

62nd Old Time Ranch Tour

Saturday July 21, 1012

Morning Schedule:

T Lazy T Ranch

Host: David Berry

Speaker: Dennis Magnusson

Iron Mountain Ranch

Hosts: Doug and Susan Samuelson

Speaker: Dennis Magnusson

Farthing Ranch:

Host and Speaker: Charles Farthing

Afternoon Schedule:

Francis Livestock Company

Host: John Francis, President

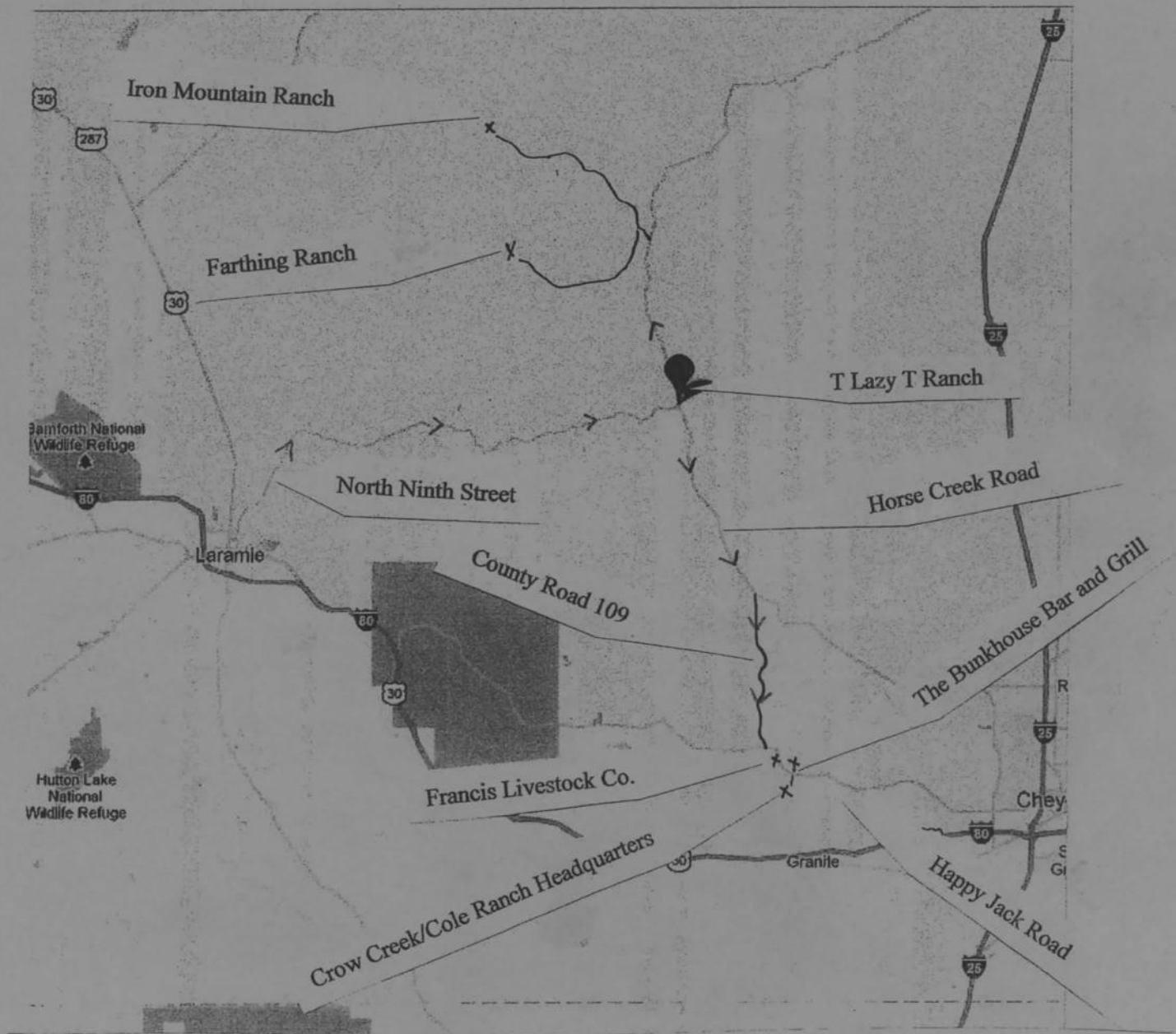
Speaker: Chris Francis

Crow Creek/Cole Ranch Headquarters

National Historic Site

Hosts: Keith Cowie and Kathy Quinn

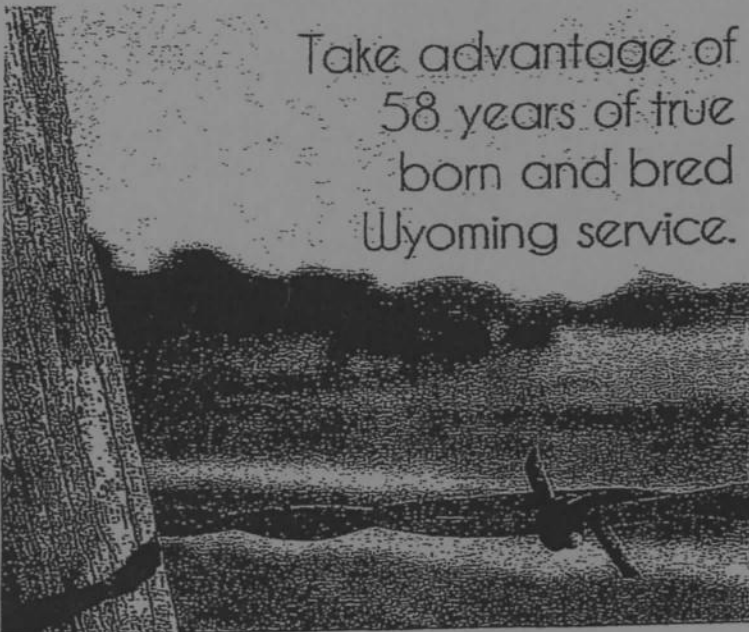
Speaker: Keith Cowie



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**Sixty-second Old Time Ranch Tour
Saturday, July 21, 2012**

The Old Time Ranch tours began in 1951 under the guidance and vision of Dr Robert Burns and have continued every year except 1982.

The 2012 Old Time Ranch Tour

Chairperson: Ted Preston

Committee Members: Grant Showacre, John Rowland, Bob Nelson, Larry Streumpf, George Gladney

Master of Ceremonies: George Gladney

RULES

- 1) We bring our own Port-a-Potties. Please use these. Hint: There always seems to be a line at the porta potties when we first arrive at a stop, and before we depart for the next stop. You might consider finding your way to the porta-pottie during the middle of a ranch visit, in order to avoid the lines! We will not take the port-potties all the way to the Iron Mountain Ranch. Please use them before you leave the T Lazy T, and they will be available again at the Farthing ranch at lunchtime.
- 2) Driving
 - a. Stay to the right on hill crests
 - b. The railroad tracks are heavily used. Please use caution while crossing tracks. You will not be left behind as there are Kiwanis members scattered throughout the tour who will stay in cell phone contact with the leaders.
 - c. Keep a safe distance between cars. We will travel at 25 to 35 miles per hour on gravel roads.
