

THE 56TH OLD TIME RANCH TOUR

STOPS ON THE 56TH OLD TIME RANCH TOUR
SATURDAY, JULY 21, 2007

1 **AES Wind Generation**

Host: Gary McCarty
Speaker: Gary McCarty

2. **Rock Creek Fire Station**

Host: Sims Family
Speaker: Don Sims

3. **Diamond Ranch**

Host: Bill Dody
Speaker: Bill Dody

4. **White Ranch**

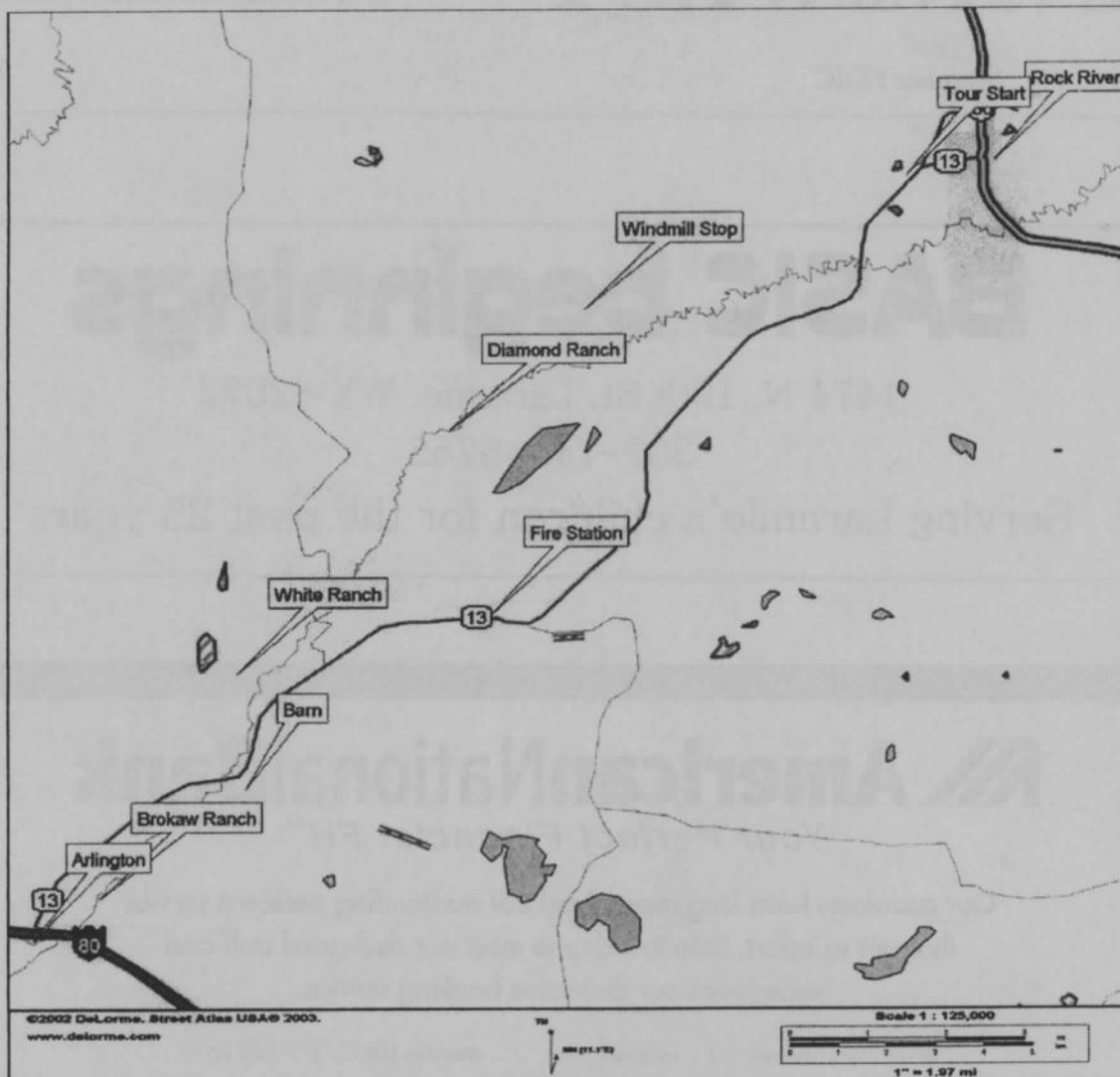
Host: Jill White
Speakers: Jill White
and Les Dunmire

LUNCH

5 **Brokaw Ranch**

Host: Ralph Brokaw
Speaker: Gerald LeBeau

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THE FIFTY-SIXTH OLD TIME RANCH TOUR

Saturday, July 21, 2007

The Old Time Ranch Tours were conceived and promoted by Dr Robert Burns. The series has continued annually since 1951 except for 1982 and 2001. Portions of the historical accounts printed here are taken without attribution and updated from the writings of anonymous authors of previous Old Time Ranch Tour booklets.

