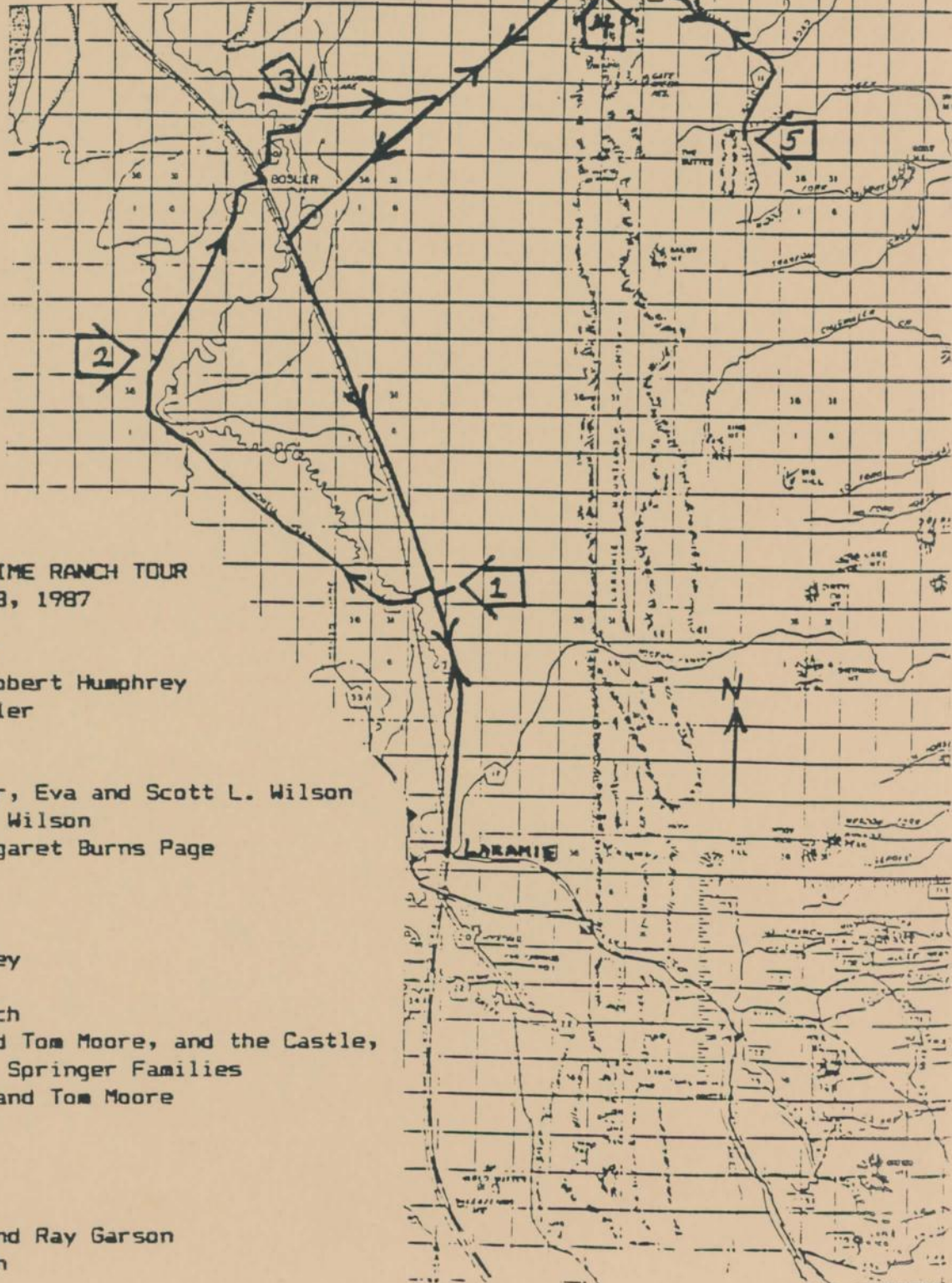


THE 36TH OLD TIME RANCH TOUR

Sponsors: Laramie Kiwanis Club
Albany County Historical Society
Laramie Westerners
Albany County Historic Preservation Board



