

Chapter II

THE TWELVE PIONEER FAMILIES AND DESCENDANTS



THE GUST ANDERSON FAMILY

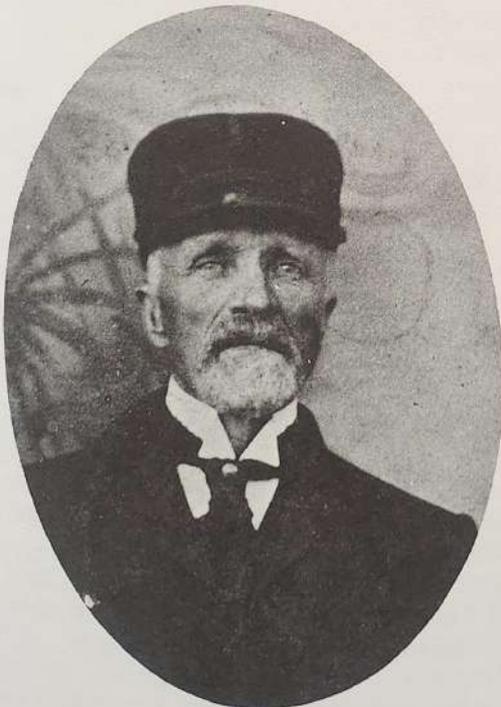
A foremost pioneer family coming from Iowa in 1886 to settle in the Territory of Wyoming was the source of naming a post office and a town.

Gust Anderson, born in Sweden in 1840, as the youngest of a large family, was an orphan at an early age. His father was robbed and slain while returning home from marketing livestock. A few years later his mother died leaving him at

the mercy of relatives—and only nine years old! When he reached the age of twenty he accompanied his brothers, Daniel and Abraham, to Iowa where their sister and her family were living.

In November, 1881, Gust Anderson and Anna Elizabeth Wick were wed. They established their home in Crawford County, near Denison, Iowa. The agricultural endeavors of Mr. Anderson included a swine herd of four hundred which was a profitable way to harvest the bumper corn crops.

Making a trip to Sacramento, California, in the days of his youth gave Gust Anderson a first-hand view of western settlement. In 1886



Gust Anderson



Mr. and Mrs. Gust Anderson, 1881

the urge to go west became irresistible. He started for Colorado with \$1,000 but in Omaha he encountered a land agent, C. L. Johnson, of Pine Bluffs who "sold" Wyoming.

The following spring Mr. and Mrs. Gust Anderson with their children, J. Albin, Charles and Elliot located on a timber claim in the Salem community, known as Lindbergh after the advent of the railroad in 1928. This was the birthplace of Edwin P. Anderson.



Mrs. Gust Anderson, standing in front of homestead where Edwin P. Anderson was born.

In 1889 Mr. Anderson located his family on a homestead nine miles to the north in the virgin country of tall grass, on the NW fourth Sec. 22; Township 17; Range 60.

Previously the families of Gust Palm and Andrew P. Malm had claimed the East half of Section 22, making three families on one section which was unusual in territorial days when there were miles and miles of available land within the Public Domain. Attending one school, the children were the greatest beneficiaries.

Gust Anderson came to the Albin community in his fiftieth year. For years he worked constructing buildings and fences and cultivating crops. The first housing was a dugout and the first barn was built of native lumber, brought from a sawmill in the Horse Creek breaks. The pine trees were a handy source of supply for fence posts and basic building materials.

The choice of location was substantiated by his six sons becoming established on agricultural units in the Albin community. Five claimed homestead land, but none was available in the locale when his youngest became eligible at the age of twenty-one.

Gust Anderson was inherently industrious and he left a mark of improvement on the new country. Quietly and patiently he bore nine bedridden years before departing this life at the age of 86, in 1926, survived by his widow, six sons and a daughter.

Mrs. Gust Anderson

Born February 14, 1860 at Jemtland, Sweden, Anna Elizabeth Wick at the age of nine, came to Crawford County Iowa with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Olof Wick and brothers, Peter and John.

After her marriage to Gust Anderson, her parents moved to the state of Washington. Later desiring to be with her and her family in Wyoming, they traded their Washington property for Edgar Perry's homestead. On this property, now owned by Charles Ivan Anderson, the Wicks spent the rest of their days. Mrs. Wick was the second burial in the Albin cemetery.

The Gust Andersons brought four children to the Albin homestead and later Arvid, Sylvia and Otto were born there.

The family experienced the usual sacrifices of settling a new country such as poor housing and cramped quarters, as well as the privation of warm bedding and clothing, especially was there a scarcity of overshoes. In common with their contemporaries they had a limited variety of diet. A lonely life it was! The closest neighbor was nine miles distant, in the Salem community when the Andersons moved to the Territory of Wyoming.

Moreover the Anderson family had illness and physical affliction. Mrs. Anderson was a never-tiring devoted mother and also she rendered neighborly assistance, oftentimes without an attending physician. She merited the title of "The Little Iron Woman" given her by Dr. Mockett of Kimball, Nebraska.

In 1897 Mrs. Anderson took Elliot, Sylvia and Otto to Vancouver, Washington, and maintained a family home there for six years while Elliot attended a school for the physically afflicted. Rewarding was his educational progress!

During the World's Fair in St. Louis, Mo., in 1904 Mrs. Anderson took Charles and Albin to the McClain Sanitarium which was noted for treating crippling afflictions. She was informed that Charles could be helped but Albin's case was hopeless—with only a year to live.



The statement was a challenge and the spur that was needed. Albin lived 46 more years. Returning home, he became the first postmaster of Albin and began a general store before filing on land and launching out on his own. His mother went with him to the homestead to minister to his personal needs as inflammatory rheumatism had put him in a wheel chair.

Mrs. Gust (Anna Elizabeth) Anderson, 83, died June 5, 1943 at the home of her daughter and son-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. G. R. Crossan, Divide—25 miles west of Albin. Also surviving were six sons, fourteen grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

The Descendants of Mr. and Mrs. Gust Anderson

Charles R. Anderson

Born in Iowa in 1884, the second child in the Gust Anderson family, Charles Reuben, at the age of two, was brought to the Territory of Wyoming. Having reached manhood stature, he and his brother, Elliot, filed on 160-acre homesteads thus claiming the west half of Sec. 34; Township 17; Range 60. The brothers built a two-room house on the line and amicably shared the household duties, the field work as well as the care of a few hundred chickens, kept commercially.

After they and their brother, Edwin P., received land patents they did some land swapping. Elliot purchased Charles' 160 and became the sole owner of the half section. Charles bought Edwin P's homestead lying half a mile north of Albin; and Edwin P. went on his father's homestead in Section 22, which later became his own.

In his new setting close to Albin, Charles R. Anderson began a building program and also expanded his farming and livestock interests. He provided facilities for a thousand chickens, which necessitated frequent trips to Cheyenne—his market place. Later he quit the chicken business in favor of raising certified seed potatoes, a field he pioneered. He was reputed to have had the largest potato cellar in Wyoming. He also added grain-farming to his agricultural unit.

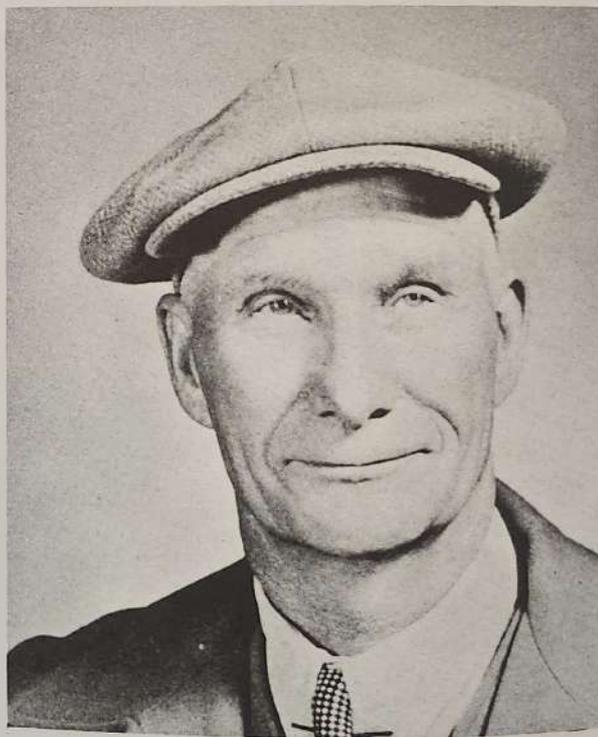
Charles R. Anderson was living in Arizona when he died December 1964—a few days before his eighty-first birthday. Burial was in Cheyenne. His contribution to the development of the Albin community lies in the productive farm

and modern white buildings which bespeak his life's accomplishment. The property is owned and resided on by John Freeburg and family.

Elliot M. Anderson

The youngest of the three Iowa-born children was Elliot, who showed much promise when he could speak fluently in Swedish and English at the age of three. Unfortunately a childhood illness left him afflicted to his dying day. His speech and hearing were impaired. He was sent to special schools on the West coast and also in Colorado Springs, where his schooling terminated following an attack of pneumonia.

Elliot M. Anderson was a first settler on land in the new country, despite handicaps that caused him to spend the last forty years of his long life at Lander, Wyoming. He died in April 1962.



Edwin P. Anderson

The most time-honored "native son" is Edwin P. Anderson, whose life record is analogous with the progression of Wyoming. Born October 6, 1887 at Salem (later Lindbergh) he moved with his family to his father's homestead northeast of Albin which is still his home.

He was educated in the local schools before

being employed at the general store of C. E. Carlstrum of Pine Bluffs. Returning to the soil, he did a stint in homesteading, sold to his brother, Charles, before beginning, anew, on the parental homeplace. Here he has parlayed the original holdings of land, built buildings and developed his base of operation into one of the finest acreages in the community.

Mr. Anderson claims the beginning site of Albin. Right in his kitchen was the Albin post office and general store operated by his brother, J. Albin Anderson, in 1905.

On February 3, 1913 Edwin P. Anderson married Blanche Raymond, formerly of Iowa. Their fiftieth wedding anniversary occurred during a blizzard and also family illness. The festivities planned by their four children lost luster and a later observance was curtailed to a family affair.

Praiseworthy is the Andersons' record of public service in religious and civic affairs. Mr. Anderson has been an ordained minister since 1915, conducting services at the Reorganized Church of Latter Day Saints in Albin and Mrs. Anderson has been faithful at the instrument. She was accorded honors when the new post office was dedicated in Albin in May of 1964. Mr. Anderson holds a 39-year record for having been the deputy assessor of District No. Five, beginning in 1932. The taxpayers valued him as a trusted businessman and they anticipated his annual visitation.

Always among the first to try anything new and pioneer the field, Edwin P. Anderson bought the first large steam tractor plow and later shared it in partnership with his brothers, resulting in many sections of fertile farm land of the Albin area being broken with this big 12-bottom gang plow.

Mr. Anderson has made a career of ranching and farming. He is a member of the Wyoming Stock Growers Association. He is in business with his sons at Albin and his son-in-law in Missouri.

The Edwin P. Anderson Family

Marie Rosella Anderson, a native resident, was educated at Albin and married to Fred Wages. The couple began housekeeping at Albin and became the parents of three sons before moving to Cameron, Mo., where Mr. Wages is associated in cattle-raising with his father-in-law,

Edwin P. Anderson et al, as well as being a mail carrier.

Their sons, Sherrie, Gary and Dwight Wages, are engineers graduating from Ames, Iowa. Gary chose aerospace and Sherrie and Dwight majored in chemical engineering.

Edwin A. "Buster" Anderson and wife, the former Norma Jean Scharnhorst, and their son, Terry, are residents of Albin. They are engaged in agriculture and also hold an interest in the business in Missouri.

Charles Ivan Anderson and wife, the former Rena Olson, are Nebraska residents. Part of their land, however, lies in Wyoming including an acreage, once owned by Ivan's paternal grandparents, the Olof Wicks. Their children are a son and daughter, Charles Ivan, Jr. and Mrs. Richard (Glynette) Patton of Harrisburg, Nebraska.

Marvin D. Anderson is the first native-born mayor of Albin. He was reared on the parental homestead, established in 1889 by his grandparents, the Gust Andersons.

The marriage of Marvin D. Anderson and Norma Jean Scoon, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. William Scoon of Meriden, was the culmination of a school romance as they are high school graduates of the Albin High School. Mrs. Anderson graduated from the Colorado Women's College in Denver, later known as Temple Buell, and she continued in educational courses in Greeley and at the University of Wyoming. Her teaching career has included the Albin school system as well as the high schools of Carpenter and Pine Bluffs.

Mr. and Mrs. Marvin D. Anderson reside in one of Albin's finest houses, located in a horticultural setting. Marvin is a stockman farmer and an officer in the Farmers Mutual Fire Insurance Company. The couple's children are a son and a daughter, James Scoon Anderson and Joan Anderson.

James Scoon Anderson married Patricia Peterson, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Bruce Peterson of Albin and the couple began housekeeping on the William A. Scoon ranch in the summer of 1971.

Arvid E. Anderson

Predating statehood by a few months, Arvid E. Anderson was born March 20, 1890, a son of Mr. and Mrs. Gust Anderson who pioneered in the settlement of East Laramie County.

Arvid was a participant in the development of the Albin community and also in the young and growing state of Wyoming. Choosing agriculture for his life occupation, he gained land by homesteading. His active years on the land were many as he was out on a tractor tilling and planting on his seventy-fifth birthday.

He and his wife, the former Cordelia Hamlin, lived in Albin for years. Mrs. Anderson's versatile interests included her owning and operating a ladies' clothing and variety store. She was educated in the field of dramatics and coached home talent plays for school affairs and public benefits.

Mrs. Anderson has two daughters by a previous marriage and the couple has a son, Samuel Arvid, who was graduated from the College of Law at the University of Wyoming. He has a legal business at Littleton, Colorado, where he lives with his wife, the former, Eloise "Joy" Rutkowski, and their children, Suzanne Andre and John Arvid Anderson.

Arvid E. Anderson, 80, a native resident and lifelong stockman-farmer of Albin died at the Memorial Hospital in Cheyenne on February 27th, 1971 following a prolonged illness.

He was a member of the reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints and the Farm Bureau.

His immediate survivors are his wife and son as well as two stepdaughters, Jean Bell of Santa Rosa, California and Emily Spillman of Denver. Also surviving are a brother and sister, Edwin P. Anderson and Sylvia Crossan of Albin and two grandchildren.

Funeral services and burial were at Albin.

Sylvia Anderson Crossan

Born on the parental homestead of the Gust Andersons, Sylvia Anderson was the only daughter in a family of seven children. She was educated in local schools and in the state of Washington before her marriage to Gilbert R. "Bert" Crossan of Maryville, Missouri. He and his brother, Joe Crossan, homesteaded west of Albin.

For twenty-seven years the "Bert" Crossans lived on the Divide, twenty-five miles west of Albin, on a place they bought from Dudley Simpson during the First World War. Living there until 1946, the Crossans moved to Albin and rented their wheat farms to Mrs. Crossan's

nephews, Marvin and Edwin A. Anderson. For years Mr. Crossan was an officer in the Mutual Fire Insurance Company, resigning in 1964 because of failing eyesight.

Gilbert and Glenn Crossan are sons of "Bert" Crossan by a previous marriage. Gilbert lived with his maternal grandmother in Missouri until her death when he was ten; thereafter he made his home in Wyoming with his father and stepmother. He and his family are residents of Lamoni, Iowa. The younger son, Glenn, was reared by a maternal aunt as requested by his mother, before the occurrence of her death when he was twelve days old. Glenn is an attorney at Independence, Kansas, where he and his family reside.

A daughter, Alice, and a son, Robert, were born to Mr. and Mrs. G. R. "Bert" Crossan. Alice's teaching career in Wyoming included the rural school at Glenys and the Henderson grade school in Cheyenne. She and her husband, Donald Bayne, and their son, Kirk, live in Kansas City, Missouri. Robert Crossan married Maryanna Restivo of Cheyenne. Their children are Christine, Suzanne and David Crossan. Both daughters are married: Christine to Arthur Howard and Suzanne to Captain James R. Blackburn. The Arthur Howards have a daughter, Roxanne.

G. R. "Bert" Crossan taught the G.I. program for two years to the veterans of the Second World War. Included in his civic service to the community was his being a Police Judge and Constable.

At his family home in Albin a prolonged illness claimed the life of Mr. Crossan at the age of 79, in May of 1967. Elder Gene C. Ross conducted the funeral services at the Schrader Funeral Home in Cheyenne and military honors were conferred at the Pine Bluffs cemetery.

A Dip Into the Past

The recollections of Sylvia Anderson Crossan are authoritative, stemming from her keen interest in the progressive steps of early settlement. As an eyewitness to the moving of a log schoolhouse to equalize the distance among the pupils, she recalled the building was razed and the logs numbered to assure symmetrical lines of reconstruction and also the roof was sawed into two parts and each half was hauled on top of two wagons. Man labor was long and

hard in behalf of the oncoming generation. Yet how noble was the cause!



Schoolhouse

Wyoming has always been subject to an occasional severe blizzard. Such a merciless onslaught occurred when Mrs. Crossan was three weeks old. Her parents and brother, Albin, often related the imperilment of the older Anderson boys and children of the neighborhood—nine all told—when they and their teacher were marooned in the schoolhouse for three days. Exercising resourcefulness and good judgment, Miss Mae Carling saved them and the horse which was brought into the schoolhouse. After the supply of cut-firewood was depleted, the teacher and eldest pupil, Albin Anderson, brought in logs and pushed them into the stove to burn to embers, before the log was moved forward for a repeat process. The pungency of the smoke affected their eyes, but were not lives at stake?

To divert the children's attention from the pangs of hunger Miss Carling led them in singing, reading and games. "Jingle Bells" was voted the most popular song and Whittier's "Snowbound" the most appropriate poem. For nighttime rest pallets were spread out on benches, using all the coats as well as the blankets brought in from Miss Carling's horse-cart. The flame of heat and light aglow resulted in survival.

As soon as the storm abated Miss Carling tied each child to the next in size and the last one to the harnessed-horse's tail, and she led the

line of march by the bridle reins. Togetherness was never more fully exemplified. Through the drifts and blowing snow they stumbled and floundered until they reached their destination—the Gust Anderson residence. What a time of prayerful anxiety during those restless days and sleepless nights on the home front! In desperation Mrs. Anderson and her brother-in-law Daniel Anderson badly wanted to face into the storm on a rescue mission but were stopped by the head of the house, Gust Anderson, who saw the scales tip heavily on the side of self-destruction; whereas there was only a remote chance of their alleviating the plight of the stranded victims.

Eureka! At the door Mrs. Anderson greeted the weary troupers with jokes and praise for their being sons and daughters of Pioneers. Great was the rejoicing! Never had the caps and wraps come off faster! Never was a home fire brighter! Mrs. Anderson scurried around the kitchen while preparing light food and warm drinks. For their health's sake, she dared not satisfy those ravenous appetites. After the plucky victims were warm, fed and tucked into bed Mrs. Anderson said to her husband, "This is something the entire school will remember all their lives" and with a big sigh, "so will we."

Otto Anderson

The youngest of seven in the Gust Anderson family was Otto, who grew to manhood and served in World War One before choosing agriculture for his life's occupation. He farmed his grandfather Wick's land and his sister, Sylvia, kept house for him and their brother, Elliot. Noteworthy is the nearness of the death dates of the brothers—just thirteen days apart in April of 1962.

Otto married Miss Kate Russell and they lived in the Albin community for years before moving to Fort Collins. Their family consisted of three daughters and two sons. The sons, like their father did a stint in the Armed Forces. During the Second World War Clyde was in Alaska and Milford was in Japan.

Mrs. Otto Anderson died in 1951 and her husband departed this life eleven years later, at the Veterans Hospital in Denver, Colorado.

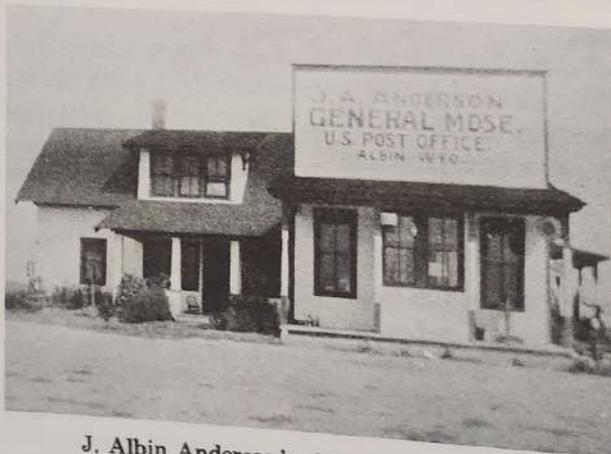
Gust Anderson gave land for the Salem Cemetery but ironically none of the family is buried there.



J. ALBIN ANDERSON

The first of seven children in the family of Mr. and Mrs. Gust Anderson was J. Albin Anderson and he was the first to depart this life. He was brought from Iowa as a preschool child and educated in the Wyoming schools and showed business potential from childhood by assuming a fair share of the work load and the responsibility of the family-owned agricultural unit.

J. Albin Anderson was the first postmaster of the Albin post office and a general store which he began in 1905, located in his father's home on Section 22.



J. Albin Anderson's store and post office

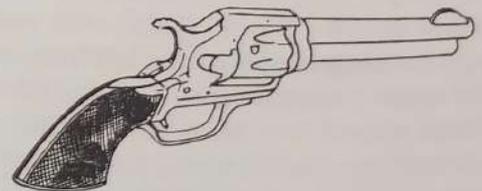
He filed on a 240-acre homestead on Sec. 28; Township 17; Range 60. He began with one building that sufficed to house the store and post office and for living quarters on the back. His sister, Sylvia Anderson Crossan, recalls the outdoors dugout that served as a bedroom for her and the schoolteacher.

As there was need and wherewithal, J. Albin Anderson built on until he adequately and comfortably provided a home for his parents as well as his own housing. The house and store united was moved into the town of Albin after the authorities of the railroad designated the townsite in 1928. Forty years later the building is on spacious grounds and picturesque amid trees and horticultural growth. Since the late 1940s it has been the home of the G. R. Crossan family.

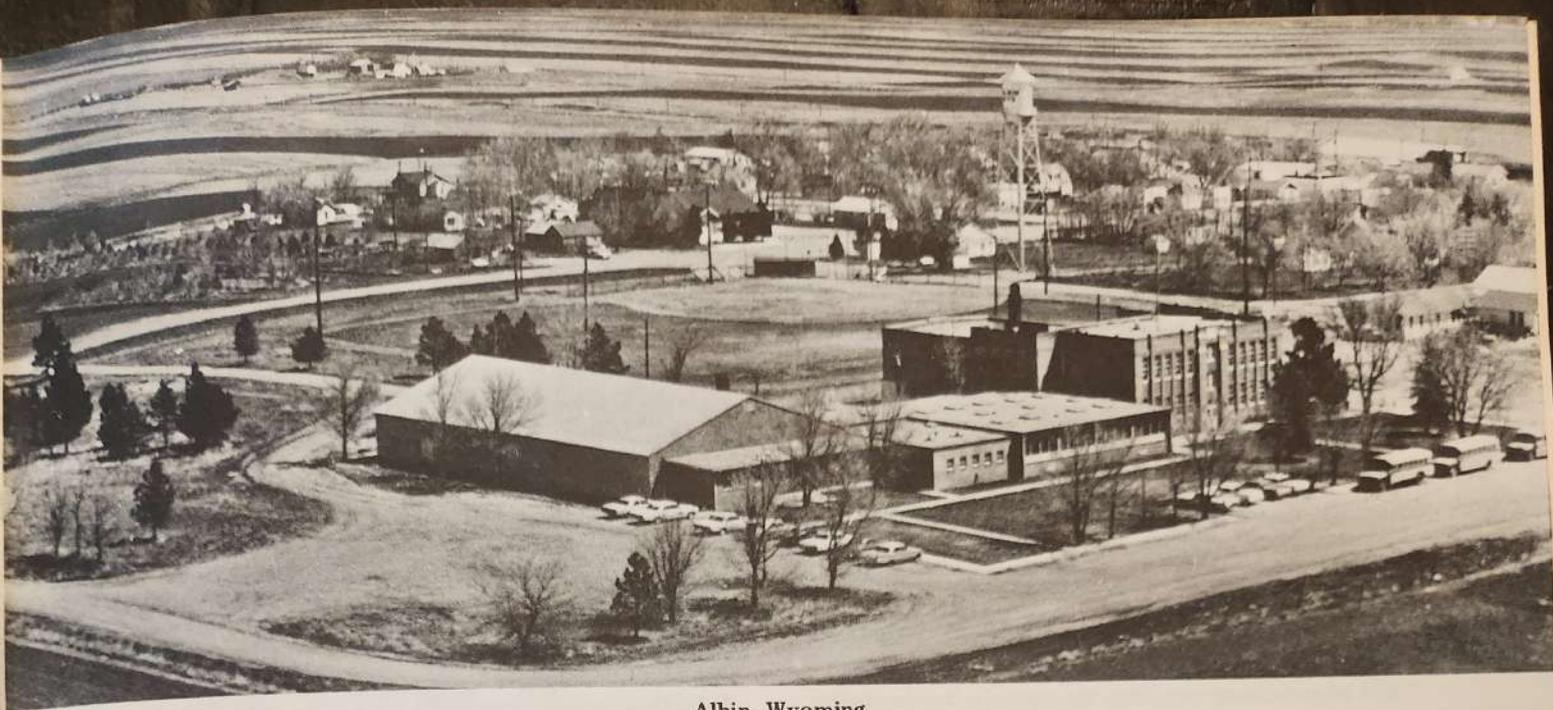
As a reminder of the changing times, apparently schoolhouses were not alone in the need of being on wheels. Through the years J. Albin Anderson operated his enterprises from three locations: his father's house, his own homestead and the townsite of Albin.

J. Albin Anderson neglected not the best interests of his farm (homestead) when he erected several buildings on the premises. In the throes of construction a tragedy occurred while the Baptist minister, A. O. Arnquist, was painting the large barn. Men in the store saw the minister drop from the scaffold and hastened to the scene of the accident. Immediately a doctor and Mrs. Seibert Romsa, RN, were summoned but the fall was fatal. Years later a fire of undetermined origin destroyed the large barn.

On the same site was a deplorable occurrence. It was murder! The Grange organization built a community hall nearby the store and post office. From the outset it was publicly available for religious meetings, programs, basket dinners, box suppers for fund-raising purposes as well as for dances.



All went well until an over-indulgence of drinking crept in causing rowdiness and lawlessness which resulted in fist fights. During a mob fight at a dance Andrew Cunningham was shot



Albin, Wyoming

and killed by his cousin, Claude Stevens. The most glaring accusation was the thievery of a chicken. However the depths of animosity and undercurrents will never be known. The verdict of the law pronounced the killing done in self defense and the case was never presented in Court. The irony of fate! Claude Stevens drowned May 1915 on a British ship, the Lusitania, sunk by a German submarine in the North Atlantic. The drowning of American passengers was a contributing factor of the United States' entrance in the World War I conflict.

The community hall was purchased by J. Albin Anderson and remodeled for a modern farmhouse which is the property of Francis H. Woodhouse.

Community Reception

J. Albin Anderson, for forty years the postmaster of the Albin post office was feted at a reception by 100 of his friends. The occasion was sponsored by the P.T.A. of Albin. Mr. Anderson, for whom the town was named, was succeeded by Vernon Sandman, the assistant postmaster. Those attending from a distance were Mrs. Rosella Carson, County Superintendent of Schools, Mrs. C. E. Cusic and Mr. and Mrs. Herbert J. Engleman of Cheyenne. C. E. Cusic and Herbert J. Engleman formerly headed the school of Albin and the rural schools of School District No. 5.

Four decades of public service in the Albin community is an unsurpassed record. Mr. Anderson's competency in business and pleasant social relations were attributes worthy of emulation.

"Albin Anderson, For Whom Albin Was Named Published in Pine Bluffs Post—December 28, 1950

John Albin Anderson was born December 26, 1882 near Denison, Iowa and came to southeastern Wyoming Territory with his parents, Gust and Anna Anderson, when he was four years of age. The elder Anderson filed on a Tree Claim and Pre-emption near where Salem was later located, and where the town of Lindbergh now stands—about ten miles north of Pine Bluffs. In 1889 they homesteaded about two miles northeast of the present town of Albin, where young Albin lived with his parents until he filed on a 240-acre homestead of his own just east of Albin in 1907.

A couple years before he had started a store on a small scale at his father's home with \$5 borrowed from an uncle. From this small beginning in the business world he built up his store until after he had moved it to his homestead the business at one time required the services of five clerks. His merchandise consisting of drugs, groceries, meats, farm machinery, and later auto supplies, was hauled by four-horse teams, and later by truck, from Pine Bluffs until the arrival of the railroad at Albin in 1928.

Commissioned Postmaster by 'TR'

In 1905 he was commissioned by President Theodore Roosevelt as postmaster of the office which bears his name, and the framed document was one of his most prized possessions.

With the arrival of the railroad he moved the large modern home from his farm to town,

where the building served as residence, store, post office, telephone exchange and headquarters for the Farmers Mutual Fire Insurance Company for more than twenty years. His father died in 1926 and his mother passed away in 1943.

Wife Died in 1934

He was married September 25, 1927, to Miss Gladys Emily Gidley, and they were an ideally happy couple for seven short years, until his devoted wife died January 2, 1934, nearly a year after both were injured in an automobile accident.

In addition to the mercantile business he operated for many years and his extensive farming operations, Mr. Anderson also served as the executive secretary of the Farmers Mutual Fire Insurance Company of Wyoming for over 35 years until his retirement a year ago. He retired as postmaster at Albin in 1944.

The Mountain States Telephone Company honored him in 1948 when he was presented a life membership in the Frederick H. Reid chapter of the Telephone Pioneers of America in recognition of his service as manager, and many times sole operator, of the Albin exchange for 43 years.

Nearly 50 Years in a Wheel Chair

Mr. Anderson was first afflicted with rheumatism when he was nine years old, and after several years spent traveling around trying to locate a climate which would benefit him, his condition grew gradually worse until at the age of 21 he found it necessary to adopt a wheel chair as a means of locomotion.

In spite of his many years of suffering and confinement to his chair, Mr. Anderson was one of the most cheerful persons to be found anywhere. He was a great reader and kept well informed on local, state and world affairs. He was broad shouldered and robust appearing, and had he been able to stand erect he would have been six feet, two inches tall. He conducted his numerous business operations from his wheel chair until retiring during the past few years from most of his activities except his farm and a private insurance business which he continued to manage until the time of his death.

Dies Christmas Day

J. Albin Anderson, a pioneer resident of southeastern Wyoming and for whom the post office and later the town of Albin was named, died Christmas day 1950 at the Kimball hospital after an illness of about three months—just one day before his 68th birthday.



Funeral services were held December 28, 1950 at the Schrader Funeral Home in Cheyenne and the burial was in the Lakeview cemetery beside the body of his wife who died in 1934.

In charge of the services were Claude A. Smith, pastor of the Stone Church at Independence, Mo., assisted by Elder M. M. Billyue of Torrington, ministers of the Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints (no affiliation with the Mormon church of Utah). Mr. Anderson was the first member baptized into the church in eastern Wyoming nearly 40 years ago.

The pallbearers were Mr. Anderson's six nephews: Edwin A., Charles I., Marvin D., and Samuel A. Anderson; Robert N. Crossan of Albin and Clyde R. Anderson of Windsor, Colorado.

A resident of Laramie County since 1886, Mr. Anderson was survived by one sister, Mrs. G. R. (Sylvia) Crossan of Albin; five brothers, Charles R., Edwin P., Arvid E., of Albin, Elliot M. of Lander and Otto C. Anderson of Windsor, Colorado."

THE LARS ANDERSON FAMILY

Descending from agricultural ancestors, Lars Anderson was born July 1, 1837 in Sweden, the son of Andrew and Kate Anderson. He attained manhood stature before trying farming in good faith only to realize that Old World limits were thwarting his efforts. A change was in the offing when his wife, Kate Larsdotter Anderson, whom he married September 7, 1870, agreed for him to journey to relatives, surnamed Dahlgren, at Wahoo, Nebraska in 1882. The next year he sent for his wife and four children, Nathalia, Gust J., John and Charles. With varying degrees of success he farmed in Nebraska for four years before moving to Wyoming. In 1887 the Lars Anderson family of six settled on a 160-acre homestead in the Salem community—about eighteen miles northwest of Pine Bluffs.

While unloading the immigrant car of household furnishings, farm equipment and farm animals, the only milk cow strayed into a Texas trail herd, passing through just then. Lars' right-

ful plea and claim was of no avail. The intercession of the train conductor retrieved the cow, by his citing the drovers to the straw bedding clinging on her sides; whereas there was none within hundreds of miles of Pine Bluffs—the site of controversy.

Lars Anderson was also entitled to a timber claim on which he filed just southeast of Pine Bluffs. From the outset the venture was doomed for failure because his fences were repeatedly stolen. Horse transportation was too slow to protect properties twenty miles apart. Large operators harassed and discouraged those who were settling and improving land on the open range. The Andersons dared not leave overnight any haymaking machinery or tools lest they be stolen or damaged by malicious intent. One year Mr. Anderson shocked his winter's supply of feed by the house. His trustful faith was not substantiated, for in a night's time every shock was either devoured or ruined by a herd of range cattle. The first settlers were heroic in endurance.

With the water depth around two hundred feet and locating the deposits by no means certain, water was the crying need. For awhile



Lars Anderson



Mrs. Lars Anderson, 'nee Kate Larsdotter,' wed 1870

the Andersons hauled water in barrels with a team and wagon from Spring Creek, fifteen miles to the South. In season the buffalo wallows would fill and serve as a reservoir, necessitating boiling the water for household use. Despite the precaution there was a standing joke about its being all right for coffee but too thick for tea. Another source of obtaining water was in the opposite direction—north of Earl Sorensens. The Anderson boys strapped five-gallon cans on their back and headed for the canyons, which was a ten or twelve-mile trip. What a laborious undertaking! Out of necessity was born the high valuation on water. Improvident was the rating of a pioneer woman unless she used water and fuel sparingly.

Intermittently for a period of five years Lars Anderson was a giant in the earth as he dug with a crowbar and shovel to reach nature's life-sustaining liquid. Down he went, casing with native timbers, through stratas of soil, rock and sand—a firsthand study in geology. The continuous use of the well for over seven decades is an attest to his workmanship. The sacrifice of the hand-dug well supersedes all pioneer heritages.

At the age of fifty Lars Anderson settled virgin land—a venture that was to require all his ingenuity and physical strength. There were plus and minus considerations. His physical stamina had begun to wane, but four teen-agers in the household were of increasing strength.

A section of land has always been coveted. And his four children broadened the base of operation to this extent. His three sons homesteaded 160-acre tracts. His daughter bought 160 acres from a neighbor who had proved up and received a patent therefor. Thus she was spared the process of homesteading which entailed establishing residence and making improvements. Moreover her land had a water well on it—a treasure in those days.

The Anderson boys spent much time herding cattle on the fenceless prairies. The Texas Trail was just east of where they settled and they could hear the longhorn cattle bawl for water before they could see the cloud of dust they were creating. The next water destination was in the canyons north toward Horse Creek.

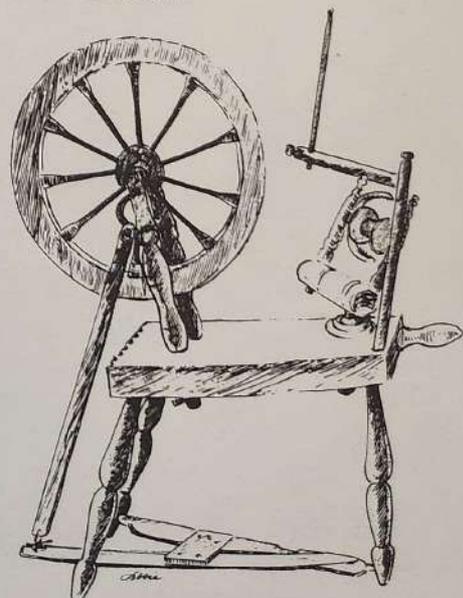
When the trail cook had meat left he gave it to the Andersons and it was gratefully received, as fresh meat was scarce. Occasionally one of the men folk in the neighborhood would assume the

role of a hunter and shoot an antelope which had to be taken home immediately, lest it be devoured by coyotes or a pack of wolves. The Texas Trail aspect of the western livestock movement transpired during the last quarter of the nineteenth century.

The first housing on the Anderson homestead was a dugout in an embankment. So nondescript were the surroundings that Lars Anderson went to the canyon for an evergreen tree to set out for location identification. Like a sentinel it stood to guide the wayfarer on land as does a lighthouse at sea—an example of resourcefulness in time of need.

The next house was a two-room sod structure with an addition of a dual-purpose room for the school room and the teacher's sleeping quarters. Among those attending were the children of John Johnson, Lars Anderson's second cousin, who had taken a homestead a mile to the northeast. On this site, Carl Johnson of Pine Bluffs was born. Andersons' sod house still stands with a latter day improvement of a shingled roof. After eighty years the very thick walls of sod show in spots, despite the indoor covering of plastering and outdoor coating of stucco.

Bartering as a way of life is bygone but an example was Lars Anderson's trading one hundred, one-hundred-pound, bags of potatoes for a spring wagon. Clothing was made from flour and sugar sacks or homespun cloth that Mrs. Anderson spun on the spinning wheel. Those were do-it-yourself times.



Bound for the canyons north toward Horse Creek Lars Anderson and son, Gust, made numerous trips for building materials. Even though on foot, they set off in a provident way with bedrolls strapped on their back and enough food for five or six days. At an agreed time and place "Nettie" the family name for Nathalia, reached them with a team and wagon. Behold the father, son and daughter atop a bulky load of unsymmetrical timbers! Some of the corrals and buildings therefrom have served through the years. A corner post, thirty inches in diameter, is cited as a landmark of the historical past.

The family lineage has been continued by Nathalia and Gust as John and Charles were bachelors. For many years John worked on the section crew at Egbert, walking ten miles to work. Gust spent some time working for Andrew P. Malm at Albin and at the Dunstan ranch south of Pine Bluffs. Charles was always employed at home and besides he took care of the cemetery at Salem for free. John died in 1937 and Charles in 1957.

Lars Anderson died in 1899 and was laid away in a thirty-dollar suit which was the summer's wages earned by his son, Gust, at the Dunstan ranch. His coffin was built by a neighbor John Franzen Eklund. In 1914 Mrs. Lars Anderson died. Her three sons cut pine trees and built her coffin. The couple is buried in the Salem cemetery—one-fourth mile west of the Lindbergh elevator.

How firm was the foundation of Lars Anderson's twelve years in Wyoming! The family succession has been a satisfactory arrangement as each generation, in turn, has been competent in business. The Anderson family putting down roots in territorial days is praiseworthy for good citizenship and cooperative endeavors.

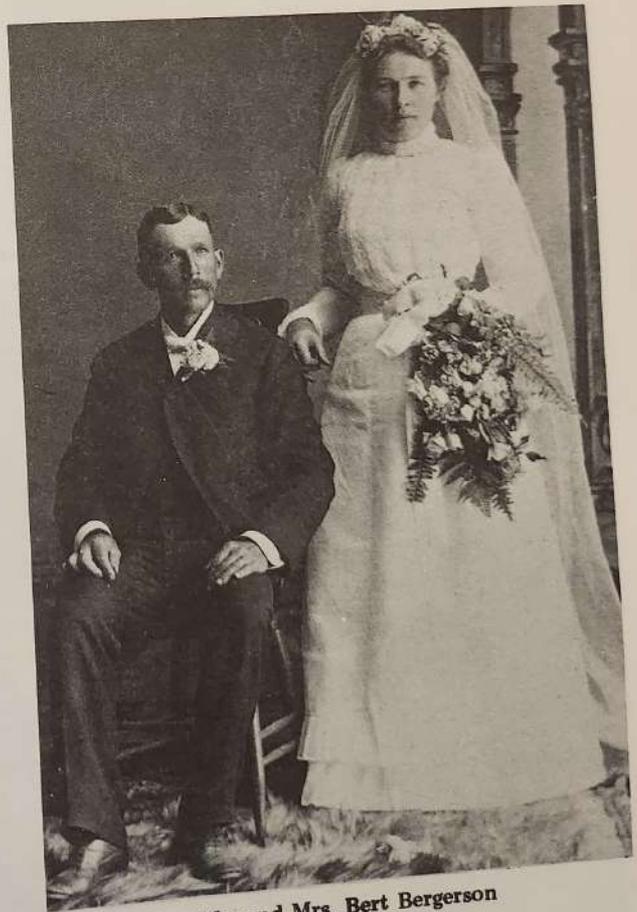
Nathalia Anderson Bergerson

In the Lars Anderson family the eldest was a daughter, Nathalia, born in 1874. She migrated from Sweden with her parents to Nebraska in the early 1880s and on to the territory of Wyoming in 1887, where her father homesteaded in the Salem community, north of Pine Bluffs.