- 3) There will be parking coordinators at each site. Please follow their directions. If you have difficulty walking, please inform the first traffic director at each site so that an appropriate parking place may be found. Please be specially careful at the Crow Creek/Cole Ranch NOT to drive on any of the grass.
- 4) Please keep children and pets with you at all times. Pets MUST remain on a leash, as we will be in close proximity to livestock owned by our hosts.
- 5) We are the guests of the ranches and historical sites. Please DO NOT remove any items including artifacts found on the ground.
- 6) Please be aware of the risk of fire in our arid climate, and DO NOT SMOKE outside your vehicle, and please do not throw cigarette butts out your windows.

Neither the committee, individually or collectively, nor the sponsoring organizations accept any responsibility for accidents. Please stay alert while driving!

Thank you to our sponsors and a special thanks to Honeywagon for their generous loan of the porta-potty.



T Lazy T Ranch (Tugman's Bar T Ranch)

The ranch barn pictured above is seen close up by the Tour participants. It contains the beam shown to the right. The inscription says, "Donald Clark" and "Barn Raised Aug. 20 1902."

The following history appears in a paper entitled "History of the Clark-Innes Ranch." A very similar account appears in Jane Bastian's *History of Laramie County Wyoming* and is attributed to Florence Tugman.

Donald Clark was born in Islay, Scotland in 1837 and Jane McPhee was born in Paesly, Scotland in 1841. The two were married in Egremont, Canada in 1865. They made their home on a farm there until the spring of 1874, when Donald heard from Jane's brother, Donald McPhee, of a new land called the Territory of Wyoming, U.S.A. and boarded a train for Cheyenne.