The 2007 Ranch Tour Co-chairmen: Bob Nelson

Committee Members Henry Bauer Wes Breeeler John Roland Maurice Wear
Tom Marks Vickie Haun Julie Altstaetter Jerry Johnson
Kris Johnson John Swett

George Gladney is the master of ceremonies.

The map of the tour is on the front cover of this booklet; the projected log of the tour is pages 9 and 10. The projected tour log follows the narrative.

Restrooms are available for each stop at the trailer carrying the outhouses.

Safety is a primary concern. Tour marshals will coordinate the caravan. OBEY ALL SIGNALS at railroad crossings; DO NOT STOP ON THE TRACKS. Stay to the right at crests of hills. Please follow the directions of the traffic controllers. Be especially mindful of the fire danger. If you smoke outside your vehicle, please take your cigarette butts with you.

Please keep children and pets with you at all times. Neither the committee, individually or collectively, nor the sponsoring organizations accept any responsibility for accidents.

Keep a safe distance between cars. We will travel at 20 to 35 miles per hour on gravel roads. Drive carefully. Respect the other fellow. Enjoy the scenery and have a good trip.

Parking: Your cooperation is appreciated at parking sites. Parking is accomplished so that cars need not use reverse gear for entering or leaving a site. If you have difficulty walking, please inform the first traffic director at each site so a close parking place may be found. Please allow the numbered cars to leave a site first so tour personnel may direct traffic.

Courtesy: We are guest of the AES Wind Generation, Rock Creek Fire Station and the three ranches. Please do not remove any items, including artifacts found on the ground.

Thanks: Many people helped to organize and to promote this year's tour. In particular, we thank the publicity given to the tour by Bresnan Communications and the City of Laramie and to Kris and Jerry Johnson for storing the portable toilets. Thanks, too, to the Pepsi and Coca-Cola Bottling Companies for the refreshments at lunch. Finally, we thank the members of the Laramie Kiwanis Club who helped in many ways.

The Tour is grateful for the support of the financial institutions in Laramie. Their advertisements helped with the costs. Please thank the fine people at these Laramie businesses next time you visit.

American National Bank	Albany County Public Employees FCU	Advantage Real Estate
Bank of the West	Laramie Plains Community FCU	Century 21 Real Estate
First Interstate Bank	UniWyo FCU	Duane Toro Real Estate
Security First Bank	First National Bank of Wyoming	Basic Beginnings

Our tour begins with a drive to Rock River. We want to travel at the speed limit so that the caravan will not become a traffic hazard. Please keep a reasonable distance between cars, but do not let the caravan get strung out for miles. This would be a good time for one person in the car to read the tour booklet to the driver and others. The trip log identifies several sites along the way.

Stop 1: AES Wind Generation

Rock River in Wyoming, was Shell WindEnergy's first commercial-scale wind park. The Rock River project consists of 50 Mitsubishi MWT-1000 turbines, located in Carbon County, Wyoming USA. It took three months from breaking ground to generation start-up and produces enough power for around 25,000 households. The energy produced is bought by PacifiCorp, along with the emission reduction credits, under a single purchase agreement.

In October 2001, Rock River started to deliver clean, renewable wind power to PacifiCorp's customers. The wind park is owned by Rock River I, LLC, a subsidiary of Shell WindEnergy Inc., and was developed and constructed by SeaWest WindPower, Inc. The Rock River facility exemplifies the possibilities in bringing new wind generation online quickly and efficiently.

As their first major investment in the US wind energy sector, Rock River is a flagship site. It provides experience in commercial wind park operation, which is already proving valuable as they grow the business further.

The initial wind monitoring commenced in 1997 and the construction of the project started in spring 2001. The first turbine was erected in August 2001 and the site was operational by the end of October 2001. The electricity produced at the Rock River facility is exported via a high voltage line to the Foote Creek substation, located some 10km to the southwest of the wind park. It is here that the electricity produced from Rock River and another wind park southwest of Rock River, is converted to grid voltage.