As a young girl Nathalia was skilled in handling livestock and she worked shoulder to shoulder with her father and brothers. An attest to her business acumen was that she used the

revenue from her cattle sales and purchased 160 acres of land to round out the family tract. She dealt with Peter Isaacson, who had proved up on his homestead and received a patent from the government in 1893. However it was in 1896 that she paid \$280 for the land that contained a valuable asset in the well and water system. In 1907 she sold out to her brother, Charles Anderson, for \$600. Now the owner is her nephew, Warren Anderson. The abstract shows familiar names of yesteryear such as: Charles Carlstrum, T. Joe Fisher and Bert Bergerson who were listed as notarizing or witnessing the legal document.

June 13, 1900 Nathalia Anderson and Bert Bergerson, a native of Norway and about twenty years her senior, were married at Salem. Mr. Bergerson filed on land in Cheyenne County, Nebraska, in 1886 and secured a patent therefor. He was employed by Andrew Gilcrest for ranch work west of Cheyenne and in 1895 he leased land on Crow Creek which he later owned.



Mr. and Mrs. Bert Bergerson



Mr. and Mrs. Bert Bergerson and their daughters on their ranch west of Cheyenne

On this ranch, twenty miles west of Cheyenne, the Bergersons spent their active years and reared two daughters, Barbara and Thelma. A son, Clinton, died in infancy.

Barbara Bergerson married Henry C. Michaelson, a native of Denmark and they live in Cheyenne where he is a retired electrician and she is employed by the AAA Service Agency. Their son, Richard Michaelson, lives in South Carolina with his wife and three children.

Thelma Bergerson Salisberg is the widow of Fred Salisberg, who died in 1963. She lives in Cheyenne but her daughters are out of state. Miss Barbara Salisberg is a social worker in Denver, Colorado. Marie Salisberg was married

in Japan to Grayson Hebard Gowan, formerly of Cheyenne, at the time he was overseas with the Armed Forces. Later he attended Iliff College in Denver to qualify for the Presbyterian ministry. He has a pastorate in Utah where the couple and their two sons are stationed.

To retire and move to Cheyenne Mr. and Mrs. Bert Bergerson sold their ranch to Fergusons at the unfortunate time when banks were failing nationwide. They were affected and lost part of their hard-earned resources. Regrettable as was the monetary loss, Mrs. Bergerson looked to everlasting values and admonished her family to seek eternal rewards: Matthew Chapter 6, verses 19-21.

Mrs. Bergerson is remembered for her participation in the Frontier Days parade, at which time she was appropriately attired and held the reins to demonstrate her equestrian skills.

Mr. and Mrs. Bert Bergerson, of Nordic birth, were hardy pioneers and exemplary in allegiance to their adopted country. Their good lives extended well over four score with her demise in January of 1961. Her husband had preceded her several years.

GUST J. ANDERSON

Born in Lidkoping, Sweden June 16, 1878, the son of Lars and Sarah Kate Larsdotter

Anna Faust, seated left, on German boat enroute to America in 1905 (all Swedes pictured).

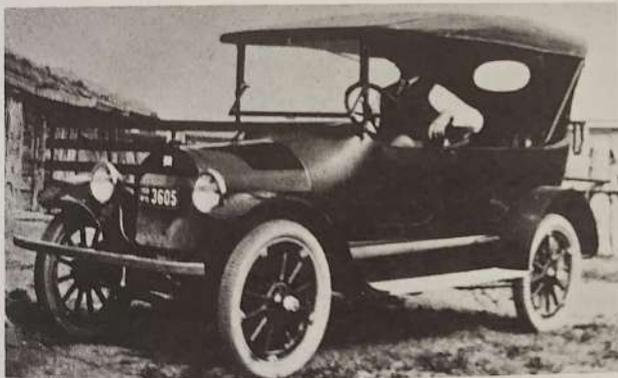


Anderson, Gust J. Anderson came with his family to America, first to Nebraska, and in 1887 to the Territory of Wyoming to settle on his father's homestead at Salem, northwest of Pine Bluffs.

Gust was educated in American schools and later took a homestead near his father's holdings. His career of agriculture included cattle raising and wheat growing.

Following his father's death in 1899, Gust and his brothers continued with the family business in which Gust took the lead. Their mother was in charge of the household until her death in 1914.

Afterwards the three brothers assumed the housework. Gust was the cook, meriting praise for breadbaking and culinary arts. The seasonal thrashing crew looked forward to the bachelors' bounteous meals. The mail carrier, John Bresnahan, stopped frequently to break bread at midday. When he was on horseback Andersons thoughtfully supplied grain for his horse.



Gust J. Anderson in 1917 Buick

Fate intercepted in the men's world of the Anderson household. The advent of a bride brought in the feminine touch for gracious living. Gust J. Anderson at the age of forty-one married Miss Anna Faust in Chicago October 25, 1919. She was also a native of Sweden, having come to live in Chicago when she was nineteen.

During the flu epidemic Anna Faust was stricken to the extent that she was advised to go west to recuperate. She spent the summer of 1919 in the home of her uncle, Victor Anderson, north of Pine Bluffs. Her cousin, Reuben Anderson, continues to live on the homestead.

The Faust family was known for respiratory weakness. Anna's three brothers died of lung

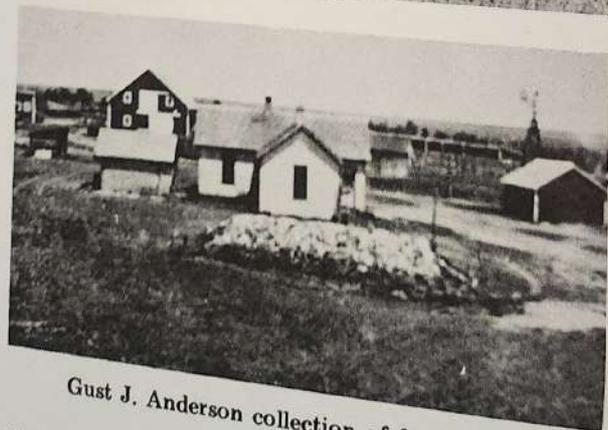
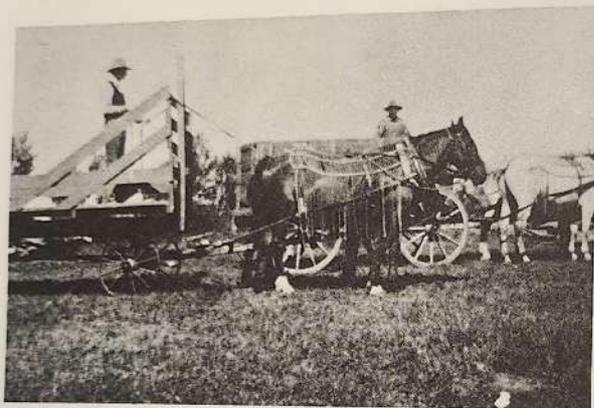
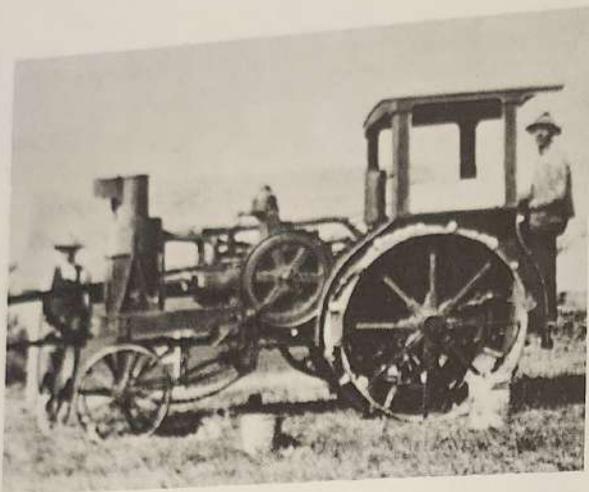
trouble while they were in their thirties, even though they were in the Rocky Mountain region. They disregarded doctors' warnings, to work in gold mines and garner fast money. They had good intentions but waited too late.



Mr. and Mrs. Gust Anderson, 1919

The Faust-Anderson wedding that culminated a whirlwind courtship is related with humor by the couple's children who still marvel that it developed into a Christian home where mutual harmony and contentment prevailed. Much credit is due Anna for graciously adjusting from urban surroundings to the demands for hardiness in rural living.

Mrs. Anderson was a homemaker of excellence, noted for domestic arts as well as being impeccably dressed herself and stressing quality in clothes for others. She accomplished much around the house and garden by hesitating not



Gust J. Anderson collection of farm scenes

to exercise initiatory steps. An example was productive strawberry patches at a time when contemporary gardeners considered the climate too rigorous for the tender plants.

Substantiating her faith in Wyoming's health benefits, Mrs. Anderson was awarded forty-two years with her family, dying at the age of 75 in 1961.

Identified in Five Communities

The Anderson family has been identified at Pine Bluffs, Salem, Golden Prairie, Lindbergh and Albin, despite the fact that they never moved at all.

Pine Bluff was their first shopping center and post office. However, the name was changed to Pine Bluffs by the postal department in Washington in March of 1923.

Aborning was neighborhood identification. A post office was established at Salem in 1888 with Swan J. Folk named as postmaster. Ten postmasters presided during the office's 26-year operation. In 1914 while John H. Klugherz was officiating the office was discontinued and the patrons were directed to receive mail from Pine Bluffs. The Anderson family treasures a collection of letters that were postmarked at Salem—defunct for over 50 years.

In 1928 the Union Pacific built a railroad line from Egbert to Yoder. Just then an American hero was acclaimed nationally for his solo flight across the Atlantic. Thereafter the four-decade community of Salem was Lindbergh, the only station between Albin and Egbert.

Amidst fields of waving grain a community was appropriately named Golden Prairie with three landmarks—a post office, a school and a church.

In 1908 a post office was created. During the eight years of its existence there were four postmasters: Olevia Mooumau, James E. Mahoney, Maye Rood and Lizzie DeBruyn. The office closed in 1916 in favor of service from Pine Bluffs.

The five children of Mr. and Mrs. Gust J. Anderson attended school at Golden Prairie, located in the north end of Egbert District No. 9. Inadequate was the schoolhouse when there were over fifty pupils listed on the roster in the early 1930s. The new facility constructed in 1936 was a two-story erection of brick and mortar. For years ten grades were taught and there were three bus drivers.



Gust Anderson family, June, 1950—Warren, Leonard, Lawrence, Gust, Elaine, Anna, Helen.

When the mechanical age became the major factor in depopulating the rural area, the Golden Prairie community was affected accordingly and the school got down to one teacher and a handful of pupils rattling around in the large brick building. Seeing the handwriting on the wall, the voters chose to merge the north three-section-tier with Albin District No. 5, which embodied the northeast corner of Laramie County, extending to the Goshen County line on the north and to Nebraska on the east.

In 1959 the Egbert District No. 9 was divided among the adjacent districts of Albin, Pine Bluffs and Burns.

The Golden Prairie schoolhouse, located on a School Section leased by Gust J. Anderson, stood vacant and in utter loneliness for ten years, conjuring memories of erstwhile days. The brick structure was too unwieldy to move and

also inaccessible, roadwise, to use as a housing unit; therefore its practicality was questionable. In 1969 David Branigan had the answer when he purchased the building, had it razed and reconstructed into a modern brick house on his property north of Albin.

The Golden Prairie Church carries the banner as the last of the three landmarks. It bears the distinction of being the only rural American Baptist Church in Wyoming. The members are valiant in their endeavor to keep their church going and they are devoutly religious which is a testimony of Christian faith.

Continuing in the general area where their forbears put down roots in 1887 are four of the five members of the Gust J. Anderson family. They are commendable for being ruralists by choice.

In Memoriam

Gust J. Anderson, a lifelong stockman and farmer participated in settling and developing East Laramie County. Since 1901 his brand 2 D 4 identified his cattle and horses. Through management and careful attention in business matters he parlayed his agricultural base several fold. In dealing with materials or circumstances he was inherently resourceful, always directing his aim toward a progressive goal.

Apropos to Gust J. Anderson and his contemporaries is a quote from the Psalmist "Man goeth forth unto his work and to his labour until the evening." 104:23.

The components of a day—the morning, the noon and the evening—can be likened to a man's life. Hopefully he goes forth to labor in the morning. At noontide he pauses for reflection and revision of techniques or remedial work, if needs be. After the task is o'er he evaluates the results.

Mr. Anderson attained fulfillment and was at peace during the evening side of life.

Gust J. Anderson, 86, died February 12, 1965. He was a 78-year pioneer of Laramie County.

Funeral services were held at the Albin Baptist Church with Rev. Elmer Logan officiating, assisted by Rev. Ralph Obitts of Denver.

The following family members were pallbearers: Warren, Lawrence and Leonard Anderson, Marion Peters, Don Kopecky and Henry Michaelson. Interment was in the Albin cemetery.

Mr. Anderson's wife, the former Anna L. Faust, died in December of 1961.

The Descendants of

Mr. and Mrs. Gust J. Anderson

Warren Anderson, the eldest of five children, was born October 16, 1920 and educated in local schools before entering military service in the Second World War. A foot injury entitled him to a discharge while he was still in the states. Thereafter he rendered patriotic service by food production through wheat farming, an occupation that became his life's work, as was true of his paternal forbears, who settled in the same locality in 1887, when it was the Territory of Wyoming.

His wife, the former Artice Lundberg, was the daughter of Arthur Lundberg (deceased in

1924) and Mrs. Carl Malm. Her brother, Eldon Lundberg, lives east of Albin and is associated in business with Carl Malm.

Wayland and Theron Anderson are the sons of Mr. and Mrs. Warren Anderson.

Helen Anderson Peters was educated in local schools before going to Laramie and graduating from the College of Education at the University. She is a grade school teacher in the consolidated schools of Albin.

In 1944 she married Marion Peters of Pine Bluffs. Two years later the Peters moved to their present location, five miles south of Albin, on the oiled road leading to Pine Bluffs.

Marion Peters' parents moved from Wyoming to live in Missouri. His brother, Paul Peters, is a building contractor in Cheyenne and another brother is a professor in the John Brown University in Arkansas.

Besides being a stockman and farmer, Peters drives an Albin school bus.

There are three children in the Peters family: a daughter, LaRae; two sons, Marvin and Howard.

LaRae Peters and Delbert Blocker were married July 12, 1971. She received a BA degree in Elementary Education from the University of Wyoming in 1970. Blocker is a graduate of the Southern State College in Springfield, South Dakota, majoring in Business Education.

Mr. and Mrs. Delbert Blocker are teaching in Newcastle, Wyoming.

Elaine Anderson (Mrs. Donald W. Kopecky) chose the Denver Bible Institute for higher education. While there she met her future husband, Donald W. Kopecky, a fellow student. They were married in June, 1948. They live in Longmont with their daughter, Donna, even though Mr. Kopecky commutes to work in Denver. During the winter term he teaches in the Rockmont Bible College and conducts classes in summer school in the Denver Theological Seminary.

Lawrence and Leonard Anderson are twins and the youngest of the Gust Anderson children. Lawrence is engaged in farming and ranching north of Burns. He has served as president of the school board at Burns where his children attend school.

He took a year's school work at the University of Wyoming before going to the interdenominational John Brown University in Ar-

kansas. His wife, the former Joanne Thompson, was also a student. Since their marriage and Mrs. Anderson's becoming a ruralist, her adjustment has been phenomenal as was true of her mother-in-law, Mrs. Gust J. Anderson—both from Chicago. Joanne Thompson Anderson was reared on the third floor of an apartment building, overlooking a park on the shore drive, but she was always deprived of the privilege of roaming and working in nature's yard and garden surroundings. How vast were the prairies and fields of Wyoming in comparison to her former confines!

The couple's children are three: Mark, Craig and Sharon.

Leonard and Norma Jean Roper Anderson with their sons, Leonard Jr. and Timothy, and daughter, Jeannean, live in a new house built on the home place began in 1887 by Lars Anderson, the grandfather of Leonard. Too, his father,

Gust J. Anderson, maintained his home there during his 78 years of residence in Laramie County.

Third and fourth generation residents, the Leonard Andersons, deem it a privilege as well as a responsibility to be in the historical ancestral setting. It entails the continuation of the family traditions and the furtherance of business progression.

Mrs. Leonard Anderson's girlhood home was in Arlington, Texas, between Ft. Worth and Dallas. She met Leonard while they were students at the John Brown University in Arkansas. After their college romance culminated in marriage they established their present home and became active in religious, school and civic affairs which beneficially affect the general welfare of the community.



Community gathering



THE MAURICE BRANIGAN FAMILY

The participation of the Maurice Branigan family in the settlement of the New World was of intermittent timing between railroading and land development. Hopscotch is Maurice Branigan's railroad story of his migration from Davenport, Iowa, to Omaha. Another leap found him homesteading near Columbus, Nebraska. In a short time, however, he resumed railroad work in Colorado, Nebraska and Wyoming.

Born October 8, 1837 in Waterford County, Ireland, Maurice Branigan grew to man's estate on the Emerald Isle. His wife, the former Nora Burke, was born in Ireland on October 8, 1846. At the age of twenty-one she and her sister embarked on the high seas to visit their sister in Boston. Moreover they had brothers in New York state.

Romance was in the offing. Nora and Maurice plighted their troth in the land of their nativity and they had plans. Like a knight of old Maurice gallantly journeyed to America and eventually sent the wherewithal for Nora's passage. She made her home for four years with his

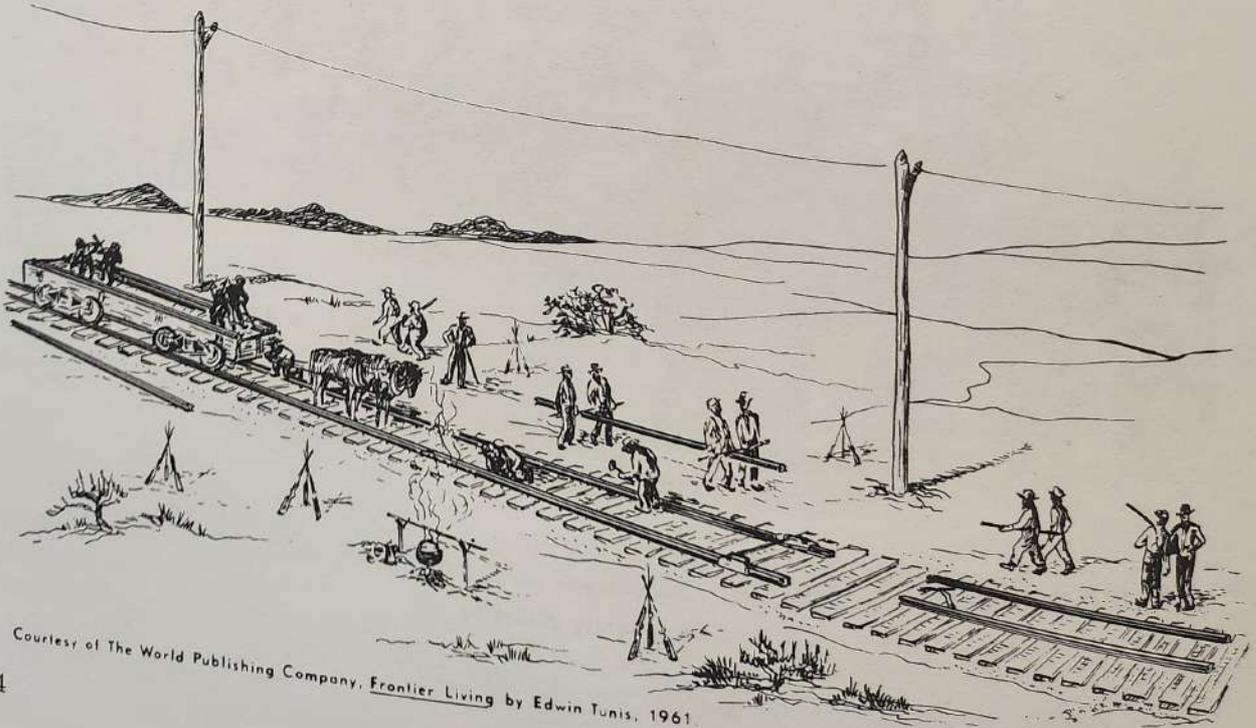
sister in Syracuse, New York, before she joined her fiance in Nebraska.

She and Maurice were married in the St. Patrick's Church in Columbus by Father James Ryan on October 8, 1871. Analogous is the month's date of their birthdays and their wedding day.

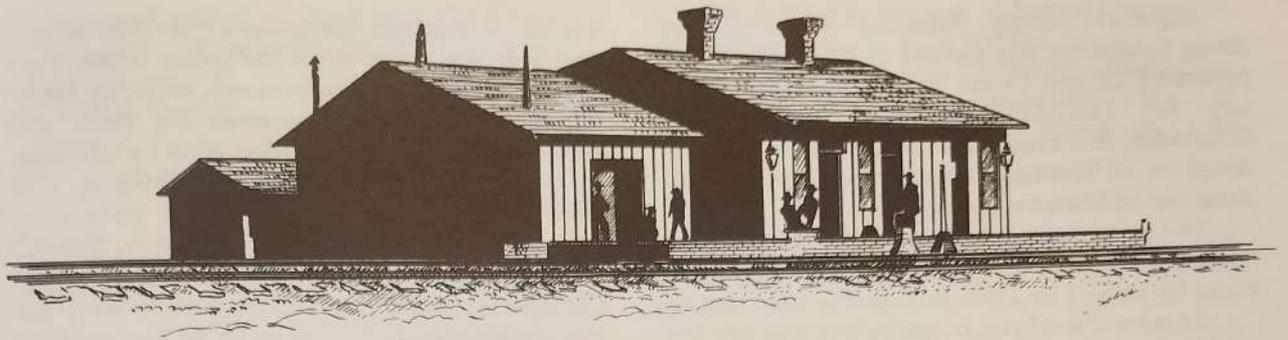
Their first home was on the groom's homestead, ten miles south of Columbus. Receiving the land patent, they soon forsook the agriculture venture for a certain and steady income in railroading. While they were stationed at Julesburg, Colorado, a son, Thomas Branigan, was born on April 15, 1873.

Their next move was to Bennett, Nebraska—later known as Dix in Kimball County. In 1880 the Branigans moved to Egbert, Wyoming, where Maurice was the section foreman, overseeing thirty workmen. Nora cooked for a crew of workmen at the section house, besides fulfilling the duties of a homemaker.

The Branigan family enjoyed permanency of residence in Egbert, where Maurice served on the school board with William Dunstan and William Dolan. At a special meeting in May of 1879 District No. 3 was organized, embracing a thirty-five mile length from Archer to Pine Bluffs. Excepting a school at Ft. Laramie, the vast expanse lying north to the Montana line was uncharted. Through the years however there have been many divisions and subdivisions.



Courtesy of The World Publishing Company, *Frontier Living* by Edwin Tunis, 1961



The first schoolhouse was built during the summer of 1879 on Muddy Creek, now included in the property of the William Chamberlain ranches. Thomas Branigan attended school with the Dolan children: Jim, Tom, Jack, Joe and Ed as well as their sister, Mollie, who later became a schoolteacher of the area before her marriage to Charles Gross, an early day merchant of Pine Bluffs. After his tragic death occurring in a railroad accident she married a widower, John Wilkinson. Throughout her long life she was prominent in the financial, civic and social affairs of the community. Listed among the schoolteachers of the early settlement were two sisters-in-law, Mrs. George Gilland and Mrs. John Gilland.

The sparse population of southeast Laramie County did not deter controversy at the annual school meetings. In the heat of argument over establishing new schools, the length of the school term, teachers' wages and relevant matters on the agenda, the rules of order were often disregarded and the group assembled occasionally turned the meeting into an exciting donnybrook.

The hopscotch residence of Mr. and Mrs. Maurice Branigan is evident in the birthplaces of their children. The lion's share went to Egbert which was a thriving village for a number of years. Their twelve children are recorded as follows: Thomas Branigan, Julesburg, Colo.; Nora, Ella and Mary, Bennett, Nebraska—later known as Dix; Johannah and John, Polk County, Nebraska; Edward, Margaret, Kate (Ven Sr. Mary Carmel); Maurice, Jr., William and an infant son (living a fortnight) in Egbert. William was born on September 19, 1889 and died during the Spanish Influenza of 1918, survived by two daughters and his widow who did not remarry.

Egbert is located on the Union Pacific Railroad, eleven miles west and one mile to the north, off Interstate 80 from Pine Bluffs. The colorful small town of yesteryear lost identity with the passing of the school and the post office.

Redistricting closed the schools of the Egbert district in 1959 and the pupils were accepted in the school systems of Albin, Burns and Pine Bluffs.

The discontinuance of the Egbert post office at the close of 1966 resulted in the thirty-five box holders receiving mail from Burns, through the extension of Route No. One, with Ralph Plambeck as the mail carrier.

The Egbert post office was established in June of 1886 and during its eighty-year tenure several postmasters were in charge. Most amazing is how the large landowner and stockman, Anthony Wilkinson, found time to serve from 1904 to 1909.

Terminating railroad employment in Wyoming, the Maurice Branigans relocated on the homestead near Columbus, Nebraska, where they began housekeeping in 1871. They cherished the land patent signed by President Ulysses S. Grant as documentary evidence of the land transfer from the Public Domain to Mr. Branigan. Noteworthy is the increase in land value, due to an extensive irrigation system—a sharp contrast to the prairie land of yesteryear!

Even though Maurice Branigan died in 1905 the homestead continued to be the family home of his widow, Nora Burke Branigan, until her demise in 1934. She was survived by ten of their twelve children, six of whom were born in Wyoming. But it was Colorado-born Thomas Branigan who put down roots in the Equality State, and with his progeny, participated in the development of the state.

Railroad history repeated when Gladys Zingg Schroeder was elected in Cheyenne as the president of the Union Pacific Railroad Auxiliary for 1967-1968. Her husband, Herbert Schroeder, is a railroad engineer. She is a granddaughter of Thomas Branigan and a great-granddaughter of Maurice Branigan.

The progressive changes in the operation of the transcontinental railroad since the Branigans came to Egbert in 1880 include the twin tracks.

An account of the construction was printed in the Pine Bluffs Post in May of 1911 as follows: "Work on the Union Pacific railroad double-tracks is being pushed and expected to be completed to Pine Bluffs before fall. A hundred men as well as many horses and mules are working on the grading here."

The death of Thomas Branigan, shortly before his ninetieth birthday in 1963, marked the passing of the sons of Maurice Branigan's family. Surviving, however, were five daughters and so it was until death made a visitation in June of 1970 claiming the life of Mary—Mrs. Charles Hughes of Long Beach, California. She left four children.

The following year in September of 1971 Johannah—Mrs. Fred Cockson, Shelby, Nebraska, departed this life at an advanced age. Had she lived until October eleventh she would have been ninety-three.

Thereafter the survivors of the Maurice Branigan family were three: Nora—Mrs. Theo Spitz, Columbus, Nebraska; Margaret—Mrs. John McGowan, Grand Island, Nebr.; Kate—Sister Carmel, Iowa.

THE THOMAS BRANIGAN FAMILY

Reputedly the first white child born in Julesburg, Colorado, Thomas Branigan said "Hello World" April 15, 1873 during the era of adventurous transportation which implemented western settlement. In 1880 he moved with his parents, the Maurice Branigans, to Egbert, Wyoming where his father had railroad work.

Brief was the childhood of Thomas Branigan; maturing young his physique was large and of stately mien. From the days of his youth he was on his own and versatile were his occupations. Destined was he for a life on the frontier, even though the Indian menace ceased when he was a mere child. Thereafter his elders related hair-raising stories of the immediate past. What a

wealth of material for today's television script! The year was 1876 when the Indian tribes made a covenant with the government, mutually agreeing that the territory between the Platte and Powder Rivers was duly ceded to the white men.

As one of eleven children growing up (the twelfth died in infancy) in pioneer style when treats to delight children were seldom, Thomas Branigan had a lifelong knowledge of austerity. Children assumed responsibility at an early age and were depended upon to be an earnest assist to their hard-working parents.

Thomas rode horseback to school at the Dolan ranch, and at random he scouted the vast unfenced countryside. His chief interests and recreation were the flora and fauna, in changing seasons. He became versed in the wonders of nature and the habitat of animals.

Unknowingly he gleaned a wealth of information which he used later on when he became associated with land agents. In a horse-drawn vehicle he drove prospective homesteaders over Public Land in search of cornerstones. And the terrain was familiar to him.

After the land grab was over, Mr. Branigan, again, transversed the area as a livestock dealer. His advice was sought for values in livestock and he had the reputation of being an authority in his field. Operating by the profit-making motive, he dealt for a direct sales' commission or a dividend at the market place. Also he was a real estate dealer.

Thomas Branigan and Jane Ann "Jennie" Fyfe, a schoolteacher of Shelby, Nebraska, were married October 30, 1894 at Columbus. Sixty-five anniversaries were observed by the couple before the "until death do us part" vow was severed.

The William Fyfe Family

William and Mary Brown Fyfe, the parents of Mrs. Thomas Branigan, were seeking better living and working conditions when they emigrated from Scotland in 1871. They located in McHenry County, Illinois, at Algonquin, near Chicago, where Isabelle and Jane Ann "Jennie" were born before moving northwest a short distance to Marengo which was the birthplace of William and Julia Fyfe.

In March of 1880 Mr. and Mrs. William Fyfe and their four children moved to Polk County,

Nebraska and settled on land near the Maurice Branigan farm. Charles and Ben Fyfe were born in Polk County. In 1914 the Fyfes sold their farm in Polk County.

Four of the six children in the William Fyfe family lived many years in Wyoming. William spent most of his life on farms near Shelby and Columbus, Nebraska. Isabelle Fyfe and James A. Lowe were married in 1898 at the farm home of her parents in Polk County, Nebraska. However the Lowes located at Algonquin, Illinois, near her birthplace, established a family home and therein reared their children. It was her home when she died at the age of ninety-six, in September of 1968.

The residents of Wyoming were Mrs. Thomas (Jennie) Branigan, Julia, Charles and Ben Fyfe.

Mr. and Mrs. Charles J. Fyfe

A fifty-year resident of Albin was Charles J. Fyfe, born June 28, 1871 in Polk County, Nebraska. After two years of overseas service with the armed forces during the First World War, Mr. Fyfe moved to Pine Bluffs in 1920.

The following year he established residence on his farm, two miles northeast of the present town of Albin. His sister, Julia Fyfe, made her home with him until her death occurred in 1947 when she was sixty-nine years old.

The marriage of Charles J. Fyfe and Minnie Shappell was solemnized in 1952. The couple sold their farm-ranch holdings to a grand nephew, David Branigan, in 1971 and purchased a house in Pine Bluffs at 411 East 8th Street.

In celebration of his ninetieth birthday Mr. Fyfe was honored by relatives and friends at his home during the afternoon of June 27, 1971.

Mr. Fyfe is a member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, the American Legion and the Masonic Lodge of Pine Bluffs.

He is the only living member of his family, as two brothers and three sisters are deceased.

Mr. and Mrs. Benjamin N. Fyfe

While engaged in ranching and farming on the Nebraska side of the Albin community, Mr. and Mrs. Benjamin N. Fyfe were ruralists from 1920 until their retirement in Pine Bluffs in 1948. They observed their sixtieth wedding anniversary in June of 1969.

Their daughter, Edith, taught school in Laramie County, including Albin, until her marriage

to Howard Clarke, the son of Norval Clarke and Mae Wirick Clarke of Pine Bluffs.

Mr. and Mrs. Howard Clarke and family live in San Gabriel, California where Mr. Clarke is the West Coast manager for the Goodrich Company of Akron, Ohio.

In Memoriam

Benjamin N. Fyfe, 82, a resident of Pine Bluffs, died February 8, 1970 at the Memorial Hospital in Cheyenne. Formerly Mr. Fyfe had been a stockman-farmer on the North Divide, east of Albin.

As the youngest of six children in the William Fyfe family, he was born January 10, 1888 at Shelby, Nebraska.

He was a member of the United Methodist Church in Pine Bluffs and also the Masonic Lodge there.

Mr. Fyfe was survived by his wife, Louise; a daughter, Mrs. Howard (Edith) Clarke; a brother, Charles Fyfe of Albin as well as two grandchildren, Richard and Susan Clarke.

Funeral and burial rites were held in Pine Bluffs with Mr. Fyfe's grand nephews serving as pallbearers as follows: John Zingg, Edwin, Norman and Gerald Palm; William Fyfe and David Branigan.

The Branigan Longevity

Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Branigan spent many of their sixty-five married years in Wyoming, even though they also lived in Nebraska. However they are identified at Albin and were buried there. Mrs. Branigan departed this life in March of 1960 and her husband three years later. During this interim period he lived with his son, William Branigan.

Surviving were their children, William Branigan of Melbeta, Nebraska; Mrs. Charles (Florence) Zingg of Gering; Mrs. Edwin (Jennie) Palm of Elk Mountain, Wyo.; Edwin Branigan of Albin; George F. Branigan, Dean of Engineers at the Arkansas University at Fayetteville.

Florence Branigan Zingg, 72, died at Scottsbluff, Nebraska, in September of 1968. She was the first to break the family circle in the Thomas Branigan family of five children.

She was born August 4, 1896 at Columbus, Nebraska and was married to Charles Zingg at Sidney. They lived in Omaha before moving to Banner County to engage in farming and ranching, and in 1932 they moved to Gering.



Back row: Mrs. H. L. Schroeder (Gladys), her son Charles Schroeder, her mother, Mrs. Charles (Florence Branigan) Zingg. Seated is Thomas Branigan holding Julie, the daughter of Charles Schroeder.

Mrs. Zingg was preceded in death by her husband and a son, Russell.

Surviving her were a son, John Zingg of Grant, Nebraska; three daughters, Mrs. Gladys Schroeder, Cheyenne, Wyoming; Mrs. Wilma Totten, Long Beach, California; and Mrs. Maxine Starbuck, Modesto, California, a sister and three brothers; thirteen grandchildren and eleven great grandchildren.

Funeral services and interment were in Gering, Nebraska.

MR. AND MRS. EDWIN BRANIGAN

Edwin Branigan was born on September 2, 1900 near Columbus, in Polk County, Nebraska, the fourth of the five children in the Thomas Branigan family. Graduating from high school at Columbus, Edwin played the field of occupations in quest of his niche before he became associated with his parents in agricultural pursuits in western Nebraska and eastern Wyoming.

While he was a mail clerk on a local train he envisioned limited opportunity because of being sixth in line for advancement. The driving spirit of youth has never been satisfied with a slow pace; consequently he went to work for a

wholesale grocery firm in Omaha and also clerked in a store.

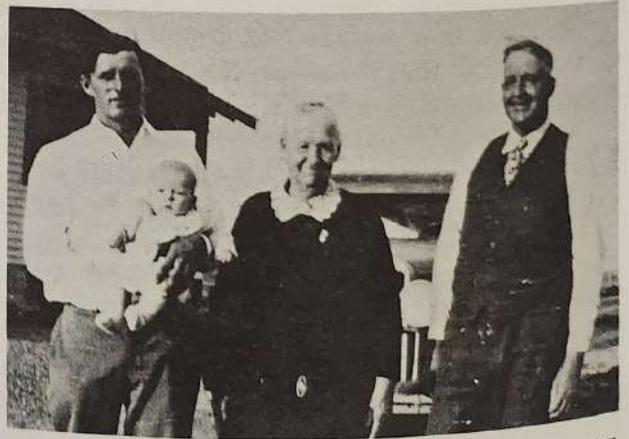
The Branigan family moved to Kimball County, Nebraska, where Edwin met Emma Jean Barlow, the district schoolteacher. She finished the term and returned to her home in Kearney and taught three years before their marriage in North Platte in 1929.

The couple established their home in the Albin community and excepting three years they have been continuous residents. They farmed near Kearney, Nebraska in 1933-34. The following year they lived in Scottsbluff where Mrs. Branigan supplemented the family income with \$45 a month she received as an employee of the J. C. Penney Co.

In 1936 Mr. and Mrs. Edwin Branigan and son, David, located four miles north of Albin on the Harvey homestead that was purchased by them in 1939. Henceforth they added adjacent land and have made noteworthy improvements on the house, and through soil supplements the fields are fertile.

Uniquely the homesite is located where the range meets the farm land. The panoramic view to the northwest encompasses a rugged terrain that is scenically spotted with evergreen trees and shrubbery. The southeast outlook is on an area of well-tilled black loam that produces good crops of grain and potatoes.

The Branigan home is a treasure of memorabilia of pioneer heritage. Being versed in values, Mr. and Mrs. Edwin Branigan traveled afar to public auctions and private exhibits in pursuit of collectors' items and rare commodities.



Four generations—Mrs. Maurice Branigan; her son Thomas; his son Edwin; Edwin holding son David—May 1930

The Ancestry of Mrs. Edwin Branigan

The history of the Barlow family typifies the settling and developing of a new country. Each generation migrated a farther distance west, put down roots, and became the solid citizenry which was forthright in justice and identified in establishing business enterprises.

Kenton, Ohio was the birthplace of Mrs. Edwin Branigan, the former Emma Jean Barlow. However when she was a year old she moved with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Jesse Barlow, to Kearney, Nebraska.

Her father was a carpenter and to fulfill the need of daily transportation, he was among the first to own a car. In 1909 he bought a second hand Rambler, and later a Maxwell.

In a family of eight children in the Barlow family, seven younger than Emma Jean were born, reared and educated in Kearney, Nebraska. The high school, there, was the alma mater of Emma Jean and her mother, both becoming schoolteachers. Emma Jean furthered her education at the State Teachers College in Kearney and made a career of teaching.

Eight children survive Mr. and Mrs. Jesse Barlow, namely: Emma Jean, Mrs Edwin Branigan of Albin; Mary Elizabeth, Mrs. Joseph Altmaier, residing on a ranch north of Kearney; Robert Thomas Barlow of Grand Island, Nebraska; Mrs. Florence Edna Canady, Denver, Colorado, whose mother-in-law was reputed to have been the first white child born in the Territory of Nebraska; George Scott Barlow, Gardena, Calif.; Dorothy, Mrs. Howard Eifert, Wausa, Nebraska; Hanley Stuart Barlow, Amarillo, Texas; Fred Barlow, Denver, Colorado.

Mrs. Edwin Branigan is a member of the Daughters of the American Revolution, receiving documentary evidence from a paternal ancestor, Samuel Scott. In 1740 he was born at Gettysburg, Pa. His wife, Rachel Tidball, was born in Ireland. Their son moved to Ohio and became the first justice of peace. Samuel Scott went there to visit and suddenly died; subsequently he was the first white person to be buried in Cherokee, Ohio. The date was 1823.

Mrs. Branigan cites the advent of her ancestors in Buffalo County, Nebraska, to a land movement sponsored by the Union Pacific Railroad, advertising in eastern newspapers for veterans of the Civil War and their families to travel

on reduced rates to file on free land. In 1871 her maternal grandparents were among the one hundred forty families drawing lots for the location of homesteads. Their site was five miles east of Kearney, north of the tracks. The Edwin Branigans went to this homestead in the early 1930s for a two-year stint in farming.

When the Burlington Railroad came to Kearney, there was controversy over the county seat of Gibbon. An exciting campaign and plebiscite vote of the electorate in 1874 duly authorized Kearney as the county seat of Buffalo County.

At that time Mrs. Branigan's great uncle, Joseph Scott, was serving as the first county clerk. Dutifully he and his deputy loaded the county records in a farm wagon and drove a team thirteen miles, arriving in Kearney at two o'clock in the morning. The deputy guarded the records the rest of the night. Later Joseph Scott served as state land commissioner at Lincoln.