Donald was to be met by his brother-in-law, but somehow the two missed each other so he walked to his home. He selected 160 acres on upper Horse Creek and began building a home. Before the house was finished, winter set in, so he went back to Canada for his family

Donald dreamed of expanding his holdings and putting the DC brand on as many cattle as he could. In 1892 he leased the D property which joined his own on the south from the Swan Land & Cattle Co. and shortly thereafter, he bought the West Moyer property which joined his own on the west. This brought his ranch from 160 acres to over 8,000 acres. In 1893 he built the 15 room house of gray native stone brought from a quarry near the Horse Creek hogbacks. In 1910 Donald and Jane leased the ranch to their son Neil, and retired to Cheyenne, where they lived until they died.

John Innes was born in Nairn, Scotland in 1866 and came to Wyoming in 1888, securing work as a cowpuncher on the ranch of Andrew Gilchrist, 17 miles west of Cheyenne, but soon began operations of his own on the Laramie Plains. In 1902 he purchased 2,000 acres on Sybille Creek near Red Buttes near Laramie. In 1922 the Innes family moved to the 8,000 acre Clark ranch at Horse Creek and operated both ranches until 1936.

John Innes owned several brands, but seldom used any, except the Bar T and DC. He acquired homesteads adjoining the Clark Ranch, totaling 3,000 acres, bringing the total acreage on the Horse Creek Ranch to 11,000 at the time of his death in 1945. In 1941 when John Innes became ill, James C. and Florence Tugman took over operations of the Bar T Ranch and after the death of John Innes (Florence's father) [in 1945] they leased the ranch from Flora Innes. In 1961 when Flora Innes passed away, Florence inherited the ranch. In 1965 Jim bought 3,000 acres of the John Whitaker Ranch, which adjoins the Bar T Ranch on the north, bringing the total acreage to approximately 15,000 acres. Jim and Florence operated the ranch until 1979, when Jim passed away

Iron Mountain Ranch

Hosts: Doug and Susan Samuelson

Speaker: Dennis Magnusson

The Iron Mountain Ranch is, through most of its history, just a prosperous ranch where ranchers quietly raised cattle and families, generally unremarkable except for its scenic, secluded setting and a few well-constructed buildings. But this ranch has a sordid history that lasted for several years in the early twentieth century. We'll tell you the sordid part because murder and hangings and suicide make for a much more interesting tale!

Frank Bosler was a prominent cattle rancher in Wyoming at the end of the nineteenth century, and a member of the Wyoming Stock Growers' Association and Cheyenne Cattlemen's Club. Bosler hired John Coble as the manager for the Iron Mountain Ranch. Whether Bosler was involved in the Johnson County War is unclear, however, his animosity towards the neighboring homesteaders resulted in him hiring the legendary Tom Horn.

Tom Horn's reputation followed him wherever he went. Although his official title was always "Range Detective," he actually functioned as a killer for hire. He did not hesitate to brag about the number of men he killed and it did not matter to him whether the killings were justified or not. He killed for the game of it. Horn resided at the Iron Mountain Ranch and became close friends with John Coble.

On July 18, 1901, Horn was riding the Bosler range when fourteen-year-old Willie Nickell was murdered. Nickell, while walking his father's horse through an open gate, was shot twice in the back. Kels Nickell, Willie's father, was the original target for the murder and according to Chip Carlson's book, *Blood on the Moon*, the person or person's who shot the boy turned the body over and when they realized they killed the wrong person, laid the boy's head on a rock, Tom Horn's signature.



Tom Horn

The prime suspect at first was neighbor Victor Miller who had an ongoing feud with the elder Nickell. When questioned by the sheriff, Miller said he was having breakfast with his family. The alibi checked out and suspicion turned to Tom Horn because of his killing reputation.

In January 1902, United States Marshal, Joe LeFors met with Horn in Cheyenne under the disguise of wanting him to do a "job" for him. After two days of conversation and in a drunken state, Horn admitted to LeFors that he killed Willie Nickell. Horn's confession and circumstantial evidence led to his arrest.

John Coble believed LeFors tricked Horn into making the confession; therefore, he put together a well-esteemed group of attorneys to prove his friend's innocence. The trial began the following October after his arrest. After two weeks, the jury found Horn guilty. A year later, and a day short of his forty-third birthday, Horn met his maker by hanging.

Coble is rumored to have paid a hundred thousand dollars for Horn's defense. Some of the money he used came from Bosler, money Bosler intended to purchase cattle. When Bosler learned that Coble used the money towards Horn's defense instead of buying cattle, Bosler was outraged.