PacifiCorp has a 10-year agreement to purchase the entire output of the project. For PacifiCorp, the Rock River project fulfils a commitment the company made at the time of its merger with Scottish Power to bring significant new renewable energy resources on-line for its customers. The power is a part of PacifiCorp's regulated energy portfolio.

SeaWest oversaw the development of the project, including assessing wind performance, procuring turbines, assembling the construction consortium and extending the Foote Creek Substation which serves both Rock River and neighboring Foote Creek projects. SeaWest is also responsible for the long-term operation and maintenance of the project.

Stop 2: Rock Creek Fire Station

Sims Family History, McFadden, WY

My parents, Roy and Opal, my sister, Laretta and I moved to McFadden in April of 1930. We had been living at the Rex Dome oil field west of Laramie previously. My father was employed by the Ohio Oil Co. at Rex and transferred to the McFadden field. My sister was two years old and I was one month old at the time. Dad had been engaged as a hired hand on numerous ranches in the Rock Creek and Laramie River areas for several years prior to starting employment with the oil company. Dad's love of ranching led him to leasing a small ranch from Alvy Dixon about ¼ mile north of McFadden where my parents ran a few beef cows, milked several cows and put up the hay on the ranch. He did all of this in the evenings, weekends and the two weeks vacation allotted to him each year.

We lived in a company tar paper house on the back street aka "Scandal Avenue." My sister and I attended the McFadden public schools until 1945. In the early 40's my parents leased a somewhat larger ranch from Mrs. Elizabeth Bosler. They also purchased a quarter section of meadow land lying south of McFadden from Mrs. Bosler at the same time. Mrs. Bosler died rather suddenly and unexpectedly in 1942. The lease he held with the Boslers was somewhat shaky and as my parents were ready to go ranching full time, so they decided to try to buy the property they had under lease.

My Dad went into the Albany National Bank in Laramie, owned by George Forbes and his brother-in-law Jack Guthrie and attempted to obtain a loan, without success due to the fact that they didn't have sufficient collateral, to purchase the ranch. Dad said he never felt so down hearted in all of his life as he did that day. Mr Forbes, however, followed Dad out onto to the street and told him that although the bank couldn't loan him the money that he personally could and did.

As the ¼ section that the folks had previously bought was not contiguous to the ranch they sold it in order to have operating money to build a home, barn and corrals at the new place. Dad quit the Oil Company and we moved onto the ranch in 1943. The ranch consisted of about 10 sections at the time. He also acquired an option to purchase an adjoining small ranch. The lady operating this ranch had a lifetime lease on the property at the time. My parents, my sister and I did everything possible to pay for the ranch which meant milking a dozen or so cows, selling milk, butter, cottage cheese and eggs. Dad contracted putting up hay for others, baling hay with a stationary baler, contracting building fence, putting in power lines, you name it we did it. In 1960 my folks exercised the option on the small adjacent ranch and added it to the home place. The original ranch contained two sections south of McFadden that had two large reservoirs on it that were home to some record cutthroat trout. A Texas firm bought the neighboring ranch to the south of us and just had to have these two sections and all of those fish. We were in the cattle business not the fish business so Dad traded those two sections for a quarter section of adjoining hay meadow and two sections of pasture land.

My sister had graduated from McFadden High School in 1945 and I had enrolled as a sophomore at Laramie High. As our beef herd expanded we were able to drop the dairy operation and concentrate on raising cattle and hay. About this time Dad leased a neighboring ranch, called the Krueger ranch, which was about the same size as the home place so we were in the business big time. During this time my sister had married and started her family, I had graduated from Laramie High, attended a couple years at the U of WY, then married and moved on to the Krueger Ranch. I worked for the folks on this ranch for

five years and then managed it for another five years for Max Krueger. My family and I moved to Riverton in 1960 where I supervised the State Prison Farm for a couple of years.

Backing up just a little, my parents and my sister and her husband, Lee McQuay, built the Valley Station and rodeo grounds. It was opened on New Years Eve 1953. It was operated as a gasoline station, bar, dance hall and community center. My folks became sole proprietors of the Valley Station about ten years later when the McQuays bought a ranch north of Medicine Bow. They leased out the Valley Station to various ones for about the next ten years. My family and I returned from Riverton in 1962 going into the ranching business with my parents. Sadly and unfortunately this did not work out so after 5 years I returned to the U of WY, graduated and pursued a career in Water Administration for the State Engineer's Office.