Margaret Beatrice Browning was the mother of Mrs. Edwin Branigan. She became one of seven motherless children and was adopted at the age of three by Emma Ione and Robert T. Haines. Also Mrs. Haines' sister was the mother of Jesse Barlow, whom Beatrice married. The adoption papers gave her the name of Beatrice Browning Haines.

Robert T. Haines, district tax assessor, carried an inkwell to make the required recordings in ink, while making his rounds on horseback. Increasing is the value of the inkwell, a family heirloom.

The forbears of the Barlow family settling along the Atlantic seaboard were from England, Scotland, Ireland and France.

In Memoriam

Edwin Branigan, 69, died December 16, 1969 at the DePaul Hospital in Cheyenne. He had lived in Albin since 1936 and was engaged in farming and ranching.

Even though Nebraska was the state of his nativity, he was a third generation resident of Wyoming through the advent of forbears, who were railroad employees in Egbert in 1880. Briefly he was a railroader but chose the vocation of agriculture for his life's work, a field in which he was progressive.

Mr. Branigan preserved the history of western settlement by collecting relics and antique commodities depicting the prevailing customs.

He was survived by his wife, Emma Jean Barlow Branigan, whom he married in 1929; a son, David; a daughter-in-law, Jean; a grandson, Mick; a granddaughter, LeAnn, all of Albin; a sister, Mrs. Edwin (Jennie) Palm of Elk Mountain; and two brothers, William Branigan of Gering, Nebraska and George F. Branigan of Fayetteville, Arkansas.

Funeral services were conducted in Cheyenne and interment was in the Pine Bluffs Cemetery.

Pallbearers were nephews: Edwin Palm, Jr., Norman Palm, Gerald Palm, John Zingg, Tom Altmaier and Herbert Schroeder.

Mr. and Mrs. David Branigan

The Branigan family, coming to the Territory of Wyoming in 1880, has descendants in the state through the lineages of Edwin Branigan and his sisters, Mrs. Charles (Florence) Zingg and Mrs. Edwin (Jennie) Palm.

David Branigan and family constitute the fourth, fifth and sixth generations of the surname in the Albin community where their predecessors spent long years. Born January 19, 1930, David is the only child of Mr. and Mrs. Edwin Branigan.

He was graduated from high school in Albin, as was his wife, the former Jean Kryger, the daughter of Elmer and Doris Cox Kryger. Jean's birthplace was Kimball, Nebraska. She was reared in the family home, northeast of Albin in the Gallio community—on the Nebraska side.

Jean's father died when she was six years old. The survivors included her brother, Kenneth Kryger, and their mother, Mrs. Kryger, who married a brother of her late husband. He died in a short time, leaving her a second-time widow. Her third marriage was to Joe Person, a local resident. To this union was born a son, Gordon Person.

Doris Cox Kryger Person departed this life in 1961, leaving her husband, Joe Person, and son, Kenneth Kryger, in the home. Other survivors were a daughter, Mrs. David (Jean) Branigan of Albin; a son, Gordon, residing with his wife and two children in Ada, Michigan, near Grand Rapids.

Mr. and Mrs. David Branigan are the parents of a son, Mick Lynn and a daughter, LeAnn Marie. The family home is two miles north of

Albin, on an acreage that was homesteaded by Eva Raymond Jewett, the mother of Mrs. Edwin P. Anderson.

Grain farming is David Branigan's avocation, as it entails only seasonal labor; whereas he is steadily employed in a machine shop where he is equipped to service motor vehicles. Too, he assumes the responsibility of servicing the six school buses of the Albin school system.

Mr. and Mrs. Mick L. Branigan

The United Methodist Church in Pine Bluffs was the scene of the wedding of Miss Carolyn Smock, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Carlyle Smock of Grover, Colorado, and Mick L. Branigan of Albin.

Rev. Gertrude Horn solemnized the marriage on June 7, 1970. Conjuring memories for many persons was a similar occasion, thirty-three years before, when Rev. Horn officiated at the church wedding of Carolyn's parents, the Carlyle Smocks.

Mr. and Mrs. Mick L. Branigan live northeast of Albin on the former Charles Fyfe place, purchased by Branigans when the Fyfes retired in Pine Bluffs. Mick is in partnership with his father in the Branigan Motors in Albin.

A sixth generation resident is Cody Lynn Branigan, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Mick L. Branigan, whose birth occurred on May 14, 1971.

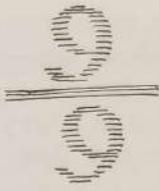
Mr. and Mrs. John Charles McLaughlin

The St. Paul's Catholic Church in Pine Bluffs was the setting on May 22, 1971 for the wedding of LeAnn Branigan, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. David Branigan, and John Charles McLaughlin, son of Mr. and Mrs. B. C. McLaughlin, all of Albin.

The Rev. Michael Butler officiated at the double-ring ceremony in the presence of two hundred guests who were afterwards entertained at a reception in the Parish Hall.

Mrs. McLaughlin graduated from high school at Albin as did Mr. McLaughlin, who also continued his education for two years at Sheridan College.

The residence of Mr. and Mrs. J. C. McLaughlin is located on the premises of the parental David Branigan home.



THE JOHN WILSON BROWN FAMILY

Born in Ohio January 14, 1888, John Wilson Brown at the age of three months was brought to Kemmerer in the Territory of Wyoming by his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Archie Brown, emigrants of Scotland, who had evaluated the opportunities in the coal mining area in Ohio, along the Kentucky border, before trekking to the West.

Archie Brown followed industries related to mining and was also a stonecutter and a monument engraver. His life was claimed in an occupational mishap while he was working in a quarry near Kemmerer.

The tragedy caused the distraught widow to resolve that the lives of her four sons would not be endangered by the hazards of mining; that the time had come for the male lineage of the household to seek other means of support. Exemplifying family solidarity at the turn of the century, she brought four sons and a daughter, Janet (later Mrs. Jelmer Johnson of Lagrange) across the state to her married daughter, Mrs. Alfred (Agnes) Scoon, who was her only child born in Scotland. The Scoons with their son, William, had come to the Horse Creek valley before homesteading in the Albin community.



Back row: Angus and Pete Brown. Bottom row: William and John W. Brown.

Mrs. Archie Brown established a home on a small acreage on Horse Creek, which later became a part of the Dan Donahue ranch near Meriden store. The Browns became ruralists, entering into a way of life in direct contrast to the gregarious activity at the mines, where at a specified hour breadwinners went forth, lunch pail in hand, to probe the depths of the earth for mineral deposits.

The Brown children attended one of the two sod schoolhouses in the valley; therefore their eligibility was established for the organization of the Soddies of America.

Years afterwards John W. Brown was on the school board of Albin, District No. Five. By then the facilities were better. Following the advent of the railroad in Albin in 1928, the town was relocated and a brick schoolhouse was built. With some modifications it is still in use. The primitive rural school however gave director Brown a rudimentary knowledge of education, enabling him to serve effectively in its progression.

In Laramie County John W. Brown worked as a cowboy for large outfits, in an era when caring for cattle was portrayed in an aura of glamour beyond the realm of actuality. He participated a few times in the colorful and much publicized annual Shotgun Roundup, as did his colleagues, Ray and Charles Kessler of Lagrange and James W. Kirkbride of Cheyenne.

Mr. Brown recalled the financial struggles in the workaday world when he received five dollars for breaking a broncho to ride, and he was employed on neighboring ranches for a dollar a day.

Endeavoring to start a cattle outfit of his own, Mr. Brown filed on a homestead on flat upland. He was off to a bad start when his well-drilling efforts were futile. Neither man nor beast could live without water; the plight had to be faced. A blessing through adversity came when Mr. and Mrs. Brown purchased an adjacent acreage on Horse Creek, known as the Carroll Ranch.

Talk about being led into green pastures beside the still waters, the Browns did not need a crystal ball to foresee the more abundant life!

Moving day at the homestead necessitated neighborly assistance in manipulating horse-drawn conveyances to move the shack and household furnishings across the dry land flat to



Mr. and Mrs. John W. Brown, 1911

Horse Creek, where a copious supply of running water was never failing.

The latter day modern house of the Browns showed no evidence of the moved-in shack. It was encompassed by adding on rooms and the last stroke of improvement was the construction of a three-room annex to round out a comfortable dwelling. The homesite was secluded from wintry blasts and piercing winds, enabling Mrs. Brown to raise rare varieties of roses and tender fragile flowers. The floral elegance attracted horticulturalists and spectators.

In 1923 John W. Brown and his brother, William Brown, began a business partnership. To enlarge their orbit of operation they included the John Mullin Ranch on Bear Creek and the E7 Ranch on Horse Creek and for thirty years they ran sheep and cattle. The death of William Brown in 1953 necessitated an estate settlement. Afterward John W. Brown and his son J. Harry Brown were associated in business.

The Browns are praiseworthy for "Honoring widows that are widows indeed" I Timothy 5:3. John and William Brown assisted their own widowed mother and in later years Mr. and Mrs. John W. Brown shared their home with Mrs. Brown's mother, Mrs. Callwell.

Having filed on a homestead in the Golden Prairie community in 1907, Mrs. Josephine Callwell became a permanent resident of Wyoming. She was assisted in her land settlement venture by her two children, whom she brought from Missouri. They were a daughter, Mary Elizabeth (later Mrs. John W. Brown) and a son who gave the last full measure of devotion in the Argonne Forest, France, during the First World War.

Mrs. Callwell and Mrs. Brown participated in the organization of the American War Mothers, of which Mrs. Brown was a state president for a two-year term.

In January of 1968 the aged Mrs. Callwell moved to the Mount View Towers Healthcare in Cheyenne and died there in October of 1971.

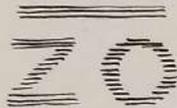


Their Golden Anniversary, 1961

Mr. and Mrs. John Wilson Brown celebrated their fiftieth wedding anniversary in June of 1961 at the home of their son, J. Harry Brown, and his family. During the festivities John Brown commented on how seldom a man was privileged on such an occasion to have the presence of his mother-in-law. For nearly fifty-seven years the Browns lived on their ranch at Meriden.

Their daughter Josephine and her husband Albert Willson live at Plainville, Kansas. Their only child is Elizabeth Joyce, a registered nurse.

The Browns' son, John Harry Brown, served with the armed forces in the Second World War before marrying a local girl, Gwen Eisele. Near his parental home, they live in a commodious ranch style dwelling that is located on the rim of Horse Creek.



The lifetime occupation of J. Harry Brown is ranching. Too, he assumes civic responsibility and supports causes, affecting the welfare of the community. "Like father like son," for years he served on the Albin school board, District Number Five. His contemporaries were George O. Harding, Richard Larson and Fred L. Petsch. Home rule for the Albin Consolidated School was partially curtailed in 1971 when the East half of Laramie County was redistricted into one

unit, known as District Number Two. The West half of the county is District Number One.

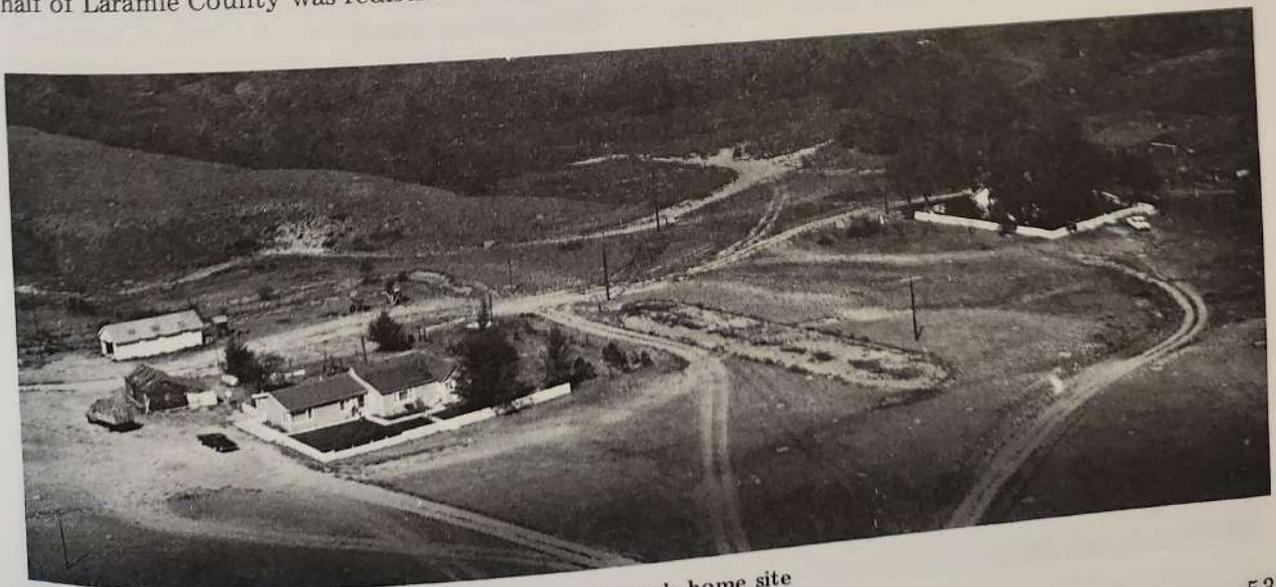
Albin rated two members on the nine-member school board in District Number Two. Duly elected at the school board meetings in 1971 were Leonard Anderson and J. Harry Brown.

The family of Mr. and Mrs. J. Harry Brown consists of three daughters and a son, namely: Lynne; Michael "Mike"; Debbie and Jana Jo.

Lynne and Michael "Mike" Brown qualified for teaching by receiving degrees from the College of Education at the University of Wyoming. For the 1971-1972 term they are teaching in Wyoming schools. Lynne is an instructor of physical education for girls at Evanston and "Mike" is employed in the science department and is an assistant coach at Guernsey.

John Wilson Brown, a Laramie County rancher and resident of the state since 1888, died March 31st, 1968 with services planned for April third. But the day brought a raging blizzard, that paralyzed traffic and stymied activity throughout the area, similar to many storms he had encountered through the years. The funeral was postponed two days and held in Cheyenne on the fifth of April.

Spanning eight decades, Mr. Brown participated in the colorful history of Wyoming, through the era of the first settlers inhabiting the land. He and his contemporaries knew years of busy cares, of hopes deferred and victories counted. Upon their record of solidarity we continue to build for today and tomorrow.



Harry Brown's home site

EW J

MR. AND MRS. GEORGE W. BRUEGMAN

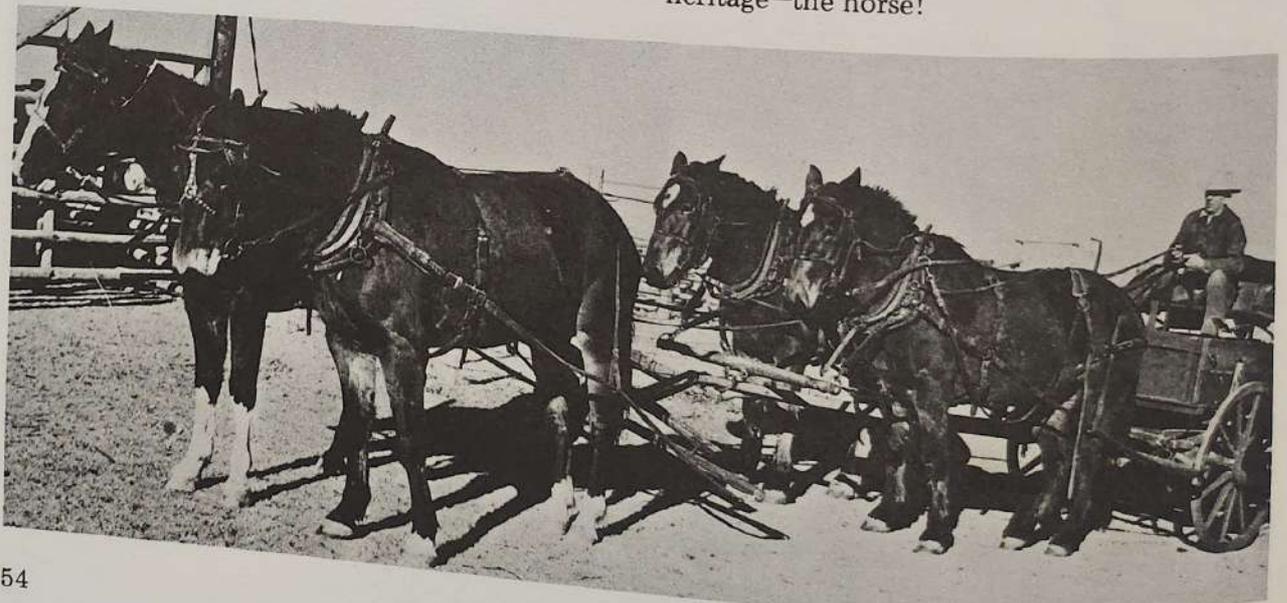
Long live the Old West! On rangeland lying on both sides of the Torrington Highway, about thirty miles northeast of Cheyenne, with the ranch headquarters in the hill country, the George Bruegman family consistently preserves this fading away phase of rural life by a simple and feasible technique—the use of horses. For their rodeo performances it is horses all the way and there is no backing down when it comes to operating the ranch. George Bruegman deems it sacrilege to use mechanical power to till, sow or reap, or just about anything. A common sight around the ranch is a four-horse team hooked to a wagon that is stationed at a focal point along a fence line, while the ranch hands are building or repairing as the case may be.

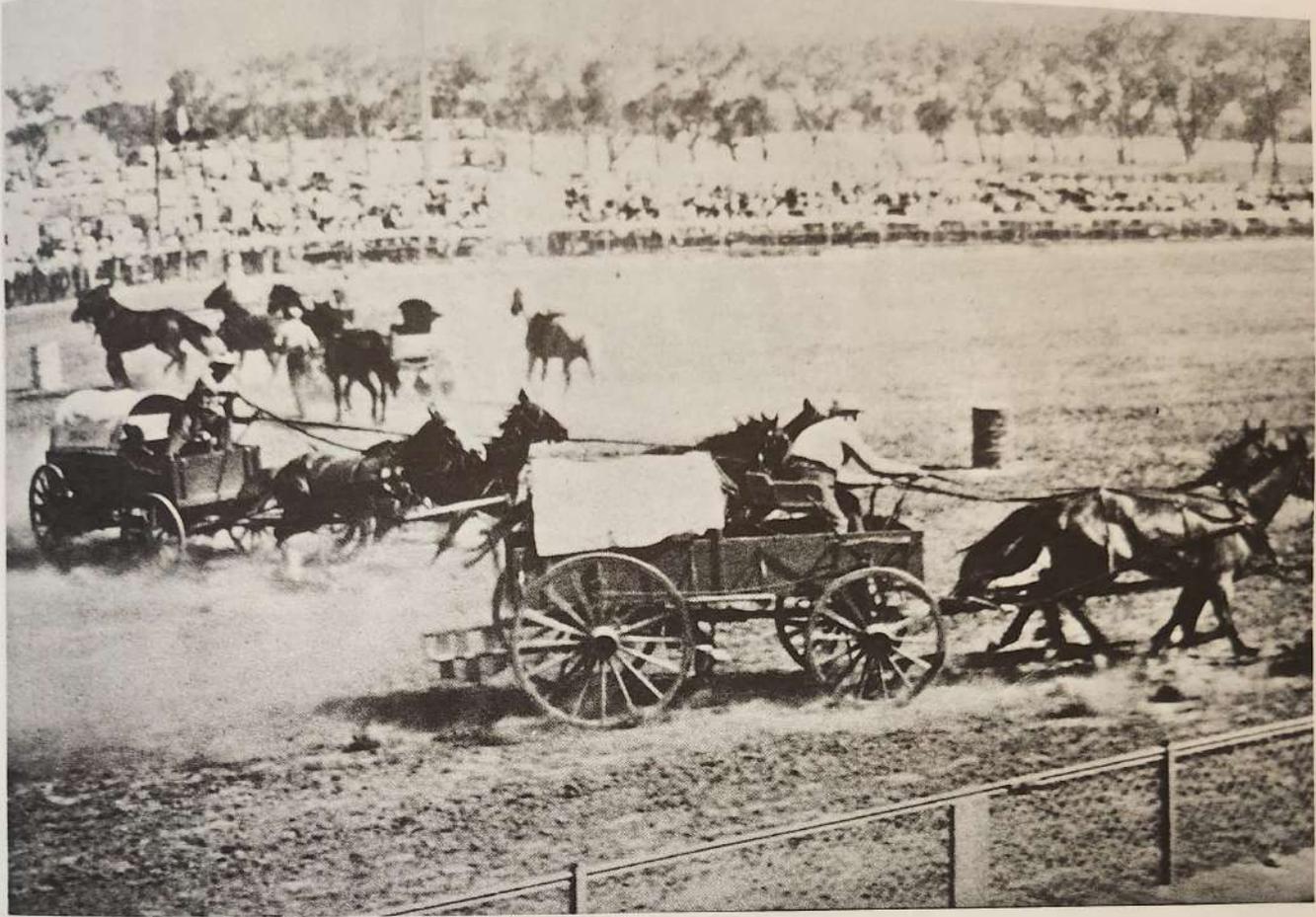
Nonetheless automation is permissible for town trips or long pulls. Too, a truck is used enroute to rodeos and to far-flung pastures such as the biannual trek with the horses, that winter in Carbon County at McFadden. The Bruegmans have a fierce respect for horses, accrediting them with dependability and readiness. How true when it comes to stormy weather predicaments! Never a winter passes without SOS calls from neighbors in dire need of a team to snow-clear a thoroughfare. Whoever heard of a horse getting stuck in the snow?



Mr. and Mrs. George Bruegman, 1966

Behold a wondrous creature with self-starting power, that never slips a clutch or gives any spark plug fuss, whose sturdy body is of everlasting style. And best of all, it operates without gas or oil. A salute to a praiseworthy American heritage—the horse!





Chuckwagon race

The Bruegmans' revival of yesteryear comes into full bloom in the middle of July when the horses are rounded up and trailed crow-flight to Cheyenne to fulfill the 165-horse contract with the Frontier Committee. "That's a lot of horse flesh," says the owner and ramrod, George Bruegman. And all this has been going on for nigh on to a quarter of a century!

A prideful duty is Mr. Bruegman's during Frontier Days when he meets the Denver Post Special at the depot of the Union Pacific to transport the detrainning dignitaries. The "all aboard" at the stagecoach door probably puts him in the act of being the only stage line driver in the West. Precautiously he casts a vigilant eye on the route and uses a steady hand on the reins of the horses, fresh off the range and unfamiliar to the noise and excitement of the milling crowds.

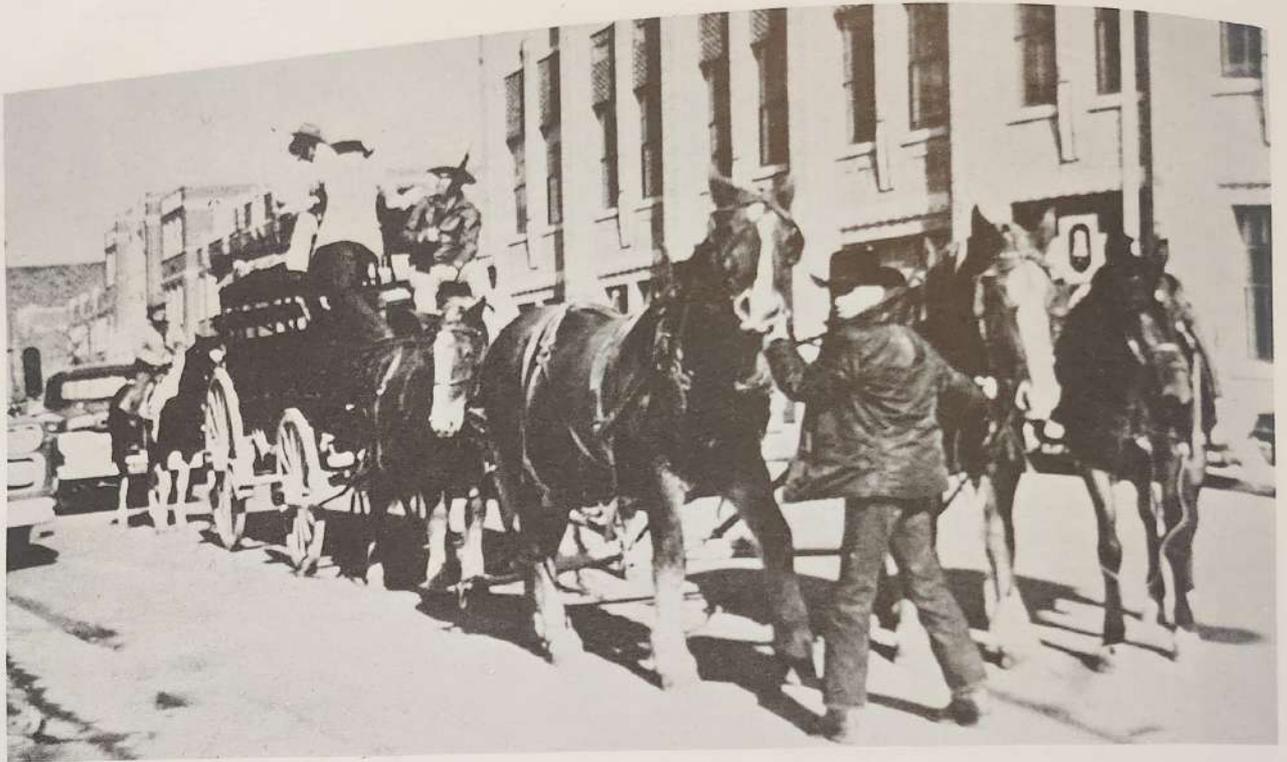
However Mr. Bruegman reaches the acme of showmanship when he participates in the chuckwagon races noted for their challenging suspense

when man's daring is pitted against the behavior of spirited horses. This highly competitive event is of teeth-gnashing and bone-breaking risks, and only for those skilled in fearless rodeo maneuvers.

Even though Bruegmans and their ranch help have work aplenty in the care of sheep, cattle and their first love, horses, they do more. Giving deference to the first settlers for their earnest toil, sacrifices and deprivation, they are motivated to rekindle a sense of history and perpetuate the romanticism of the Old West.

Bank Money Moved Pioneer Style

On November 13, 1960 the American National Bank of Cheyenne moved its money from the old location at 16th and Capitol to the new multimillion-dollar building at 20th Street and Capitol Avenue. Western style entailed a stagecoach, sideline riders and a shotgun guard. The transits included the bank's deposits of an undisclosed amount, for security reasons. However



Moving the money Western style

they then totaled in excess of \$32 million. The bank arranged for the original Cheyenne-Deadwood stagecoach, formerly used to transport passengers between Wyoming and South Dakota, to be wheeled out of storage where it is kept between appearances in the parades of Cheyenne Frontier Days. Rancher and rodeo promoter, George Bruegman, hitched up a team of horses and mounted to the driver's seat, with a firm grip of the reins as though assuring the safety of the entrusted treasures. Laramie County Commissioner Dan Rees grabbed a shot-



gun. For the occasion the president of the bank, Rudy L. Hofmann, donned a shiny stovepipe hat. Mr. Bruegman brought along his pretty daughter, Margaret, 15, and his son, Paul, 13, to hold the horses while the money was being loaded and unloaded. Off on the four-block trek went the colorful procession, creating the image of responsible citizenship and reminding the spectators that the once dubbed "Cowtown Capital" still has the rugged characteristics of the Old West.

George W. Bruegman

A Lutheran clergyman of German descent, George Bruegman, and his family settled in Thornton, Illinois, where a grandson and name-



George W. Bruegman

sake, George William Bruegman was born February 14, 1899, the son of John and Anna Bruegman. They adhered to the Old World customs, including speaking and writing the language, but through the years the family gradually adopted the American way of life until the descendants have practically lost the art of German expression.

Mr. and Mrs. John Bruegman and son, George W. migrated from Illinois and located at Fremont, Nebraska where a daughter and son were born. In young womanhood, Marie and her twin daughter died survived by her husband, Lewis Timmerman, and infant twin daughter. Jack Bruegman lives in Wheatland and has a daughter.

Homestead Venture

Unpredictable adventures began to unfold for George Bruegman in 1910 when his father in effect made a wager with Uncle Sam that he and his family could live on a government claim for three years without starving. The location was

eight miles north of Egbert and also thirteen miles northwest of Pine Bluffs.

George and his father traveled to Egbert in an immigration car, containing the allotted ten head of livestock as well as poultry, farm machinery and household goods. One caretaker was privileged to ride free, putting George in the stowaway category. Some trainmen hoodwinked the lad's presence, but there were others! Therefore he rode part of the time with the farm animals which was acceptable because of his interest in all domestic animals. Memorable was the four-day journey for the 500-mile distance; whereas it is now abridged in sixteen hours.

The Bruegmans were greeted in Wyoming by misfortune as their milk cow showed a positive reaction to a tubercle bacillus test and her death was mandatory—a loss they could ill afford. They arrived on March 10th and settled in a neighbor's shack and improvised a poultry house of baled straw.

Mrs. Bruegman and the younger children journeyed across the state of Nebraska aboard a



George Bruegman driving stagecoach

Fore Most Studios, Ken Schneider

cindery, plush-chaired train to unite the family, which was subjected to further losses by a spring storm. In an unfamiliar situation Mr. Bruegman set out to bring in the cattle and experienced a blizzard of increasing velocity and no guidelines to direct the way. He narrowly escaped with his life. Inside the house of straw there was trouble! The piling snow had sealed the cramped quarters. Suspecting the plight—as soon as the storm abated—Mr. Bruegman dug into the suffocating mess and straightway carted to the house what was left of the turkeys, geese and chickens. The salvage was nineteen.

Determined to settle the land despite the vicissitudes, the Bruegmans were busy by day and prayerful by night. Everlastingly they worked sixteen to eighteen hours, and that is a day's work anywhere. The produce checks from cream, eggs and poultry defrayed the daily living expenses while larger sums derived from the sale of livestock and crops paid for improvements such as buildings, a water system and fences. Luckily they were spared land taxes during the homesteading period. John Bruegman's land patent was a challenge fairly won and for years the land was the family's home and a means of livelihood.

Silos and ensilage feeding to dairy herds were pioneered by John Bruegman of Egbert, Henry Noyes and Mrs. Christa Anderson of Burns. George Bruegman recalls that his part in the construction of the silos was scraping sand with a horse and a Shorthorn Bull united as a team.

Always interested in trained-animal feats, George broke a span of white bulls to drive to a cart and they made a unique entry at the County Fair in Burns. About then his father bought a bull from Lewis Lyons, Sr. and he was a prize winner at the Fair before he was shipped to Omaha to sell by weight—all 1,960 pounds of him!

One fourth of July in Egbert all was set for a big day. In the morning J. Ross Carpenter, a land agent, for whom the town of Carpenter was named, breezed into the crowd in a shining buggy drawn by a team of spirited horses. He was second to none as a promoter, so then and there he began to engender enthusiasm for the rodeo by spieling the afternoon attractions including a bovine race.

Youthful George Bruegman pondered Car-

penter's words and was curious. At the close of day George inquired about the bovine race and was informed that he had won it. The speaking of German in the parental home was blamed.

In the 1930s George Bruegman was associated with John Wilkinson at the Little Horse Creek Ranch where their activities included training polo horses for market. Verily he has run the gamut of horsemanship.

Versatility of interests included the public auction. George returned to the state of his nativity, Illinois, for schooling in auctioneering. Afterwards he took charge of public auctions in the country sale class. During the homesteading era country schools were numerous and they served as a community center for programs and box and pie socials. For these occasions Mr. Bruegman's salesmanship was accelerated by humor and ready wit.

In the days of his youth George Bruegman was outstanding in the field of baseball. He was a member of the Sunnyside team that traveled near and far for competitive field meets.

The John Bruegman family gave deference to religion. Forgetting not their clergyman ancestor, they assisted in organizing and holding Lutheran meetings in the local schoolhouse. Later the common usage of cars on improved roads enabled them to attend church in town. George and his family still do. The most accessible church is in Cheyenne.

*Mrs. George W. Bruegman—
Nee Deborah Wilkinson*

Of pioneer ancestry and a native of Laramie County, Deborah Wilkinson Bruegman was named for her paternal grandmother, Mrs. John (Deborah Pratt) Wilkinson. She was the youngest of four children born to James R. Wilkinson and his wife, Myra Dell Tracy Wilkinson. Others in the family were Gladys, John and Harry Wilkinson.

Left motherless at the age of two, Deborah was cared for by her step-grandmother, Mrs. John Wilkinson, the former Mary Dolan Gross, who taught Deborah's mother, also becoming a schoolteacher.

James R. Wilkinson's second wife, the former Marie Hanson, lived south of Pine Bluffs before she took nurses' training and became a registered nurse at Douglas, Wyoming.



George, Deborah, Paul and Margaret Bruegman

The couple began housekeeping two miles north of Pine Bluffs on Lodgepole Creek, in a new two-story brick house built for them and Mr. Wilkinson's four children. A haystack was removed to provide the best site. The house was in the realm of luxury, necessitating domestic help for its care and upkeep. This was Deborah's girlhood home.

She attended school in Pine Bluffs before spending eight years in boarding school at the St. Mary's Catholic Convent in Cheyenne, graduating from high school in 1928. She was steadfast in the Episcopalian faith of her forbears.

In January of 1941 the marriage of Deborah Wilkinson and George W. Bruegman was solemnized. They lived in Pine Bluffs for three years before moving to their ranch, 30 miles northeast of Cheyenne. Their children are Margaret Ann and Paul Francis Bruegman, whose activities in the rodeo field have been valuable assets.

The George W. Bruegman family gained two members in 1969 through the advent of Justin William Parish and the marriage of Roxie Hendricks and Paul Bruegman.

Margaret Ann Bruegman was graduated from high school in Albin and attended college in

Torrington before she was employed at the State Highway Department in Cheyenne for a few years. She married William N. Parish in 1965. Their son is Justin William Parish.

In 1969 Paul Francis Bruegman was married to Roxie Jo Hendricks, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Dwaine C. Hendricks of Grant, Nebraska. For higher education Roxie attended Lamar Community College and summer school in Greeley at the Colorado State College. Paul is a 1966 graduate of Albin high school.

Mr. and Mrs. Paul F. Bruegman reside on the family ranch northeast of Cheyenne. They are engaged in ranching and rodeo performances. Their son is Colton Paul Bruegman.

Mrs. George W. (Deborah) Bruegman makes a career of homemaking for her family of rodeo participants. She is the last survivor in the James R. Wilkinson family. The late thirties took a toll of four of her relatives: two brothers, John and Harry Wilkinson; John's wife, Louise; and her stepmother, Marie Hanson Wilkinson. Her father died in June of 1944, a month before his seventieth birthday.

GLADYS WILKINSON LARSON

Gladys Lenore Wilkinson, daughter of James R. and Myra Dell Tracy Wilkinson, was born on the Spring Creek Ranch near Egbert and spent her life in the Pine Bluffs area.

The Wilkinsons left the ranch while the children were small through regrettable circumstances. Gladys and her brother, John, had a squabble that should have been inconsequential but John tried to get even. His aim was to destroy her cherished dolls and set fire to her playhouse, attached to the family's four-room dwelling. Their mother stood helplessly and saw the house and contents reduced to ashes. What chance did a lone woman have with a house on fire?

When Mr. Wilkinson returned from a business trip to Egbert, he reacted with mixed emotions. He was grateful for the safety of his family, but fully aware of the monetary loss. Well did he know how he stood—in the only clothes he owned!

Gladys Wilkinson graduated in the first four-year high school class in Pine Bluffs. For higher education she attended Colorado College in Colorado Springs and also the University of

Wyoming. She taught home economics and music in the Pine Bluffs school system.

In September of 1927 she married Melvin L. Larson, the agriculture instructor and athletic coach of Pine Bluffs.

Mrs. Melvin (Gladys Wilkinson) Larson, 45, died following a long illness in Denver, January 2, 1947. Her survivors included her husband; two sons, James M., 10 and John W., 8; and a sister, Mrs. George W. (Deborah) Bruegman. Mrs. Larson was a member of the St. Mark's Episcopal Church in Cheyenne and also she participated in the Community Methodist Church, Order of the Eastern Star and American Legion Auxiliary in Pine Bluffs.

The Pine Bluffs schools and business firms closed while funeral services were conducted in the school auditorium by Rev. William Reilly, in the presence of approximately 400 persons.

The casket bearers were Leonard Ekstrom, A. L. Binning, James Murray, F. S. Cooney, A. E. Carlstrum and W. H. Harrison.

Choir members were Reuben Anderson, Harry Larson, Mrs. H. J. Speetzen, Mrs. Harold Johnson, Mrs. James Souders, Mrs. Al Foster, Tom McNamee and Charles Bunch, accompanied by Mrs. Leonard Ekstrom.

The ushers were George Karlstrum and H. J. Speetzen and the interment was in the Pine Bluffs cemetery.

THE WILKINSON FAMILY FORBEARS

The John Wilkinson Family Lineage

Yorkshire England was the homeland of the paternal ancestors of Deborah Wilkinson Bruegman. In the 1880s their immigration in Wyoming was populous. Arriving in the Territory of Wyoming to put down roots were her father, Wilkinson grandparents, three great-aunts, four great-uncles as well as their spouses and children.

Too Deborah's great-grandparents, Anthony and Alice Sayer Wilkinson, came to Archer to homestead and live with their son, Anthony. Their gravemarker in the Cheyenne cemetery is distinctive as it is topped with a sculptured life-size lamb. The inscription states that Anthony Wilkinson died in 1890 at the age of 76.

In an eight-decade span Mrs. George W. Bruegman literally has cousins by the dozens in southeastern Wyoming and western Nebraska. Among the kinship are the surnames of Wilkin-

son, Atkinson, Robinson, Stevenson, Sedgwick, Ewbank, Bauman, Hirsig, Laycock, Krumm, Hacker, Johnson, Warren and Dolan.

John and Deborah Pratt Wilkinson

Mrs. Bruegman's paternal grandfather, John Wilkinson, was born in Yorkshire, England, October 3, 1845, the son of Anthony and Alice Sayer Wilkinson. His parents were dairy farmers and his maternal uncles were auctioneers. At the age of twenty-six he married Miss Deborah Pratt whose birthdate was September 21, 1847. After a short time America beckoned and the John Wilkinsons located at Ansley, Nebraska, where his brother, Anthony, had a meat market and a start in sheep. Remaining there until 1887, John Wilkinson trailed a small band of sheep to Wyoming and settled his family at Archer and later at the Spring Creek ranch near Egbert before his final move to the edge of Pine Bluffs where he built a commodious residence and ranch headquarters in a meadow setting on Lodgepole Creek, with outflankings of range land.

Mr. and Mrs. John Wilkinson became the parents of eight children: Alice A., James R., Agnes, Isabella, Margaret, Dora, Elizabeth J., and Ada L. Wilkinson. Mrs. Wilkinson was a helpmeet in the truest sense of the word, assisting him in laying the groundwork for vast land holdings in Wyoming and Nebraska. She and her husband were members of the Episcopal church. Her death date was May 13, 1896, and her remains were interred in the Cheyenne cemetery.

John Wilkinson Remarries

Beyond the shadow of a doubt the marriage of Mary Dolan Gross, a widow with two sons, and John Wilkinson, the father of eight children, was harmonious despite their merging two families of opposite religious and political beliefs as well as each having well established business enterprises.

Affectionately known as "Aunt Molly" far beyond the family circle, Mary E. Dolan was born in Wyoming, the daughter of William and Margaret Kerwin Dolan, natives of Ireland. She was a schoolteacher and a standout in the field of business. Twice widowed there was need for her firm stand for justice and extraordinary business acumen.



Her first husband, Charles J. Gross, born in Beaver County, Pennsylvania September 11, 1862, was the son of Henry and Louise Gross, natives of Germany. As a young man he meandered west and for a time was employed by the Armour Packing Company of Omaha before purchasing a small general store in Pine Bluffs in 1877. By practicing the business principles he learned in his father's store in the Keystone state his success was analogous with the growth of Wyoming.

In Cheyenne on February 28, 1892 Miss Mary E. Dolan became his bride. To this union three sons were born, William A., Charles Crawford, and Henry J. who died in childhood. The Gross brothers, W. A. "Brick" and C. C. "Todd" and their families are lifelong residents of Pine Bluffs. "Brick" was a rancher and "Todd" a banker. Their father, Charles J. Gross, was postmaster of Pine Bluff (designated as Pine Bluffs in 1923) in the 1890s for five years before his tragic death on December 30, 1899, incurring in a railway mishap while he was shipping cattle. During widowhood Mrs. Gross operated the store and her brothers, James, Edward and Joe Dolan managed her ranch and cattle business.