Although Bosler hired Horn to protect his cattle from rustlers, he did not believe in Horn's innocence, nor did he want to bring any suspicion to himself. In 1904, Bosler fired Coble and never wanted anything to do with him again. Coble later committed suicide after several years of wandering the west.



Tom Horn



John C. Coble

The Farthing Ranch: *Hard Work and Honest Dealings*

Host and Speaker: Charles Farthing, Owner

Thomas Farthing, a whiskey distiller from Buffalo, New York, purchased Pole Creek Ranch for his sons Harry and Charles Thomas in 1884. Harry was already living there when Charles visited in 1903. Charles liked the area, and began to search for a suitable place to settle for him and his wife, Maude. They found the ranch near Iron Mountain, which they agreed to purchase from William Edwards. The couple returned to Buffalo, packed and moved to Cheyenne with their son, Tom, in 1903. Their second son, Merrill, was born that year. They purchased the ranch in 1903 and Farthing began the operation with a few cattle and some sheep. Two more children, Betty and Helen, were born in following years.

Later, the Farthings bought a Shetland stallion and a few mares that were imported from the Shetland Islands. During the depression these ponies were worth more than cattle, and saved the ranch from foreclosure. The Shetland ponies were renowned and in great demand. In the mid-1900s the Farthings ran 800 to 1000 ponies. Although a sideline business on the ranch, the registered ponies sold for as much as \$1000 each during the 1930s. Since the 1950s, the Farthings have donated the ponies to the University of Wyoming for use as its mascot, Cowboy Joe. Today, about 35 ponies wander the hills.

Charles Farthing was a well-known businessman and innovator of crossbreeds. He served as County Commissioner and Wyoming Legislator. Upon Harry Farthing's death, Tom and Merrill inherited the Pole Creek Ranch. Tom took over at Pole Creek, while Merrill operated the Farthing Ranch. Tom stayed on at Pole Creek until his death, and his daughter Sharon operated the ranch until 1975.

Merrill and his children worked the ranch with Charles and Maude until failing health took the elder Farthings to retirement in Cheyenne. Merrill's son, Charles was born in 1955, and Charles runs the ranch to this day, where he lives with his wife Carol and two of their sons, Tom and Ryan, and their families.



The Francis Livestock Company

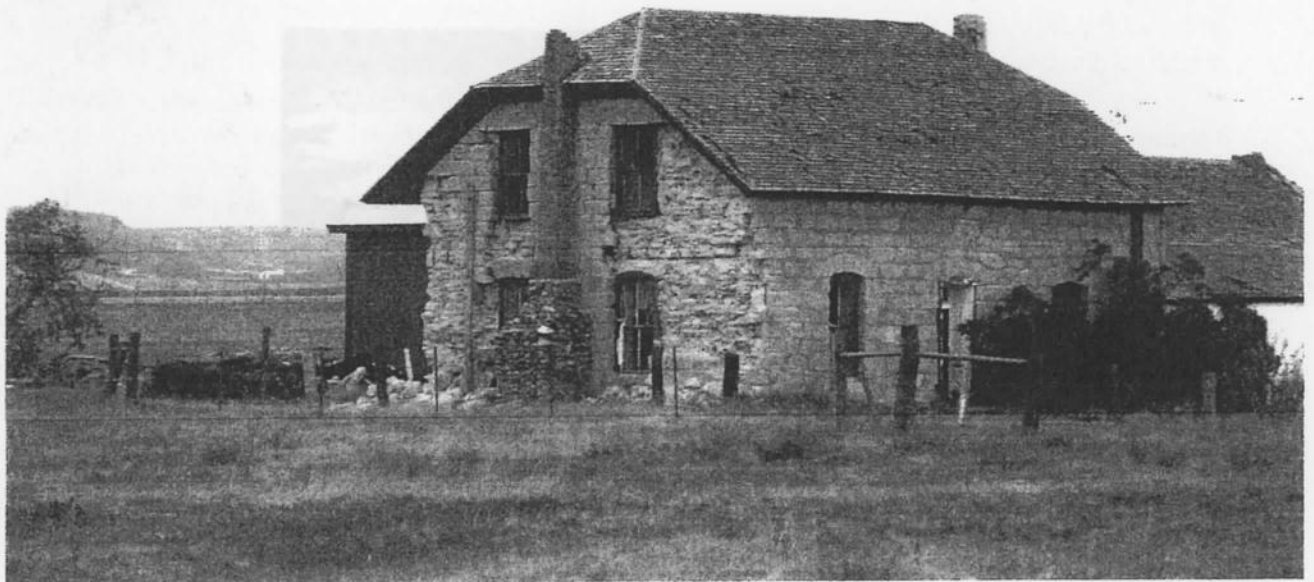
Host: John Francis

Speaker: Chris Francis

Edward Francis was the first of 13 children to move from Church Wenlock, in western England. Edward paved the way for his parents and siblings, who all followed him over the next decade.