STOPS ON THE 36TH OLD TIME RANCH TOUR SATURDAY, JULY 18, 1987

1. King Brothers Ranch
Hosts: Linda and Robert Humphrey
Speaker: Frank Bosler
2. Harris Ranch
Hosts: Buddy Cremer, Eva and Scott L. Wilson
Speakers: Scott C. Wilson
Mrs. Margaret Burns Page
3. Diamond Ranch
Host: Clyde Kelly
Speaker: Fred Dudley
4. Plumbago Canyon Ranch
Hosts: Kathleen and Tom Moore, and the Castle,
Wallen, and Springer Families
Speaker: Kathleen and Tom Moore

LUNCH

5. Strong Creek Ranch
Hosts: Mary Beth and Ray Garson
Speaker: Ray Garson

THIRTY-SIXTH OLD TIME RANCH TOUR
Saturday, July 18, 1987

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. Portions of the historical accounts printed here are taken without attribution and updated from the writings and Wyoming Pioneer Ranches of Robert Burns, Andrew Gillespie, and Willing Richardson; and the writings of Mrs. Kathleen Moore, Mrs. Thelma Garson, and anonymous authors of previous ranch tour booklets.

The tour is now sponsored jointly by the Laramie Kiwanis Club, the Albany County Historical Society, the Laramie Westerners, and the Albany County Historic Preservation Board. Fred Dudley is the master of ceremonies.

The 1987 Ranch Tour Co-chairmen: Maurice Wear and Henry Bauer

Committee Members: Murray Carroll Ken Faulkner Bob Nelson
Fred Dudley Robert Morrison Bill Riedl

We extend our sympathy to the family of Paul Stratton, who died this year. Paul was an active Kiwanian who helped extensively in producing the series of ranch tours. He and his work are missed.

The map of the tour is on the cover of this booklet; the projected log of the tour is on the back cover.

Rest room facilities are available in the County Courthouse prior to departure and at each stop at the trailer carrying the portable outhouses.

The Plumbago Canyon Ranch stop will have a prayer and a period of time for lunch followed by the presentation. A limited supply of soft drinks and ice cream have been donated for use during lunch. The Ranch will supply cake in celebration of the 100th anniversary of the Ranch's founding.

Safety is a primary concern. Tour marshals and traffic controllers will coordinate the caravan. Please follow the directions of the traffic controllers. Please keep children and pets with you at all times. Neither the committee, individually or collectively, nor any of the sponsoring organizations accept any responsibility for accidents. A trailing car will inform the lead vehicle of any delays at railroad and highway crossings.

Your cooperation will also be appreciated at the parking sites. Whenever 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. (Flaggers and parkers must be ready to direct traffic.)

Keep a safe distance between cars. Turn lights on while we are on the paved highways. The speed on the paved highways is limited to 55 miles per hour outside the cities and should be 15 to 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 organize and promote this year's tour. In particular, we thank the Coca-Cola and Pepsi Bottling Companies, the Valley Gold Dairy, and the folks at the Plumbago Canyon Ranch for the refreshments at lunch. We greatly appreciate the publicity given to the tour by the Laramie Daily Boomerang, the Branding Iron, the Laramie Community TV Co, and the Laramie radio stations KOWB, KCGY, KLDI, KRQU, and KUWR. We also thank the Wyoming Recreation Commission and Laramie Heating and Sheet Metal Works for lending the equipment for the rest room facilities. Finally, we thank the officers of the law who aided us along the route and the members of the Laramie Kiwanis Club who assisted in traffic control.

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Stop 1. King Brothers Ranch

The King brothers, Frank, Bert and Joe, started in the sheep business in the 1890's. They began with the new larger type of French-Merinos which had just gained favor at the World's Fair in Chicago in 1893. They purchased the best animals they could find from Kansas to California and gathered together the foundation of one of the finest Rambouillet flocks in the country. Their fame developed until sheep breeders from all over the world came to Laramie to see these sheep. They had proven their worth at leading livestock shows and in the flocks of many sheepmen in various parts of this country and other countries. In 1914 the King Brothers, always alert to anything worthwhile and new in the sheep business, went to Australia and New Zealand. In cooperation with the U.S. Department of Agriculture they brought back the first Corriedale sheep. These sheep have become one of the leading dual-purpose breeds of sheep to produce both mutton and wool for the Western sheepmen. The King Brothers ranch was sold in 1949, the sheep going to Mr. Rendle of Rawlins and the land to Frank Bosler, Sr. of Laramie. The three King brothers have passed on. Art, a son, and Jerry, a grandson of Frank King, carried on the Corriedale flock started by their father and uncles, and had one of the outstanding flocks in the country at their ranch near Cheyenne.

Historic Site: Old Wyoming Station Overlook (See log. No stop.)