In 1970 my father was injured by a cow and I was left with the choice of either leasing the ranch or the folks would be forced to sell it. I had a daughter and two sons at the time and the boys both wanted to be ranchers although they were only 10 and 16 years old at the time. A good friend of the family and mine leased the ranch for 5 years just selling hay and pasture. At the end of the lease in 1975 my eldest son, Scott and I formed the S & S Ranch Company and worked our tails off to put together cattle and machinery. At this same time I purchased the Valley Station building and 28 acres from my parents and we moved our trailer from Arlington to the Valley Station property. It had not been used for a couple of years so I immediately made a shop out of the dance hall portion but left the bar and gas station part as it was. I was still working for the State of Wyoming and wearing two hats at the same time and they definitely got very heavy at times. My youngest son, Olin, came into the partnership in 1982. My parents passed away in 1993 and 1996. The boys and I had purchased the ranch from them prior to this and now operate it and another adjoining ranch we lease as a cow-calf and hay operation. We have been artificial-inseminating our cow herd for 34 years now and send our calves to a feedlot in Nebraska.

Stop 3: The Diamond Ranch.

The Diamond Ranch joins the Heart Ranch on the upstream side. The ranch has also been known as the Diamond Home Ranch and the 7L Ranch. W. D. Currier, one of the earliest sheepmen in Albany County, settled on the ranch in the late 1870's.

Bud Gillespie and Bob Burns reported on ranches in the area in the Laramie Republican-Boomerang, March 18, 1953, and in their book. Their reports relied on the recollections of Alvy Dixon, a homesteader in the Rock Creek Valley who also had worked for Currier.

Currier was a bachelor who was born in Boston. He was a great sport and gambler, and knew every card game that had been played. He arrived in Laramie with \$200 in his pocket and decided to give sheep raising a try. He went out to a big ranch near Laramie for three days to see how it operated. Then he took up a homestead and paid a sheep man \$75 to tell him where to build a shed on the land. During the first winter the shed drifted under and was never used. After that, he relied primarily on his own ingenuity. He became a very good sheepman and ran about 20,000 head and improved his flock with better bucks. He used range on Foote Creek. Mrs. Sid Morris of Rock River remembered Currier shipping some high class bucks during 1876-79, and she reported seeing the six inch long, stapled wool. Currier made a statement about the sheep business being wiped out around 1889 which was printed in

government bulletins. He stated, "Here on the Laramie Plains the sheep business is about wiped out. Six years ago there were forty sheep ranches, now there are six. Cause, no range. Parties bought the railroad land in large blocks and then fenced in both railroad and government land and allowed no one to go inside the fence. There are blocks of 50,000 to 100,000 acres so fenced here. I used to run 20,000 head of sheep here--now run 6,000 to 8,000 and shall have to move out next year, as they are now fencing the last of my ranges. It is a dog-in-the-manger business, as there is not one-fourth the cattle or sheep on the Laramie Plains there were six years ago."

Currier sold out to Frank O. Harrison in the early 80's, and moved back to Vermont. Harrison, an Englishman, had settled on a ranch in the area in 1878 where he built up a cattle business. Hebler and Murray, two Englishmen who worked on a ranch on the Medicine Bow River, were impressed with Harrison's location and made him a \$25,000 cash offer. While thinking over the deal, Harrison met with Currier whose spread was larger. He made Currier an offer of \$25,000 for the ranch. Currier was quite elated and closed the deal at once. Buyers then were far and few between. Harrison then sold his ranch to Hebler and Murray. Gillespie and Burns suggest that this transaction indicates that the Yankees came by their shrewdness naturally from their English cousins!

As soon as Harrison acquired the ranch he began work in earnest to make many improvements for a cattle ranch. Gillespie and Burns report that Harrison took out several water rights from 1887 to 1892. The water rights for 1380 acres of land amounted to 18.27 cubic feet per second out of Rock Creek. He rented all of Frank Cooper's land on Rock Creek, Three Mile and adjacent lands for \$2500 per year--a bargain. That land included the old Diamond Ranch on Three Mile, a tributary of Rock Creek. The land extended down Three Mile to Rock Creek and then down Rock Creek to the Heart Ranch. Frank Cooper's land also included the Heart Ranch on Rock Creek.

Frank Cooper had 56.89 second feet of water out of Rock Creek to irrigate 1835 acres of land. In addition, he had 17.21 second feet of water out of Three Mile for irrigating 1205 acres of land and 4.42 second feet out of One Mile to irrigate 310 acres. Cooper's first water right was taken out of Rock Creek in 1881 and the last in 1897.