Edward first found work with the Hord Company near Cheyenne, an outfit that paid its employees in livestock and equipment instead of cash. In the mid 1890s, Edward took his cattle and equipment and moved to Potter, Nebraska. Hail, grasshoppers and rattlesnakes encouraged him to move back to Cheyenne in 1903. He purchased the Shaver Ranch first, and then began a program of acquiring additional land and ranches, with the entire family joining the effort. Son Art Francis studied mechanical engineering, returned to the ranch and spent his years building structures on the ranch, including barns, a ditch, electrical systems and even a telephone system that served neighboring ranches.

After his parents' deaths, Art purchased the Gilchrist Ranch from Andrew Gilchrist's widow in 1932. The Gilchrist House is one of the best-known landmarks in western Laramie County. Andrew Gilchrist established the Gilchrist Ranch on Happy Jack Road, probably in the early 1880s, and built the stone house pictured here in 1892. He also built the stone house on the Cole Ranch (which we will tour next) in 1896. Art and Alice Francis' two children, Edward and Ann, grew up on the Gilchrist Ranch. Edward's son John, the fourth generation of Francis descendants on this land, now owns and operates the ranch with the help of his family. Our Speaker, Chris Francis, is the fifth generation of Francis descendants to occupy this land.



Crow Creek/Cole Ranch Headquarters

Hosts: Keith Cowie and Kathy Quinn

Speaker: Keith Cowie

The Crow Creek/Cole Ranch Headquarters Historic District, with its distinctive buildings, irrigation ditch, grazing lands, and irrigated hay meadow, represents cattle ranching in southeastern Wyoming during the period between 1879 and 1972. Through time, this property was part of the Gilchrist Ranch and has also been known as the Crow Creek Ranch, and the Cole Ranch Headquarters. The property, developed by Andrew Gilchrist during the early cattle bonanza years of the 1870s, represents both that era as well as the Cole family ranching operation, which was characteristic of stock raising in Laramie County. The Gilchrist #1 ditch that runs just below the house, is one of Wyoming's oldest water rights, dating to the period before Wyoming's statehood. The 1890 bank barn is a noteworthy example of a bank barn with stone basement and upper level designed for hay storage. The ranch is listed in the National Register of Historic Places for its importance in agriculture and its significant architecture.



Crow Creek/Cole Ranch Headquarters
National Historic Site.

By 1904, rancher Jesse Cole had accumulated 3,680 acres—an average sized ranch in Laramie County at a time when there were approximately 570 ranches in the county, ranging in size from 1,000 to 5,000 acres. Most of the ranches near the Crow Creek/Cole Ranch operated profitably by grazing cattle on native grasses during the warmer months and alfalfa hay in the winter. Like other ranchers near Cheyenne during World War II, Cole added dairy cattle to his operation to help bring in more money.

Historic buildings on the property include a ranch house, a barn and a bunkhouse. The first building on the property, the ranch house and headquarters, was built in 1879 and continued to serve as headquarters until 1972 when the ranch was subdivided. The stone used to construct this building has been covered and stabilized with stucco. The two-story barn is built into the slope of the land. The first story consists of a stone basement. The wood-frame upper level is accessed through large doors that open at ground level. The lower level is open to the yard on the opposite side. This structure is unique in the way it was constructed to take advantage of the setting to protect it from the harsh winter. The bunkhouse was built around 1880 of stone similar to the stone used for the house. The stone on the bunkhouse is still exposed and has historic markings—initials, apparently, and an indecipherable date.

A fenced corral was added in 1950. An outhouse, root cellar and the Gilchrist No. 1 irrigation ditch complete the landscape, according to Betsy Bradley, author of the document nominating the site for the National Register of Historic Places. The property also includes the hay meadow,

grazing land and the bluff with more grazing land at an elevation higher than the main buildings.

The cross on the hill above the barn is not a grave, but it commemorates Bob Weber, who lived on the place until he passed away. Formerly, Bob was the head rider for the Hyde Merritt Ranch. Tour participants are welcome to hike up the hill and pay their respects.