Old Wyoming Station was located across the river from the older Two Rivers Station. The Wyoming Station building was torn down and moved about 40 years ago. To the right of the road we are on can be seen the rail bed of a Y located at the station.

Don Cameron started a dairy at Wyoming Station in 1871. Wyoming was quite a shipping center in the early days for the ranchmen of the Little Laramie Valley.

Ora Haley came to Fort Sanders in 1868 where he operated a butcher shop. Later he had a butcher shop in Laramie. The firm was named Haley and Fox. In February, 1871, Haley slaughtered a 4 year old steer, the first one raised from a calf on the Laramie Plains and fed only the native short grasses of the region. The carcass weighed 982 pounds and the fat was fully two inches thick over the ribs. Haley carried on businesses in several states and founded one of the first fortunes based on the natural grasses of the Western states. Luther Fillmore, who owned this land for a while, was the Wyoming superintendent of the Union Pacific Railroad and came to Laramie in 1869. Oscar Sodergreen stated that Fillmore lived on his ranch at Wyoming Station in 1873 when he visited there. The ranch passed to Tallmadge and Buntin, land promoters, who, in turn, sold it to Eastern people who still own it.

Stop 2. Harris Ranch

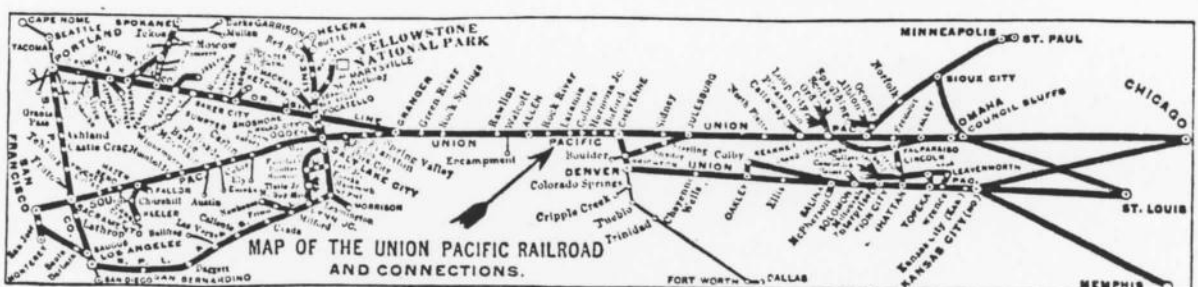
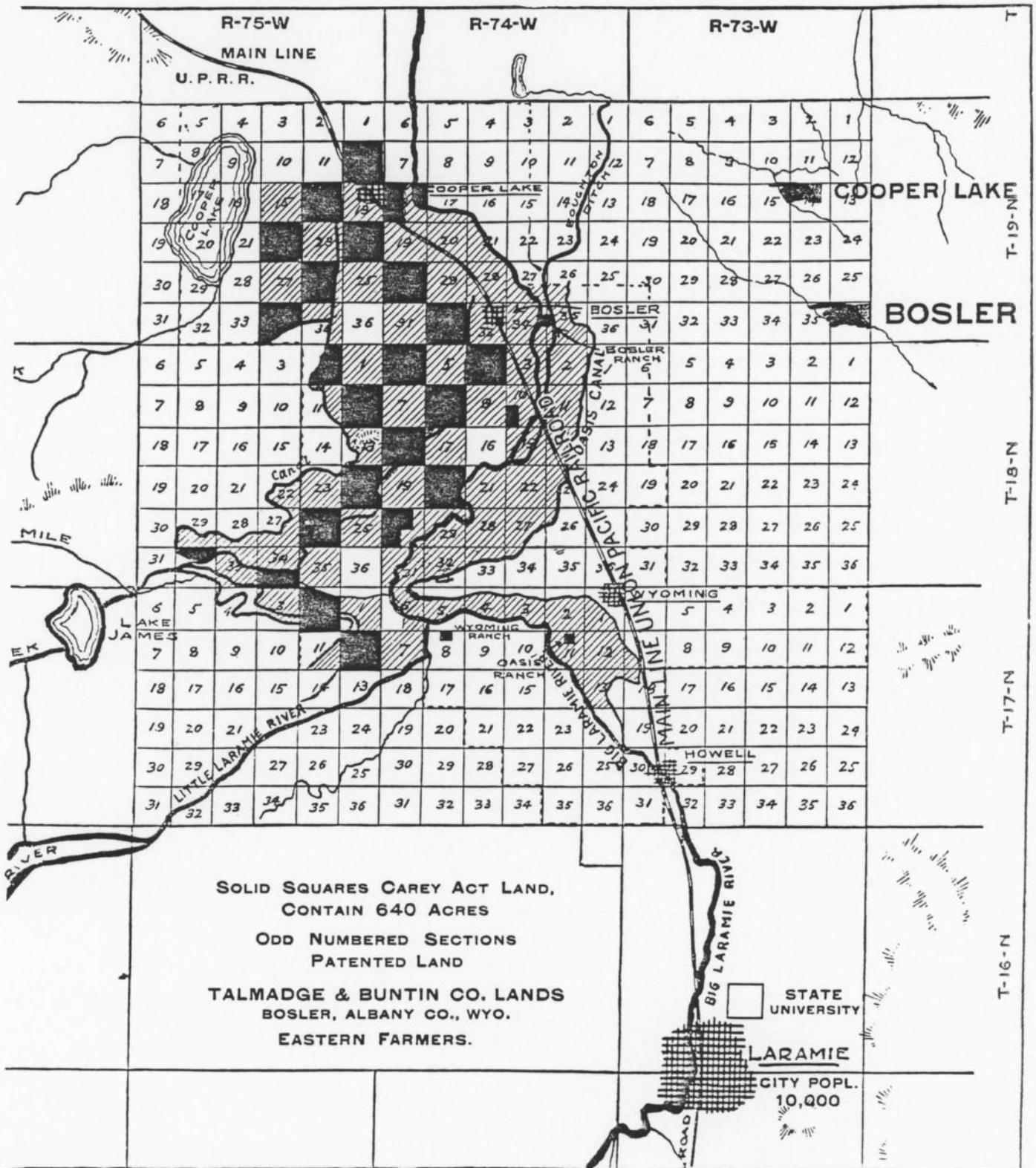
The Harris Ranch currently has about 20 head of buffalo (American bison). The herd is down from about 700 in 1985. Originally, seven buffalo were acquired from Hot Springs State Park near Thermopolis, Wyoming. But the wanderings of the herd angered the neighboring ranchers eventually forcing the sale of most of the herd. (From The Laramie Daily Boomerang, July 12, 1985, Business and University Section, p. 12) Now Buddy Cremer and the Wilsons have mainly cattle.

