

THIRTY-SECOND OLD TIME RANCH TOUR

Saturday, July 23, 1983

This Old Time Ranch Tour features historical working ranches which are currently profitable, modern ranches.

The series of Old Time Ranch Tours was conceived and promoted by Dr. Robert Burns. The first tour was held in 1951. The series has continued annually except for 1982 when a late withdrawal of a prominent feature of that tour prevented rescheduling.

The tour is now sponsored jointly by the Albany County Historical Society, the Laramie Kiwanis Club, and the Laramie Westerners.

The 1983 Ranch Tour Committee

Co-Chairmen: Roger Rayda

Maurice Wear

Committee Members: Henry Bauer
Ed Clark
Fred Dudley
Jon Johnson

Cal Rerucha Bill Riedl Paul Stratton

The map of the tour is on the cover of this brochure; the projected log of the tour is on the back cover. The third stop is a lunch stop where restroom facilities will be available in the school building. Unless it rains, we will eat lunch in the school yard.

The tour will begin promptly at 8 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 persons who report to the lead car around 7:30.

Safety is a primary concern. Tour marshalls and traffic controllers will coordinate the caravan. Please follow the directions of the traffic controllers. We will cross the railroad tracks several times at protected crossings. If a train approaches, stop well behind the gates. DO NOT STOP ON THE TRACKS! You will not be left behind. A trailing car will inform the lead car of the delay.

Your cooperation will also be appreciated 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 OUTSIDE THE TOWNS 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.

Again, please take special precautions concerning safety. Keep children 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 and promote this year's tour. In particular, we thank Dr. William Conklin, Superintendent, Albany County School District, for the use of the Rock River School, Wyoming Technical Institute for the use of its parking lot, and Arlowe Hulett, Albany County Extension Agent, for helping to contact the ranchers who serve as our hosts. We greatly appreciate the publicity given to the tour by the Laramie Daily Boomerang, the Branding Iron, and radio stations KOWB, KOJO, KIOZ, and KUWR. We also thank the officers of the law who escorted us in various places along the way and the members of the Laramie Kiwanis Club who assisted in traffic control.

Stop 1. The Monolith Ranch

The Monolith Ranch was purchased several years ago by the City of Laramie. In the future, the Ranch has the potential of an extensive recreation area and of supplying a portion of Laramie's water supply. Currently, the Ranch continues to be operated successfully by the leasor, John Nunn. Ed Clark, Director, Laramie Chamber of Commerce, will present the history of the ranch and the water involvement with the City. Mr. Nunn will then talk about the new production practices on the Ranch.

SPECIAL TOUR INSTRUCTIONS THROUGH LARAMIE

The tour must pass through the center of Laramie after Stop #1. During discussions with the Laramie Police Department and the Wyoming Highway Patrol, we were advised not to travel as a carayan down the length of Third Street. Instead, after we turn left onto U. S. 287 toward Laramie, we will travel as individual vehicles straight through Laramie on Third Street. Obey all signal lights. Third Street becomes U. S. 30, and we continue straight all the way to the Wyoming Technical Institute (opposite the Diamond Horseshoe). There a traffic director will motion the vehicles from the tour to turn right into the first Wyoming Technical Institute parking lot. When the tour's trailing car arrives, we will immediately depart from the parking lot by turning right onto U. S. 30 again.

Stop 2. Biddick Ranch

Wales Wenburg, the owner of the Biddick Ranch, will talk about the History of the Ranch, the current production, and successful management practices of a modern ranch.

The ranch was homesteaded in 1876 and the main house was built in 1880. Mr. Wenburg has worked on the ranch since 1938. Currently, he raises Belgian and Morgan horses and mules.

Stop 4. S & S Ranch (Sims Land and Livestock Company)

Don Sims is the son of the owner of the ranch and the current leasor. He will talk about the history of the ranch and about the operation and management of the current production of the ranch. One recent change was to raising crested wheat grass. This is a grass well suited to our severe winters and dry climate.

The ranch dates back to the 1870's as documented by papers concerning water rights. The ranch was part of the Diamond Cattle Company until purchased by the Sims in 1943.

		MILEA	CEC	
PLACES, LOCATIONS, AND STOPS	TIME	LOCAL	TRIP	
Leave Courthouse Square Third and Russell Streets Turn right onto Huron Street	8:00 8:02 8:06	0.0 0.7 2.5	0.0 0.7 2.5	
Beware of Railroad Trains-Obey	signals	and traffic	directors, please	
Reach field of Monolith Ranch	8:15	8.6	8.6	
STOP #1: Monolith Ranch				
Leave Monolith Ranch	9:15	0.0	8.6	
Again, beware of Railroad Trains	s.			
Left onto U.S. 287 Third and Curtis Streets Regroup at Wyo Tech parking lot Left onto Albany County Road 51	9:24 9:33 9:37 9:44	5.5 9.0 10.6 15.4	14.1 17.6 19.2 24.0	
Again, beware of Railroad Trains				
Bear right at sign to Biddick Ranch Reach Biddick Ranch	9:49 10:00	17.1 22.6	25.7 31.2	
STOP #2: Biddick Ranch				
Leave Biddick Ranch	10:45	0.0	31.2	
Yet again, beware of Railroad Tr	ains.	4-10-2		
Left onto U.S. 30 Arrive Rock River School	11:15 11:40	12.2 32.1	43.4 63.3	
STOP #3: Lunch				
Leave Rock River School	12:40	0.0	63.3	
Again, watch for Railroad Train	s.			
Arrive at a field of S & S Ranch	12:55	13.5	76.8	
STOP #4: S & S Ranch				
Second stop on the S & S Ranch		14.7	78.0	
At McFadden, exit onto Wyoming 13	2:15	16.1	79.4	
Leave McFadden for Laramie	2:15	0.0	79.4	
	1121 0000	7.5		

To return to Laramie, <u>EITHER</u> turn right to continue on Wyoming 13 in the direction we were travelling to I-80 (about 4.5 miles) then go <u>east</u> on I-80 to Laramie (about 43 miles more) OR turn left to retrace our path on Wyoming 13 and U.S. 30 to Laramie (about 53.0 miles).

Arrive Laramie 3:20 53.0 132.4