ANDREW GILCHRIST

Today we will visit two ranches that were founded by one of Wyoming's prominent early citizens, a man who was instrumental in developing Wyoming's early agriculture and government. Andrew Gilchrist was the founder of a ranch that included the final two ranch sites we will visit today, the Francis Livestock Company site and the Crow Creek/Cole Ranch Headquarters.

One of the leading men of Wyoming, one who did more perhaps for the development of its resources and to promote its settlement and growth than any other citizen, Hon. Andrew Gilchrist of Cheyenne, was a native of Scotland. Born on March 4, 1844, in Ayrshire, Scotland, he was the son of Andrew and Catherine (Pollock) Gilchrist. Andrew Jr, the son of a military leader, served from the age of seventeen to nineteen years as a member of the Queen's Life Guards. He received his early education in Scottish country schools, and remained with his parents until he had attained twenty-one years of age.

In 1865, with no capital except energy, ability and determination to carve out a successful career, he came to America. Here he attended, as his means permitted, a business college situated near Hartford, Conn., for the purpose of acquiring a practical knowledge of doing business. He subsequently accepted a position at South Manchester, Conn., being the outdoor superintendent of Cheney Brothers silk manufacturers, remaining in this employment for five years.

Gilchrist then organized a colony in Connecticut and came to Colorado. He was chosen as the head of this colony and they purchased a large tract of land in the vicinity of Greeley and engaged in cattle raising. They also erected a sawmill, and manufactured lumber, continuing in that business until the spring of 1872. Mr. Gilchrist then entered upon the business of raising cattle on his own account and continued in that pursuit until 1877, when he removed to the Territory of Wyoming.

Driving a large band of cattle from his former range in Colorado, Gilchrist took up land on South Crow Creek, at the site we will visit today, now on the National Register of Historic Places as the Crow Creek/Cole Ranch Headquarters. Gilchrist continued in the cattle business later at what is now the Francis Livestock Company, and this was the beginning of his remarkable financial career in Wyoming. From the beginning he prospered, and added to his land holdings until he became one of the largest landholders in the western United States, owning vast tracts of many thousands of acres, on one occasion purchasing 130,000 acres from the Union Pacific Railroad.

Gilchrist was one of the first among the stockmen of Wyoming to enter upon the improvement of the grades of cattle, importing large numbers of thoroughbred Herefords for that purpose, and was largely instrumental in bringing about the change from the inferior grades of range stock which were then handled in this portion of the West. During the early 1880s he acquired a large interest in the stock of the Stockgrowers National Bank of Cheyenne, and was made a director of

that institution. Subsequently, he was elected its president and, by his ability, business management and strong financial resources, he conducted the institution through the years of financial distress and panic in Wyoming. It was the only banking house in the city of Cheyenne that did not close its doors during the financial crisis of 1886. Always enterprising, active and progressive, Gilchrist was instrumental in building up the city of Wheatland, and it was largely through his efforts that irrigation, so beneficial to all the people of that section of Wyoming, was begun in that area. Gilchrist played a major role in the development of the Wheatland Irrigation District, which draws its water from the Laramie River. There is a street named for him in Wheatland.



Gilchrist Avenue in Wheatland, 1908

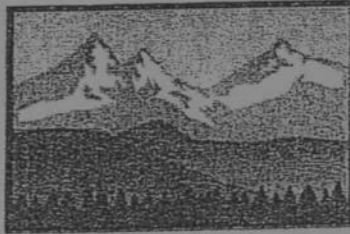
Among other important public matters with which Mr. Gilchrist was connected was the location of the state capitol. While Gilchrist served in the Wyoming Legislature, he was largely instrumental in having it placed upon its present site in the city of Cheyenne. Gilchrist was also instrumental in attracting a promising young engineer named Elwood Mead to Wyoming, to serve as the state's first State Irrigation Engineer. Mead and Gilchrist were both involved in developing Wyoming's water laws, and Mead was instrumental in developing Colorado's as well. Mead later served as Director of the Bureau of Reclamation, and Lake Mead, formed by the Hoover Dam on the Colorado River, was named for him. Through their lasting influence on Wyoming water laws, Gilchrist and Mead even played a role in the development of modern water laws in Asia: The man responsible for drafting much of the modern water law in China and Vietnam is George Radosevich, a UW law school graduate who began his career as a Wyoming lawyer, and later taught water law at Colorado State University, steeped in the basic water laws developed by Gilchrist and Mead in Wyoming. Those laws form the basis for the water law of China and Vietnam today.

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