It was "Hello World" from Mildred Louise Wilkinson to a large family including her parents, John and Mary E. Wilkinson, seven Wilkinson half sisters and a half brother, James R. and two Gross half brothers, "Brick" and "Todd."

Mildred was reared in the family home in Pine Bluffs, taught the second grade in the local school, took a trip to Europe with her mother and bought a trousseau in Paris to marry John M. Snyder of Lovell, Wyoming, who was state treasurer from 1923-1927. Since her husband's death Mrs. Snyder has been a resident of Boulder, Colorado.

The Wilkinson Land Empire

United family effort amassed vast land holdings in the Wilkinson name and the acquisition had many facets. Homesteading and purchasing adjacent homesteads played a part but the bonanza came through buying railroad land. The Union Pacific owned alternate sections on both sides of the track for a distance of 20 miles, each way, which was a subsidy for building the transcontinental railroad.

John Wilkinson and his brother, Anthony, grasped the opportunities of the growing state. Their purchasing alternate sections of railroad land was the phenomenal stroke that amassed a land empire.

The history-making venture of the Wilkinsons transpired in the open range days, at a time when stockmen used the land for free and many refused to buy land. They failed to see the handwriting on the wall forecasting settlement and the need for individual ownership. The forthright Wilkinson brothers could not be in-

timidated by their contemporaries who taunted and exclaimed, "Capital investments in land will mean taxes forever. Land poor! Land poor!"

Anthony Wilkinson was the trailblazer of the clan. Emigrating from England in 1873, he homesteaded in Custer County, Nebraska and established a livestock business. His herds grew and in 1878 he came to the Territory of Wyoming and placed a small band of sheep on an acreage he bought at Archer. Far-flung land and livestock toeholds in Wyoming and Nebraska induced his brother, John Wilkinson, to join him in Nebraska.



Later the two brothers located in Wyoming, operating individually in some enterprises and as partners in others. Recorded is the incorporation of the Wilkinson Livestock Company in 1900 and its dissolution in 1911. They came to the new country without means or financial backing and succeeded because they were steadfast in purpose and persevering, always respecting earnest labor and the fruits thereof.

Through the years Anthony favored the cattle industry; whereas John stayed with the sheep and in his day he was reputed to have been the largest individual flockmaster in the state, where he began in 1887 with a meager start and high hopes.

Attributing to the Wilkinsons' story of achievement was the family solidarity of three sisters and five brothers, their spouses and children: Mrs. John (Alice) Sedgwick; Mrs. Adam (Agnes) Robinson; Mrs. Jonas (Margaret) Laycock; Anthony, John, Felix, Thomas and Frank A. Wilkinson. All eight homesteaded and secured the best land available and either went into business or sold to others in the family. Too,

their aged parents came from England and claimed land at Archer.

Large Estate Settlements

"In America you can be an anything," was the European consensus of the land of opportunity. The business record of John and Anthony Wilkinson is an attest. Their chapters of life closed more alike than unlike. John Wilkinson, 69, died at the family home in Pine Bluffs, February 13, 1914. Anthony Wilkinson, 81, died April 29, 1919 at his home in Grand Island. Both died intestate, leaving large property holdings and other wealth in Wyoming and Nebraska.

John Wilkinson, a Laramie County resident since 1887, was survived by his wife, Mary E. Wilkinson; a son, James R. Wilkinson, and eight daughters: Mrs. John (Alice) Ewbank; Agnes W. Dinsdale Cooper; Mrs. Joseph F. (Isabelle) O'Keefe; Mrs. Fred R. (Margaret) Morgan; Mrs. Edward (Dora) Dolan; Elizabeth Jane Wilkinson (later Mrs. Charles H. Armour); Ada Lillian Wilkinson (later Mrs. Charles Eugene Beatty); and Mildred Louise Wilkinson (later Mrs. John M. Snyder.)

An involved estate settlement resulted from Mildred's being a minor and also Agnes' death a year after her father's, leaving minors among her four children who were her legal heirs.

Mrs. John Wilkinson and James R. Wilkinson were duly assigned the responsibility of equitable procedure. Mrs. John Wilkinson accepted a child's part, thereby willfully waiving her legal right to a wife's share—one-half in Wyoming and one-third in Nebraska. Her generous act was noble indeed, and in financial circles she was given recognition and praise.

The settlement of Anthony Wilkinson's estate in 1919—five years after his brother John's—focused attention on those whom Anthony had influenced to settle in the Territory of Wyoming in the 1880s. He was the forerunner of a migration that included his aged parents, seven brothers and sisters and their families. A few decades hence the Wilkinson lineage constituted a tribe of solid citizenry. In his case the intestate settlement was a dispersion of magnitude. Seldom are so many affected.

His beneficiaries were, his wife, Lavina Wilkinson; sisters—Mrs. John (Alice) Sedgwick and Mrs. Adam (Agnes) Robinson; brothers—Thomas and Frank A. Wilkinson. The heirs of

his deceased sisters and brothers were Mrs. Jonas (Margaret) Laycock's six children: Margaret Rhoades, John Laycock, Mrs. John (Elizabeth) Bauman, Percy Laycock, Mrs. John (Myrtle) Stevenson and Granville Laycock. The three children of Felix Wilkinson were Jane E. Randall, Anthony Wilkinson and Felix Wilkinson. Eight of the nine children in the John Wilkinson family were named. The one deletion was resultant of the death of Agnes Cooper in the interim period.

The Wilkinson surname was retained on large blocks of land, either by direct inheritance or by purchase of property of other heirs. Land titles on Muddy Creek around Egbert were transferred to Anthony's brother, Thomas Wilkinson. Likewise his brother, Frank A. Wilkinson, and a nephew, James R. Wilkinson, became the owners of large tracts on the Divide and in the Horse Creek country.

Mr. and Mrs. Frank A. Wilkinson departed this life in the mid-thirties. Her death date was in March of 1935 and his in May of 1936. Thereafter James R. Wilkinson was left to carry on the name in the Horse Creek Country.

James R. Wilkinson was a solid citizen with staying qualities that withstood Job-like afflictions. Repeatedly it was his lot to endure sharp reverses of fortune and then strive to overcome circumstances beyond the control of mortal hands. Such was the disastrous blizzard in early May of 1927 when he lost more than 2,000 sheep, including ewe and lamb losses at Pine Bluffs and a complete band of 1,400 on Horse Creek.

Then came the Depression years when all flockmasters operated at a loss. Mr. Wilkinson sold one year's large wool clip for six cents a pound and was grateful for nineteen cents the following year. He was an authority on livestock and an example in business. Staying by the land through good times and bad, he was sustained by a faith that nothing lasts forever and change can be merciful. If there is failure today, tomorrow offers triumphs.

Epilogue

From the numerous members of the Wilkinson clan that scattered over the area during territorial days it seems incredible that none by the name reside in rural Laramie County. How-

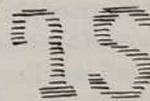
ever the kinship is continued through the descendants of four of the original eight settlers.

In 1886 Mr. and Mrs. Jonas Laycock (nee Margaret Wilkinson) emigrated from England with four children for the purpose of homesteading at Archer, where their twins, Myrtle and Granville, were born. Their descending ruralists are, John H. Bauman and sons of Carpenter and Harold Laycock and family of Burns.

The Frank A. Wilkinson lineage has a rancher in Charles Fred "Buddy" Hirsig of Iron Mountain.

Just over the Goshen County line at La-Grange lives Elizabeth Wilkinson Johnson, a member of the Felix Wilkinson family. She and her husband, Edward Johnson, reared their three sons on the historic KJ Ranch. Mrs. Edward Johnson is a past president of Wyoming Cow-Belles and reached the top office by being installed as the national president at the convention in Hawaii in 1969.

Other descending ruralists of the John Wilkinson family are Mrs. George W. (Deborah) Bruegman and Mrs. Francis E. Warren—nee Mary Adele Dolan, whose brother, William K. Dolan, was a lifelong rancher on Lodgepole Creek, north of Hillsdale until his death, at the age of 62, in December of 1967. His widow, Ruth Dolan, resides on the ranch and is the post-master of Hillsdale.



THE JOHN FRANZEN EKLUND FAMILY

In 1883 John Franzen Eklund set sail for America, resolutely determined to settle his family in the New World. On the shores of his homeland he left his brood of seven, who had been motherless since the youngest was two years old.

Chicago was his destination. He arrived there weary and worn from a tempestuous voyage, and a train trip. But there was no time to lose. He was employed as a builder of railroad pullman cars. A sacrificial urge enabled him to work long hours and barely exist to send back every spare copper for transportation. Eventually six of his children landed in America. The exception

was the eldest, Emma Sophia Eklund Kjell, who married and reared five sons in Sweden.

John Franzen Eklund was born December 2, 1837 and in early manhood he was married to Kristina Johnson. Their seven children are inscribed on a church roster in Sweden as follows:

	Birthdate
Emma Sophia Eklund (later Kjell)	Jan. 22, 1861
Minnie Louise Eklund (later Rudeen)	
.....	Oct. 18, 1862
Karl August Eklund	Jan. 3, 1866
Anna Augusta Eklund (later Tallin)	Feb. 5, 1868
Johannes Emil Eklund	Jan. 4, 1871
Johanna Elizabeth Eklund (later Nelson)	
.....	June 15, 1873
Gustaf Alfred Eklund	June 22, 1876

Three of the six Eklund children became residents of Wyoming. The others settled in Colorado, Iowa and Canada.

Karl "Charlie" Eklund, unmarried, chose the mining occupation and spent his life in Leadville, Colorado. Johannes Emil Eklund, a plumber, married and reared three children in Jefferson, Iowa. For three years Anna Augusta Eklund kept house for her father before going to Nebraska and marrying Mr. Tallin. The couple became lifelong residents of Canada. A son, David Tallin, survives them.

The John and Minnie Eklund Rudeen Family

Minnie Louise Eklund, 23, came to Stromsburg, Nebraska and married John Rudeen, also a native of Sweden, on November 13, 1886. The Rudeen family moved to Pine Bluffs in 1894 and established residence on a homestead in the Salem community and was living there when Mr. Rudeen died in 1909.

Mrs. John Rudeen accepted the role of a breadwinner by filing on a homestead to broaden her agriculture unit. She made final proof in 1915 and received a land patent.

Later she rented her land and moved to Pine Bluffs to enable her children to live at home while attending high school.

Mrs. John (Minnie) Rudeen was a fifty-year resident of Wyoming when she died on September 22, 1944—a month before her eighty-second birthday.

Preceding her in death were her husband and four of their ten children, Minnie, Kenneth and Carl Rudeen and also Mrs. Carl (Florence) Malm.

Her survivors included four daughters, Gertrude Rudeen Knotts; Bertha Rudeen Brown; Miss Ida Rudeen; and Margaret Rudeen Sprowell; two sons, Gust and Raymond Rudeen; a brother, Fred Eklund of Pinedale, a half sister, Ruth Eklund Johnson, Cheyenne; and a half brother, John L. Eklund of Albin.

The four descendants of Florence Rudeen Malm and Carl Malm carrying the family banner in the area are: Rudeen Malm, Pine Bluffs; Mrs. Marvin (Margaret) Berry, Meriden Route, Cheyenne; Glenn Malm lives on the Nebraska side of the Albin community and Gene Malm is at Ft. Collins, Colorado. Living in California are the former Louise, Geraldine and Gertrude Malm.

Johanna Elizabeth Eklund Nelson

Born in Sweden, Johanna Elizabeth Eklund was known in America as "Elise." For many years she was a resident of Cheyenne. She and her husband Nels Nelson owned and operated a restaurant on Capitol Avenue. Their only child, Owen Wister Nelson, lives in Spokane, Washington.

Gustaf Alfred "Fred" Eklund

The youngest of the Sweden-born John Franzen Eklund family was Fred, left motherless at two and reared by relatives until he came to America at the age of fourteen. By then his father had remarried and settled on a homestead west of Albin.

Fred assumed responsibility at an early age and grew up with the country. He was employed for eight years by the John Wilkinson Livestock Co., headquartering at Pine Bluffs, and operating on a large scale in the Horse Creek country.

In February of 1898 Fred Eklund and Minnie Lillian Hillery, of Swedish descent, but born at Stromsburg, Nebraska, in February of 1876, were married. She came to visit her sister, Mrs. Mathios Ekstrom, at Salem and graduated from high school in Cheyenne. Her school-teaching career included teaching her husband's half sisters and half brother at Albin while Fred ran a small herd of cattle.

Laurence Hillery Eklund was born at Egbert June 21, 1899 as the son of Mr. and Mrs. Fred Eklund.

Mr. and Mrs. Fred Eklund and son moved to Sublette County, north of Pinedale in 1910. Their business story was beset with sharp re-

verses, as was true when Fred lost his first seven yearling cattle and was still obligated to pay for them. Unforgettable was the big step of going into business for themselves as it meant living on borrowed money for three years before there was a return for them.

Bankers had faith in his success. Mr. Eklund started out with a thousand-dollar loan by Mr. Cosgriff, President of the First National Bank of Cheyenne, with only his word for security.

Originating the "E K L" cattle brand in the early 1900s, Mr. Eklund purchased his first registered bull from Hunters, headquartering on Little Horse Creek at Meriden. Eventually he became the owner of fine ranches with adequate forest permits, on which he ran hundreds of cattle.

Knowing the need of feeding hay through the long winter months, Mr. Eklund reclaimed sagebrush desert land into meadows to make two blades of grass grow where only one grew before.

A frontiersman was Mr. Eklund as he trailed cattle to market from Pinedale to Rock Springs, a distance of over a hundred miles. Mechanical transportation was a boon, and he was among the first to ship by truck.

The Fred Eklund family was busily engaged in laying a business foundation, and praiseworthy was the success. All was well until death took Mrs. Fred (Minnie) Eklund, 53, in October of 1929.

The next to succumb was the son, Laurence Hillery Eklund, at the age of thirty-six.

In 1935 he went to Omaha for the fall marketing of the Eklund cattle and on the return trip, he stopped in Cheyenne to visit maternal cousins, Mrs. Minnie Kinkade and Mr. and Mrs. Kit Carson. While in the Carson home he died of pneumonia. The survivors included his wife, two children and his father.

Gone was the continuity of the Eklund enterprises in the next generation!

In February of 1943 Mr. Eklund married a registered nurse, the former Helen Hoppe, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Hoppe of Wisconsin.

Fred Eklund was a time-honored member of the Wyoming Stock Growers Association. He contributed to every phase of cattle development, from Texas scrub stock to weighty modern breeds. He was a fearless operator and his

success was attributed to his daring and persistence.

At the age of seventy-nine, in July of 1955, he answered the eternal summons, thus terminating a long colorful business career which gave him recognition of widespread magnitude.

John Franzen Eklund Locates in Wyoming and Remarries

Right and duty motivated John Franzen Eklund's deeds as he provided the means of transportation, from Sweden to America, for six of his children in three years' time. Indomitable was the spirit that ruled his skillful hands!

At the age of fifty, Mr. Eklund looked for more worlds to conquer. Forsaking his security in Chicago, he journeyed a thousand miles westward to take a chance on a venture in the territory of Wyoming.

In 1887 he filed on a homestead that was practically off in space, in the NE $\frac{1}{4}$ of Sec. 32; Township 17 North; Range 61 West. Locating in no particular community, he received mail at Salem until the Albin post office was established in 1905.

His home-building and wresting a living from the soil were enhanced by his second wife, a Sweden-born lady, whom he had known in Chicago. Miss Hedda Cedar came by rail to Pine Bluffs, where she and Mr. Eklund exchanged marriage vows in 1887.

They began housekeeping in a two-room semi-dugout, constructed of sod, dismal and crude indeed. Bravely they weathered the storms of life on the trackless prairies at a time when there was not a neighbor within a radius of eight or ten miles.

Necessity was a reminder of the correlation between dreams realized and the callouses on the hands. To provide water for the household Mr. Eklund devised a wooden yoke to wear across his shoulders and he balanced it with two wooden pails that he carved from native pine trees. Trudgingly he walked six miles north, toward Horse Creek to a big spring, which was the closest source of supply.

Is it any wonder that a housewife's worth was evaluated by her using water sparingly?

Mr. Eklund tried to be provident by hand-digging a well, but at a depth of a hundred feet he hit an impenetrable layer of rock. Later he hired "Bump" McSkimmons of Lagrange to use

a well-drilling rig, resulting in a well that has been in continuous use.

Adjacent to his 160-acre homestead Mr. Eklund increased his acreage two-fold by filing on a Tree Claim. Thereon he planted a grove of trees and watered each one by hauling water with a cow and a horse, his first team.

Mr. Eklund had a heartfelt interest in land as a tangible possession that would stand the test of time. Having descended from generations that had experienced limited opportunities, he had a fierce desire to forge ahead. He let not the language barrier or the vicissitudes of life deter his vision.

Using as a criterion the farms of Illinois and Iowa, Mr. Eklund visualized how the area would look in the future. In his musings he dotted settlement and improvements. Was not America erected from dreams?

The Family Circle Broken

To the union of John Franzen Eklund's second marriage three children were born, Mabel Alida—November 11, 1888; John Leander—December 4, 1890; Ruth Emila—October 30, 1893.

Death came to the Eklund home, after six years of marriage. Again Mr. Eklund was a widower and was to remain so until his dying day—three decades hence. Mrs. Eklund died when Ruth was a week old. At the time there was not a milk-giving cow on the place. What a predicament! How was baby Ruth to be nourished?

The early settlers were compassionate and stood ready to lend a helping hand. Ruth was the recipient of such mercy when a family friend with a baby of her own gave wet-nursing service.



Anna Augusta Eklund, a grown daughter of Mr. Eklund and a half sister of the three small

children, came to take charge of the household. Her devotion was noble considering the poor equipment and the scanty provisions. All contemporary settlers were traveling the hard scabble road.

Anna felt the circumstances keenly. There was vastness, strangeness and solitude unlike her native Sweden and unlike Chicago, where she lived before coming to Wyoming. It was a time of austerity, under trying conditions. Her lot was undesirable. She grew weary of the unremitting toil and fretted about the surroundings and asked her father for more to do with. Curtly he refused on the grounds of having no ready cash, but he promised future improvements. She advised selling cattle. This he could not see! Was not the foundation herd their future hope? He took a long range view, which is not usually seen through the eyes of youth. Anna left.



John Franzen Eklund and his motherless second set of children: Mabel, Ruth and John Leander Eklund

John Franzen Eklund faithfully cared for his motherless three young children, leaving them only when necessary. Once while away for groceries and supplies he was unavoidably detained because of an unexpected snowstorm. The chil-

dren panicked but wisely sought refuge by tumbling into bed and staying there after the firewood was depleted. From fright and shivering discomfort there was weeping and wailing but all was well upon sight of their father.

In settling a new country the cemetery fills. In January of 1899 Mrs. Gust Palm died. Mr. Eklund's skilled craftsmanship was the answer to the casket. His services were sought by Mr. Palm, who also invited the Eklund children. Congregated in the bereaved home were relatives and friends that had come laden with tasty victuals—an age-old custom. Such an array of various foods was not the children's usual bill of fare. John Leander Eklund, age eight, partook too well and was ill afterwards.

House Building

John Franzen Eklund was twenty years in providing the means of building a new house. In 1906 and 1907 he built a large two-story house and hauled the lumber and other materials from Cheyenne with a team and wagon, necessitating an overnight stop at a midway roadhouse. The round trip was right at a hundred miles. What effort and how drearily slow! And the driver sat out in the open with no protection from the weather.



John Franzen Eklund built this house in 1906-1907

Quality materials were stressed throughout, even to flooring the kitchen with white maple hardwood. Rewarding were the expense and efforts when Mr. Eklund beheld a spacious white house, the finest in miles around.

While in the throes of construction an element remained of the confrontation between Mr. Eklund and his daughter, Anna. He longed for her opinions and wondered how things would affect her, as though she were ever near-half real and half phantom. While making building decisions he would say in partially audible tones, "How would Annie want it?" or "I wish Annie could see how well we are doing." He called her "Annie"—his daughter who walked out in disagreement ten years before.

After six years of homesteading Mr. Eklund was deprived of a well-rounded home life, an irreparable loss. Invaluable is a wife's assistance. Plans outlined on the kitchen table have guided many a destiny. The distaff side is accredited with vision and inspiration.

Despite handicaps Mr. Eklund progressed on all fronts. He went a long way from the time he went into the hills of evergreens and batched in a cave while fashioning building material and fence posts. Later a saw mill made native lumber available. How different was Mr. Eklund's hand-sawing 170 fence posts from one cedar tree!

Never the owner of firearms, Mr. Eklund conquered the virgin West with bare hands and a stout heart. His rugged sinewy physique portrayed tenacity. Unflinchingly he stood his ground, as was true when he was threatened to either leave the country or starve to death by a stockman, John Gordon, located on the Horse Creeks at Meriden, and now owned by the Hunter family.

Mr. Eklund believed that he was privileged to have and to hold his land. As a matter of record he outlasted the cattle baron and bought a section of his land which was a boon for the good water system as well as the additional acreage.

Long afterwards Mr. Eklund jovially recalled the incident and the eventualities that followed and admitted that he very nearly did starve, or at least he was a borderline case.

In retrospect there has been a dimming of the period in his life when he operated by faith and not sight. He was a great overcomer and to posterity he left a heritage of courage and indomitable independence. In the role of a patriarch of a large family clan, he was always faithful to right and duty.

Mr. Eklund fashioned many caskets during the early day settlement, but by the time the

hearse backed up to his door they were factory made.

John Franzen Eklund, 85, died July 31, 1922. A daughter, Mabel Eklund Hansen, predeceased him thirty days, leaving eight of his ten children as survivors.

Funeral services were conducted by Rev. E. Floreen, pastor of the Swedish Lutheran Church in Cheyenne. The pallbearers were J. A. Olson, C. E. Carlstrum, Gus Liden, A. Stenholm and Henry Hanson. Interment was in the Salem cemetery beside his wife, Hedda Cedar Eklund and their daughter, Mabel Eklund Hansen.

Mabel Eklund Hansen

The eldest of the three born to the John Franzen Eklunds was Mabel, who had a normal home life for five years. After her mother's death her sister, Anna, was in charge for three years and then it was Mabel's turn at the tender age of eight. Increasingly she became knowledgeable in domestic arts and rendered assistance in the duties of the household. Mabel taught Ruth to help and they were reputed to keep a tidy house and cook satisfactorily.

Mabel married Chris Hansen of Danish descent. They lived on his homestead in the Horse Creek community, near John Whitaker's ranch, where Chris was employed.

The Hansens were childless. At the age of thirty-three Mabel Eklund Hansen died on July 1, 1922 and she was buried in the Salem Cemetery—later known as Lindbergh.

Chris Hansen remarried. He and his second wife lived in Torrington for years, where he died at the age of 86. He was buried beside his first wife, Mabel, at Lindbergh.

Ruth Eklund Johnson and Family

Ruth Emila Eklund was the youngest of ten children born to John Franzen Eklund and his two wives; whereas the eldest was thirty-two years her senior.

She was born on October 30, 1893 on the family homestead west of Albin. Her mother, Hedda Cedar Eklund, died a week later. Ruth's punty spark of life was nurtured by kindred and friends, and always fending for her was her devoted father.

Ruth and her sister Mabel, five years her senior, were little women at an early age. They learned many lessons by 'trial and error' and experimented with food in the cooking department, while their father was engaged in outdoor work.

Ruth Eklund Johnson recalled attending a summer session of school at the age of five, in a sod schoolhouse. The teacher, Mrs. Frank F.



Neighborhood sod schoolhouse, near Eklunds

Sinon, lived north on Horse Creek, making the weekend trips by means of a team and light rig.

The language barrier was a predicament as the teacher spoke English and the Eklund children spoke Swedish. Everyone learned and eventually they were able to communicate.

Mary Jane Sinon was born in 1855 and educated in a Catholic school in Georgia. She was prejudiced in favor of the South because of the Civil War. She virtually ignored Abraham Lincoln, with no appearance of his picture in her schoolhouse, nor did she make anything of his birthday. She was, however, reputed to be of bright intellect and well versed on subjects of public interest.

The Sinons moved to Pine Bluffs in 1907 and later to Cheyenne where Mrs. Sinon died at the age of 64, survived by her husband and five children.

A lifelong resident of Laramie County, Ruth Eklund, married John Johnson and for many years lived in Cheyenne at 3012 O'Neil Avenue. Their children are Theodore "Ted" Francis and Mabel. At the age of seventy-four Ruth Eklund Johnson departed this life in Cheyenne on May 25, 1968, with burial in the Beth El Cemetery.

John Johnson, the surviving parent, was born on October 11, 1888 in Scottenburg, Sweden. Leaving home at the age of sixteen, he went to Norway and England and landed on the American shores in August of 1907 and since has been a continuous resident. Migrating to Cheyenne, he farmed before he was employed for eighteen years by the P. J. Black Lumber Company. After living in Seattle for eleven years, he relocated in Cheyenne and for his sunset years he lives at Eventide.

Theodore Francis, known as "Ted," was graduated from the Cheyenne High School and the University of Wyoming with a Masters Degree. He taught school three years before working toward a doctorate in Audio Visual Education at Lansing, Michigan.

His wife, the former Alva Rogers of Cheyenne, is a niece of Elmer Shake of Albin. The couple's children are two daughters, Connie and Sylvia. The family home is in Laramie, where Mr. Johnson is principal of the Nellie Iles Elementary Grade School.

A noteworthy year was 1971 in the Johnson family with the occurrence of two graduations and a marriage. Sylvia graduated from high

school in Laramie; whereas her sister Connie was graduated from there in 1967 and continued her education at Enid, Oklahoma, for the following four years, and was graduated from the Phillips University in 1971 with a BS degree in Elementary Education.

The marriage of Connie Beth Johnson and Curtis David Cook was solemnized in Laramie on December 19, 1971. Mr. Cook received a BS degree in Elementary Education from Manchester College, North Manchester, Indiana. He is a professional photographer and the couple established their home in South Bend, Indiana.

Mabel Johnson King and her husband, Irvine King, live at Granite City, Illinois, a suburban community of St. Louis. Their only child is a daughter, who is married and has two children.

The Eklunds have been prominent at Albin in business, civic and social affairs, living on property homesteaded by John Franzen Eklund in the territorial days of the mid-eighties. In each of the four generations there has been a John Eklund, namely: John Franzen, John Leander, John Charles and John Charles, Jr.

For continuous longtime residency the Eklunds are abreast with others of pioneer descent and superseded by none. Each generation gave its best; thereby the way was paved for the next to come in strength and family solidarity.

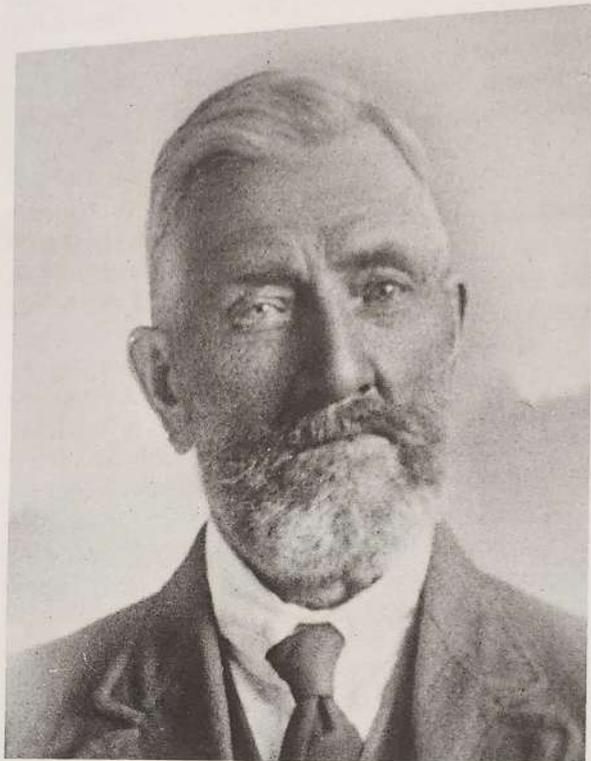
JOHN LEANDER EKLUND

John Leander Eklund was a second generation citizen whose birth year was simultaneous with statehood in 1890. He was destined to spend his life on the family property west of Albin and to participate in the growth of the fledgling state.

He and his sisters, Mabel and Ruth, had an irregular childhood because of their mother's untimely death, leaving them under the age of five and their father in his fifties. The bereaved parent viewed the way ahead as too much for one pair of mortal hands. Caring for his delightful children was a labor of love, but was not his every working hour obligated to earning a livelihood?

His grown daughter, Anna, of Chicago was the immediate answer. She came and alleviated the unfortunate circumstances. Assisting also was fourteen-year-old Fred Eklund who came from Sweden in 1890, the year his half brother, John Leander, was born. Fred spent

FOUR GENERATIONS OF JOHN EKLUNDS



John Franzen Eklund



John Leander Eklund



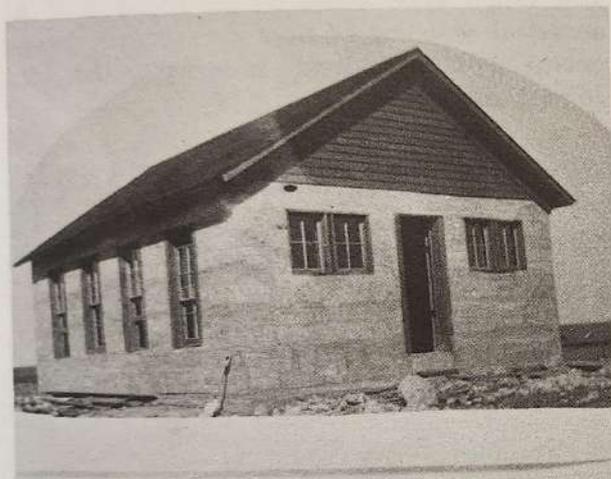
John Charles Eklund



John Charles Eklund, Jr.

considerable time in the parental home during the next two decades. He was the big brother who abridged the generation gap between the father and his second set of children.

John Leander Eklund's most unforgettable schoolteacher was Miss Mae Ketcham of a pioneer family, operating south of Pine Bluffs in the Chalk Bluffs country. She loaned him a 22-rifle to shoot rabbits and he reveled in the sport, as he had been deprived because his father never owned firearms. Later Miss Ketcham married a prominent rancher, Mark Cox of Cheyenne.



Cement schoolhouse west of Albin, built about 1907. Attending were: Mrs. John L. (Doris Ames) Eklund; her cousins, the Ames children; the Ray children and George Davis.

In those harsh days of survival, before the mechanical era, John was delegated many routine tasks and he was not privileged to devote much time to childhood play or recreational diversion. Especially was a long work day stressed. The eight-hour day was unheard of—more likely twelve to sixteen!

In association with his father, he increasingly assumed the management of the business that was begun in the 1880s.

Noble indeed was the filial devotion he rendered to his aging father, who departed this life in 1922. Throughout the thirty-five-year residency of John Frazen Eklund at Albin, several of his children came to him for a brief day. Nonetheless the badge of constancy was merited by the one always at his side, John Leander Eklund.

A neighborhood romance culminated in the marriage of Miss Doris Ames and John Leander Eklund at the Industrial Club in Cheyenne on July 29, 1920 in the presence of relatives. Officiating was Dr. George C. Rafter, rector emeritus of St. Mark's Episcopal Church.

Doris Ames Eklund was born at Rocky Ford, Colorado, and an orphan at the age of seven, due to the deaths of her parents, a few months' apart in Denver. Then her immediate family consisted of three brothers and three half sisters.

She was reared west of Albin by a paternal uncle, Walter C. Ames, who had homesteaded and built a large house to accommodate his household. The next owner of the property was Jake Draper, followed by Fred Lush.

Mr. and Mrs. John Leander Eklund began housekeeping in the parental home and improved the house and other buildings on the premises, also adding 160 acres of land which had been homesteaded by Mrs. Eklund's paternal grandmother, Lavilla Ames.

Marjorie Eklund Hedquist and John Charles Eklund are the daughter and son of the John Leander Eklunds.

Living through phenomenal eras, John Leander Eklund saw the vastness of the open range give way to homestead settlement when the area became dotted with rudimentary housing of the dugout or shack category and temporary improvements, erected for the sole purpose of obtaining a patent on a government claim.

Then came the mechanical age making large blocks of land practical for tilling and reaping. Rising standards of living and higher taxes necessitated greater monetary returns. To meet the demands stockmen activated cross-breeding and scientific feeding. As a participant Mr. Eklund saw changing times.

John Leander Eklund, 69, a native resident of Albin, died March 2, 1959 after a ten-day illness at the Memorial Hospital in Cheyenne.

He was a lifelong stockman, holding membership in the Wyoming Woolgrowers Association.

Survivors included his wife, Doris Ames Eklund; a daughter, Marjorie E. Hedquist; a son, John Charles Eklund and six grandchildren.

Funeral services were conducted in Cheyenne by Rev. Paul Lundgren, pastor of the Albin

Baptist Church, with interment in the Beth El cemetery in Cheyenne. Pallbearers were Clarence Olson, Bert Pence, Zell Pence, Albert Romsa, George Romsa and Elmer Shake.

Marjorie Eklund Hedquist

Marjorie, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John Leander Eklund, was reared in the Albin community and graduated from the local high school. She married Hilbert Hedquist and the couple established a home in Sacramento, California. Jerry Hedquist is their son.

A daughter, Nedra, is a graduate of the Albin High School. She reigned as the Queen of Albin Days in 1961. Attributing to her regal poise was her six-foot stature. She is married to Richard Smith, the son of Mr. and Mrs. James Ray Smith of Albin. The Smiths live in Cheyenne where Mr. Smith teaches in a parochial school and Mrs. Smith is an assistant. Their family is a son and daughter, Monty Lee and Karlena Sue.

The John Charles Eklund Family

John Charles Eklund is a third generation resident. In traditional lineage he is the manager and co-owner of the Eklund agricultural properties west of Albin, representing the accomplishments of his father, John Leander Eklund, and his grandfather, John Franzen Eklund. The business was established in the 1880s.

The recorded brand—upside down J S—is the Eklund badge of heraldry.

John Charles Eklund, born December 29, 1922, was graduated from high school at Albin and attended the University of Wyoming a year before his education became intermittent.

During the Second World War he served as a radio operator, trained by the Signal Corps of the 96th Division of the army, and was discharged in February 1946.

While serving with the armed forces Mr. Eklund was sustained by hopes of a higher education. In the fall of 1946 he reentered the University of Wyoming and graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree from the College of Agriculture. His record is proof that he possesses the resolute purposeful qualities equal those of his illustrious ancestors.

Mrs. John Charles Eklund, the former Mildred Kuncheff of Rock Springs, was graduated from the University of Wyoming with her hus-

band in 1949. They met as classmates and were married in 1948.

Mrs. Eklund's parents are Mr. and Mrs. Chris Kuncheff, emigrants of Bulgaria. Her mother, Mary Encheff, came to the town of many nationalities in 1923 and married Chris Kuncheff who preceded her and was engaged in lumbering and mining.

The couple's aim in the New World was to educate their children. And they did. Their son, John Kuncheff, is associated with the Army Corps of Engineers at Fort Peck, Montana, living there with his wife and three daughters.

The John Charles Eklund family live in a new ranch type house on the premises of the ancestral dwelling of over a sixty-year vintage, occupied by Mr. Eklund's widowed mother, Mrs. John Leander Eklund.



Home of Mr. and Mrs. John Charles Eklund

The four children of Mr. and Mrs. John Charles Eklund constitute the fourth generation on the home place, and in each generation there has been a John Eklund.

Chrisi, the daughter, was graduated from high school in Albin, and four years hence, in 1971, from the Agriculture College at the University of Wyoming, receiving a BS degree in home economics.

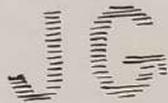
The three sons of the Eklunds are in school. John C., Jr. is at the University of Wyoming. Barry and Val Dee are in high school at Albin.

Homemaking was the sole career of Mrs. John Charles Eklund until her youngest went tramping off to school. Then she became the English teacher in the local high school. In readiness were talents and educational training for the youth of the Albin school, including the

communities of Golden Prairie, Meriden, White Crest and Glenys.

Mrs. Eklund majored in English and minored in journalism. Therefore she is eminently qualified in the role of an advisor to the student group that is responsible for the publication of the school paper.

Mrs. John Charles Eklund goes beyond the call of duty in fulfilling the requirements of the "State Course of Study" in rhetoric and literature. Her basic aim is to qualify students for life's drama by teaching them effective techniques in vocal expression of debate and public speaking as well as in written communication.



THE HUNTER FAMILY

(Predates Territorial Days)

Owners of the Little Horse Creek Cattle Company

No greater eulogy can be pronounced on a family than a citation of accomplishments. Especially, when they were begun by a clansman who had the vision and daring in the days of his youth to abridge two hemispheres before taking calculated risks that inspired members of the oncoming generations, so that each, in turn, would manage and expand the family-owned enterprises. Such a far-seeing individual was Colin Hunter, born 1848 at Fowlis Wester in the Highlands of Scotland. Destiny decreed that the record of his life would be synonymous with the progression and business growth of Wyoming.

Old World ties were easily severed by Colin Hunter, whose parents were deceased and his brothers and sisters established in life; besides he was twelve years younger than anyone. Having sailed the high seas in 1865, he arrived in New Orleans penniless and at loose ends. A couple years later, while he was still a teen-ager, he had laboriously moved westward with the Union Pacific construction crew as far as Cheyenne. His participation in the transportation movement held a degree of satisfaction to the adventure-some youth, but it was not his basic aim in life.

Descending from resolute ancestors in the moorlands of Scotland whose principal occupa-

tion was livestock, Colin Hunter had an inherent knowledge of domestic animals. He pondered on what the future held for him and how he could best use his time and energies. Ecclesiastes was a guidepost. He concluded that 'there is a season and a place for every purpose under heaven' and for him it was at hand. The vast Public Domain was irresistible.

The first permanent range cattle came to Wyoming as the property of W. G. Bullock and B. B. Mills in October 1868. Early that summer Mills went from Ft. Laramie to Kansas, Iowa and Missouri, and purchased 250 cows and two bulls. He drove them a few hundred miles up the Platte River to its confluence with the Laramie River at Fort Laramie. According to John Hunton, who bought Mills' share after his demise in 1871, the Indians made devastating raids to the extent that it was necessary to relocate the cattle at the junction of Chugwater Creek and Richard Creek (later known as Richeau) where a camp was established with three cowboys riding herd. This was the nucleus of a cattle operation that was expanded to embrace the Hunton Ranch and the Bordeaux area.

As a young man Colin Hunter learned the value of group ownership and managerial responsibility. He was a ground floor operator in the range cattle industry through a partnership agreement with John Hunton. As opportunities loomed on the horizon he had other business partners. Each alliance was an attest to his business acumen.

Life's experience came thick and fast when Colin Hunter went to Edinburgh, Scotland, to marry Miss Margaret Thomson. While there he was informed of the death of his business partner, Judge Bergman.

Mr. and Mrs. Colin Hunter lived in Cheyenne at 502 East Sixteenth Street, which was the birthplace of their sons: James and twenty months later, Thomas. The family of four was exemplary in devotion and the sons reached manhood before the grim reaper made a visitation. Sad was the day in 1906 when James Hunter succumbed unexpectedly of a heart damage that followed rheumatic fever.

In 1884 the family moved a couple blocks closer downtown to 302 East Sixteenth Street, where Mr. Hunter had purchased a spacious two-story brick house that was to be the family home for the next fifty years. Included in the

interior arrangements were a front and back parlor with quality furniture and decorations throughout, bespeaking the attention given to entertaining and dining guests in large groups. The edifice was appropriate for the way of life of a cattle baron and his family.

The Colin Hunters were a part of Cheyenne's society and business growth during the gilded era in the latter part of the nineteenth century, known as the most flamboyant period the city has ever known. Cosmopolitan was the populace, with Old World traditions and influence brought in by noblemen who invested in the livestock industry and spent some time in Cheyenne.

The popular congregating places were: the stockmen's organization known as the Cheyenne Club of 1880; the Inter Ocean Hotel—1875; the Opera House—1882. Gaiety was added by the officials of Fort D. A. Russell (Fort Warren in 1930). The fort band was available for parades and excursions to other towns.