The Harris Ranch is one of the ranches carved from the land offered by Tallmadge and Buntin, Co. of Chicago in 1908 under the Carey Act. The 15,000 acres opened by the State of Wyoming under the Carey Act, Segregation No. 50, was composed of alternate sections (640 acres each), once part of the Ora Haley Ranch. (See the accompanying map.) The location of the Harris Ranch house is found near the center of the larger map. In the center column labelled "R-74-W" one of the top sections is labelled "6." Under section 6 readable section numbers are 7, (skip), 19, (skip), 31, (skip), 7, (skip), 19, (skip). This last section is section 30. (Note section 31 below it.) The Harris home is on section 30.

The Company offered special excursion trains with private sleeping and dining cars from Chicago to Bosler, Wyoming, on the first and third Tuesday of each month. Persons interested in the land made these trips to the Wyoming Station.

Quotations from the sales brochure, "Irrigated Farm Lands in the Big Laramie River Valley, Albany County, Wyoming," show that the skills of the land salesmen were honed well by 1908.

"With the healthiest climate in the world for man or beast, rich soil, abundance of water with which to irrigate, with the highest grade of stock to be fattened with the crops raised, and with the certainty that the profits will not be reduced on account of disease, there is no such thing as failure in the BIG LARAMIE RIVER VALLEY.



LARAMIE STRAIGHT LINE WEST FROM CHICAGO—NOTE DISTANCE FROM DENVER.

"Living in a climate which is ideal and unexcelled, with its mild, dry winters, delightful summers, with their cool, pure and intoxicating atmosphere (in fact, Albany County is renowned as a summer resort), enjoying the most favorable educational advantages, church and social privileges; with the best modern railroad facilities--the UNION PACIFIC RAILROAD, one of the greatest trunk lines in the world; to live in and near a modern, up-to-date city of 10,000 inhabitants, within five hours automobile ride of the beautiful city of Denver, Colorado; surrounded by mines of gold, copper, iron, coal, and other minerals, within immediate access of lumber mills and free timber for building and domestic purposes; within 20 hours of Kansas City and Omaha and 36 hours of Chicago by rail; within easy reach of all the greatest markets of the United States; a highly intelligent class of people as your neighbors; in a valley surrounded by beautiful mountains and watered by rivers, creeks, springs and flowing artesian wells, where you will have millions of acres of free, open range, upon which your sheep, horses and cattle may graze and where you will be able to secure homes and land at the most reasonable prices."

