sodergreen Lake	11:40	2.9	28.9
Turn right on Highway 230	11:45	.1	29.0
Turn left at Highway 10	11:52	6.1	35.1
WOODS LANDING STOP FOR LUNCH (STOP 5)			
(Meals and refreshments available at Lodge.			
Picnic lunches may also be eaten in grass			
area and in cars.)			
Tour leaves PROMPTLY at 1:00	1:00		
STOP 6. Turn right to Cummins City	1:10- 2:00	3.3	38.4
Back to Highway 10	2:10	.5	38.9
Return to Highway 230 at Woods Landing	2:20	3.3	42.2
Laramie	2:39	26.1	68.3

This concludes the tour. We hope that you have enjoyed it. Please sign the register and if you have suggestions for a better tour next year we hope you will mention them.