The cultural life was enhanced by dramatic and musical performers that traveled by train from coast to coast and stopped for scheduled appearances. Home talent was encouraged and appreciated. There were study groups in music, art and science as well as literary societies. Neglected not was the spiritual side. Six churches were in Cheyenne in 1875.

Tall tales and true are still related about business dealings at the Cheyenne Club. It was similar to an English Club on the first floor and an American hotel on second floor, which was designed for sleeping quarters. The club was unique, indeed, with a motley assemblage of members and guests, including those of noble rank, no accounts as well as financiers of wealth and distinction, many of whom made bullish investments that soared Laramie County's financial rating to the highest of any county in the United States in 1884. Within its walls were reminders of bold and daring operators who reached their zenith in the 1880s. Regrettable was the severance of the tangible tie in 1936, when it was razed.

Perpetually at work is the grim reaper! Cattlemen were subjected to a three-way blast of adversity in the mid-eighties—blizzards, drought and markets on the downward trend. Irreparable losses forced the majority of stockmen out of business. Among the few provident enough to

withstand the merciless test was Colin Hunter, who proved beyond the shadow of a doubt that he was a man of stability and substance.

Colin Hunter

Colin Hunter made history faster than it was recorded. Through business association with John Hunton, he operated in the Platte River valley, including Laramie River, Chugwater Creek and tributaries. Reputedly he had ten thousand cattle on the range. In April 1881 he was listed as a member of the Wyoming Stock Growers Association, with a marginal notation of a cattle company owned by Hunter and Bergman. Despite Hunter's coming to Cheyenne in 1867 with the railroad he lived through the raw era of wagon train and stage coach travel that was subjected to devastating Indian raids as well as road men seeking ill-gotten gain.

Seldom, if ever, will an individual equal Colin Hunter for wide and varied experiences, which portrayed the facets of Wyoming history from his advent into the territory in 1867 until his death in 1916.

Mrs. Colin Hunter

A fifty-year resident of Cheyenne, Mrs. Colin Hunter, formerly Miss Margaret Thomson of Edinburgh, Scotland, made a career of homemaking. Moreover she was a great reader of literary classics and cultural arts. She was inclined toward Old World class distinction but was just in judgment because of using the fundamental character test: "To be rather than to seem." She retained conventional social customs and was among the ladies who popularized formal evening attire in the new and rugged West. Her devout Presbyterian faith, substantiated by church work and financial assistance constitute a record worthy of emulation. She departed this life in 1936, surviving her husband 20 years. Their sons, James and Thomas, also predeceased her.

The Hunter Ranch

The Hunter family began ranching in the Horse Creek valley before the turn of the century; therefore the ranch is unequaled in time's length of ownership and family management. It is known as the Little Horse Creek Cattle Company. The acreage in the Horse Creek valley embraces Mills Creek, Herrick Creek and lesser



Hunter Ranch on Little Horse Creek

streams as well as the chief tributary, Little Horse Creek, whereon is located the ranch headquarters, about forty-five miles northeast of Cheyenne, with mail service at Meriden.

The ranch was one of the earliest settlements, with water rights recorded in 1872 and 1874. Colin Hunter made the nucleus acquisition from John Gordon in 1898. Previously the Scotsmen had been business associates, with Hunter in the role of a financial partner, but never affiliated on Gordon's water projects.

John H. Gordon envisioned and invested in lengthy irrigation systems which included a long tunnel, encased with heavy timber. The physical features of the ditches and tunnel remain as weary remnants of the past era when horsepower excavation was laboriously slow and of exorbitant cost. Although Gordon had several partners sharing in the irrigation project on the E 7 Ranch, its failure was dubbed "Gordon's Folly." Nonetheless the venture was the forerunner of land development that finally came into fruition. In the valley the inimitable Japanese farmers grow sugar beets, grain, fruits and garden truck by using irrigation and mechanical power.

Landmarks continue in Gordon's memory. His J G brand identifies the Hereford cattle on

the ranch. Still in use are the improvements constructed of building material freighted from Pine Bluffs. Old-timers recall a team and wagon mishap encountered with lumber hauling which caused his son, Thomas Gordon, to barely escape with his life.

The Hunters pridefully preserve the buildings that predate statehood. A date exception is the modern bungalow type cookhouse of World War I vintage; otherwise the premises conjure recollections of the activities, centering around the long maroon-colored barn, topped with cupolas, when many riding and work horses were in constant use. The main ranch house of two stories, erected in the early 1880s and believed to be the oldest in the Meriden-Albin area, is of white siding and a green roof, updated with picture windows and a wrought iron porch flanked with planters for floral accent to the natural greenery of the creekside.

The Little Horse Creek Cattle Company

Before Colin Hunter acquired a nucleus of land in the Horse Creek valley that was parlayed in the Little Horse Creek Cattle Company he produced cattle in east central Wyoming. His success was partly attributed to the outlet for his product—furnishing beef at Fort Laramie and

other forts. However Ft. Laramie became defunct in 1890 when the military reservation of some 35,000 acres of land was declared open to homesteading by the Department of Interior and the last infantrymen marched away.

Newsworthy is the acquisition of a large body of land anywhere any time. Small and dwindling is the group of residents who recollect a large percentage of the area when it was Public Domain. How was it transferred to private hands? Land patents were obtained by homesteading and by the purchase of state, federal and railroad land. The alternate sections, in a twenty-mile strip on both sides of the Union Pacific railroad, were offered for sale.

The Hunter Ranch embodies blocks of adjacent land acquired by purchase. Other sources were of comparative small benefit. Colin Hunter had used his homestead rights upstate. His sons, James and Thomas, filed on land but James died before he proved up and his claim went to William Brown, who began anew and was granted a patent. Geographically the ranch lies almost beyond the railroad zone; therefore only two or three sections came through this channel.

In the 1890s Colin Hunter established ranch headquarters on Little Horse Creek, formerly owned and improved by John Gordon. Moreover in that decade Mr. Hunter purchased an adjacent

ranch on the east from a Nebraska corporation, known as the TO Ranch and the East End range.

The last of the John Gordon land was for sale in 1905. Much of the large acreage had been acquired by irrigation ditch systems. Coads purchased the block lying east of the Torrington Highway, No. 85 and Hunters acquired the tract west of this line of demarcation which included their ownership of the L5 Ranch, the Four-mile and the Northwest range. Through the years whenever adjacent land has been for sale, the Hunters have invested and extended the ranch holdings.

For cattle production the Hunter ranch has an excellent balance of hay meadows and grassland, embodying an area of the creeks of Little Horse Creek, Horse, Herrick and Mills and also the tributaries thereof.

Behold the Hunter Ranch—one of the state's oldest, best and largest! It is incorporated as The Little Horse Creek Cattle Company.

The foremen of the Hunter ranch have been competent and they have rendered above average in years of service. Charles B. Irwin was Gordon's foreman and he continued at the ranch as Colin Hunter's first foreman. Others recorded are: John Steinbrech, Henry Greisser, Frank "Tait" Lang, Jake Draper, Chris Berg, William Brown, Al Scoon and William Scoon (father and son) and Ralph Schuppan.



Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Hunter

Thomas Hunter was born in Cheyenne, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Colin Hunter, and reached man's estate before qualifying as a barrister at the Denver Law College. Previously he had attended the Colorado College where he met Miss Ruie Aitken, also of Scottish ancestry. During their two-year betrothal he established a law practice in Cheyenne and Miss Aitken, a graduate of Colorado College, taught school in Colorado Springs. The couple was wed in 1912 and they established their home in Cheyenne, the birthplace of their sons, James C. Hunter and Richard T. Hunter.

Thomas Hunter gave resourceful assistance to causes of public benefit as well as to worthy individuals. He was dedicated to the legal profession and to the management of the Little Horse Creek Cattle Company, the family-owned Hunter Ranch.

His record of public service included his being a lawmaker for several years, two terms as a state legislator and two terms as a state senator; president of the Wyoming Tuberculosis Association as well as a member of the school board of Cheyenne District No. One.

Mr. Hunter was a good man and just. His promising career for the high echelons of the Democrat Party was terminated by his untimely death in 1935.

Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Hunter were noted for social graces and generous hospitality. Their home was a veritable mecca for business and social groups.

Together the Hunters shared business responsibilities, with Mrs. Hunter in the role of the figure-perfect bookkeeper and a consultant on major purchases and selling the cattle. Beyond the sight of mortal eye she was being groomed to manage the business and it was her lot—altogether too soon—following her husband's death.

Mrs. Hunter was successful from the outset. The first year she sold the cattle for ten dollars, per hundred weight. The price is still quoted as being full value in 1935. In line of duty she frequently made the ninety-mile round trip from her home in Cheyenne to the Hunter Ranch on Little Horse Creek. When needs be she unflinchingly coped with inclement weather and subsequent hazardous road conditions. With integrity, pluck and perseverance she managed the ranch,

cleared the indebtedness, bought land and promoted a substantial business growth.

Mrs. Thomas Hunter is prominently identified with educational, civic and social welfare organizations. Invaluable is her business judgment on boards and committees. Always a faithful toiler in the vineyard she deems all Christian service a privilege. And devotedly she has run the gamut of responsible leadership and office-holding in the First Presbyterian Church in Cheyenne.

For years Mrs. Hunter has been a member of the Salvation Army's Board of Directors, dedicated to the welfare of a segment of citizenry with rehabilitation potential. Their acme of success was reached in the mid-1960s when a fourth of a city block was secured, whereon was erected commodious headquarters for the Salvation Army at 601 East 20th Street in Cheyenne.

Her record of public service includes two appointments by Governor Emerson: The White House Conference in Washington, D.C. and the Child Welfare Society. She is distinguished by being the first woman to serve on the Laramie County Library Board. It was during her tenure of office that the rating was upped to a first-class library.

Using the women's organization of the Colorado College as an example, she engendered enthusiasm among her colleagues which resulted in the establishment of A.A.U.W. in Wyoming. By appointment of the Laramie County Commissioners she served on the Welfare Board. In an executive capacity she has devoted long hours to the YWCA and the Red Cross.

Eminently qualified she was elected as the first president of the League of Women Voters—a bi-partisan organization. When in the throes of promoting worthy causes or assisting the less fortunate, the work was never too arduous or tedious. Mrs. Hunter has rendered beneficent service beyond the call of duty.

James C. Hunter

"Like father like son" James C. Hunter was a lawmaker, having served two terms in the Wyoming legislature. He is a lawyer with an office in the Hynds Building in Cheyenne.

For higher education he attended the University of Colorado at Boulder and received a degree in law at the University of Wyoming at

Laramie and then took post graduate work at Harvard.

He is a veteran of the Second World War.

Mr. Hunter is a devoted family member and competent in managing the Hunter enterprises; one of which is the Little Horse Creek Cattle Company, established before the turn of the century by his grandfather, Colin Hunter.

Dr. Richard T. Hunter

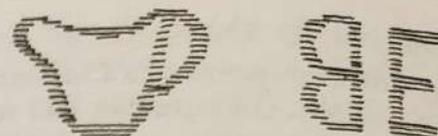
Choosing the medical profession and specializing in surgery, Dr. Hunter was dedicated to alleviating the afflicted. He headed the medical association and was affiliated with groups engrossed in medicinal and scientific research.

He was married to Roma Sparks of Wichita, Kansas and while he was a specialist in Cheyenne their children were born: Kristine in 1952 and Thomas G. Hunter II in 1954. Distinguished indeed is Kristine Hunter, for she is the first Hunter girl in the lineage that set foot on American soil at New Orleans in 1865 and a couple years later in what became Wyoming, but at the time was the nebulous Southwest District of the Dakota Territory with the seat of government at Yankton. Dr. and Mrs. Richard T. Hunter are deceased.

The fourth generation is represented by Kristine and Thomas G. Hunter II. They live in the family home at 302 East Seventeenth Street in Cheyenne with their paternal grandmother, Mrs. Thomas Hunter, and their uncle James Hunter. Imbued in Christian living and business administration, they, in turn, shall adhere to the family traditions of their pioneer ancestry.

The men and women of the Hunter family have participated in the progression of Wyoming for over a century, an extraordinary record—and a praiseworthy one. Whereas adventurers, coming in with the railroad in 1867, seldom put down roots to become a part of the settlement and development of the territory and state, as did the trail-blazing Colin Hunter.

The Hunters are known for practicality and indomitable resolution in taking a forthright stand; therefore, when needs be, they have carved success from adverse circumstances. By the exercise of boundless energy and business acumen they merit their prominence in professional, fiscal and social life of Wyoming.



THREE KIRKBRIDE BROTHERS IN THE 1880S

The advent of the Kirkbrides in the Territory of Wyoming began in 1887 when James Kirkbride came to Nebraska and on west to join former English neighbors, Anthony and John Wilkinson, who had acquired a land toehold by homesteading and had access to free government land.

The adventuresome young Kirkbride envisioned the West as an opportune place for young people desiring homes and land on which to raise livestock. Veritably he was his brother's keeper. Using the media of persuasive letters, he soon had his brothers on their way to Wyoming.

On March 23, 1889, James' older brother, Barnard Kirkbride and his younger brother, Alexander Dooley Kirkbride with his wife, Mary, and daughters, Eden and Sarah embarked at Liverpool for Boston, Massachusetts. They were at sea fourteen days and seven on land before arriving at Archer, Wyoming—the first railroad station east of Cheyenne.

The fourteenth of April was favorable for the Kirkbride adults to walk and carry the children four miles to the Wilkinson headquarters to meet the family's trailblazer, James Kirkbride.

Henceforth six emigrants from England, blessed with their best years ahead, accepted the American way of life and became loyal citizens. A universal language gave them a head start in communication. However they never lost their distinct English accent.

Due to previous experience in handling livestock on the Moors of Yorkshire, England, the three brothers were employed by Wilkinsons for the seasonal work of lambing and shearing to be followed by general ranch work.

The Kirkbrides were destined to participate in settling the new country. None of the group of five, coming in 1889, returned to the land of their nativity—not even for a visit.

By 1890 the Kirkbride brothers had filed on homesteads on Horse Creek. Barnard and James

chose adjoining land; whereas Alex D. located six miles west. All three locations were thirty-plus miles northeast of Cheyenne.

United were they in an earnest desire to become self-employed. They were young men of good habits and in the prime of physical fitness. Spending money on entertainment or staying in town was unthinkable in those austere times. Their clothes lasted a long time, due to the excellent British quality; therefore they saved most of their wages.

They purchased their first band of sheep from Gundersons at Kimball, Nebraska, and trailed them a hundred miles to the Horse Creek country. This was the foundation of the three Kirkbride brothers partnership that continued for more than two decades.

Rightly Alex D. Kirkbride stayed home with his family and took care of the sheep while his bachelor brothers continued to work for Wilkinsons. Occasionally Alex D. helped a neighbor with seasonal work.

Unforgettable to him was his walking twelve miles to the Dollar Ranch on Bear Creek to help his English neighbor, Charles Wood, during haying season. The pay was a dollar a day. He related the sacrificial story with pride to his descendants, even though it may have occurred only one summer.

The Dollar Ranch soon changed hands; Mr. Wood sold to Jack Ray and his brother. Successors have been B. Frank Yoder, Ed Hagie, Floyd Schuppan and Fred Chulupa.

After Alex D. Kirkbride received land patents on homesteads on Horse Creek and Cattail Creek, lying a mile and a half to the north, he chose Cattail for the family home. Since 1889 four generations by the name have resided there.

Land and Livestock Expansion

Opportunity for increasing the Kirkbride brothers' livestock operation lay north of Horse Creek. Their homestead nuclei did not extend far enough south to reach the twenty-mile strip of alternate sections of union Pacific land that sold in large blocks. Anthony and John Wilkinsons were advantageously situated and they amassed a land empire by buying land from the Union Pacific Railroad Co.

The Kirkbrides enlarged their base of operation by leasing or buying federal and state land as well as dealing in adjacent homesteads.

Leasing a school section, they ran sheep in the Fox Creek country, north of Bear Creek. All was well until settlers claimed the range. The predicament was high and dry and Kirkbrides were pressed against a wall of curtailment.

Their sheep and entire Fox Creek holdings were sold to the Swan Land and Cattle Company of Chugwater. From this initial start, competently managed by Curtis Templin, Swans' sheep operation became phenomenal with herds spotting the Laramie Plains for the next fifty years.

Business Procedure

Many ranch hands necessitated in the pre-mechanical era required considerable bookkeeping. In a file of old canceled checks is recorded a clue to the business techniques of the Kirkbride brothers.

The checks were signed "Kirkbride Bros." without a trace of first name identification. Characteristic handwriting was the only means of ascertaining whether a check was written by Barnard, James or Alexander D.

Their conservative business policy was evident in a bank mortgage of two thousand dollars, covered by a thousand head of cattle for collateral. Dated January 1908 the note was due the following November. Probably it was a documentary promise to pay the running expenses until the fall shipment.

The cattle were summered on the Horse Creek range and wintered on boughten hay in the valley where Horse Creek and Bear Creek converge at Lagrange. Barnard Kirkbride was in charge of the feeding operation.

Groceries and Commodities

Yellow with age are store bills of 1900 and 1901 of Kirkbride brothers, inscribed by "E. S. Johnston, Wholesale and Retail in Fancy and Staple Groceries, Hay and Grain, 306 West Seventeenth Street, Cheyenne, Wyoming."

"100 lbs. potatoes \$2.25; 19½ lbs. ham \$2.47; 10 lbs. lard \$1.15; case of peas \$2.50; case of corn \$2.00; 12 cans of corned beef \$1.55; one gallon of cane syrup .75; 25 lbs. dried prunes \$1.75; 25 lbs. oatmeal \$1.25; 3 lbs. rice .25; 4 packages of raisins .50; dozen oranges .40; 3 lamp chimneys .30; 5 gallons kerosene .90; six sacks of sheep salt \$4.20; 2 sacks of corn \$1.20; one sack of oats \$1.35."

The quantitative supply of canned goods and staples laid in each fall included a few hundred pounds of sugar and a ton of flour.

A bonanza was the muslin! The burlap sugar bag also contained a readily usable white muslin liner that was unlettered. Not true of flour! The Cheyenne Chief flour was in a good quality of muslin, lettered in black and imprinted with the Indian Chief himself. Despite rubbing board tactics and boiling in lye water he never grew dim nor lost a feather. Though the source was not camouflaged, housewives reveled in its uses for night clothes, underwear and household goods.

Brands and Partnership Dissolution

The Kirkbride brothers added cattle to their sheep operation in January 1893 by purchasing from John Ewbank of Grover, Colorado, a foundation herd of thirty cows, including the reverse BE brand that was duly recorded as documentary evidence on two instruments at the courthouse in Cheyenne, also recording the preceding owner, Robert Swift, who had sold the brand to Ewbank, September 1889.

After a partnership of about twenty years the Kirkbride brothers agreed on dissolution. James took the sheep; Barnard and Alex D. settled for the cattle; each kept horses.

An attest of mutual trust is noted in the brand settlement. The reverse BE was retained by Barnard. Identically it was used by James with the addition of an underneath bar.

Alex D. used the pitcher, which he received from Charles Wood of Bear Creek, along with a small herd of cattle. It was reputed to be the best brand on the range inasmuch as it was circular, with no acute angles to blot and its application required only one iron. Always it was the "jug" to Alex. D. and his pronunciation amused many, especially youths and children. Apparently he was unmindful that inquiries for an explanation of the brand were prompted because of the humorous throaty intonation he used in vocalizing the word in two syllables—"ju-ugh."

Barnard and Alex D. Kirkbride were business partners until 1912, branding the cattle equally with the BE and the Pitcher brands. By then the Alex D. Kirkbrides had unmarried daughters who had reached the qualifying homesteading age of twenty-one, and their sons were aspiring

to become stockmen. The time of decision came when Alex D. bought a hay ranch on Little Horse Creek, sixteen miles east of his Cattail Ranch, from George Johnston. Thereafter the Kirkbride brothers operated as a separate entity.

James Kirkbride

The Kirkbride family recognizes a debt of gratitude due James Kirkbride for being the forerunner to the Territory of Wyoming and his influence on other family members whom he desired to share in the benefits of the New World. Subsequently many lives have been affected for betterment and the chain is ever lengthening.

Reveling in genial associations, James Kirkbride was a gregarious and jolly man. He was a dealer and a trader and his advice on business matters was worth seeking. When he attended a country auction, it was well known there would be a ready market at current prices. He could always see a way to help others and himself with the same stroke, as he was quick to line up a trade and make a loan, if needs be.

While making as many as eleven trips across the Atlantic Ocean, he acted in a liaison capacity to promote land settlement. He was responsible for the migration of a score or more Englishmen, and in many cases their families as well. Varied was the reaction of the immigrants to the frontier state. Straightway a few returned without giving Wyoming a chance, but the majority came to stay and did.

The consensus of opinion among Mr. Kirkbride's kindred and friends was that he lost money on land settlement. But he voiced it not. Any failure or discouragement was contrary to his nature. A good sense of humor kept him in a jovial mood. How he played the game was important to him, not whether he won or lost. Nonetheless his various enterprises resulted in business success.

In James Kirkbride's following were two nephews, Thomas Tennant and Thomas Moore, whom he started in business on their homesteads in the Indianhill and Little Bear Creek country, thirty and thirty-five miles north of Cheyenne.

The lonely life of a bachelor was not for Moore and he soon sold his homestead to the Nimmo Livestock Company. As a fireman on the Union Pacific Railroad he was killed in a train wreck in 1913 and buried in Cheyenne.

Mr. Moore was skilled in stone masonry, leaving two monuments in his memory. The semi-basement house stands on his homestead west of the Moffatt Ranch on Little Bear Creek and a lengthy sheep-dipping vat, located on Horse Creek two miles from the home of his cousin, Dan Kirkbride. The facility is utterly useless for its intended purpose because the sheep of the present day are too wide in girth to pass through the vat.

Thomas Tennant and wife, Elizabeth, with their son, Theodore, rose rapidly in the sheep business due to operating on two sites and using free range on all sides. Purchasing the Joseph Hume homestead, they ran two bands of sheep. World War I brought rising prices and Tennant's ICE horses attracted a ready market.

Eventually homesteaders claimed the range. Tennants sold the Hume land to Henry O. Harding and their home place to Oscar Pence. Both buyers had filed on homesteads in 1916 and were in need of adjacent land.

The Tennants held a public auction in March of 1920 and returned to the land of their nativity. They were the most prosperous of all the settlers in whom James Kirkbride had invested faith and financial assistance.

In 1911 Mr. and Mrs. James Kirkbride and a wedding party congregated at the St. Mark's Episcopal Church in Cheyenne for the marriage of Miss Annie Southern and Edwin Kirkbride, both formerly from England. Rector Robert J. McPetridge officiated.

W. E. Dineen drove the wedding party on a sight-seeing trip around the city, using a four-seated motor car.

Mr. and Mrs. Edwin Kirkbride spent years in Cheyenne before retiring in California. They were wed over fifty years before the family circle was broken by the death of Mr. Kirkbride in February of 1962. His wife departed this life in March of 1971.

They are survived by three children: James E. Kirkbride of Cheyenne; Mrs. Edith Lund and Herbert Kirkbride of California.

For thirty years the Kirkbride brothers were continuous residents of Horse Creek. James was the first to leave.

Following a public auction at his ranch on Horse Creek, James Kirkbride and his wife, also from England, Hannah Metcalfe Kirkbride, with

their adoptive daughter, Lily, moved to England where they had invested in country estates.

Later relocating in Cheyenne, they were living at 420 East 17th Street when Mr. Kirkbride died at the Mayo Clinic at Rochester, Minnesota.

Born in Yorkshire, England March 1, 1863, he departed this life in May of 1937. Preceding him in death was a son, Herbert, who was buried in the Bear Creek Cemetery. A good neighbor, Mrs. John J. McIlquham, contributed a casket wreath for Herbert's burial from an arrangement of geraniums, grown in the bay window of her living room.

James Kirkbride was buried in the Lakeview Cemetery in Cheyenne as was his wife following her demise, at the age of 89, in August of 1956.

Barnard Kirkbride

The eldest of the three brothers was Barnard, born in Yorkshire, England, March 10, 1862.

After 1912 he was in business for himself. As a bachelor he depended on hired help during the next twenty-five years of his ranching career.

He was a progressive livestock feeder, believing that range grass should be supplemented with hay and concentrates.

When he reached the age of seventy-five he retired from his ranch on Horse Creek and went five miles west to live with his nephew, Dan Kirkbride. Nine years later, on January 22, 1946, he departed this life and was buried in the Beth El Cemetery in Cheyenne.

Barnard Kirkbride is remembered as a venerable gentleman of sterling character.

MR. AND MRS. ALEXANDER D. KIRKBRIDE

An English couple in their mid-twenties, Alexander Dooley Kirkbride and Mary Belle (Allen) Kirkbride brought two daughters, Eden and Sarah, to the Territory of Wyoming, April 14, 1889. Courageously they made the 5,000-mile journey and landed with five dollars. Soon half of it was spent for a rocking chair but the remaining half was kept as a provident talisman.

Their intended six-year stay in America proved to be impractical theorizing. When 1895 arrived they were engrossed in rearing five children and in a livestock partnership with Alex

D.'s brothers, Barnard and James. Later years presented a more opportune time, but their interest had dimmed because of the decease of close kinfolk. Therefore they returned not to the shores of England.

Filing on homesteads; a mile and a half apart, on Horse Creek and Cattail Creek which was a tributary of Horse Creek, Mr. Kirkbride chose Cattail for the family home.

Obedient to the residency requirement of both homesteads, the family spent six months on each tract. The biannual move was reveled in by the youngsters but viewed by the adults as a laborious duty, entirely devoid of pleasure. Mr. Kirkbride drove the team hitched to a wagon that was filled with household goods and a crate of six hens, presented by the Muzzy family. Mrs. Kirkbride walked and carried the swill pail to entice the hog to its new home.

The Cheyenne newspaper advertised the proving up of the four forties in the Cattail claim, located in Sections 23 and 24, Township 18 N, Range 65 W. The event was consummated at the land office in the capital city, March 4, 1892. The witnesses were Joseph and Werner Foellmer and Frank Muzzy of Bear Creek, receiving mail at the Phillips post office, and also Kirkbride's nearest neighbor, Elmer E. Howard, of the JHD Ranch.

The two homesteads constituted the nucleus of the Cattail Ranch which was parlayed into a block of land that lies in Laramie and Goshen Counties. The acreage has an adequate distribution of range and meadow land.



Four generations of Kirkbrides have resided thereon. The entrance to the main ranch house is historically inscribed, Cattail Ranch—Home on the Range—1889.

The first dwelling at Cattail was 14' by 16' and there were bunk beds to provide for the original family of four. However when finances permitted or there was a special need—as in the case of a room for the schoolteacher—an annex was added.

The Kirkbride men were good builders and they erected sturdy symmetrical buildings with the same skill they formerly used in stone masonry in England. What a blessing! Had they been compelled to hire carpenters and painters the expense would have been double. And money was scarce!

In late years attention has been given to remodeling and modernizing until the spacious ranch house is the home of Rodney W. Kirkbride and Mae Irene Shores Kirkbride and their daughters, Jean Elizabeth and Barbara Anne. They are the third and fourth generation residents.

The early day Cattail cellar and spring house combination, through which cold spring water flowed, was reputed to be the most utilitarian in the area. Owing to the nearness to surface water the walls were half below and half above ground. Uniquely attractive is a stone retainer wall around the perimeter. There were many usable facets in the two-room construction. The cellar was a veritable grocery store for the annual supply of a ton of potatoes, raw apples, case goods, dried fruits and staple supplies. Whereas the spring house was adequate for hanging a carcass of butchered meat, as well as a cooler for dairy products and table victuals.

In the days before ruralists enjoyed refrigeration, Mrs. Alex D. Kirkbride and her helpers made endless trips from the kitchen to the spring house, as putting a meal on the table and clearing away afterwards necessitated the step-and-fetch-it brigade in action.

Water for household use was carried in pails from the pond until Mrs. Kirkbride and her sons, James "Slim" and Larry were stricken with typhoid and recovered in St. John's Hospital, later becoming the Memorial Hospital of Laramie County.

Mr. Kirkbride lost no time in hiring a well driller to drill for pure water and erect a wind-



Cattail schoolhouse

mill on the hillside north of the house. This solved the problem of contaminated water. The project was proof that what has to be done can be done.

The Cattail School

The school house was built of wooden railroad ties, which the Union Pacific bartered with the Kirkbride men for their using teams and plowing fireguards along the tracks between Durham and Archer.

The ties sufficed for the walls and the roof was constructed of two layers of foot boards. Years of use has worn away the wide board flooring and brought knotty bumps into prominence. However the outside of the building shows no apparent change other than an increase in antiquity.

Two double beds were amply spaced in one end. The heating system was a large wood-burning stove, noted for scorching the occupants on one side while freezing them on the other.

This was where the seven children in the Alex D. Kirkbride family went to school. Progressively the third and fourth generations were

better housed in schoolhouses built by standard specifications, located a mile or so from the ranch and shared with the children of the neighborhood.

Mary Kirkbride Werner of Torrington contributed a list of the thirteen Cattail schoolteachers, beginning in 1897 as follows: Margaret Clark (later Mrs. J. C. Underwood of Iron Mountain and Cheyenne; Elizabeth Stine—two terms; Kate Brewington; Catherine Umes; Edythe Sebern—two terms; Eva Miller; Ellen Huffman; Carrie Muzzy; Caroline Miller—two terms; Orah Hastings; Bertha Rhinehart; Minnie Hidy—two terms; and Etta Fletcher.

Except for Minnie Hidy living in her homestead shack in the yard while teaching at Cattail, the teachers boarded with the family and roomed in the designated "teacher's room."

According to the customs of the times, the room was built with the mandatory window and a clothes closet with shelves and a rod for hanging garments. A white muslin curtain took the place of a door for the closet. The furnishings included a small heating stove, kerosene lamp, a double bed, a commode to contain the

wash basin and water pitcher. Impressive was the dresser with three large drawers, topped with a mirror and small drawers on each side. Reaching into the realm of culture was the organ, encased in an ornate oak frame.

The Cattail teachers must have been competent and the social relations reasonably harmonious, for Dan Kirkbride, the youngest, voices the only grievance. His mother was always accredited, by her brother-in-law, Barnard Kirkbride, for never taking sides against a teacher. However it must have taken grace for her to maintain a discreet silence when Minnie Hidy, a superannuated maiden lady, slapped Dan's ears day by day because he could not solve his arithmetic problems. Surely it never occurred to Miss Hidy that Dan should have been demoted and given a review of the fundamentals. Since those harsh days—when might was accepted as right—strides have been taken in child psychology as well as in understanding children, who are people too.

Ironically, Dan, the seventh and last of the Kirkbride children, was the one to receive the sacrificial lash of land settlement. Talk about coveting land and its having positional value! Minnie Hidy's homestead cut through the cellar at Cattail. Therefore it behooved the Kirkbrides to go the extra mile in hopes she would prove up and sell them her land. And she did. Afterwards her shack was used for storing the non-freezable groceries.

For years the Kirkbride children were the only attendants at the Cattail school. Then for a term each, but not the same term, Vern Mills and Thomas Kirkbride lived with the family and went to school. Vern Mills, motherless, was in need of a home and schooling that was not available from his father's homestead, ten miles west of Cattail. Thomas Kirkbride, born in 1900, the year his parents came from England, lived with his parents on the Carroll Ranch on Horse Creek, eighteen miles east of Cattail. It is the home of the Harry Brown family.

Thomas and Dan Kirkbride were second cousins; their fathers were first cousins. Thomas was two years the younger and right at home in the large household of kinfolk. He still recalls his birthday there—the cake and fun! The boys had in common the first name of their parents. Both sets were Mary and Alexander which never ceased to be a constant source of mail mix-ups and confusion in tracing census records.

A Former Cattail Teacher Meets Tragedy

Miss Bertha Rhinehart finished a term of school at Cattail in 1910. Time has not erased the sad recall of her tragic death incurring from a valiant effort to save her pupils on November 20, 1914, from a raging fire started by a wood-burning engine on the Colorado and Southern Railroad. Four of her seven pupils were the children of Neil Clark, a brother of Mrs. W. S. Carpenter and Mrs. J. C. Underwood of Cheyenne. At the time of the conflagration Miss Rhinehart directed her charges to a path of safety in the roadway, but soon noticed that some had strayed. She started toward them; here her recollection ceased.

The railroad authorities sent to Horse Creek Station, north of Cheyenne, a switch engine and a caboose, accompanied by Dr. Barber and a nurse to bring Miss Rhinehart to the St. John's Hospital in Cheyenne. She succumbed the next morning but her pupils were unharmed. "Greater love hath no man than this, that he lay down his life for his friends."

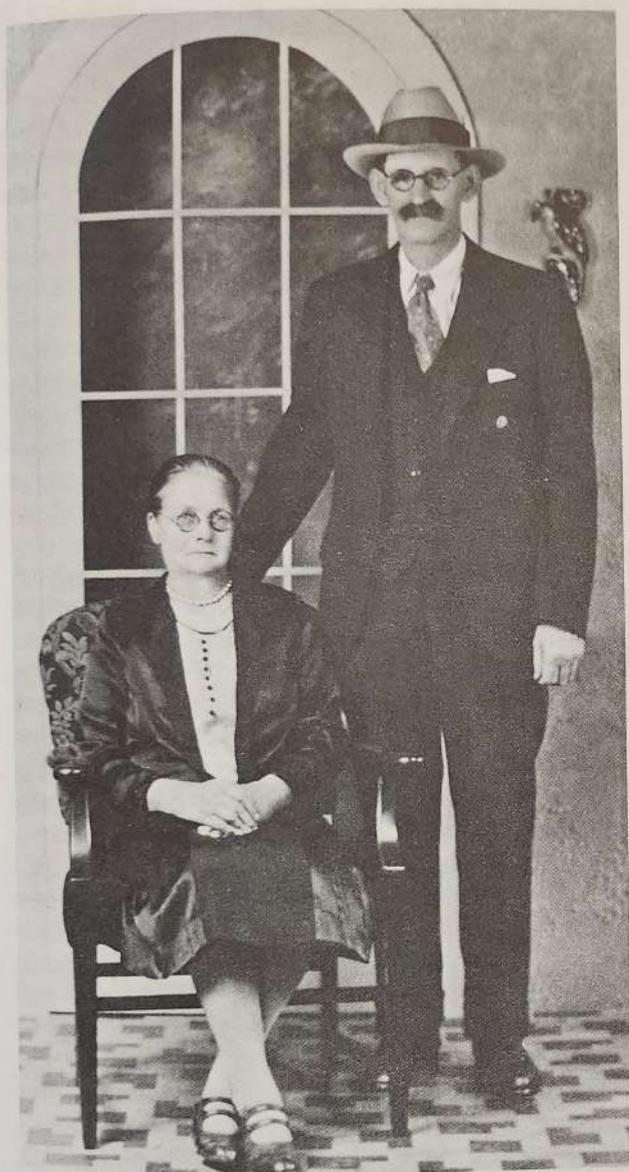
Bertha Rhinehart's teaching career typified the experiences of her contemporaries. During her twenty-eight-year life span, she spent ten years teaching rural schools and her pay was \$50 a month. The County Superintendent of Schools in Laramie County was Mrs. Mamie Hefferon and the directors of School District No. 2 were John L. Jordan, J. C. Underwood and Hiram Andrews.

Besides teaching the Cattail and Horse Creek schools, Miss Rhinehart taught at Bordeaux in Platte County; the B. F. Yoder school in Goshen County; and back to Laramie County for terms at the Marshall McFee school at Islay and the Bert Francis school at Meadow, while Mrs. Francis was postmaster. Since the 1940s the Bruce Nimmo family has lived on the ranch, formerly known as the CY when owned by the Carey family.

Miss Rhinehart's survivors in Cheyenne are a brother-in-law, Magnus Larson; a nephew, Robert R. Larson; and descendants of a niece, Virginia Larson Buckmaster.

Economic Aspects

When a land and livestock business has been started from a limited base of government land in its first transmittal to private ownership, the



Mr. and Mrs. Alexander D. Kirkbride, 1931

recipient is scrutinized for vision and amazing courage. In the case of Alex D. Kirkbride the motivating forces were long range objectives. The Kirkbride clan constituted a strong supporting cast; each member was a builder and a lifter. From the outset he was assisted by his industrious and faithful wife, Mary, as well as his brothers, Barnard and James, with whom he was associated in business.

Alex D. Kirkbride's homesteads substantiated his dream for land ownership. To this nucleus he added small adjacent acreages, and also a hay ranch on Little Horse Creek in 1912.

All told he amassed an operation that yielded constant growth for a few decades.

Then the tide turned! Mr. Kirkbride became the victim of Job-like adversities that taxed his innate optimism and endurance for years.

During the First World War that began in Europe in 1914, there was a demand for army horses. Alex D. Kirkbride purchased 203 at \$40 each from Bill Yates on Bear Creek. They were notoriously known by the italic f jaw brand.

In the timing of his purchase, automation was the misguiding factor. Increasingly it vied with horse power and edged out the need for the usual number of cavalry horses. Moreover the war was of short duration.

The horses required man-handling and grooming to qualify them for market. Too, they consumed large quantities of feed that could have been used profitably for cattle. In various places and numbers the horses were sold and the venture was written off as a loss.

The years of 1919 and 1920 were unfavorably recorded in the livestock industry. The drought of 1919 was universally detrimental as it necessitated shipping out a third of the cattle in Wyoming, either for direct sale or for maintenance.

That fall Alex D. Kirkbride shipped several hundred cattle to Wood Lake, Nebraska, in Cherry County. Even though he supervised the feeding operation he was unable to prevent heavy losses that were caused by the long hard winter and nutrient deficiency. Mr. Kirkbride likened the hay in the sand hills, dietwise, to grain straw, which is mostly bulk. Late in the spring of 1920 Mr. Kirkbride shipped what was left to Chugwater and his cowhands trailed the herd to the Cattail Ranch, a distance of twenty-five miles. This expensive lesson was the last of his wintering cattle away from home.

In southeastern Wyoming the severe winter was climaxed by a destructive blizzard, beginning on April 20th, 1920. Statisticians and oldtimers likened it to the disastrous blow of the 1880s.

Starting with heavy snow, driven by a high wind, every crack and cranny leveled and even cattle sheds were snow-filled. Cattle herds drifted with the storm, others against fences or into deep ravines. They died on the trail, over cliffs along the creeks and in ways too numerous to relate. But losses they were! Due to the lack

of physical stamina, cattle continued to die for days after the storm ceased.

Skinning was the order of the day, with cattle hides bringing \$3.50 and horse hides \$4.00. The women of the household donned overalls to wield a skinning knife and assist in salvaging the last revenue of many a critter.

This was how it was on the Kirkbride ranches while Mr. Kirkbride was still in Nebraska. Regrettably his losses in both states represented years of hard work by many family members.

Then came the contagion of bank failures during the 1920s, reaching the zenith in 1924 when thirty-five allegedly closed their doors. Among the failures that year was the First National Bank, 16th and Capitol Ave., in Cheyenne.

What a faith-shattering experience for the Kirkbride family—long time customers—questioning not the solidarity of the bank! Alex D. Kirkbride was left without expense money—nothing with which to underwrite the payroll of the hay crew. Thereafter the Kirkbride clan banked at the Stock Growers National Bank in Cheyenne, which became the First National Bank and Trust Company of Wyoming in January 1964.

The Depression of the 1930s caused a decade of austerity, necessitating frugality in business practices and in personal living. Times were bad everywhere. There was little money and bank credit had been curtailed. Every segment of agriculture was affected.

Rightly considered inescapable were the depressed prices of livestock and crops. Accelerating the adverse circumstances were severe droughts that withered the crops and parched the earth. Then came high winds that swept the top soil into choking dust storms.

During those harsh times, ruralists were up early and late to bed to eke out a bare living. To stay on the land took faith and stamina. Survival was a heartfelt prayer.

A Brush with Tom Horn

Living in the fringe area affected by Tom Horn did not let the Kirkbrides escape his scrutiny. He came to Cattail and stayed a few nights, riding away each day to visit other settlers. Not until his trial and hanging in 1903

did the Kirkbrides know they had harbored a notorious criminal.

Illegal Land Enclosures

Alex D. Kirkbride was mild in manner, kindly and soft-spoken, but he possessed a surprisingly deep and unyielding nature in business matters when involved in an injustice over water rights or government land. His wife characterized him as a headset man.