Harrison and Cooper sold out to an elderly man named Haynes from the East about 1903. Haynes operated the land for a year and then sold it to Frank C. Bosler. Bosler consolidated the Harrison and Cooper lands with the Iron Mountain Ranch Company's property at Bosler, then owned by Bosler and John C. Coble. Bosler bought out Coble's interest in 1903 and organized the Diamond Cattle Company.

Frank Harrison used both the Diamond and 7L brands on cattle and ran about 5,000 head. The Diamond Cattle Company used the Diamond brand on cattle and the pot hook brand on horses. Both brands were acquired from Harrison. The 7L brand and others used by Harrison were dropped.

Bosler secured the services of John Pierce as manager about 1904. John was a stern but likeable man. Pierce ran a roundup wagon with 10 men and about 100 saddle horses in the fall for about a month and a half. They would gather the cattle off the range, classify them for the different pastures, vaccinate the calves and trail the cattle to the different ranches for the winter. A summer roundup immediately preceding haying gathered and branded the calves.

The last roundup was in 1921. The large cattle losses of 1917 due to the severe storm were a big blow to John. He never fully recovered and died the next spring.

The Diamond Cattle Company operated the property intact until Bosler's death in 1918. In the spring of 1921 his widow started to liquidate the cattle and sold them out in a relatively short time. Then she sold some of the land, rented a greater part of it, and harvested and sold the hay off of the land she still held. Mrs. Bosler died in 1944. The land passed to Bosler's son, Frank C. Bosler, Jr., who is our speaker today. The younger Bosler sold the Diamond Home ranch, previously owned by Currier and Harrison, to L. W. Bailey. In the 1970's the ranch was incorporated with Mr. Bailey and his daughter and son-in-law, Dorothy and Robert L. Dody. Mr. Bailey's grandson, Bill Dody, is our host today.

When Harrison and Cooper sold their land, they reserved the oil rights. Will McMurray, an attorney in Laramie in 1917, induced the Ohio Oil Company to drill a well and prospect for oil. The first discovery of oil was made at that time under the hill just west of the present town of McFadden. This is one of the oldest oil fields in Wyoming coming in shortly after the fields at the Big Muddy and Midwest.

Stop 4: White Ranch.

Bud Gillespie relates the history of the area in Wyoming's Pioneer Ranches and Clifford White has added more details. An Englishman named Frank O. Harrison settled on this ranch in 1878. The land was purchased from Wyoming Central Land Improvement, Co. which had purchased it from the Union Pacific Railroad. Harrison had homesteaded a quarter section where the buildings are now, and George S. Kline had homesteaded another quarter section south. A short time later Harrison sold to Hebel and Murray in the deal described with the Diamond Ranch. Hebel and Murray made many improvements. In 1886, they acquired water rights for 1.43 second feet out of Rock Creek to irrigate 100 acres of land. In 1887, they secured 14.71 second feet of water for 1,030 acres of hay meadow. The hay supplied feed for Herefords and Shorthorns. In 1901 they traded the cattle for some registered Hereford cattle. One famous sire, Breastplate Lad, was included in the trade. Breastplate Lad weighed over 2300 pounds and his sons matured at 1600 to 1700 pounds. Gillespie quotes a description of this ranch and herd from the Industrial Edition of the Laramie Republican in 1901.

"The home of this herd of pedigreed Herefords is located on Rock Creek, 12 miles above the station of Rock River on the Union Pacific Railroad, and is four miles from the foothills of the Medicine Bow range. It has telephone communication with Rock River station. The ranch includes four sections of bottom lands on Rock Creek and comprises a succession of broad and beautiful meadows, between which are streams and natural lawns and parks with willow clumps, aspen groves and towering cottonwoods, yellow and green in the early autumn, but gorgeously red and russet as the frosts increase. It is an ideal ranch for the raising of thoroughbred stock. Registered Herefords are the only stock now kept on the ranch, and some of the best strains to be found in the United States are here. Among the large list is "Breastplate Lad," who has weighed 2350 pounds, yet is active and of good disposition. His sire was Beau Real 11055, and his grandsire Anxiety 4th 99044 and his great-grandsire Anxiety 2238. No finer specimen of the Hereford herd can be found anywhere and among the cows are many fine pedigrees and symmetrical forms

of rare beauty This is the only herd of the kind in Carbon county Messrs. Hebeler and Murray will be able to supply the market with stock of the finest strain--an industry long needed, in our part of the state. Workmen are busy erecting breeding barns capable of accommodating the animal increase and in another year this firm will have a herd of 125 head of breeding stock and be able to handle contracts of carload lots, both bulls and heifers. The heifers and cows from this well known strain of Herefords will be valuable additions to any western breeder's herd, and there is no question of the success of the enterprise."