With crops that "include every variety produced in the humid areas of the temperate zone" many were lured to the area. Wheat: "Average yield 50 to 70 bushels to the acre." Potatoes: "Yield 300 to 600 bushels to the acre." Barley: "Average yield 60 to 140 bushels." Oats: Average yield per acre, 70 to 135 bushels." Sugar beets: "Average yield 20 to 25 tons per acre."

Prairie land not then under any irrigation system was offered at \$8 to \$15 per acre. But the patented land with title and perpetual water rights was offered at \$30 to \$50 per acre depending on location and distance from town.

Stop 3. Diamond Ranch

The Diamond Ranch was formerly known as the Boughton Ranch, the Coble Ranch, the Wallis Ranch, and the Frank C. Bosler, Sr. Ranch.

The Boughton Ranch was settled in 1884 by an Englishman named E. S. R. Boughton, who purchased it a year earlier. Boughton developed the ranch from a sage brush flat to produce hay on the meadows which yielded up to 2000 tons of hay. For water he built a dam across the Laramie River and dug out a ditch which was 10 feet wide at the bottom and three to four feet deep, quite large for its day. John Whitaker bought the ranch in about 1892 from Boughton. Whitaker improved the ranch until the winter of 1899 when he lost 500 cattle from his herd of 1500. Wyoming Pioneer Ranches reports that a continuous blizzard started on January 19th that year and lasted through the first day of April. Whitaker then sold it in the spring of 1901 to John C. Coble and Frank C. Bosler, Sr., who owned the Iron Mountain Ranch Company. Five or six years later Coble sold his interest to Bosler. In 1906, Bosler bought the 7L Ranch and Frank Harrison's holdings in Rock Creek and organized the Diamond Cattle Company. After Frank's death in 1917, Mrs. Bosler continued to operate

the ranch until she sold it to the Wallis Brothers in 1939. They in turn sold it to John Bell. Now it is owned by Basin Electric.

This is the ranch where Tom Horn, the famous livestock detective, made his headquarters from 1900 until his arrest for the killing of Willie Nickell. Tom Horn was hanged for that murder.

Stop 4. Plumbago Canyon Ranch

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 12 in Plumbago Canyon. The Canyon has a small stream flowing out onto the plains north into the Sybille Creek. West of Plumbago Canyon S. W. Gillespie killed the last buffalo in southeastern Wyoming in July 1881. The word "plumbago" is the name of a crystalline form of carbon ore, graphite, mined in the 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 feet with a high of 8000 feet. 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 with a wagon, team of horses, four milk cows and a bull, to begin life on their homestead.

The Radichal's first home was a tent on Plumbago Creek during the summer and fall of 1887. Before the winter storms hit they completed the one-room stone cabin which still stands on the property. Within the next year they built a two room log house which is still standing. The first barn was built in 1888, and the fences were erected in 1889-1891. They raised potatoes and had milk cows. They sold the butter and potatoes in Laramie to William's brother-in-law.

The Radichals worked long and hard to build their ranch. Despite the many obstacles such as wolves that killed cattle and horses, blackleg and other cattle diseases, and large land and cattle companies that tried to discourage the homesteaders, they succeeded.

The original log barn, still in use, contains over 10,000 square feet. It houses the horse barn, 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 dragged in by the Radichals with a team of horses.

The ranch is celebrating its 100th anniversary this year and is one of the oldest in this area. The ranch continues to be occupied by members of the Radichal family.

The Radichals had four children, Arthur, Ella, Cora, and Marie. All are deceased. Arthur had one son, Jack Radichal, who is a rancher near Wheatland. Marie had two children, Kathleen and Bill Scherrer (deceased). Kathleen had four children, Bill and Larry Castle, Charleen Castle Wallen, and Elaine Castle Springer. Presently living on the ranch are third, fourth, and fifth generations--Kathleen and her husband, Tom Moore; Bill and his wife Sharleen and their two daughters. Bill is the ranch manager. Six grandchildren of Kathleen are the fifth generation of the Radichal family on the ranch.

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

When we leave the Plumbago Canyon Ranch yard and continue along County Road 12, we will be travelling through the Ranch.