In August 1906 he was involved in a protest that led to an investigation of land illegally fenced by large livestock outfits. His affidavit was recorded in the Congressional files of the Interior Department. It cited the need for remedial action.

He presented his case as a rancher, living thirty-two miles northeast of Cheyenne, with 18 years of continuous residency. At the beginning of his settlement all of the land between him and Cheyenne was public range. Since then large outfits had fenced enclosures of government land. Trying to locate in the area were a few homesteaders who were harassed and literally driven out. Moreover he stated that the county road from Cheyenne had been fenced, necessitating his opening two gates.

He included the predicaments of his brother, Barnard, and John J. McIlquham, living six miles east of Cattail. They had been entirely fenced in and could not get out to range and water and every means was being used to force them out of business.

President Theodore Roosevelt issued a decree for all illegal fences to be down by April 1, 1907. When they were not, he sent the U.S. militia to perform the bold task, that broke the strangle hold on the government land.

A new era dawned in western settlement when homestead rights were doubled from the original 160 acres to 320 acres. The final inducement came in 1916 when grazing homesteads of 640 acres were allotted. However the federal government retained the mineral rights.

In Trustful Faith

Alex D. Kirkbride never insured anything. Luckily he never had a fire or thievery that would have entitled him to collect damages. He never locked a ranch house door. With the passing of the first settlers, the country has lost much in candor and generous hospitality. In his

day it was customary for a passer-by to stop for food and lodgings.

Mr. Kirkbride was heroic in endurance and weathered through setbacks without apparent discouragement. By nature he was optimistic and philosophical. Even through grim circumstances he took a forward look and expected betterment. Great was his faith!

His privilege of American citizenship was appreciated, as he often quoted: "Don't bite the hand that is feeding you." The New World was blessed with a most appreciative citizen.

Moving to Cheyenne from the Cattail Ranch in 1928, Mr. and Mrs. Alex D. Kirkbride established residence at 416 West 25th Street. Their block was cleared about thirty years later for the erection of the Safeway Store.

The Alex D. Kirkbrides were reputed to be the eldest couple in Laramie County. Their longevity enabled them to see their seven children established in business and also their fifteen grandchildren in homes of their own.

At rest in the Lakeview Cemetery in Cheyenne are: Alexander D. Kirkbride born in Yorkshire England June 17, 1865, died April 5, 1953—age 87; Mrs. Alexander D. Kirkbride (Mary Belle) born in Yorkshire England, February 12, 1862, died August 2, 1955—age 93.

The Seven Children of Mr. and Mrs. Alexander D. Kirkbride

Born in Yorkshire, England, Eden came to the Territory of Wyoming at the age of three and was reared in the family home at the Cattail Ranch before finishing her education and studying dressmaking in Cheyenne.

She married Sidney O. Clark, also of a pioneer family. He was born in Michigan in 1871 and when he was twelve years old he moved with his family to Cheyenne where his father owned and operated a grocery store.

Mrs. Clark was the only one of the seven members of the second generation who did not homestead. However her husband claimed land near Bear Creek and sold to Philip Yoder. Later the property was incorporated in the 4A Ranch and now owned by Oscar Yoder, a grandson of Philip Yoder.

For twenty-five years Sidney O. Clark owned and operated the Sanitary Home Laundry in Cheyenne with the assistance of his sons. After selling the laundry for retirement, the

Clarks spent their winters in California. They had observed their fiftieth wedding anniversary before Mr. Clark's death in March of 1957.

Mrs. Sidney O. (Eden) Clark resided in the family home at 616 East 21st Street in Cheyenne for sixty years. She attained immortality 11 April 1972. Her long life—eighty-six years—was lived by Edward W. Bok's precept, "Leave the world a better place and a more beautiful place because you have lived in it."

Her survivors were a daughter and two sons: Mrs. Ralph E. (Alice) Smith and Fred E. Clark of Cheyenne and Ralph O. Clark of Meriden; as well as six grandchildren, fifteen great-grandchildren, two sisters and three brothers.

As an infant Sarah was brought to the Territory of Wyoming by her parents. She grew to womanhood in the family home, finished her schooling in Cheyenne and put down roots for a land and cattle business by homesteading a section of land at the head of Cattail Creek.

Leonard Metcalfe, whom she married in 1915, was also born in England. He came to Wyoming in 1904 and registered the L bar E brand in Cheyenne in 1906.

Dudley Richard Metcalfe, Austin, Texas, and Robert W. Metcalfe, Cheyenne, Wyoming are sons of the Leonard Metcalfes.

Sarah Kirkbride Metcalfe has been a widow since October of 1918 when her husband departed this life in the Cheyenne hospital of Spanish Influenza, incurred in Omaha while he and his brother-in-law, Dan Kirkbride, were with the annual shipment of Kirkbride cattle.

Mrs. Metcalfe and her sons lived at the Cattail Ranch until the boys entered service during the Second World War. She resides at 1713 East 22nd Street in Cheyenne.

Mabel Agnes Kirkbride was the first American-born child in the family. She filed and proved up on a 320-acre homestead on Little Cattail Creek before she married Frank Hoyt Sinon, a native of Laramie County and also of a pioneer family.

Mr. Sinon claimed a 640-acre grazing homestead, lying adjacent to his wife's claim; therefore the Sinons added a section and a half to the Cattail acreage.

The Sinons were lifelong residents of Laramie County, having spent much of the time in Cheyenne. Mrs. Sinon answered the Eternal summons in April of 1959 and Mr. Sinon in Novem-

ber of 1962. They are interred in the Lakeview Cemetery in Cheyenne.

They were survived by five children: Mrs. Willis (Frances) Rutledge; James Sinon; Joseph Sinon; Mrs. Orville (Georgia) Eatmon; Mrs. Ed (Betty) Rollins.

Mary Kirkbride was born in Cheyenne and was reared in the family home before exercising her right to file on a 320-acre homestead to square her father's Little Horse Creek Ranch, and from then on she owned a few head of horses and cattle.

She married William Werner, foreman for Mrs. Robert Allen of Iron Mountain. The Allen Ranch was purchased by Hirsigs and it is now the home of Charles F. "Buddy" Hirsig and family.

In the Iron Mountain country Mrs. Werner established residence on her husband's 640-acre grazing homestead. Thus she actively participated in the acquisition of 960 acres of the Public Domain.

The Werners liquidated their holdings at Iron Mountain to go into business for themselves. They located in Goshen Hole, on Box Elder Creek, fifteen miles west of Yoder on a ranch they purchased from Mr. Fulton, known as "Military Jack."

Their sons, Earl and Arthur Werner, and their families reside on the ranch and operate as the Werner Ranch, Incorporated.

Mary Kirkbride Werner lives at 2642 West B Street in Torrington.

James W. "Slim" Kirkbride gave long years to the business interests and personal needs of his parents, meriting their trust and appreciation.

Larry "Tig" Kirkbride was a successful stockman, recognized afar for cattle of superior quality. In advance of his time he practiced supplementary feeding and breeding for weight. His brand was a Circle T.

To curtail a fringe operation, he sold his homestead to his brother, James W. Kirkbride, and further liquidation came in 1964 when he disposed of his home place, which was a well improved acreage lying in Laramie and Goshen Counties. Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Schliske, Jr. moved from Burns and became the owners and residents of the property.

For retirement Mr. and Mrs. Larry Kirkbride

established a home in Cheyenne, however, they spend part of the time on the West Coast.

Dan Kirkbride lives on his 640-acre grazing homestead, located three miles east of the Cattail Ranch—his birthplace. He is actively engaged in land and livestock and is the only ruralist in his generation.

Seven children and fifteen grandchildren constitute the second and third generations of the Alexander D. Kirkbride family.

A six-star flag hung in the parental home during the Second World War signifying the grandsons' service in the far-flung global combat. Those serving were: Dudley R. Metcalfe, Robert W. Metcalfe, James A. Sinon, Joseph R. Sinon, Earl Werner and Kenneth Kirkbride. All returned without bodily harm with the exception of Joseph R. Sinon who received and recovered from a minor knee injury, incurred while he was with Gen. Patton.

Seldom has a large family been as closely associated with the forbears. "Ask thy father, and he will shew thee; ask thy elders and they will tell thee." Deuteronomy 32:7.

The death of James Arthur Sinon, 53, January 17, 1972, Bremerton, Washington, broke the circle of fifteen grandchildren in the Alexander D. Kirkbride family. He was accorded military recognition in the funeral services in Cheyenne, followed by interment in the veterans' section of Beth El Cemetery.

JAMES WILLIAM "SLIM" KIRKBRIDE AND FAMILY

At the Cattail Ranch on November 18, 1894, the birth of James William Kirkbride was the blessed event. He, the fifth child in the family, was preceded by four sisters. According to English tradition great stock is taken in the advent of a son, for surname continuity. Moreover the settling and building of the West necessitated manpower. Therefore stockmen looked to the male lineage for oncoming assistance.

As James grew in stature so did his responsibilities. And grow he did! His physique substantiated his nickname, "Slim." He lived in the cowboy and range cattle era and became proficient with a rope and broncho busting as well as above average in handling livestock.



The Cattail Ranch

The Shotgun Roundup

James W. Kirkbride participated in the Shotgun Roundup—a custom of the Old West—organized by ranchers on Bear Creek and Horse Creek and the tributaries thereof, for the purpose of gathering and shipping their strayed cattle.

The Dollar Ranch on Bear Creek was designated as the starting point of the annual event. B. Frank Yoder was the head push and Ernest Mann was the straw boss. John Mullin or Bill Yates often cooked. Having married sisters of Mr. Yoder, Mr. Mann and Mr. Mullin were his brothers-in-law.

The duties of the cook entailed driving the chuckwagon, drawn by four horses, and setting up camp each night on a site that was provident in firewood and water. All of this was in addition to doing the cooking and all the bread baking besides setting out meals at irregular hours when requested to do so.

The canvas tepee used by James W. Kirkbride has had infrequent use in the last fifty years, but it is still being tossed around at the Cattail Ranch.

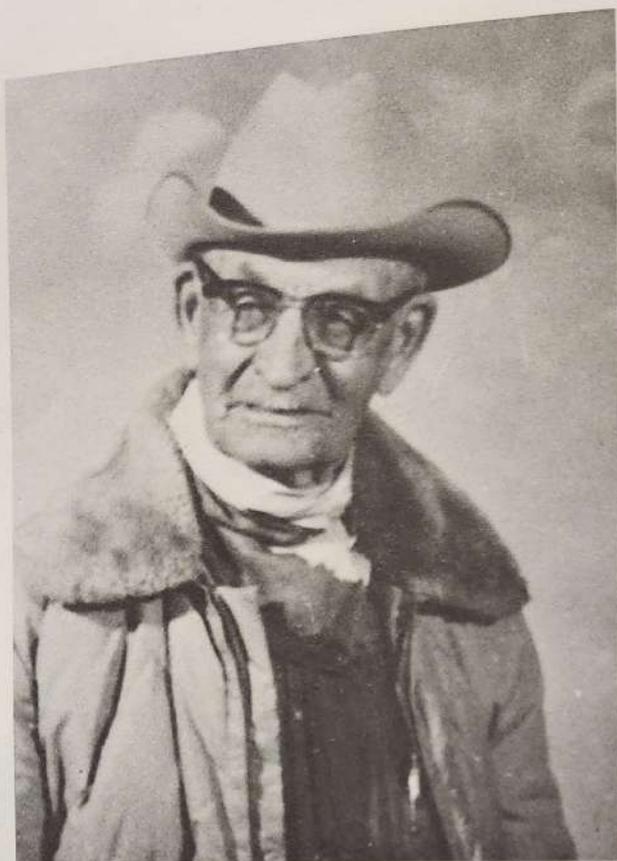
Participating in the Shotgun Roundup were the above mentioned and also Curt Griffin, Ed Hagie, Fred Miller, Joe Foellmer, Jr., who was

the brunt of the practical jokes; a big Swede was the rep for John J. McIlquham and Phil Yoder was along. He was the son of Jess Yoder and a nephew of B. Frank Yoder. Andy McDonald, the cook, was a young man who drifted in and out of the country until his whereabouts were soon unknown. The year was 1915.

The Kirkbride brothers, Barnard, James and Alex D., furnished their fair share of the 200-horse cavvy and delegated the responsibility of looking out for the "Pitcher" and the "Reverse BE" brands to an able representative, James W. Kirkbride, who was in the prime of physical fitness. On a previous roundup his brother-in-law Leonard Metcalfe assumed the same duties.

Oscar Marsh of Laramie, formerly of Bear Creek, and James W. Kirkbride of Cheyenne are the known survivors of the Shotgun Roundup. At various times other participants included C. J. Noyes, A. Raymond and Charles B. Kessler of Lagrange as well as John W. Brown of Meriden. All four are deceased. Charles B. Kessler's three-year stint included the year of 1908.

Centralizing the shipping cattle and rounding up the cattle that were to be wintered on the home ranches constituted the two-fold object of the Shotgun Roundup.



James W. Kirkbride

James W. Kirkbride contributed information on the 1915 roundup as follows: The cowboys congregated at the Dollar Ranch on Bear Creek and headed north through the Fox Creek gap into Goshen Hole and the area, south of the Platte River. At Lingle they rode their swimming-horses across the Platte and wasted a day searching the north country, for they saw no brands for which they were responsible.

The cattle herd increased as the roundup crew went down the Platte valley through the communities of Torrington, Morrill and Mitchell to the destination of Haig, six miles west of Scottsbluff—the west end of the rail line at that time.

Railroad cars were ordered for 1,500-cattle shipment to Omaha.

Herding arrangements were made preparatory for the big push to the railroad the next morning. Nightfall, however, brought roaring turbulent skies and black darkness. The night guards caught an occasional glimpse of their charges through flashes of lightning.

The dawn of a new day brought hope and plans. The cowboys, determined to cope with

the adversity, were out at daybreak scouting the rain-drenched countryside.

Further delay was evident when the health and brand inspector detected mange in Ed Hagie's cattle. He ordered the isolation of Hagie's cattle in separate cars, for the proper dipping procedure in Omaha. This prevented a quarantine of the entire train.

At one o'clock in the morning the last car of cattle was loaded—the weary cowboys' ultimate aim.

Writers with a flair for western imagery portrayed glamorous cowboys on the cattle trail by day and come eventide they sat around the campfire telling tall tales and true, with the diversion of a few ballads that were sung to the accompaniment of a mouth harp or guitar.

In reality the participants gave supersedence to rodeo feats performed in the line of duty. Especially was the broncho buster of the rough string given a workout on snaky mustangs. Fearlessly he used varied techniques to tame their wild natures, in hopes they would become a reasonably safe mount for the less courageous and agile cowboys.

The second part of the roundup was the retracking of the valley from Haig to Lingle and a western course was taken to reach Wheatland. The itinerary continued southward to Chugwater, the Diamond Ranch, Iron Mountain, Horse Creek, Islay, Silver Crown and Round Top before starting north through the P O (Boice) and Harry Farthing range land, enroute to the dispersion destination at the Moffatt Ranch, on Little Bear Creek, twenty miles south of Chugwater.

With an agenda of three counties in Wyoming and a portion of western Nebraska to be encircled and transversed in six weeks' time, is it any wonder that the cowboys were up, with breakfast over, and mounted on their steeds at daybreak? Moreover they flinched not at any task delegated to them, even to butchering a beef when the meat supply was depleted.

Uniquely, history records them as men that matched the mountains.

Mr. and Mrs. James W. Kirkbride

During World War I James W. Kirkbride was in the Medical Corps at Fort Riley, Kansas and Camp Lewis, Washington. He received an honorable discharge early in 1919.

Participating in land settlement, he homesteaded 320 acres of land, lying adjacent to his father's ranch on Little Horse Creek. Later he became the owner of the ranch, whereon the Meriden post office has been in operation since 1956, with Mrs. Ralph (Frances) Clark as postmaster.

Following the marriage of Betty G. Messersmith and James W. Kirkbride in 1923 the couple became residents of the second generation at the Cattail Ranch, where they lived for the next forty years. Coincidentally James' parents lived on the ranch about the same length of time.

As was true of the majority of their contemporaries, the Kirkbrides began housekeeping in two rooms. However they were 14' by 16' and of a good structural base for additions and remodeling that has resulted in a modern house of more than double the original size, with good design and liveability features.

The Cattail Ranch has never been reached by a mail route. Through the years the occupants have received mail at the post offices of Phillips, Little Horse Creek and Indianhill. All have been discontinued. Since 1943 the nearest point of contact has been four miles from the ranch on the triweekly Little Bear Route.

Coming from Wheatland, REA reached the ranch in 1952.

The first telephone service was installed in the two ranch houses in 1963.

Mr. and Mrs. James W. Kirkbride are the parents of two children, Phyllis Ann and Rodney William. There are nine grandchildren.

Phyllis married Auburn Dowdy, a vice president of the First National Bank and Trust Company of Wyoming. Living at 3515 Boston Road are Mr. and Mrs. Auburn Dowdy and their children, twin daughters—Karen and Karla; sons—Brian, Evan, Alan and Scot and daughter, Joy.

Rodney W. Kirkbride and his wife, the former Mae Irene Shores, and daughters, Jean Elizabeth and Barbara Anne, live at the Cattail Ranch. Their residence was the home of Rodney's grandparents, the Alex D. Kirkbrides. Changes and additions have been made, but a few homemade doors have been retained. Long since the builder has gone to a house not made with hands.

Mrs. James W. Kirkbride

Betty G. Messersmith was born at Stromsburg, Nebraska, as was her father, James C. Messersmith. Her mother, Anna Josephine Johnson, was a native of Sweden. At the age of sixteen she and her older sister migrated from Sweden to Nebraska.

When Betty was four years old she moved with her family to a homestead west of Burwell, Nebraska, and by the time she was in the seventh grade her father had resumed his carpentry trade and moved into Burwell, where the children had better educational advantages.

Rewarding was the effort when the parents beheld their five children as high school graduates and some with accomplishments in higher education. Ed graduated from a two-year course in the Business College at York, Nebraska. Those attending the University of Wyoming were, Olive, Betty and Eldon, where Eldon graduated from the College of Engineering.

Betty G. Messersmith graduated as valedictorian from high school in Burwell, Nebraska and went to Crook County, Wyoming where her parents had established residence. There she taught school for four years.

The Messersmith sisters, Betty and Olive, attended summer school sessions at the University of Wyoming prior to their coming to Goshen and Laramie Counties to teach school.

Olive's teaching career terminated when she married John Bright of Morrill, Nebraska, which was her home until her death in 1939. A longer professional career was Betty's choice as she taught the Cattail school for three years following her marriage.

In May of 1963 Mrs. James W. (Betty) Kirkbride had a deplorable car accident. She left her home at Cattail at eventide and started to Cheyenne, a thirty-two-mile distance. Often she had made the trip and had encountered only an occasional deer or antelope on the winding JHD Road, named for John Henry Durbin, an early day Horse Creek rancher.

Safely she made the first ten miles of the journey before approaching a veritable death trap, caused by workmen's neglect. The reconstruction of the JHD Road, in compliance with a missile base program, had begun.

Without this knowledge Mrs. Kirkbride's car nose-dived into a deep ditch, that had been

excavated for a cement bridge but left open, entirely without barricades and flares to alert travelers.

Here she spent a long cold night in a trapped predicament.

Subsequently she lived in a Cheyenne hospital for many months in the care of registered nurses, the clock around.

The tragic night in May of 1963 changed the residence and the way of life for Mr. and Mrs. James W. Kirkbride. They established a family home at 1612 Oxford Drive in Cheyenne. Both have been heroic in endurance and Mrs. Kirkbride serenely accepts her unfortunate invalidism and radiates peace of mind beyond human understanding.



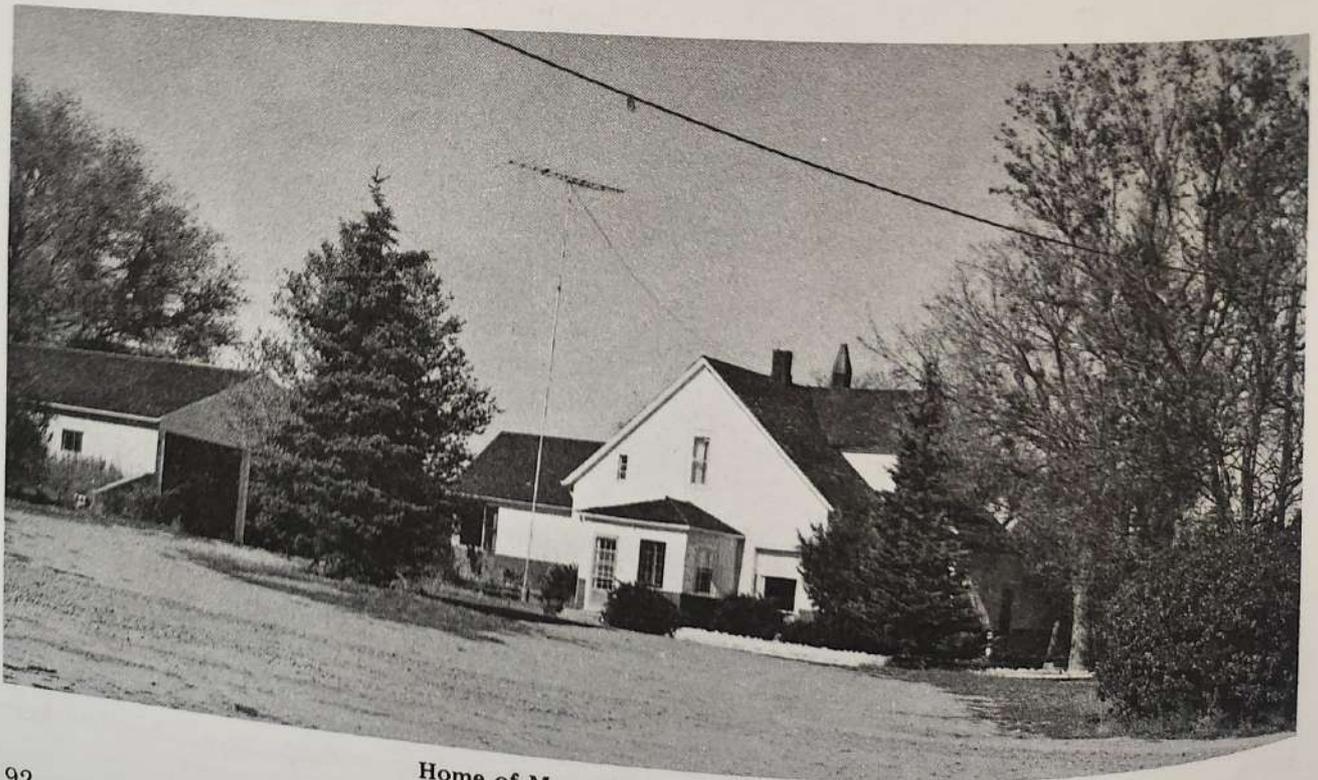
THE ANDREW PETER MALM FAMILY

Destiny affected two emigrants from Sweden through friendship and romanticism occurring while they were on a ship enroute to

America. They parted at the shore and it was years before their paths crossed. Miss Emma Christine Palm had employment awaiting her in Chicago. Andrew Peter Malm went to Jamestown, New York, and later to Pennsylvania where he worked on the railroad and in the woods, becoming a skilled craftsman, before he migrated to the Territory of Wyoming.

An inducement to homeseekers was free land in the West and Andrew P. Malm qualified. While an employee of the Union Pacific Railroad Company, Mr. Malm traveled in a horse-drawn vehicle to glean information on the plains country, north of Pine Bluffs. His choice fell on high uplands, even though unclaimed creek land in the valleys may have been available. Seeing a sea of tall waving grass, he concluded that grain crops would yield abundantly. He discerned productivity and knew good land when he saw it.

In 1887 Andrew P. Malm settled on a 160-acre homestead twenty miles north of Pine Bluffs. Later the location became the homesites for his son, Elmer, and grandson, Gordon, and their families. Simultaneously a cousin filed on a similar tract, lying adjacently to the north, which is the home of Edwin R. Palm, Jr. and family.



Home of Mr. and Mrs. Elmer L. Malm

The cousins excavated and built a dugout of equal dimensions on each homestead, thus fulfilling the legal residency clause of homesteading. The arrangement however was of short duration, as Mr. Johnson sold his land relinquishment and moved to Newman Grove, Nebraska. Gust Palm, a brother-in-law of Andrew P. Malm, made the second attempt to claim the land; and he was successful.

The Malm and Palm family alliance was close as each man married the other's sister, making their children double cousins.

From a meager start they became foremost residents and laid a business foundation of phenomenal progression. In the ninth decade since settlement the acreages have been parlayed many fold; thereon the residences are commodious and the ranch buildings provident for the purpose of promoting agricultural endeavors in its many facets—all an attest of the business acumen and persevering practices of Andrew P. Malm and Gust Palm and their descendants.

Using the customary prerogative of making a New World settlement of kindred and friends, Andrew P. Malm sent to Sweden for his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Johan Andersson, who set sail in October of 1890. In due time they filed on a 160-acre homestead, adjacently west of their son's holdings, thus giving the family a nucleus of a half section of land at an early date.

Born in Sweden 29 May 1827 Johan Peter Andersson and his wife, Katherine, in the afternoon side of life began anew to implant traditions and customs in the Swedish settlement, later known as Albin, in the fledgling state of Wyoming. Remaining on their homestead the rest of their lives, they were laid to rest in the closest cemetery—Salem.

Two miles east of Albin, in close view of the oiled highway, stands a remnant of settlement in a stone cistern that marks the homesite of the Anderssons. It conjures memories of their adjustment and contribution to a new way of life—far away from the land of their nativity.

Andrew P. Malm forgot not the winsome maiden of his ocean voyage to America. Re-kindling the embers of courtship, he married Emma Christine Palm in Denver, Colorado. She was a sister of Gust Palm, and the surname was also recorded in Sweden as Johnson.

Through the years women have shared with their men in the adventures, hardships and tri-

umphs in the Equality State. Mrs. Andrew P. Malm was an exemplary helpmate by bringing inspiration and fiscal strength. Her money bought milk cows and the foundation herd of cattle. Large was the base of operation during the open range days. In a few years the Malms had a herd of five hundred.

When marketing experiences are related each generation compares modes of transportation. How different was the first! Andrew P. Malm rode horseback and trailed three steers to the Hammond Packing Company in Cheyenne—a hundred-mile round trip encountering one drift fence enroute.

Malms used to use heavy draft horses to freight heavy loads of grain or commodities to and from the railroad at Pine Bluffs, but when time was of the essence they drove speedy mustangs hooked to light rigs. In an emergency to catch a train at Pine Bluffs Andrew P. Malm made the twenty-mile trip in an hour and forty-five minutes. Circumstances altered speed. Traveling free of cargo the rule of thumb was about five miles a hour; even in a walk four was average. Record-breaking was Andrew P. Malm's round trip to Cheyenne in a day's time—100 miles. His fleet-footed team had been purchased from Daniel Anderson, an uncle of Ed P. and Arvid Anderson and their sister, Sylvia Crossan.

The housing of contemporary settlers underwent stages of a dugout to a sod or log construction, before a proper frame house was erected. In case of the Malms however each change was for a lesser time, for they were nicely housed in a large two-story dwelling by 1903. Skilled craftsmanship enabled Andrew P. Malm and his relatives to fashion symmetrical sturdy buildings from native timber as well as from finished lumber. What an advantage was this over the non-artisans who mutilated good materials!

Andrew P. Malm planted a northwest shelter belt to enhance the homesite. Around the house he added shade trees and ornamental varieties as well as plots of perennial and annual flowers. His interest in horticulture and a natural desire to learn what less hardy trees and fruit would withstand the rigorous climate of Wyoming motivated him to operate a small-scale experiment farm.

Railroad companies used agriculture publicity to accelerate western settlement. Often featured was a picturesque view of the Malms

homesite of large buildings, surrounded by a hillside of grazing-cattle. The advertisement was an inducement but it was misleading inasmuch as it depicted what had been done on choice land of farming potential. Whereas latter day settlers had to settle for a base of less worth and were doomed for proportionate results.

Permanent Settlers

Mr. and Mrs. Andrew P. Malm came to stay. At first they were in a strange land of uncomfortable circumstances, but they looked ahead and foresaw how their homesite and the entire community would be at a future date. Aiming for better housing and financial security, they directed their efforts toward the fruition of their dreams.

Mrs. Malm typified being an equal partner. She was years ahead of her time in the household department and her ideas carried mandatory weight. The installation of an indoor water system was a rural innovation in her day. Logically she recalled that no one carried water in Sweden and Chicago where she had previously lived; therefore no one in her household should expend effort unnecessarily.

Resourcefulness often saved the day! During inclement weather when overshoes were scarce, men folk and youngsters tramped in with dripping wet feet. Using oven-heated barley, Mrs. Malm filled the boots and shoes. By morning the moisture was absorbed and the footgear was ready to wear.

Andrew P. Malm's parents and four sisters came to America. In his entire family the exception was his brother who stayed on the homeplace in Sweden. His sisters were Matilda Malm Stevick of Cheyenne and Casper, whose husband was a mail clerk; Emma Malm Tegler of Greeley; Jennie Malm Smith of Cheyenne and later California; Ida Malm Palm (Mrs. Gust) of the Albin settlement.

The three sisters and three brothers of the Palm family emigrating from Sweden to the Albin community were: Mrs. Andrew P. (Emma) Malm; Mrs. Peter (Sophia) Lundberg; Mrs. Clara Rygren Soderstrom; Charles, John and Gust Palm.

Charles Palm, a bachelor, was the stone mason for the Malm house in 1902. Afterwards he moved to Salt Lake City and became a building contractor.

Gust and John Palm were permanent residents of the Albin community. Gust Palm settled adjacent to the Malms in the 1880s whereas John Palm came in 1894. The family home of four generations was established on the Nebraska side of the Albin community. It was continued by John's son, Charles W. Palm, and now in direct lineage it is the home of Wayne Palm and his family. Too, Charles W. Palm's widow, Hazel, spends her summers there and her winters in Arizona.

Clara Palm Rygren (later Soderstrom) lived in the community a number of years while keeping house for her brother, Gust Palm, and on her homestead before moving to California. Her homestead is now Lundberg property, the home of her grand nephew, Kenneth Lundberg and his family and also his mother, Mrs. Harry Lundberg.

Sophia Palm Lundberg and her husband, Peter Lundberg, of Chicago located in 1899 on the Nebraska side of the community where they reared seven children. Mr. Lundberg was a carpenter. Among the landmarks to his name is the Malm house, atop the foundation laid by his brother-in-law, Charles Palm. Mr. Lundberg built a house for his own family and one for his son, Hilmer, as well as the Charles W. Palm residence.

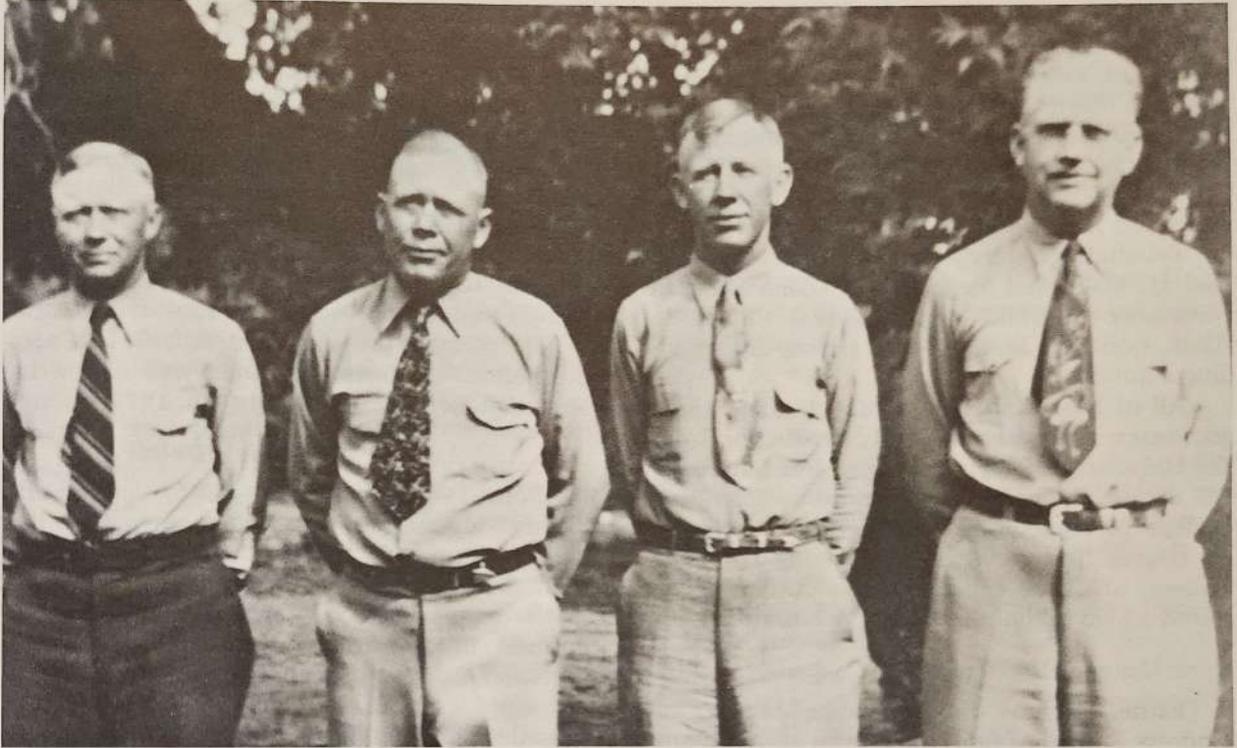
The children of Mr. and Mrs. Lundberg were: Harry and Arthur—deceased; Hilmer and Leonard of Albin; Roy of Laramie; Carl of Denver and Mrs. Reuben (Ruth) Anderson of Pine Bluffs.

Cousins by the dozens is literally true. Mrs. Reuben Anderson accounts for twenty-one.

For over forty years the descendants of the Palm, Rygren, Lundberg and Malm families have held an annual picnic as a means of promoting family loyalty and solidarity as well as social enjoyments. It is known as the PRLM group, and most frequently used is the park in Pine Bluffs.

In Memoriam

The Andrew P. Malms were in advance of their time in coping with the problems of life. They believed that each generation, in turn, must build a road for the next; that the hope of world progression lies in developing the abilities and talents of youth. Were not educational advantages one of the basic aims of coming to the New World?



The four sons of Andrew P. Malm and Emma Palm Malm are as follows: left to right, Carl Malm, Andrew "Andy" Malm, Elmer Malm and Harry Malm.

The Malms established a home in Greeley to further the education of their family. After each of their four children became a citizen of affairs, the couple retired in California.

Settling on virgin land at Albin in territorial days, the Malms left a monumental view of a well improved homesite and a broadened base of operation for the oncoming generations.

Even though they gave the land for the Albin cemetery from the southeast corner of their homestead, ironically they were buried in California.

The life span was from 1858 to 1928 for Mr. Malm and Mrs. Malm's was from 1861 to 1927.

Surviving were their five children: Carl, Esther, Andrew "Andy," Elmer and Harry.

The Carl Malm Family

Carl H. Malm, born 21 August 1891, was the eldest of five children in the Andrew P. Malm family. His education was obtained in Wyoming and Nebraska schools before he engaged in ranching and farming for his means of livelihood.

His marriage to Miss Florence Rudeen was solemnized in Los Angeles in June of 1915. Their children are:

Eugene Malm—Fort Collins, Colorado

Glenn Malm—Albin

Rudeen Malm—Pine Bluffs

Louise—Mrs. Dewitt Etchings, La Mesa, California

Geraldine—Mrs. Bernard Wenzel, El Cajon, California

Gertrude—Mrs. David McCoy, Garden Grove, California

Margaret—Mrs. Marvin Berry, Meriden Route, Cheyenne

Sad was the day in January of 1932 when death made a visitation and claimed the life of the wife and mother, Florence Rudeen Malm, who left children ranging from the age of four to into the teens.

November 30, 1940 made Malm family history. Carl H. Malm and his second son, Glenn Malm, were wed in a double marriage ceremony. Carl's wife was the former Alice Van Pelt Lundberg, widow of Carl's cousin, Arthur Lundberg,

deceased in 1924, leaving her with two small children, Artice—later Mrs. Warren Anderson and a son, Eldon Lundberg. Glenn Malm's wife was the former Miss Thelma Wenzel. Both couples are residents of the Albin community on the Nebraska side.

The Glenn Malms have three sons: Kent, Larry and Lee Malm.

Felicitations were extended to Mr. and Mrs. Carl H. Malm and Mr. and Mrs. Glenn Malm in November of 1965 at the Baptist Church in Albin, honoring them on their twenty-fifth wedding anniversary.

All of Mrs. Carl Malm's grandchildren—three grandsons—graduated in 1971. Graduating from the University of Wyoming were Jeff Lundberg, BS degree in agriculture education from the College of Agriculture and Wayland Anderson, BS degree in agriculture engineering from the College of Engineering. Theron Anderson received a high school diploma at Albin.

Mr. and Mrs. Laurence C. Anderson

Esther Malm, the only daughter in the Andrew P. Malm family, was born at Albin and married to Laurence C. Anderson in Greeley. While they were residents of Wyoming he served in the state legislature. Moving to La Mesa, California, he became a building contractor. Since retirement the couple's extensive travels have included world tours.

Laurence's brother, Reuben Anderson of Pine Bluffs, is a past president of the Wyoming Farm Bureau and has served in the state legislature. Civic interest in the family is continuous. Reuben's son-in-law, Bill D. McIlvain, a Cheyenne schoolteacher, and a former teacher in the mission fields of Peru, was one of the eleven legislators elected in Laramie County to serve in the 40th Wyoming Legislature in 1969, and the 41st in 1971.

A brother of Laurence and Reuben was Elam Anderson, a graduate of the University of Chicago, as was his wife, before they became missionaries, stationed in China. He served as the president of the University of Redlands, California, the last six years of his life. He was survived by his wife and three children.

Daughters, Dorothy and Thelma, were born to the Laurence C. Andersons.

Dorothy Anderson Clay and her husband, Rev. John Clay, were missionaries in Nigeria,

Africa. She served as a registered nurse and he was a missionary pilot. The family's return to America was necessitated by Mrs. Clay's failing health. She died in January of 1968. Continuing to live in La Mesa, California are Rev. John Clay and children, Carol Sue and twins—Larry and Linda.

Scottsdale, Arizona is the home of Thelma Anderson Overley. Her family is grown.

The Laurence C. Andersons observed their fiftieth wedding anniversary in June of 1965.

Following a prolonged illness, Mrs. Laurence C. (Esther) Anderson departed this life in La Mesa, California on December 4th, 1970.

Andrew R. "Andy" Malm

Born in September in 1895, Andrew R. "Andy" Malm spent his growing up years in the parental home east of Albin before doing a stint in the U.S. Navy during the First World War.

He assumed the responsibility of the sheep business in the family-owned, Malm Brothers Livestock Company, operating with range flocks on large leased ranches in Albany and Niobrara Counties and also feeding lambs for market in Kansas and Nebraska.

In 1939 he married Mrs. Mildred Whitehead, an Albin schoolteacher, who was a sister of King Merritt of rodeo fame. Mr. and Mrs. Malm were actively engaged in ranching until 1948 when they curtailed their livestock operations and moved to Cheyenne for semi-retirement.

Andrew R. Malm died in Cheyenne in March of 1950, with funeral services there and burial in the Albin Cemetery. His organizational affiliations included the Masonic Lodge at Pine Bluffs.

Mrs. Malm's daughter, the former Joan Whitehead, married Belias Thrasher and their son is Michael. The Thrasher family spent a few years in Germany with the Armed Forces before establishing a family home in Dallas, Texas.

Mrs. Andrew R. Malm maintains a home in Grand Prairie, Texas, a suburb of Dallas.

The Elmer L. Malm Family

Elmer L. Malm, a rancher and farmer of Albin, lives on the home place that was established by his father in 1887. He has made a career of livestock through many facets of agriculture. The brand identifying the purebred and range cattle is D upside down Y.

Elmer and his brothers, Carl and Andy were

business partners following the deaths of their parents in the late 1920s. Phenomenal was their success due to expanse of operation and improved methods of production. In 1945 the three brothers mutually agreed on an equitable business dissolution; thereafter they operated separately.