Hebeler and Murray would sell the bulls for \$100 each. One interesting story Gillespie relates concerns John A. Winkler of the Riverside Livestock Company who went to Denver to purchase bulls to improve his herd. Winkler bought two bulls for about \$900 each. It turned out that the bulls had been raised on the Hebeler and Murray ranch and then brought to Denver where they were pampered and dressed up for sale.

Another quarter section of the current ranch was homesteaded in April, 1902 by Samuel Coen near Arlington which was almost immediately sold to the Rockdale Hereford Association. The ridge above the ranch is still known as Coen Ridge. Archibald Murray was president of the Rockdale Hereford Association.

Hebeler and Murray dissolved the partnership. Hebeler returned to England and was killed in the Boer War Murray sold to the Rockdale Livestock Company, whose president was Timothy Ross. Ross sold the ranch to the Laramie Valley Cattle Company in 1921 That company apparently failed because the ranch was sold to J. T. Hurst at a Sheriff's Sale in Rawlins in 1925. Within one month the ranch was sold three times to C. H. Fitzpatrick, Jacob Zeigler, and W. A. McDowell. In 1929, McDowell sold to C. H. Bowlby, who sold it to Keystone Cattle Company in 1931 That company was dissolved in April, 1941, and Alvy and Rosemary Dixon bought the land. Bryan White, Clifford White's father, took possession of the ranch in May, 1943, and completed the purchase in February, 1956. Alvy Dixon had died in 1945.

Two small ranches were added to the property In the late 1950's, the Herbert J. King Ranch and in 1968, the Morgan McQuay Ranch. McQuay had homesteaded the property and obtained a 1921 water right. The ranch today is incorporated as the Lonesome Fox Corporation.

Our tour will pass near White's Recreation Reservoirs, now known as the Coen Ridge Reservoirs. As the brochure for the site says, "White's Recreation Reservoirs are beautiful lakes constructed solely for the purpose of fishing and recreation. They are located in a natural basin high enough to view the surrounding area while enjoying the sport of fishing and camping at a site that displays some of the most beautiful scenery in Wyoming.

"They are bounded by a ridge of Ponderosa Pine trees which provide shade and shelter for campers. The water in the lakes is clear and cool and is much better than most water supplied to our cities. A constant supply of fresh water runs into and out of the lakes at all times thereby assuring that the fish are really fresh-water variety

"Our lake has a capacity of 734 acre-feet and covers a surface of 53 acres. The other

has a capacity of 551 acre-feet and a surface area of 43 acres....The lakes are presently stocked with Rainbow, Brook, Brown, and Cutthroat Trout weighing up to eight pounds."

The lunch stop today will be at the house and barns that were the headquarters for the Lonesome Fox Corporation, and the White family. The big barn was one of many in the area built by Pete Rhynders in the early 1900's. The main part of the house, which is actually in the rear, was built in the 1890's, judging by photographs. The front part was built on in about 1910 and was all large, high ceiling bedrooms for the friends of the englishmen who came here to play, hunt and fish. It is a wonderful old log house but it was built before indoor plumbing and electricity were installed so it does have some eccentricities when it comes to modern conveniences.

Stop 5. Brokaw Ranch.

This account was provided by Howard Brokaw

The Brokaw Ranch is built upon homesteads filed upon in the 1880's by John Clearwater and Marshall Dixon.

In the period after the Civil War, Marshall Dixon and his son Alvy hauled freight from St. Louis, Missouri, to the Montana and Wyoming territories. They discovered the area along Rock Creek from what is now Arlington to McFadden and thought it to be prime ranching country

As their freighting business dwindled because of improving transportation, Marshall Dixon, his son Alvy, brother Joseph, and a brother-in-law came into the Rock Creek area to file for homesteads. They found John Clearwater, a frontier minister, already in residence, but there was ample land for each of them to file for homesteads.

They moved their families from Joplin and Carthage, Missouri, to the new homesteads and set about developing their ranches. Within a few years Marshall Dixon died and his wife, Margaret, married Mahlon Hampton, providing the basis for calling that area of the ranch the "Hamp."