LUNCH

Stop 5. Strong Creek Ranch

Niles R. Strong homesteaded 160 acres in the late 1880's under the original Homestead Act. He got a patent on this land in 1893. Strong sold it to a fellow by the name of Sylvester B. Woodman in 1898 for \$350. When Strong was not at his homestead, he traveled about the country selling kitchen cabinets. These cabinets were made of metal and had many lettered compartments for sugar, salt, spices, flavorings, flour, etc.

Mr. Woodman owned other land in the area and sold his holdings to Albert and August Radichal in 1903 for a sum of \$3150. The house which is still being used was built by the Radichal Brothers in 1907.

For a few years these buildings were used as a way station from Laramie to Wheatland. The stage carried mail, express, and freight over this route until the road was changed.

The original stage stop was three miles south of the present Garson Ranch. It was called Wayside, Wyoming, named after Wayside, Wisconsin, the hometown of August Trabing, who built it. A huge rock and lumber barn, patterned after the type built in Wisconsin, housed horses used on the route. No buildings remain.

In 1938, Orval L. Garson bought this ranch. During the years he enlarged the ranch to 11 1/2 sections. He started by raising sheep but within a few years changed to cattle, first Herefords and then to a Hereford Angus cross. Orval raised his family on this ranch. He retired in Laramie in 1970. His son, Ray, and his son's wife, Mary Beth, and their sons, Shan, Jack and Jim are operating the ranch now.

1987 Old Time Ranch Tour Log

<u>PLACES, LOCATIONS AND STOPS</u>	<u>TIME</u>	<u>MILEAGES</u>	
		<u>LOCAL</u>	<u>TRIP</u>
Leave Albany County Courthouse Square	8:00	0.0	0.0
Intersection of Curtis and Third Streets	8:05	1.2	1.2
Pass Diamond Horseshoe on left	8:07	1.6	2.8
O. K. Corral on right	8:11	3.8	6.6
Turn right over cattle guard toward King Ranch	8:12	0.4	7.0
Stop 1. King Brothers Ranch	8:15-9:00	1.6	8.6
Turn right onto US 30	9:05	1.6	10.2
Turn left onto County Road 51, Howell Road	9:07	0.5	10.7
Cross Union Pacific tracks--OBEY SIGNALS	9:09	0.5	11.2
Cross bridge over Big Laramie River	9:10	0.2	11.4
Bear right onto old railroad grade	9:12	0.8	12.2
Pass Biddick Ranch entrance on right	9:20	4.6	16.8
Old Wyoming Station--Y to right	9:25	2.5	19.3
Turn right into Harris Ranch	9:30	2.6	21.9
Stop 3. Harris Ranch	9:30-10:15	0.2	22.1
Bear left onto main road	10:15	0.3	22.4
Railroad Crossing--OBEY SIGNALS	10:24	5.6	28.0
Left onto US 30 at Bosler	10:25	0.1	28.1
Right onto County Road 740, Ione Lane	10:27	0.8	28.9
Bear right	10:29	0.8	29.7
Iron Bridge over Big Laramie River	10:30	0.2	29.9
Stop 4. The Diamond Ranch	10:35-11:20	2.2	32.1
Bear left after bridge	11:23	1.0	33.1
Left onto Wyoming 34	11:30	3.1	36.2
Right onto County Road 12	11:40	5.7	41.9
Right into Plumbago Canyon Ranch	11:42	1.5	43.4
Stop 4. Plumbago Canyon Ranch	11:45-1:15	0.1	43.5
Turn right to leave Plumbago Canyon Ranch	1:17	0.1	43.6
Turn right onto County Road 11	1:27	4.3	47.9
Stop 5. Strong Creek Ranch	1:35-2:15	2.9	50.8
The caravan will disband. Return to Laramie by following County Roads 11 and 12, and then Wyoming 34 and US 30 as described below. You may turn right onto County Road 12, and a longer trip will take you onto Wyoming 34 beyond the Sybille Game Research Center. Again to return to Laramie, turn left onto Wyoming 34.			
Return to County Road 11 and turn left	2:17	0.2	51.0
Left onto County Road 12	2:23	2.9	53.9
Pass Plumbago Canyon Ranch to left	2:40	4.4	58.3
Left onto Wyoming Highway 34 toward Bosler	2:43	1.3	59.6
Left onto US 30 toward Laramie	2:55	10.8	70.4
Return to Laramie	3:15	17.5	87.9