Born in October of 1897 on the premises of his present home, Elmer L. Malm was educated in local schools before going to Greeley for higher education. During grade school days, he attended summer school in Wyoming and winter school at Flowerfield, Nebraska—a four-mile distance. Free of tuition controversy the pupils of the area were privileged to attend both schools reciprocally.

From the days of his youth Elmer Malm was a skilled roper and rodeo performer, participating at county fairs and in local shows. The zenith of his showmanship was reached however in 1924 when he and his cousin, Edwin R. Palm, went to Europe with a Wild West Show.

April 13, 1924 was the wedding date of Elmer L. Malm and Miss Hilda Ohlson, the youngest of eleven children in the Peter Ohlson family. Her mother died when she was five months old and she was adopted by Mrs. Eva Wieden. Her father died in 1932 and was buried in Elizabeth, Colorado.

Mrs. Elmer Malm's brothers and sisters are: Twins—Edith—Mrs. G. Pearson, Denver and Edwin Ohlson, Downey, California; Miss Hannah Ohlson and Judith—Mrs. A. D. Bohall, Denver; Clara—Mrs. E. Carlson, Kiowa, Colorado; and Carl Ohlson, also of Kiowa. Deceased are four brothers: Peter, David, Paul and Albin. Rev. Albin Ohlson was a Methodist minister.

The ancestral home of Mr. and Mrs. Elmer L. Malm has housed three generations and been frequently visited by two others. By enlarging and updating the sturdy two-story structure, which is of the turn of the century vintage, the Malms have enhanced the liveability features and provided for the entertainment of kindred and friends. Traditionally they continue the family's generous hospitality.

Among the cherished heirlooms is a large family Bible, printed in the Swedish language, with an unusual closing clamp of strong iron.

Mr. and Mrs. Elmer L. Malm are exemplary in supporting worthwhile organizations with service and monetary contributions. Their un-

derstanding of the basic aims, plus flexibility in regard to the changing times, have made their efforts invaluable. Mr. Malm has served on the board of the Laramie County Memorial Hospital and as a director of the Albin Consolidated Schools. He participates in the Farm Bureau and is a member of the Masonic Lodge at Pine Bluffs. The couple is active in the Albin Baptist Church.

The three sons born to the Elmer Malms were: Andy Princeton, deceased at the age of twelve; Howard Gordon and Kendrick Elmer Malm.

H. Gordon Malm

A fourth generation resident, H. Gordon Malm graduated from high school at Albin and attended the University of Wyoming before he married Miss Fannie Dwinnell in January of 1954 at the Baptist Church in Albin.

Mr. and Mrs. Gordon Malm and children: Martha, Howard, Lynette and Andy Brice, live in a ranch style brick house on the home ranch, two miles east of Albin, where they participate in the family livestock business.

As a family they are actively engaged in affairs pertaining to the church, the school, county fair and purebred Hereford cattle.

Kendrick Elmer Malm

Born September 1943 Kendrick E. Malm graduated from high school at Albin before any of Gordon's children were old enough to attend school, making no need for school bus service for one year in many.

The Albin Baptist Church was the setting for the marriage of Miss Linda Kay Conger, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Milton Conger of Burlington, Colorado (formerly of Albin) and Kendrick E. Malm. The ceremony was solemnized on August 29, 1964 by Rev. Elmer Logan.

The couple attended school in Laramie where Kendrick was graduated from the University in 1966. Previously he attended college in Sioux Falls, South Dakota.

The Kendrick E. Malms established their home two miles north of Pine Bluffs and are engaged in the family-owned livestock business. Their children are a son Ronald Lee, a daughter Christy Lynn and a son Kevin Todd.

* * * * *

Elmer L. Malm and sons compare the 'then and now' in cattle production. Longhorn range cattle had a brief day, giving way to weightier blockier animals through scientific feeding. Nutrients are evaluated as components of weight control as well as a determining factor in the length of feeding time.

Amazing progress has been made in the field of breeding. And it all stemmed from a truism that the male animal is half; therefore he is worthy of emphasis.

Years of ownership of Hereford cattle was rewarding in the fall of 1968 when the Malm Ranch Company of Albin received \$20,000 for a Hereford bull at the Twenty Grand Sale in Kansas City, Missouri. The purchase was made for the Lanier Hereford Farms at Winona, Mississippi.

Each bull exhibited for sale at the American Royal Livestock Show was judged by the spectators who marked their choice on cards that were placed in a computer. The Malm entry was rated the best in the sale.

Harry G. Malm

Harry G. Malm, the youngest of the five children in the Andrew P. Malm family, spent the least length of time in the community of his nativity. Nonetheless he forgot not the pleasant associations of his childhood. His frequent return trips are an attest. Reciprocally the family maintains a close relationship. Many of the Albin relatives go to California to enjoy his companionship as well as to confer on legal matters.

He was born in April of 1902 in the family home in Albin and there he grew to manhood. Maturity gave him a towering stature and well developed physique atop with a thatch of wavy white hair, presenting a distinguished mien.

He was graduated from the college of law in Boulder, Colorado in 1926. The following year he was engaged in law practice in Ocala, Florida, where he met and married Miss Edith Edwards.

The couple established their home in San Diego, California, where Mr. Malm became associated with the John Burnham Company, serving in the insurance department. For forty years he was an authority in his field and merited the honors conferred.

Peggy Malm, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs.

Harry G. Malm, married Kenneth Palm. Following his tragic death by lightning, she and their two sons moved from Wyoming to California to live near her parents.

Mrs. Harry G. Malm underwent a period of ill health and invalidism which caused her death in August of 1970.

The Janus Look

Carl and Elmer Malm are lifelong residents of Albin, representing continuity of the family lineage begun by their father, Andrew P. Malm, on Section 22; Township 17; Range 60, lying adjacent to the Nebraska line. Through the years the Malms have been participants in the progression of the new country, affecting general living conditions and agricultural objectives among ruralists of the area.

Postal Service

Having received mail twenty miles distant in Pine Bluffs, the Malms were grateful for midway service at the Salem post office, established in 1888.

A further effort to supply local mail service is noted in the establishment of the Myra post office, about three miles north of Malms on the Wyoming side of the state line, serving the residents of the "north country" from 11 January 1892 to 15 June 1895. The notice of discontinuance directed the patrons to receive mail at Gary, Nebraska, in Banner County.

Powerful was the stroke that gave identity to the community and also assured permanent mail service! The Albin post office was established in 1905 on the Gust Anderson homestead, NW fourth of Sec. 22; whereas the Malms owned the south half of the section.

Gust Anderson's eldest son, J. Albin Anderson, was the first postmaster of Albin. He served in the parental home and later at his own homestead before moving the post office and general store united, a mile west to present day Albin—after the advent of the railroad in 1928.

Transportation

The prevailing mode of travel, for three decades after the Malms and their contemporaries settled the land, was horsepower. A frequent twenty-mile trip was made to Pine Bluffs for commodities, or a fifty-mile trip to Chey-

enne on business at the courthouse or the state capitol, as the case might be.

Elmer L. Malm recalls that he and other teamsters literally traded their beds for kerosene lanterns at three o'clock in the morning in order to feed, curry and harness their teams for the wagon-pull to deliver grain at the elevator in Pine Bluffs. The first goal of the journey was to be on a specific high hill at sunrise as assurance of their moving on schedule to complete the forty-mile round trip by nightfall.

During the second decade of the twentieth century, the mechanical era was evident. Increasing was the use of automobiles and trucks on roads that were gradually being improved to a network of black top, with elevated gravel roads extending into the hinterlands.

The trailing of livestock to market by men on foot or horseback and the use of horse-drawn vehicles became outmoded. The mechanical age has been so fast-moving that it takes a stretch of imagination to realize that the accomplishment of two hours time nowadays compares favorably with a long day of yesteryear.

The stockmen and farmers of East Laramie County received a boon in marketing in 1928 when a branch line of the Union Pacific was built to wend its way on a northerly course from Egbert to Lindbergh (formerly Salem), to Albin, Tremain and Lagrange before continuing into Goshen County to a connecting line at Yoder.

The gift of prophesy was Lord Alfred Tenyson's in 1886 when he forecast airplanes in his "Locksley Hall" as follows:

"For I dipt into the future, as far as human eye could see,
Saw the Vision of the world, and all the wonders that would be;
Saw the heavens fill with commerce, argosies of magic sails.
Pilots of the purple twilight, dropping down with costly bales—"

Airplane service affects everyone, with air-mail as the most far-reaching. A national missile base program executed from the F.E. Warren, AFB in Cheyenne includes daily earth-gazing from airplanes and helicopters. Passenger air travel is available on a cross country or global scale, with flight takeoff at Cheyenne.

In farming areas airplanes are used to spray and dust for the eradication of weeds and also apply pesticides to safeguard against an invasion

of grasshoppers, other insects and detrimental living organisms.

The reclamation field is making tremendous gains by the use of airplanes to apply chemicals to wasteland covered with sagebrush and cactus plants. The results are the reclamation of vast acreages for land productivity.

Great is the sport of hunting predatory animals from an airborne height. The coyote—the well known sheep killer—is a common target.

The wonders wrought since Wyoming's territorial days stem from inventions that led to electric and mechanical power; therefrom the economics and the way of life have been improved immeasurably.

For greater yields of grain crops and grass, the Malms are supplementing the natural precipitation by means of water wells and circular spraying systems on part of their holdings at Albin.

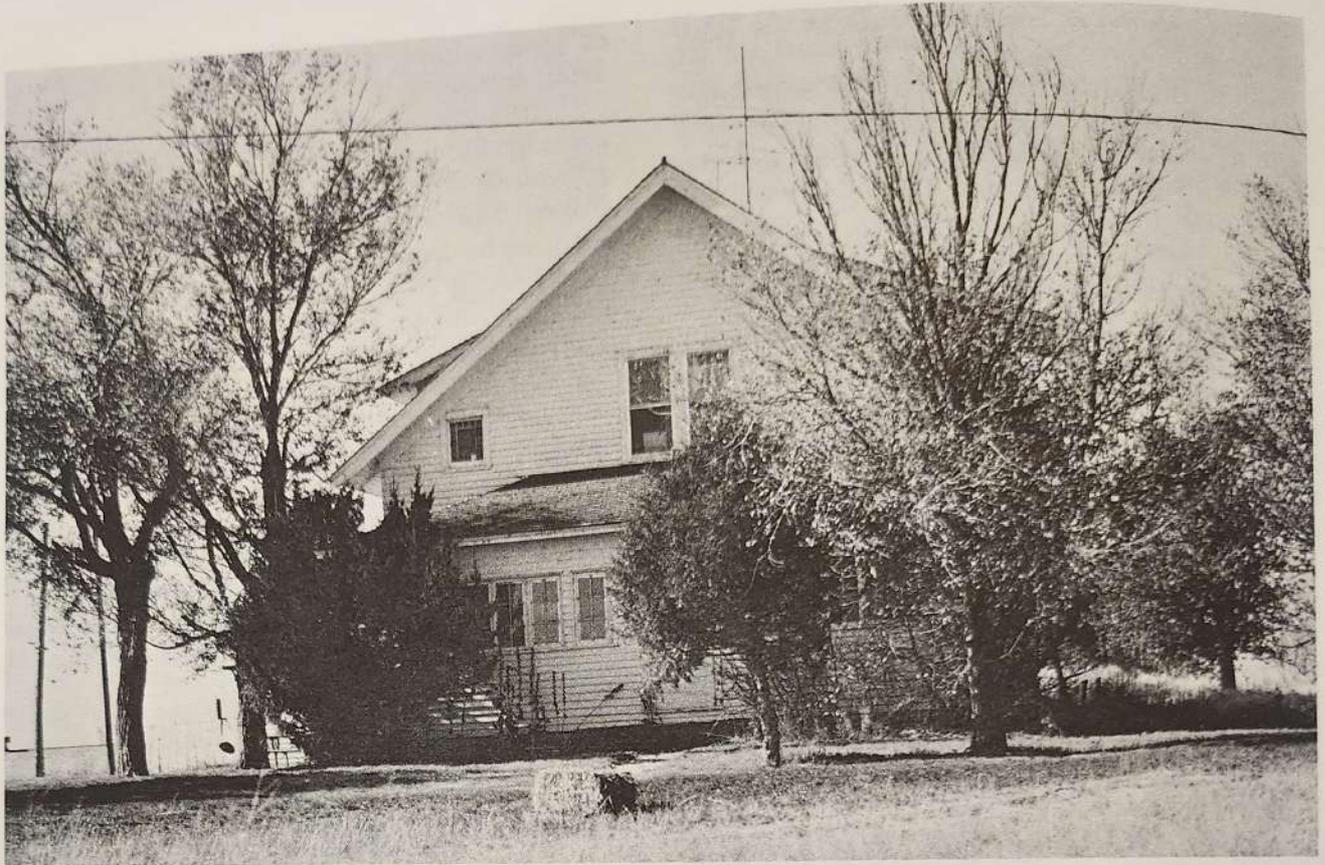


THE GUST PALM FAMILY

The pioneers were a distinguished people. A country's history is inscribed in the life records of the first settlers and their descendants. The ground-floor people were determined. They halted not nor did they hesitate when it came to coping with circumstances. Their God-given talents and skills were actuated by ardent desire and fearless drive.

During the last quarter of the nineteenth century the settlement of the western part of the United States was accelerated through free homestead land which appealed to the inhabitants of the Old World who were ambitious for broader horizons. This was true of Gust Palm, born in Sweden in 1863, who came to the Territory of Wyoming as a young man and carved his destiny with bare hands, from the humble beginning of settling on government land at Albin to cutting stone at Lyons, Colorado, for a means of support, making the trip by horse and cart.

Gust Palm filed on a 160-acre homestead that had been claimed by Andrew P. Malm's cousin, Mr. Johnson. Subsequently Mr. Palm



Home of Mr. and Mrs. Edwin R. Palm, Jr.

made the second attempt at land settlement on the northeast quarter of Section 22, Township 17, Range 60, lying adjacent to the Nebraska line.

Uniquely historical is this section of land because of its being the most populous. Therefore it affected the development of the community more than any other mile-square tract. The four families residing thereon prior to statehood were: Gust Palm—NE fourth; Gust Anderson—NW fourth; Andrew P. Malm—SE fourth; and his aged parents on the SW fourth.

When Wyoming celebrated the 75th anniversary of statehood in 1965 there were still four families residing on Section 22. Each home-site with spacious modern buildings on the premises, surrounded by cultivated fields and pastures, with quality cattle grazing thereon or fattening in the feed lots represented a satisfactory way of life. Moreover spectators beheld the broadview of the landscape as the ideal rural scene.

The four-family residents of Section 22 still include the names of Palm, Malm and Anderson

as was true in the territorial days in the late 1880s. Mr. and Mrs. Edwin R. Palm, Jr. and children, Jerry, Jay and Debbie live on the northeast quarter. Mr. and Mrs. Edwin P. Anderson reside on the northwest fourth. The south half is Malm property. And the occupants are Mr. and Mrs. Elmer Malm and their son, Gordon, and his wife with their four children: Martha, Howard, Lynette and Andy Brice. Years ago the Malms allocated the very southeast corner for the Albin Cemetery.

Gust Palm eagerly became an American citizen by mastering the English language and becoming proficient in reckoning the various denominations of the monetary system. Then he was ready for business. He reveled in buying, selling and bartering because of an inherent aptitude and interest in fiscal matters. Primarily he was a landowner and a livestock producer, but very soon he became a dealer and a money-lender as his finances warranted.

Horse-raising was profitable to Mr. Palm. For years he utilized the open range, upon which the broncho type thrived. Naturally a good rustler,

this type of horse could make his way through the snow to find his provender, which made the losses of his species comparatively small. The quality of the western broncho—the product of hard conditions under which he was grown—made him famous for toughness and a certain villany when his temper was aroused. The demand for saddle horses, rodeo feats and army requirements were often met by range horses.

Mr. Palm also raised draft horses that were domesticated to the degree of requiring home care and grain-feeding. He found a ready market among homesteaders who came to Wyoming to break the sod and farm. His horse sales were never wholly collectable. There were losses but he was a forward looking operator and minor failures never dismayed him. He won in the allover picture and was said to have the Midas touch.

Depression years of the lean dry thirties forced many ruralists out of business and many others tottering on the brink of disaster. Through all the adversity Mr. Palm prospered to a limited degree, but unknown even to himself through the guiding hand of fate he made investments that were laying the foundation for future gains. He was a self-made man and accredited for honest business practices and policies above reproach.

In the days of early settlement, for years Gust Palm maintained bachelor quarters before his marriage to Miss Ida Malm, the sister of Andrew P. Malm, whose wife was the former Miss Emma Palm—Gust's sister. Those intermarriages made the two couples the closest of kin, as well as their being neighbors of Swedish birth.

Ida Malm Palm was a woman of culture and worth. Old-timers still comment on her friendliness and loving-kindness. She radiated a pleasing personality while engaged in homemaking, or in entertaining or comforting those within reach. The ideal family relationship was of short duration because an epidemic of measles claimed the life of the precious wife and mother at the age of twenty-five, in January of 1899.

John Franzen Eklund, a cabinet maker, came and made the casket. He was also a widower, left with three small children to rear, and he brought them with him to the Palm home while he fashioned the casket. Could two neighbors have more in common than did the neighbors, Mr. Palm and Mr. Eklund?

Mrs. Gust Palm's earthly remains were interred in the Salem Cemetery, but later moved to her husband's graveside in the Albin Cemetery. Their joint gravestone is inscribed as follows: Ida Malm Palm 1875-1899—Gust Palm 1863-1940.

The bereft Gust Palm sent to Chicago for his sister, Clara Palm Rygren, whose husband had recently died and left her with seven-year-old daughter, Emma. Straightway Mrs. Rygren and Emma came by train to Pine Bluffs to make the last twenty miles of the journey in a horse-drawn vehicle.

Uniting the two families was a satisfactory arrangement and a good way to rear the three children. Mrs. Rygren looked well to the affairs of the household and her brother, Gust Palm, was a good provider. Their home was noted for gracious hospitality and frequently used by visiting ministers for religious meetings, and also social gatherings on high days and holidays. Conveniently located it was a lodging place for ranchers of the Lagrange area when they made trips to and from the railroad at Pine Bluffs. A mecca it was for buyers and traders from near and far.



People are more alike than unlike in any era or time. Senior citizens relate the gatherings held in homes when the adults occupied all the beds and the children were bedded down on floor-pallets. Even the short space under a stairway sufficed for two small children. In those make-

shift days the seating arrangements included improvised benches made from tree-trunk uprights supporting a length of sturdy rough plank which was covered and somewhat padded with a bed comforter or a strip of woven rag carpeting. People were even known to resort to sitting on the sill of an open window. Nail kegs and wooden boxes sufficed for individuals. Togetherness was the aim, not physical comfort.

In a new country all the available skills and talents of homemaking were useful, not only in a woman's own home but as an assist to others. A neighbor often needed help in the departments of housekeeping, cooking, child care, nursing or sewing.

Mrs. Rygren made an outstanding contribution as a dressmaker. She had been a seamstress in a factory in Chicago, and made use of her natural and cultivated abilities as she fashioned modish clothing for women and children. Her community leadership is a matter of record. She was a charter member of a church auxiliary, called Myra, meaning ants in Sweden—an apropos title for busy forthright women.

Desiring the more abundant life, the women aspired for culture and the finer things of life, remembered from other places and times. The neighborhood women added variety and zest to an otherwise stark monotony of frontier days. Oyster suppers and ice cream socials were diversions. Many a cake arrived, tied in a dish towel held at arm's length, while its donor was perched astride a saddle horse. The modes of traveling were on foot, horseback or in a rig. Attendants were a cross section to be sure, the old and the young. There were no baby sitters. It was said that children were everywhere. There was no segregation however among the young fry and adults.

The children of the Palm-Rygren household were good-sized when Mrs. Rygren left the Palm home to establish residence on her homestead on the Nebraska side of the Albin community. Later she married C. J. Soderstrom of the Golden Prairie area.

Gust Palm was a self-contained man with interspersions of wit and philosophy. Often he appeared to be in a deep study before breaking the solitude with spontaneous wisdom that seemed to transcend the bounds of human knowledge. Many sought and heeded his advice. His overcoming qualities were evident in his

mastering a physical handicap which he bore many years, through his losing a hand in a corn shredder. Afterwards he drove his car and was dexterous in many ways.

Mr. Palm believed it was his civic duty to hold public office and when he launched into politics it was a matter of record that he was the only territorial-day resident to hold public office beyond the realm of the school district.

He was a Laramie County Commissioner from 1923 to 1925 and he was a good one, using the same thrift and judgment in handling the county's money that he used in his own affairs. His election bespoke the confidence in which he was held by the electorate.

A ruralist living at a distance from the populous county seat of Cheyenne ordinarily runs at a disadvantage, but Mr. Palm's vote-getting appeal won the day. The contacts were mostly person-to-person, as the press was of small assistance, and his time predated radio and television publicity.

The candidates were subjected to a grueling round of county-wide rallies, including all the towns and also many rural schoolhouses. Road conditions and means of transportation left much to be desired, but Gust Palm possessed qualities of daring and persistence enabling him to meet the demands of a strenuous campaign.

After being a widower for a number of years Gust Palm married a family friend, Miss Anna Johnson, and the couple moved from the family home in Albin to Pine Bluffs. There Mrs. Palm died and was buried in 1932. Gust Palm was called upon to bury two wives and also his daughter, Ethel, who married Ed Land in 1925. The Lands lived in Pine Bluffs where Mr. Land was engaged in the automobile business. Ethel Palm Land died in the Kimball Hospital in April of 1939 and she was buried in Pine Bluffs.

During Mr. Palm's fifty-year residency in Wyoming he participated in the colorful history of his home communities, Albin and Pine Bluffs. His homestead toehold at Albin was parlayed many fold and he was an example of successful achievement through the pursuit of a purposeful business course, taking advantage of the available opportunities in the vast undeveloped country.

Gust Palm left a legacy of principles and business accomplishments to his son, Edwin R. Palm, who was well established in 1940, at the

time of his father's demise. "Like father like son," the biographical sketch unfolds.

The Edwin R. Palm Family

Edwin R. Palm was born January 16, 1899 in a log house on the parental homestead of Gust and Ida Malm Palm. His sister, Ethel, was fourteen months his senior. When only a few days old he was left motherless and his slim chance for life was nurtured by the devotion of his father, assisted by two hired women, until Gust Palm's sister, Clara Palm Rygren, a recent widow left with seven-year-old Emma, arrived from Chicago to take charge of the household. The merger of the Palm and Rygren families proved to be the best way to rear the three children.

During his growing up years, Edwin Palm had a second home, a half a mile away—in plain sight, at the home of his aunt and uncle, Mr. and Mrs. Andrew P. Malm and their five children, four of whom were boys older and younger than he. Edwin was always welcome at the Malms, regardless of what was going on. Great was the companionship he found in his double cousins: Carl, Esther, Andy, Elmer and Harry Malm.

For education beyond the realm of the local school level, Edwin R. Palm went to Greeley, Colorado, and attended high school and business college. In the latter institution of learning he became proficient in business procedure as well as in distinctive handwriting of fine strokes and ink-shaded curlicues. Once seen it was unforgettable.

In the days of his youth he was a rodeo performer, competing at county fairs and public gatherings in the area. The zenith of his horsemanship career came in 1924 when he and his cousin, Elmer Malm, went in a group of about one hundred fifty cowboys on an excursion to England with Tex Austin, the promoter, to participate in the feats at the Wembley Stadium in London. He returned home encased in adhesive tape to protect a few cracked ribs. He had however made a little money and had a rewarding fund of experiences to add to his memoirs.

Miss Jennie Branigan, a local schoolteacher, born and educated in Nebraska, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Branigan became the wife of Edwin R. Palm in June of 1922. They

established their home on the parental Palm homestead on Section 22, where Edwin had lived all his life. Here, they reared a family of five sons and a daughter: Edwin R. Jr., Norman, Gerald, Kenneth, Robert and Lois, before moving to Laramie.

Edwin R. Palm had the gift to envision the possible, even though it was not immediately evident. In his youthful days he rode the open range country where his father and neighboring stockmen ran horses and cattle. The vast expanse and large herds made a deep and lasting impression and he longed to operate on a large scale. In fact he became enthused over a ranch that was for sale in the Elk Mountain country and took his bride with him to consider the proposition, hoping it would be their future home, but fate decreed otherwise.

By then Edwin's father had been elected county commissioner of Laramie County and wanted to retire and move to Pine Bluffs. He dissuaded the young couple by saying it was their place to assume the management of the expansive farming and ranching operations that he had begun at Albin in the 1880s. Henceforth Edwin R. Palm used his skills and business ability to successfully operate the home place, but he forgot not the dream of his youth.

In 1948 Edwin R. Palm and sons purchased the Quealy Land and Livestock Company at Elk Mountain, located in Albany and Carbon Counties and embracing some 120,000 acres. So vast are the holdings that one can travel a hundred miles and still be within the confines. Venturesome was the transaction but time has proved it to be link in financial progression.

In 1951 the Palms bought adjacent land—another large acreage—known as the Archie Campbell Ranch. The livestock was included, as was true of the Quealy spread.

The responsibility of management was assigned among the personnel as follows: Edwin R. Palm, Jr., the home place at Albin; Norman, the sheep foreman at Elk Mountain; Gerald—Home Ranch; Kenneth—the Basin Ranch; and Robert the grain elevator at Pine Bluffs. Lois and her family established their home in Laramie where her husband, Dr. W. R. McCalla, Jr., is a dentist.

Unfortunately key members were removed by death, necessitating changes in the business procedure. After Kenneth Palm's demise in

1956, Mr. and Mrs. Edwin R. Palm, Sr. moved from Laramie to Elk Mountain. The tragic death of Robert Palm in 1961 caused the sale of the Palm Grain Company Elevator to the Farmers Union Cooperative of Lindbergh.

In addition to building a land empire in Wyoming Mr. and Mrs. Edwin R. Palm, Sr. literally moved with their sheep to lush feeding places in the states of Colorado, Kansas, Missouri, Arizona and California.

Edwin R. Palm was a patriarch of organizing ability. An attest are the corporations of Edwin R. Palm and Sons of Albin and the Palm Livestock Company at Elk Mountain.

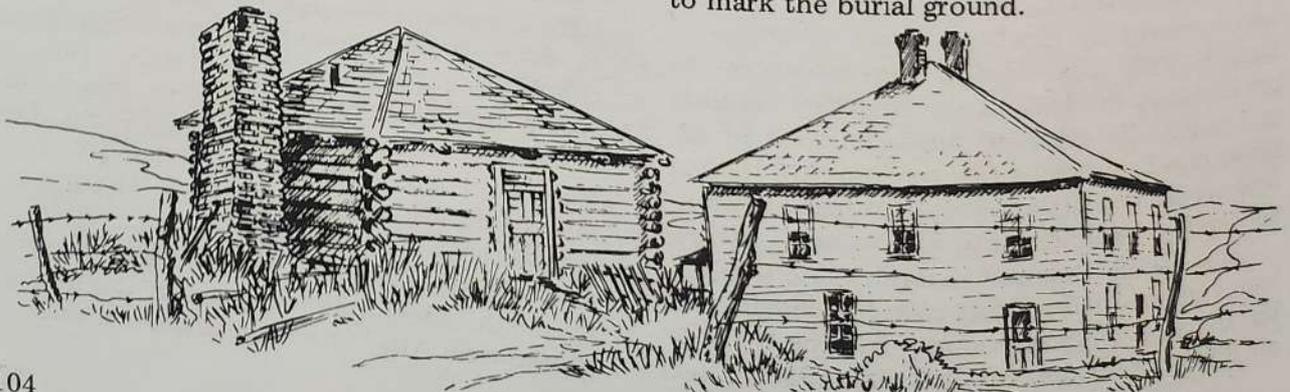
His colorful business career will long be remembered as will he, an exemplary family man whose principles and policies are continued by his progeny.

In June of 1963 prolonged illness claimed his life at the age of 64. Funeral services were held in the Baptist Church in Albin and interment was in the cemetery; therein are buried his parents and sons.

Mrs. Edwin R. Palm, Sr. maintains the family home in Elk Mountain.

*The Descendants of Mr. and Mrs.
Edwin R. Palm*

Born on the home place at Albin, as was his father, Edwin R. Palm, Jr. was educated in the Albin school system and was graduated from Colorado A. & M. at Fort Collins, later renamed the Colorado State University. His wife, the former Harriet Ann Larson, attended Colorado Women's College in Denver, later known as Temple Buell. Mrs. Palm is the daughter of Harry H. Larson and Anna Larsen Larson, who for years lived on the parental N. A. Larson property west of Albin. The mothers of the couple were local schoolteachers prior to their marriages.



Mr. and Mrs. Edwin R. Palm, Jr. are third generation residents on the Palm holdings, stemming from a homestead nucleus in territorial days. The buildings are among the community's finest as the large white structures, with roofs of red, present a picture. The commodious house was built in 1914 and designed for convenience and group entertaining. The couple's children are Jerry Randall, Michael Jay and Debora Ann Palm.

Jerry Randall Palm uniquely is the first grandchild of the Edwin R. Palm lineage to establish a home and go into business. The young family lives in Albin, Wyoming.

Jerry finished school at Albin before continuing his education at the University of Wyoming, from which he was graduated in the College of Agriculture. His wife is the former, Peggy McCarthy of Oil City, Pa. Their daughter is Kelly Lorraine, a fifth generation resident, of pioneer ancestry dating back into the 1880s, in the Territory of Wyoming.

* * * * *

Norman and Gerald Palm, brothers of Edwin R. Palm, Jr., are actively engaged in operating the Palm Livestock Company in Albany and Carbon Counties. The hay ranches are in the scenic Elk Mountain country in the drainage system of Medicine Bow River and the tributaries thereof. Moreover the land holdings extend northwest of Hanna and skirt the Seminole Reservoir.

On the Palm land near Elk Mountain is a remnant of history-making days, in Fort Halleck, built in 1862 as a part of the network of protective forts during the period of western migration when the Red and White Americans were contending for the possession of the region. Fast is all evidence going into oblivion with only a standing fireplace and a few gravestones to mark the burial ground.

Norman L. Palm was born at Albin and was graduated from Colorado A. & M. College. His wife, the former Carol Jean Hodges, daughter of Jessie and Harold Hodges, attended college for two years in Fort Collins. The couple's children are Bradford Earl, Andy Charles, Diane Carol and Nancy Louise. The family lives on the Home Ranch, ten miles northwest of Elk Mountain, and also maintains a residence in Elk Mountain during the school months. The marriage of Bradford Palm and Cynthia Swatters of Hanna lengthened the family circle.

Gerald G. Palm, a native of Albin, attended college at Ft. Collins but was graduated from the University of Wyoming as was his wife, the former Nancy Marston, who taught school in Casper. Her parents were Beatrice (Dana) and Burton W. Marston. For years he was in charge of the 4-H work in Wyoming. The Gerald Palms and three sons, Steven Marshall, John Kenneth and Burton Palm, live two miles west of Hanna during the school months and in summer they reside on the Basin Ranch, sixteen miles south of Elk Mountain.

Kenneth B. Palm was born at Kimball, Nebraska, while his parents were living at Albin. He attended the University of Wyoming and was a member of the Sigma Nu fraternity. His wife, the former Peggy Malm, attended college in Boulder, Colorado. She is the daughter of Edith and Harry Malm of San Diego, California.

Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Palm and their sons, Harry Douglas and James Michael, lived at the Basin Ranch until 1956 when Kenneth was instantly killed by lightning while he was stacking hay in a meadow, about eighteen miles south of Elk Mountain. He was twenty-six years old.

Mrs. Kenneth (Peggy) Palm and sons live in San Diego, California.

Robert L. Palm was also born at Kimball, Nebraska, and spent his growing up years at Albin and was graduated from the University of Wyoming. His wife, the former Marilyn Clark of Albin, the daughter of Ruby and Vernal N. Clark, attended college at Lincoln, Nebraska and also the University of Wyoming for two years. The couple lived on a ranch a short time before moving to Pine Bluffs in 1953. Their daughter is Jennifer Jo.

Untimely was the death of Robert L. Palm, 29, in 1961 occurring while he was driving a tractor in line of duty at the elevator. He had

been the manager of the Palm Elevators in Pine Bluffs for eight years.

He was active in civic and local organizations, including the Baptist Church, Masonic Lodge, Lions Club, Young Republicans and the local school board.

He was laid to rest in the Albin cemetery as was his brother, Kenneth.

In the fall of 1962 there was a recital and dedication of the Robert Palm organ at the Baptist Church in Pine Bluffs.

His widow, Mrs. Marilyn Palm and their daughter, Jennifer Jo, continued to live in Pine Bluffs. Mrs. Palm's increasing invalidism however necessitated care that was administered by her mother, Mrs. Vernal N. Clark.

Mrs. Robert (Marilyn) Palm, 38, died at her home May 13, 1970. Besides her daughter and mother, survivors included a sister, Mrs. Ariel Biggs, Rockville, Md.; two brothers, Raymond Clark, Casper, and Dean Clark of Green River.

Funeral services were conducted in Pine Bluffs and interment was in the family lot at Albin.

Lois E. Palm McCalla

Lois E. Palm, the youngest of six and the only daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Edwin R. Palm, went to the University of Wyoming before going to school in Berkeley, Calif., and also the University of Arizona. Afterwards she resumed study at the University of Wyoming and was graduated therefrom.

Dr. William R. McCalla, Jr., a dentist, is her husband. He is the son of Dr. and Mrs. William R. McCalla. The couple established their home in Laramie and are the parents of a son, Kenneth, and a daughter, Jody Lee.





THE AUGUST RABOU FAMILY

A stone mason by trade, August Rabou brought his wife and their six children, ranging in age from one year to twelve, from Kearney, Nebraska, to the Territory of Wyoming in 1881. Thereafter the name Rabou was identified among the settlers and builders of four Laramie County communities: Cheyenne, Granite Canyon, Albin and Pine Bluffs.

August Rabou born August 10, 1844 of French Canadian ancestry and Margaret Sheedy born August 22, 1853 in South Carolina of Irish lineage were united in marriage August 15, 1868. They became the parents of four sons and four daughters, but two sons died in infancy. The family Bible inscribes them as follows:

Frank M. Rabou born July 30, 1869

William Rabou born February 6, 1871

(died ten days later)

Josephine L. Rabou born November 9, 1872

Addie M. Rabou born April 25, 1874

John Rabou born April 12, 1876

(died the same day)

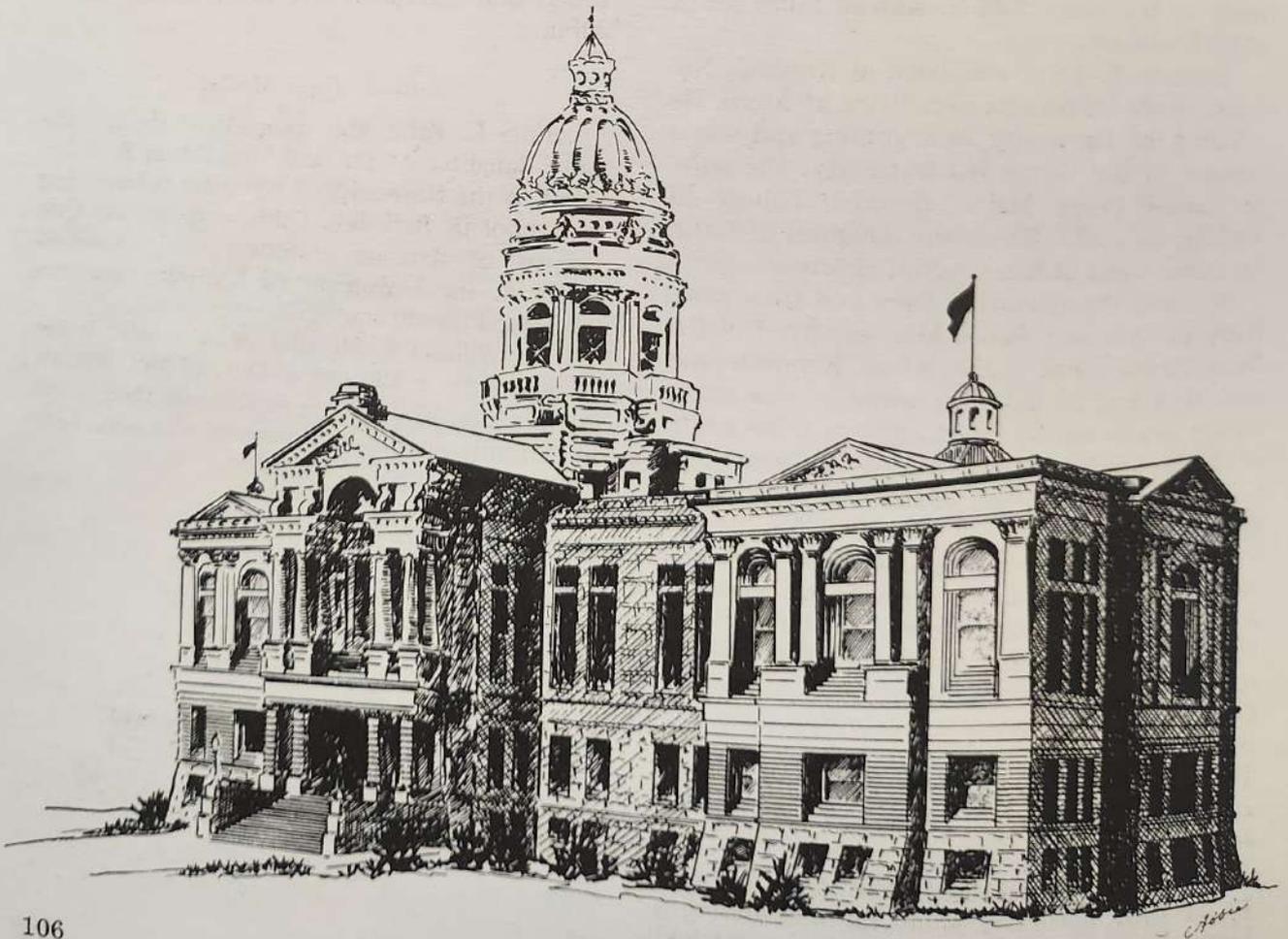
Mary Ellen Rabou born June 20, 1877

George William Rabou born October 9, 1878

Elizabeth L. Rabou born May 25, 1880

For two decades, 1881 to 1901, the August Rabou family resided in Cheyenne where Mr. Rabou was employed as a master builder in the field of stone masonry. His artisan skills are evident on the state capitol building and the Union Pacific depot as well as on the stately mansions in the capital city. In grandeur and elegance they depict the ornate architecture of the period.

Following August Rabou's death in June of 1901 his widow, Margaret Sheedy Rabou, ac-



cepted the role of a breadwinner and gamely located her family in the ranching country west of Cheyenne. By purchase she had land holdings at Crystal Lake and at Twin Mountains, south of Granite Canyon. During the open range days there were a few ranches along the creeks but in the expanse between creeks fences were practically unknown.

At Crystal Lake the plucky Rabous were getting a good start in cattle and horses when they met sharp curtailment because of municipality interference. Cheyenne designated Crystal Lake for the city's water supply. The reservoir project held priority to the meadowland, the source of winter feed. Who can ranch without it? The Rabous sold out and sought a new location.

A favorable site was discovered fifty miles northeast of Cheyenne, in the Albin country, where tall grass waved like fields of grain as assurance of the agronomy potential. The year was 1905. Coincidentally the Albin post office was established that year, giving the community proper identification.

Mrs. August Rabou and her son, George William Rabou, exercised their homestead rights and filed adjacently on land four miles northwest of Albin in Section 12, Township 17 North, Range 61 West. Their location on flat land was adapted to farming. Advantageously they gained a head start in ranching by purchasing Nels Sherard's grazing land to their north, lying in the rugged pine hills country that is naturally watered by springs and small streams.

FROM THESE ROOTS the Rabous built a family livestock business that has been in operation for more than six decades.

After rearing six children and having the satisfaction of seeing them established in homes of their own, Mrs. Rabou took three more. The first was Mary whom she adopted. Later Mary and Andrew Cunningham were married. Their family consisted of two small daughters when he met a tragic death in a dance fracas at the Grange Hall in Albin. Afterwards Mrs. Cunningham spent her years in Pine Bluffs.