In 1913, John M. Brokaw sold his farm at Mount Vernon, Iowa, so he could move an asthmatic son to the drier climate of Wyoming. He bought a farm on the Bosler Irrigation Project north of Rock River and moved his wife, four sons, and a daughter to the farm.

Soon thereafter Ralph Brokaw, a teenage son, sought work on the Dixon Ranch. Ralph Brokaw finished high school in Rock River. He worked summers on the Dixon ranch and spent a term at the University of Wyoming before entering the Army for World War I. He returned from the Army in 1918 and married Alvy Dixon's daughter, Edith.

In the meantime Mahlon Hampton had died, and Margaret Hampton bought the Clearwater homestead.

In 1922, Ralph and Edith Brokaw bought the Hampton/Clearwater property and leased a 40 acre section belonging to the Union Pacific Railroad, creating the nucleus of the present ranch. Additional acreage by gift and bequest from Alvy Dixon brought the ranch to its

present size.

Various stories by Gerald LeBear

In regards to the 1917 storm. My uncle, Lloyd Dixon, explained to me that some of the cattle were drive to the Sweetwater country and they survived.

During this time, my grandfather, Alvy Dixon, and his son, Lloyd, were living at the home ranch located on Sec 10,T 19N,R78W They had acquired the Fisher ranch on Sec 18,T 19N, R78W and this necessitated their making daily trips with team and sled to feed hay to their cattle which were located on both of those ranches. The 7L barn, located on Sec. 28,T 19N, R78W was on their route and in the spring, there remained 3 live cattle from the 7L herd: 1 pregnant cow, 1 open cow and 1-2 year old steer These animals had used the barn as shelter Of these, the steer was the first to die, the open cow next. The pregnant cow aborted her calf but survived.

Red Graves, who was on the skinning crew for the 7L, told me they hung nearly 5000 hides on the fence that spring.

Alvy had attempted to buy a few of the cattle earlier that winter but the 7L refused to sell any, probably not wanting to have cattle branded with the 7L on other people's ranches, thus avoiding the possibility of theft later on.

Stories about John Pierce:

Lloyd Dixon, a young man getting started with his ranching career needed extra income and approached John Pierce regarding employment. John asked Lloyd what he could do, and Lloyd replied that he could irrigate.

The 7L used the "Lookout Flats" as its horse pasture. The feed was hard and highly nutritious having not been irrigated and horses flourished. Lloyd told me that it was rare not to see horses running in some part of the field a great deal of the time-evidenced of the energy provided by the good feed.

John said he would be gone to Denver for a few days, and while he was away, he would like to have the horse pasture irrigated.

Lloyd, who though that if a little water was good, a lot of water was better, flooded the area with great quantities – had it running everywhere.

Upon his return, John asked Lloyd what he thought he was doing and Lloyd said "irrigating your field." John replied, "Not for me; now go shut off at least one half of the water "

John Pierce was obviously a man who thought in the long term and didn't want to see the good top soil leached of its nutritional value by over-irrigating. Had this lesson been learned by everyone at that time, I believe our valley would be more productive at much less cost. Today, most meadows require fertilizing as most of these lands have been leached out due to over irrigation.

As mentioned, John was a stern, but likable man. If you were hired as a cowboy and rode "pot hook" horses, you were required to use a short grazing style bit – no long shanks. This was in the event a horse should fall, helped minimize the damage to the horses' mouths.

Concerning teams and wagons, a certain ritual was followed: wagons all parked in a straight row and teams and harness cared for and put away in an orderly way

John had been away for a few days and upon returning late at night, found the wagons

parked helter skelter. He immediately aroused all the hands from their beds, teams were caught, wagons arranged properly, and horses dressed down. Then everyone went back to sleep.

Alvy Dixon homesteaded the NW1/4, HW1/4 Sec 10, T 19N, R 78W in 1888. He lived in a lean-to-type shed and was fencing in his quarter section.

On this particular morning he was working on the line fence separating his property from that owned by Hebler and Murray in section 9. Hebler and Murray rode up on their horses and told Alvy there was no need of his working on the fence since it was their intention to acquire his property as soon as he went broke.

Alvy did not stop working but explained quite clearly: "I'll be here when you SOB's are gone, and he was. He later bought the Hebler and Murray ranch.

Alvy was a builder and planner. Both here and at the home ranch he constructed houses, barns, harness and buggy sheds, milk barns, corrals and others including as you can see here, slaughter houses.

At the home ranch where I was raised he built a slaughter house identical to this one. Inside is a "windless" used to hoist the animal carcass for gutting, skinning and quartering.

As a boy I can remember the animal being gently sheperded into the building, the door being quietly closed, the rifle eased through an opening and the single shot killing the animal. Its throat was immediately cut allowing it to bleed out and the processing continued.

The gamble stick was attached to the hind legs. The windless was designed so perfectly that as a small boy of 8-10 years of age I could quite easily hoist a 1000 pound animal to the height necessary

Alvy Dixons accomplishments were many, due in large part to work ethic. One of the hands who helped him once said, "I never knew what color the house was because we were working before the sun came up and didn't return until after dark."

The 56th Old Time Ranch Tour

LOCATIONS AND STOPS	TIME	MILEAGES	
		TRIP	LOCAL
3 RD and Curtis		0	
Town Hall Rock River		38.5	
Turn off on Highway 13		39	.5
Turn off to Windmills	8:30 am	41.3	2.3
Stop 1 Windmills	8:46 am	48.1	6.8
Back to Highway 13	9:47 am	54.9	6.8
Stop 2: Rock Creek Fire Station	9:58 am	62.8	7.9
Leave Rock Creek Fire Station & McFadden Turnoff	10:45 am	64.6	1.8
Stop 3: Diamond Ranch	11 11 am		67.8 3.2
Leave Diamond Ranch & Turn on Hwy 13	12:00 pm	71 1	3.3
White Ranch Turnoff	12:10 pm	72.6	1.5
Stop 4: White Ranch	12:15 pm	73.2	.6
Leave White Ranch	1:30 pm	73.8	.6
Turn off to Brokaw Ranch	1:40 pm	74.8	1
Stop 5: Brokaw Barn	1:45 pm	75.2	.4
Leave Barn	2:30 pm	75.2	
Turn on to Highway 13	2:35 pm	75.6	.4
To Highway 30	2:52 pm	89.9	14.3
To Laramie	3:35 pm	131	41 1

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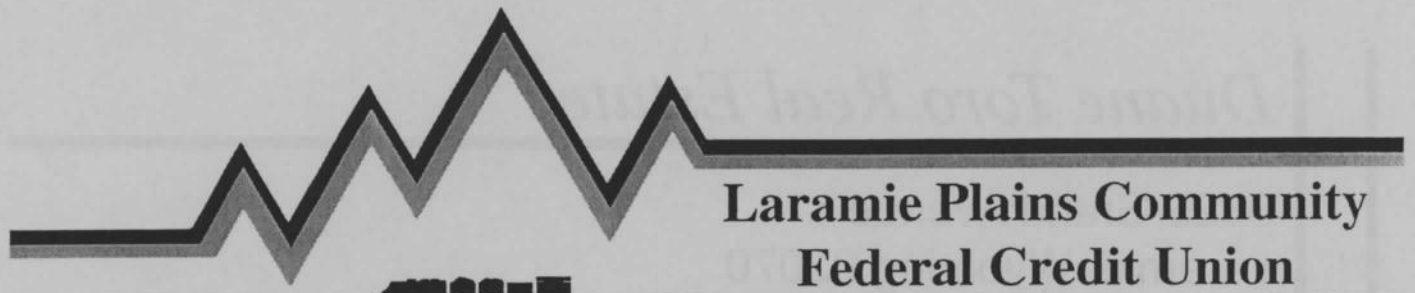
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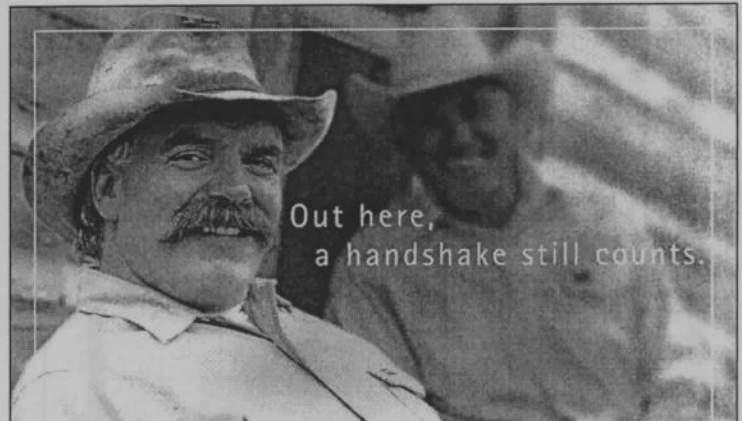
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