The Manrolla twins, Joe and Erma, came to live with Mrs. Rabou because their parents had several children and inadequate means of support. In fact they were with her at the time of her death in 1932. Then her son, George W. Rabou, and his wife generously took them in

their home enabling them to graduate from the Albin High School. They were in school with Frank Rabou. Joe graduated in 1933, as did Frank in the first four-year accredited class. Unique was the male class of seven members that year. Erma Manrolla graduated in 1934.

Practically all pioneers that have illuminated history have been self-starters. Mrs. August Rabou merited this category at the age of fifty when she bade adieu to urban living, took her scant resources and launched into various facets of agriculture. Briefly she was identified at Crystal Lake and Granite Canyon and for the remainder of her life at Albin.

Her uncle Dennis Sheedy, a founder of the Denver Dry Goods Company, possessed the same attributes of vision and courage.

Mrs. Rabou entered a man's world by hiring workmen to till the soil and harvest the crops, as well as to care for the livestock. In the role of manager and purchasing agent the day did not get too blustery for her to attend a public auction. Clad in fur apparel she was impressive as she bid competitively on commodities and on livestock. She let not defeat or an occasional period of reverses of fortune deter her from long range objectives. Her hands held the reins over a substantial ranching and farming operation.

Gravestones in the Catholic Olivet cemetery in Cheyenne mark the resting place of August Rabou 1844-1901; Margaret Rabou 1853-1932; two of their children: Frank Rabou 1869-1928; Josephine Rabou Embery 1872-1955.

A son, George W. Rabou and a daughter, Mary Ellen Rabou Gotch are interred in the Beth El Cemetery in Cheyenne.

The Progeny of August and Margaret Sheedy Rabou

The eldest in the family of six children was Frank M. Rabou who came to Wyoming in 1881 at the age of twelve. In his youth he was employed to take care of the dairy herd, that grazed in pastures outside of Cheyenne, belonging to residents who depended on their private cow to furnish dairy products for home consumption. His duties entailed his walking the cows to and from town daily. In the role of a drover he was struck by lightning. Thereafter he sustained a degree of paralysis.

Courageously he minimized his affliction to the extent that he ran a shoe store on the South

Side of Cheyenne. Later at a location, just off the viaduct to the east, he owned and operated a grocery and general store, with living quarters on second floor. Business thrived for him during the heyday of the Union Pacific shops when the customary procedure of the workers was to use charge accounts from payday to payday. Mr. Rabou sold the store to D. J. "Doc" O'Connell and he ran the store for years.

Reveling in music as did his entire family, Mr. Rabou was always ready to fiddle for a dance. And he did more! Ingeniously he contrived ways to manipulate a few instruments himself, thus operating a one-man orchestra. In prosaic times his musical renditions brought entertainment to an otherwise workaday world.

Versatile were the enterprises of Mr. Rabou! He had rental property and also an insurance business in Cheyenne before he moved to Albin to homestead land that he later sold to his brother, George W. Rabou.

In Pine Bluffs he dealt in real estate. "Like father like son" he reached his maximum in the field of construction by building the Pine Bluffs Hotel, Pastime theater and houses in the residential part of town. In 1917 he purchased half interest in the Hall Toggery, a men's furnishing store.

A participant in the colorful history of Wyoming for nearly a half century Frank M. Rabou died in 1928. His immediate family survivors were his wife, Emma, and their adopted son.

Josephine, the eldest of the four Rabou girls, was a music teacher in Cheyenne. In 1898 she was wed to Charles B. Embery, a native of Pennsylvania, who became the Chief of Police in Cheyenne and later a Trainmaster at the Union Pacific Depot.

After his retirement the couple moved to Laramie to be near their daughter, Nell, and her husband, Frank Mullin, a native of Bear Creek in South Goshen County, whose mother, Clara Yoder Mullin, was a member of a pioneer family settling there in the early 1880s. The Emberys' other daughter, Margaret, married Steve Johnston, a railroad employee. They are residents of California.

Josephine Rabou Embery died in May of 1955 and her son-in-law, Frank Mullin, two months later. Afterwards her husband, Charles B. Embery, made his home with their daughter,

Mrs. Frank (Nell) Mullin at 1114 Garfield Ave. in Laramie. He was hospitalized in October of 1966 and succumbed the following July at the age of 97. Later Mrs. Frank Mullin sold out in Laramie and is living in Laguna Hills, California.

Addie Rabou and Arthur Mitchell were married in 1892. They lived a few years in the Albin country and operated their homestead and also land they purchased. Northwest of Albin a memorial stands in evidence of their improvements that were extraordinary, including a commodious house as well as a large barn and silo designed to accommodate a dairy herd. Despite the outlay of expenditures and their high hopes they were not ruralists long.

The Mitchells forsook agriculture pursuits for banking. Thus engaged was Mr. Mitchell at Platteville, Colorado, and also at the Farmers State Bank in Pine Bluffs.

While finishing college their son, Arthur Mitchell, Jr., was killed in an automobile accident.

The couple retired in Long Beach, California and there Mr. Mitchell died. While Mrs. Mitchell was living in the Charles B. Embery home, her kinfolk in Laramie, she departed this life.

Mary Ellen Rabou Gotch and her husband, William Gotch, spent several years in the Albin community as wheat farmers. They moved to Reno, Nevada, where Mr. Gotch was employed as an engineer on highway construction. Mrs. Gotch was the last survivor of the pioneer family of eight that entered the portals of the Territory of Wyoming in 1881. Her death date was December 23, 1965.

Coming to the territory as an infant, Elizabeth Rabou recalled only Wyoming. She married Claude Hall and for years they were identified in Pine Bluffs, where he operated the family-owned Men's Toggery. Mrs. Hall boarded and roomed faculty members. Superintendent of schools, Clayton Hume, made his home with the Halls.

For retirement the couple, with their son and daughter, moved to California. Mr. and Mrs. Claude Hall are deceased.

THE GEORGE W. RABOU FAMILY

A Wyoming record of an eighty-year residency was held by George W. Rabou, constituting the years between 1881 and 1961. Born at Kearney, Nebraska, October 9, 1878 he was one of six children brought to Cheyenne by their

parents, Mr. and Mrs. August Rabou. The others were Frank, Josephine, Addie, Mary Ellen and Elizabeth.

He was educated in the Cheyenne schools and also at Harvard, Nebraska, living with relatives while there.

George W. Rabou was an enterprising businessman by the time he reached man's estate. During the Spanish American War he was an independent hack driver, transporting soldiers to and from Cheyenne and the Fort D. A. Russell location, which seemed well out in the country at that time. The name of the fort was later changed to Francis E. Warren Air Force Base. The undertaking was financed by Harry P. Hynds to the extent of eleven hundred dollars to buy the rig, without the customary evidence of a promissory note. Mr. Rabou substantiated with the commitment, in gratitude for "the gentlemen's agreement."

Colorful was the era of cowboys and open range. While riding herd for a cattle baron, Frank "Big Hat" Benton, George W. Rabou participated in a drive of Texas longhorn steers by joining the herd south of Cheyenne and trailing them across the prairies to the destination, north of Lagrange.

The youthful Rabou was employed on the N R Horse Ranch south of Cheyenne about nine miles on the Greeley road (later, part of the Warren Livestock holdings.) Here he learned the reactions and habits of horses and techniques in handling and caring for them. The effective skills are still being used by his descendants.

The daily life of a cowboy called for more feats than those experienced by pros. And Mr. Rabou saw many contestants compete in rodeo arenas. A lifelong decision was made at a rodeo when he rode out on a broncho, that ran through a fence, fell on him, resulting in a broken bone in his foot. This "cured" him of all desire for quick fame as a rodeo performer.

A lifetime of interest in horses was his, running the gamut from the broncho type to the improved breed of quarter horses, which he began to raise in 1942. He favored quarter horses because they are of a gentle nature and easier to handle as well as their possessing a greater degree of intelligence and physical stamina.

Mr. Rabou was a noted authority on horses and a judge at horse shows, fairs and rodeos. He

promoted the Laramie County Fair in conjunction with a rodeo, as was true when it was held in East Laramie County—first at Burns and later at Pine Bluffs.

Since 1948 the Laramie County Fair has been held in Cheyenne, without rodeo activity. The capital city comes in for the lion's share of western sportsmanship and the revival of bygone customs during the gala week of Frontier Days, when the stakes are high for World Championships.

George W. Rabou became engaged in raising livestock at Crystal Lake, west of Cheyenne, and at Granite Canyon. However the Rabous sought a block of land that was available for several members of the family. The Albin country was the answer. He and his widowed mother, Mrs. August Rabou, took the initiatory steps by making the fifty-mile journey in a horse-drawn rig and encountering just one gate enroute. The vastness of the country was impressive. They claimed land on Section 12; Township 17 North; Range 61 West in 1905. Simultaneously J. Albin Anderson became the postmaster of the newly established Albin post office, thereafter identifying the community.

The marriage of Miss Mable Eva Piper and George W. Rabou was solemnized in Cheyenne June 6, 1906. They began housekeeping on his homestead, four miles northwest of Albin, where they lived for sixteen years before moving to his mother's homestead of better improvements.

They had been housed progressively in a tent, a dugout and a stone house. The tent shed precipitation and was comfortably warm but it was never taunt enough to withstand the wintry blasts by day or night, as the case might be. Most annoying to the occupants was the whipping and flapping of canvas. The second attempt was a dugout which was as substantial as the Rock of Gibraltar, but it was inadequately lighted. And who wants to grope in semi-darkness? Mr. Rabou left the makeshift category when he built a fair-sized house of stone, an erection that sufficed to house the five-member family for several years.

In 1922 the Rabous moved into the six-room house on his mother's homestead. To this ancestral base they have added rooms, enclosed porches and modernized until today's commodious dwelling, amidst several buildings in

groupings of trees and shrubs, lends quaint charm to the premises. The two-story structure of gables with its twelve-pane windows depicts a dip into the past that easily could be taken for the setting for an early day historical novel in New England.



Home of Miss Erma Rabou

Enchantment awaits within! The walls display valuable souvenirs that reach beyond collectors' items and go into the realm of a museum assemblage. The Indian relics and implements of war have been unearthed on their land. Inscribed above the fireplace which was artistically constructed of rare stones is the RABOU RANCH, spelled out in arrowheads, as is the "Lazy D T" brand —  — that was used by George W. Rabou and later by his sons, Raymond and Frank.



Interior of Rabou ranch home

Large wall spacings are given to arrangements of arrowheads, spearheads and other artifacts. Amazing is the number of photographs and newspaper items that authentically relate the history and settlement of Laramie County, reaching back into territorial days. Priceless and irreplaceable are the Rabou heirlooms!

Mr. Rabou's eighty-year residence in Wyoming spanned the horse-drawn vehicle days and made a far reach into the mechanized era. He came to Cheyenne as a small child and lived there and in the surrounding ranch country until he filed on a homestead at Albin in 1905 and subsequently made his home there afterwards.

His greatest assets were willing hands and foresight in the growth of the new country. By practical management he enlarged and improved his homestead nucleus and while so-doing he experienced the trials and triumphs of life, as did his contemporaries.

About the toughest time was during the Depression in the 1930s when ruralists slipped into a numbing economic blight that engulfed them for years. An example was Mr. Rabou's sending 25 dry cows on a train to the Omaha market and for the carload receiving just over \$200.

How do responsible people overcome adversity? The Rabou family was faithful in the care of the livestock and the entire agricultural unit while biding time until more of the pieces of the jigsaw of economics fell into place. Then and then only was the way illumined. Unforgettable was the test in endurance and resourcefulness.

A pioneer participant in the colorful history of the West, George W. Rabou died October 1, 1961—a week before his 83rd birthday. His immediate survivors were his wife, Mable, and their children, Raymond, Erma and Frank as well as five grandchildren.

*Mrs. George W. Rabou—Nee
Mable Eva Piper*

The migration of settlers was repeatedly relayed on the trek from the East to the West. 'Twas true of the Putman and Piper families who picked up the trail in Illinois and settled in the Sunflower State before locating in Wyoming.

The parents of Mable Piper Rabou were Julia E. Putman born at Canton, Illinois, May 21, 1862, and John W. Piper born at Berry, Illinois,

September 15, 1860. They were married at Osage, Kansas, February 27, 1881. Their children were seven: Charles, Harrison, Ralph, Grace, Mable, Elva and Gladys.

In 1900 Mr. and Mrs. John W. Piper and five children came to Cheyenne for Mr. Piper's health. Fortunately the move resulted in the improvement of his crippling rheumatic condition, enabling him to provide for his family by carpentry work in the shops of the Union Pacific Railroad.

The Pipers lost their first-born, Charles, 6, of a childhood disease, while the family was living in Kansas. Gladys, the youngest in the family, was born in Cheyenne.

The F.L.T. Cemetery in Cheyenne is the final resting place of members in the Piper family as follows:

John W. Piper—1860-1933

Julia E. Piper—1862-1952

Grace Piper Allen—July 5, 1886-June 1, 1924

Harrison Roy Piper

Pvt. 142 Co. Transportation Corps, World War I
November 6, 1888-July 20, 1951

In the Beth El Cemetery in Cheyenne is buried Gladys Piper Cuthbert, born in Cheyenne in March of 1902 and deceased in May of 1967.

Born near Osage City, at Air, Kansas, May 20, 1884, Mable Eva Piper came to Cheyenne at the age of sixteen and was soon employed at the Cheyenne Steam Laundry for \$24 a month, which was a dollar for each work day. She walked to work over the viaduct from her home on the South Side.

The marriage of Mable E. Piper and George W. Rabou was solemnized in Cheyenne on June 6, 1906. Starting housekeeping on Mr. Rabou's homestead, on which he had filed the previous year, they were privileged to spend fifty-five years together in the Albin community.

Four children were born to them. In 1907 a male infant died shortly after birth. Another son was born during a January snowstorm with the assistance of a midwife. All was well, despite the only heating facility being a small cookstove.

In the homes of the first settlers, more often than not, the beginning and the ending of life occurred without an attending physician.

Mrs. Rabou recalled the loneliness of the early days. How could it be otherwise in the horse and buggy days, with infrequent mail service and no telephone communication? Low

moments were fleeting, for she had her dreams and sustaining hopes of future betterment, which became a reality due to the providence of her husband.

Busyness was the never failing panacea of the pioneer woman who was engrossed in child care and homemaking, while her husband gave attention to the increasing number of livestock and to material improvements.

The life of simplicity was rewarding inasmuch as the precepts of old were exemplified: "She looketh well to the ways of her household and eateth not the bread of idleness—she reacheth forth her hand to the needy—her own works praise her." Proverbs 31: 27-31

Social Gatherings

On holidays and on special occasions the cultural and social aspects of life were given due consideration. The schoolhouse was the community center and home talent provided the entertainment.

The Christmas program was a joyous occasion, focusing attention on the gifts and treats that were hung on the evergreen tree. The colorful homespun decorations were made of paper chains and strings of cranberries and popcorn. Devoid of wrappings to camouflage the contents, the children's toys hung in stark reality causing speculation on the ultimate ownership. All eyes were agog for the breath-taking moment when the ringing of sleigh bells signified Santa's visitation and the distribution of gifts. At the least provocation of surprise, the ohs and ahs were vocalized.

The Harvest

In the workaday world 'togetherness' was experienced during the grain harvest, for which the community was noted from the outset. Tidball's Geography of Wyoming accredited Albin as leading in the production of dryland wheat.

The bumper grain crops were harvested by steam engine threshing machines. The time required for each grower's threshing was affected by the acreage, the yield and the weather. Wet grain could not be processed. Therefore many a crew was stymied until the skies cleared and the sheaves were sun-dried. Reputedly a three-week harvest was an average.

"All hands and the cook" was a truism in

coping with the needs of many workmen. Mrs. George W. Rabou was a participant in harvests that entailed the preparation of meals for twelve to fourteen men as well as the following of women and children. Everything was done the hard way, including carrying indoors and out all the water used by the household, as well as baking the bread and pastries and many times dressing the fryers to be used that day.



Unforgettable was the incessant warfare on the common housefly, which was driven out the door, swatted, tanglefooted, trapped and poisoned with "Daisy Fly Killers." And who recalls the part played by the patient lady as she waved a leafy tree branch over the table while the men were dining? DDT was long overdue!

Like Mary of old, the housewife did what she could. She was solicitous for the comfort of the motley assemblage in her charge. Beds and where to put them presented a problem. The bunkhouse beds were assigned in a jiffy-time. The next best offering was empty buildings on the premises where pallets were often spread on straw mattresses.

The dining table was lengthened or another annexed, as the case might be. Chairs were brought forth from all over the house before scrounging around for benches, boxes and kegs to match the settings at the elongated table.

Workmen washed before meals on the shady side of the house, using tubs of water warmed by the rays of the sun.

Uninspiring and hard was women's work. The heat from the kitchen stove was sweltering during the fourteen to sixteen hours that constituted a day's work. The duties of the house included replenishing the supply of fuel, be it wood or coal or a combination thereof, as well as emptying the ashes. Regardless of the discomforts, there was a way of getting things done on schedule, even if it took the assistance of the ladies in the neighborhood.

Children reveled in the threshing season of the steam engine era. Hardly a glimpse of the past is remembered so vividly or with as much nostalgia. Accompanied by their parents, they arrived at the scene of activity and found a world of wonderment around the threshing rig, stationed in the grain field. The barnyard animals fascinated the young fry before they mo-seyed to the house for tasty food snacks. Saddle ponies were often available for them to ride and roam around at random. The carefree found the harvest the highlight of summer.

Retrospect

For over six decades Mrs. George W. Rabou participated in the progression of the Albin community. The standards of living rose from scanty and crude housing to the spacious modern homes; and the development of the land followed suit. The virgin grassland gave way to grain fields—veritably the bread basket of Laramie County. Albin is also proclaimed to be the home of the certified seed potatoes.

An object lesson in constancy was ever before Mrs. Rabou as she observed settlers coming to the new country with adequate resources and high hopes, only to become weary of well doing and leave. Whereas others came with grim determination and thankful hearts for the opportunities at hand. They were the stable residents who became engrossed in establishing homes and working the land which eventually resulted in the accumulation of substantial holdings.

Sunset Years

Leaving an urban background in 1906, Mrs. Rabou was a permanent resident of Section 12, four miles northwest of Albin. After her husband's death in 1961, she and her daughter, Erma Rabou, continued to live on the home

ranch, surrounded by memorabilia of the historical past.

Her sons, Raymond and Frank, were in charge of the livestock and agronomics. And everyone was in on the horses, for the name of Rabou is synonymous with fine horses.

Rewarding to Mrs. Rabou has been her family's participation in the Albin Day parades. Her children, Raymond, Erma, and Frank; and excepting a grandson, Robert Rabou, a resident of Montana; her grandchildren, William, Edward, Joan and Margaret Rabou, were mounted on steeds in skillful equestrian style, for Albin Day in 1966.

On the principles of family solidarity and united endeavor, Mr. and Mrs. George W. Rabou established their home and also their land and livestock enterprises of Hereford cattle, quarter and thoroughbred saddle horses.

Decease of Mrs. George W. Rabou

Mrs. George W. (Mable) Rabou, 85, died at the Kimball Hospital on October 2, 1969.

She and her husband participated in the colorful history of the Albin community, where she came as a bride in 1906. As first settlers on their land, the activities spanned the open range days to the well-tilled grain fields and modern ranching.

During the interim period sod-busting was accomplished by horsepower, with a man walking behind a plow from early morning until eventide.

In the fury of a blizzard, to save livestock, there was a choice of traveling on foot or horseback in those self-sacrificing times.

Apropos to the faithful wife and mother was a line from Milton: "They also serve who only stand and wait." During hazardous weather her heartfelt desire was for the safety of her family.

Mr. and Mrs. George W. Rabou were eyewitnesses in the great era of progress in transportation. Beginning with cattle trails, they noted a network of graded and surfaced roads and mechanical vehicles as well as the coming of the railroad to Albin in 1928. And Mrs. Rabou lived to see the successful moonflight in July of 1969.

She was a noble lady of kindness and sustaining faith, constituting a legacy in the art of living, that will be an endless influence.

Mrs. Rabou is survived by a daughter, Erma, and a son, Frank, both of Albin, five grandchil-

dren and three great grandchildren. A sister and brother also survive. They are Elva B. Branigan and Ralph E. Piper of Cheyenne.

In addition to her husband, she was preceded in death by an infant son, and a son, Raymond.

Since 1901 Mrs. Rabou held a membership in the First Presbyterian Church in Cheyenne. Her former pastor, Dr. John M. Pattison, officiated at the funeral services. Interment was in the family plot in Beth El Cemetery, beside her husband who succumbed in 1961.

The Descendants of Mr. and Mrs. George W. Rabou

The August Rabou family of eight, coming to the Territory of Wyoming in the early 1880s, has surname continuity in the lineage of George W. Rabou. The descendants are exemplary in citizenship and participants in skilled professions as well as in civic and charitable endeavors, emphasizing service in 4-H and youth groups.

The Raymond Rabou Family

Raymond Rabou, the eldest in the George W. Rabou family, was born on the family ranch at Albin and it was his lifetime home, except while attending high school in Pine Bluffs and two years at the University of Wyoming.

He contributed substantially to the progression of the community through making a career of livestock and agronomics.

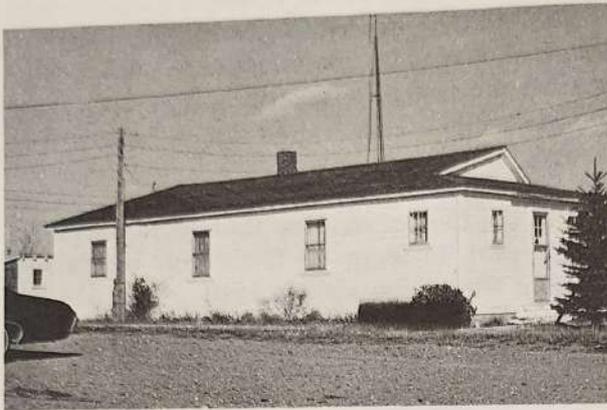
In 1938 Raymond Rabou married Lavon Mathews, the daughter of Carl and Ollie Mathews. Golden Prairie was her birthplace and she graduated from high school in Pine Bluffs. Living in the northwestern states are the parents of Mrs. Rabou, her brothers, Keith and Marvin; and a sister, Mrs. Max (Mary) Witbeck.

Mrs. Raymond Rabou owned and operated a variety store in Albin. Afterwards she retained an interest in merchandising through her employment in Moore's Grocery in Albin, which is also a general store.

Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Rabou became the parents of three children, Robert Carroll, William Rodgers and Margaret Josephine.

Robert C. Rabou graduated from high school in Albin and attended the University of Wyoming before his marriage to Norma Cowan, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Luke Cowan of Little-

ton, Colorado. For higher education she attended Stephens College in Missouri.



Home of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Rabou

The couple established their home at Albin and joining the family circle are daughters, Ramona and Carolee.

The Robert Rabous lived in Montana a few years before relocating in 1969 at Albin, where Robert shares in operating the family ranches.

The memorable year of 1968 was a standout with two weddings occurring in the Raymond Rabou family.

Margaret Rabou graduated from Albin high school and attended Junior College in Torrington before taking a beauty course in Scottsbluff, Nebraska.

Margaret Josephine Rabou and Robert Hale, son of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Hale of Benton, Arkansas, were united in marriage June 8, 1968 at St. Paul's Catholic Church in Pine Bluffs. Their home is in Arkansas.

In July in the same church setting was the wedding of William Rodgers Rabou and Sharon Ann Sandridge, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Sandridge of Kimball, Nebraska.

Mrs. William R. Rabou graduated from the Kimball High School before taking courses in Nurses' Training at Scottsbluff.

William R. Rabou graduated from high school at Albin and attended the University of Wyoming. Having completed the courses required by the Air Force National Guard, he keeps his service current by flying and returning to school for refresher courses.

Mr. Rabou is a fourth generation resident on the ranch homesteaded by his great-grandmother, Mrs. August Rabou. Thereon he and his wife have established their home. Too, he is

associated in business in the family-owned land and livestock company, as is his brother, Robert Rabou.

Obituary of Raymond Rabou

Raymond Rabou, 60, died at his home August 5, 1969. He was born January 9, 1909 at Albin and spent his life there.

Mr. Rabou was a member of the St. Paul's Catholic Church, Elks Lodge BPOE, Wyoming Stock Growers Association and the Farm Bureau.

Surviving family members included his wife, Lavon; two sons, Robert C. and William R. of Albin; a daughter, Mrs. Robert (Margaret) Hale, Benton, Arkansas; his mother, Mrs. George W. Rabou; a sister, Miss Erma Rabou; a brother, Frank Rabou and two grandchildren of Albin.

His father preceded him in death in 1961; whereas his mother survived him by two months, her death occurring in October of 1969.

Rosary and funeral services were held for Mr. Rabou in the St. Paul's Catholic Church in Pine Bluffs, followed by interment in the city cemetery.

A further recordings of vital statistics is noted in the Raymond Rabou family in sons born to the former Margaret Rabou and her husband, Robert Hale. Roy Charles was born August 14, 1969 and William Howard on April 12, 1972.

Miss Erma Rabou

Erma Rabou, the only daughter in the George W. Rabou family, was born in Cheyenne, reared on the family ranch at Albin and finished grade school before attending high school in Pine Bluffs, where she and her brother, Raymond graduated in the 1927 class of eighteen, in which Mrs. Jay (Iwanna Lee) Brown was a member. Mrs. W. A. (Anna Lee Thompson) Gross was one of their teachers.

Miss Rabou chose the nursing profession and became a RN after completing the training for nurses in Cheyenne. Supplementary work qualified her for membership in the Nurses Corps of the United States Army. She served in this capacity in various states and organized hospitals on or near army bases, veritably alleviating distress on a broad scale.

Presently she is the only active RN in the

Albin area and she nurses part time in the hospital at Kimball.

The home of Miss Erma Rabou is the ancestral residence of some sixty-year vintage, built by her grandmother, Mrs. August Rabou.

The accomplishments of Miss Rabou include equestrian skills and she frequently lends a hand in the operation of the family-owned ranches that were established in 1905.

The Frank Rabou Family

The youngest in the George W. Rabou family was Frank, who was born in Cheyenne and became a lifelong resident on the family land holdings at Albin.

Participating in an unique role, Frank Rabou was a member of the all-male cast of seven, graduating in the first four-year accredited high school in 1933. Others sharing in the spotlight were, Edwin A. "Buster" Anderson, Harold Fitzwater, Melvin and Orville Lerwick, Joe Manrolla and Russell Zingg.

moved to a farm in western Nebraska did the two meet as men. By then each had grown children and naturally everyone became friends.

Later the romance of Dorothy Anderson and Frank Rabou culminated in marriage.

Dorothy Anderson Rabou, the elder daughter of Anna and Gustaf Anderson, was born in Clay County, Nebraska. As a young girl she came with her family to live in the Flowerfield community, adjacently east of Albin.



Home of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Rabou

ALBIN HIGH SCHOOL		COMMENCEMENT	
CLASS OF 1933		Albin High School Gymnasium	
Sponsor: Dorothy H. Barnes		Wednesday, May 24, 8 p. m.	
<p><i>Class Roll</i></p> Orville Lerwick Edwin Anderson Harold Fitzwater Melvin Lerwick Russell Zingg Frank Rabou Joseph Manrolla		<p><i>Program</i></p> Processional Miss Elsie Davis Invocation Rev. Claude A. Smith Salutatory Joseph Manrolla Vocal Solo Josephine Brown Address Gregory S. Powell Vocal Solo Rev. Claude A. Smith Valedictory Orville Lerwick Presentation of Diplomas John W. Brown Presentation of Scholarship Prof. F. A. Veverka Benediction Rev. Claude A. Smith Recessional Miss Elsie Davis	
<p><i>Class Mottos</i></p> "Honor Lies at Labor's Gate"			
<p><i>Class Colors</i></p> Yellow Tulip			
<p><i>Class Colors</i></p> Green and Gold			

The three continuous residents of the Albin community, who with their families are self-employed, are Edwin A. Anderson, Orville Lerwick and Frank Rabou.

The ruling hand of destiny took a deviating course in romance, stemming from the time George W. Rabou attended school at Harvard, Nebraska, and became acquainted with a younger lad, Andrew "Gust" Anderson.

Years passed before the embers of friendship rekindled. In fact not until Gust Anderson

In the area, this family made the third household headed by Anna and Gust Anderson. Two of the couples were Swedish pioneers, settling on the Wyoming side of the state line, whereas the latter day Gust Andersons of Nebraska were of Danish descent. All four grandparents of Mrs. Frank Rabou came from Denmark.

The western move of the Anderson family was ill-timed economically. The adversity encountered included the Depression, accelerated by drought that curtailed production, as well as hailstones that beat down the subsisting vegetation. Helpless were they and their contemporaries against low prices and unfavorable weather. Just trying to stay in business presented an unforgettable challenge.

The social life, centering at the school house of District 61, gave a brighter side of life. The programs sponsored by the PTA were of literary value, with an inclusion of arts and drama.

Wondrous was the world of music! Gust Anderson was an accomplished violinist and the entire family reveled in song.

But gone is the day! Traveling by bus the children of the district attend school at Harrisburg, Nebraska, the county seat of Banner County.

Family unity and resourcefulness reached the zenith when the Anderson family planned for Christmas and could not step out and buy gifts for numerous kinfolk in southeastern Nebraska. The day was won when the members of the household gathered around the large dining table to sort and clean a hundred pounds of dry beans. The fun-loving group enjoyed the project, and the labor of their hands was gratefully received.

Mrs. Frank Rabou became a resident of Albin following her marriage and she represents her family in the area. The members moving to Montana were her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Gust Anderson—both deceased; two brothers, Cleo and Lester Anderson; a sister, Mrs. Harris (Maxine) Stredd of Whitefish, Montana.

The family of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Rabou consists of a son and a daughter, Edward Warren and Joan Kathern. They finished high school in Albin and in due time graduated from the University of Wyoming.

Mr. and Mrs. Edward W. Rabou

In 1968 the third Rabou wedding in a year occurred in the Frank Rabou lineage when Edward Warren Rabou and Evelene Gorham Nash, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Harold F. Nash, were married on December twenty-ninth in a ceremony solemnized in the Congregational Church at Killingsworth, Connecticut. Miss Nash was attired in an ancestral wedding gown in which her maternal great-grandmother was married in 1874.

Evelene Nash Rabou graduated from the Colorado Women's College in Denver, later becoming Temple Buell.

The Edward Rabous established their home northwest of Albin on well improved premises, originally built by Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Mitchell for their home and dairy. Mrs. Mitchell, the former Addie Rabou, was a paternal great-aunt of Edward Rabou. The Mitchells sold their Albin property and moved to Pine Bluffs. Later it was owned by the George Wulf family.

Wendy Jo Rabou is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Edward Rabou. She is a fifth generation resident of the Albin community.

In view of the prevailing mergers of agriculture units and the exodus of ruralists, it is commendable that Edward Rabou and his cousins, Robert and William Rabou, have stayed by the land and with their families live in the Albin community. The independence of self-employment holds a balance over the economic challenges which confront stockmen.

Joan Kathern Rabou

Four-H work and related activities foretold Joan Rabou's specialty. While attending high school at Albin she took home economics courses and was a member of FHA. Meritorious honors and awards were accorded her before she was the recipient of a Bachelor of Science degree at the University of Wyoming in 1968. That fall she began teaching in the Hot Springs County high school at Thermopolis and was in charge of the home economics department for three years.

The marriage of Joan Kathern Rabou, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Rabou of Albin, and Frederic Jess Sipe, son of Mr. and Mrs. Jess Sipe of Spearfish, South Dakota, was solemnized at the First Presbyterian Church in Cheyenne.

The couple established their home in Thermopolis as Mr. Sipe was also in the school system, teaching mechanical drafting and swimming.

For further education the Sipes spent the summer of 1971 in Laramie before moving to Saratoga, Wyoming for Mr. Sipe to continue in the educational field.

Born in Rawlins, Dustin Frederic Sipe is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Frederic J. Sipe of Saratoga.



THE ALFRED FREDERICK SCOON FAMILY

Born in Aberegeale, Wales, in 1864, Alfred Frederick Scoon was the youngest son of William and Elizabeth Scoon. Their decease left him an orphan at an early age and he was placed in the guardianship of older half-brothers, William and John Scoon. At the birthplace of their father in Roxburghshire, Scotland, Alfred was reared and educated, with advanced courses in

mathematics, history and languages, including Latin.

In 1879 he was brought to America by a half-brother, John Scoon, who established a general store in Illinois. Alfred disliked store work from the outset. The confinement was boresome and it failed to challenge his nomadic nature. He was an avid reader, reveling in history and geography.

Triggering every fiber of his being was the forming of large cattle companies on the western plains, in charge of glamorous cowboys. He longed to activate the experience of Julius Caesar, "veni, vidi, vici."

The adventuresome youth managed to reach Wyoming, even though he landed in 1880 practically penniless. His first stop was at the Tracy Ranch at Pine Bluffs. He and the Tracy boys rode out south of town to meet the bellowing Texas cattle herds that were destined to graze on the nutritious grass of the virgin plains. Agents or cattle foremen received the herds and trailed them to specified ranges.

Joining a cattle herd enroute for Montana, Alfred Scoon was identified with big cattle outfits there and also in northern Wyoming, even to participating in the Johnson County cattlemen's war. His versatile roles of occupation

included his running a livery stable in Montana.

Alfred Scoon was of keen intellect, observing and absorbed knowledge readily. He made several trips to Europe with horses for the Arbuckle Coffee Company, with headquarters at the PO Ranch on Pole Creek, later becoming the Boice Ranch. Traveling experiences gave him lifelong conversation piece.

Near Kemmerer at Diamondville, Alfred F. Scoon and Miss Agnes McClain Brown were wed. Previously each of them had emigrated from Scotland. While living in Uinta County, later becoming Lincoln County, the Scoons honored their firstborn with the family name of William Alfred Scoon.

Being a family man did not deter Mr. Scoon's inherent desire to look afar for opportunities. The birthplace record of his five sons is indicative of residential changes. Despite considerable trekking across Wyoming, however, it is noted that the Scoons were always in the southern tier of counties.

Come spring Alfred Scoon was on the move! He brought his wife and infant son, William, to the Horse Creek valley and also he was instrumental in locating his wife's mother, Mrs. Archie Brown, and her family on a small Horse Creek ranch, which later became a part of the Dan Donahue Ranch.



This picture was taken in 1901 at what is now known as the Dan Donahue place near Meriden. From left to right: Unidentified; Chris Streaks on crutches; John Brown; Pete Brown; William A. Scoon in high chair; and Mr. and Mrs. Alfred F. Scoon.

While Mr. Scoon was employed at the Colin Hunter Ranch he housed his family in the old grout house at the TO Ranch. It was there during a raging blizzard in December of 1902 that Robert Scoon was born with only the midwifery assistance of Mrs. Joe Gurney, known as "Aunt Hat."

John Scoon's birthplace was Rock Springs, while Mr. Scoon was stable boss, above the ground, at the P. J. Quealy Mines and also he handled freight. Mr. Scoon and the Quealys became lifelong friends.

Desiring self-employment, Mr. Scoon purchased a relinquishment for \$200 and located northwest of Albin, where the family was identified for eight years. Howard Scoon was born on the Albin homestead.

The Scoons were housed in a semi-dugout and underwent privations in common with contemporary settlers. They and others met at the well, as was true in Biblical times. There was much carrying water from the few wells and windmills in the community as drilling to reach a water deposit in the high plains country necessitated a cost that was prohibitive to many householders.

Alfred F. Scoon sold his Albin property in 1914 and did some bartering with his additional homestead to become the owner of a ranch on Horse Creek, which he did not immediately live on. However he did later and eventually the scenic ranch in the productive meadow became the property and home of Mr. and Mrs. William A. Scoon.

Mr. Scoon became employed at the Hunter Ranch and he and his wife lived in the Horse Creek valley the rest of their lives.

Gone was the dugout housing and trudging with water pails. Available was a plenteous supply of water and even ice at the ice house. The Scoons reveled in the more abundant life.

Old-timers praise Mrs. Scoon for her good cooking and extraordinary cleanliness. Regardless of the housing or circumstances she was an exemplary homemaker.

The Scoon boys attended school at South Bend, named for an early day post office that was in operation from 1884 to 1914. The teacher was usually a man from the East who boarded with the Scoons. The long winter evenings were spent in reading, playing games or in visiting, which was also an opportune time for

Mr. Scoon to relate his travels, including several trips to Europe.

Mr. Scoon's ranch duties began with feeding 600 cows during the winter. His sons helped. Springtime brought irrigating, fencing, branding calves and later on haying. Best of all the boys were on the payroll earning money for saddles, Stetson hats, made-to-order boots and Pendleton woolen clothing for winter, all of which were out of reach during the homestead days.

The fifth and last son, Kenneth Scoon, was born in 1921 when William was twenty-one.

That fall Mr. Scoon became foreman of the Hunter outfit, known as the Little Horse Creek Cattle Company, entailing the responsibility of caring for 1,500 cattle on thirty thousand acres of land. His son, William, assisted to the extent that he became cattle foreman in 1924 and assumed the full responsibility in 1927 when his father retired. However William had been continuously employed since 1914.

Mr. and Mrs. Alfred F. Scoon lived on their Horse Creek ranch the remainder of their lives. Their death dates are inscribed on the gravestone in the Lakeview Cemetery in Cheyenne as 1932 for Mrs. Scoon and 1938 for Mr. Scoon.

MR. AND MRS. WILLIAM A. SCOON

The Meriden community owes much to long-time residents, who have been upright citizens and good neighbors. Identified by these characteristics, William A. Scoon has been around since the turn of the century when as an infant he was brought by his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Alfred F. Scoon to the Horse Creek valley, later known as Meriden.

In 1880 Alfred F. Scoon came to the Territory of Wyoming and spent his life caring for livestock. Of the five sons he reared to manhood William, the eldest, was the only one who followed his lead and made a career of ranching.

William A. Scoon worked closely with his father at the Hunter Ranch and was his successor as foreman in 1927. In this role he continued until 1954, serving a total of forty years. And forty years is a long time! The unsurpassed record bespoke competency and also amicable social associations.

Mrs. William A. Scoon, a fifty-year resident, the former Mollie Sawyer of McAlester, Oklahoma, was called to Wyoming in 1921 to be

with her brother, Claude Sawyer, who was seriously injured in steer roping at Frontier Days.

Claude Sawyer married Charles B. Irwin's daughter, Pauline, and the Sawyers lived on the Irwin Ranch, known as the Y6. Mollie also resided there two years while teaching at the South Bend and Dan Donahue schools.

In those days Charles B. Irwin was General Freight Agent for the Union Pacific Railroad, besides being a rancher and rodeo performer. He was huge of physique, and a flamboyant showman putting on Frontier Days and other big time shows around the country.

His outfit—cowboys, showgirls and livestock—traveled the circuit by train. Well screened for performance was the personnel before being privileged to aboard the fast-traveling, talent loaded Irwin Express.

The Y6 was a stage and everyone was in the act.

Astonishing was the sight of race horses and jockeys engaged in competitive training on the race track. Who would expect it on a ranch? Never before or since has there been excitement and action comparable to that created by the motley assemblage of rodeo participants, ranch hands and movie stars.

The advent of Miss Mollie Sawyer was in the heyday of the Y6. Her brother Claude owned and ran race horses. Another brother, Carl, came to Wyoming in 1925 as a broncho buster after joining the Irwin Wild West Show which was on a circuit through the Midwest.

Carl Sawyer participated in rodeo feats for years, becoming proficient in roping and winning the World's Championship at Pendleton, Oregon.

The romance of Mollie Sawyer and William A. Scoon was analogous to the school-marm-cowboy story in Owen Wister's "Virginian" wherein another Mollie became a resident of Wyoming.

The rigorous New England background of Mollie Stark however was similar to the demands of the Equality State; whereas Mollie Sawyer was reared and educated by southern traditions. She lived in southeastern Oklahoma in a two-story white house of ante-bellum vintage, noted for tall colonnades across the front. In her ancestral home the household tasks were delegated to colored help.

Miss Mollie pondered the customs and prac-

tices of the West. She concluded that a family's financial status was not the governing criterion of household management. Amazing to her were nicely dressed women driving expensive cars and also doing the laundry and scrubbing. Not in the South! There menial work was viewed with disdain and excluded from the duties of home-making.

Times have changed. REA is the Great Equalizer that enables rural women to live as electrically as their urban contemporaries. New modes of travel and communication have abridged differences. Nowadays modern fair ladies share the same goals and problems, in a great part, regardless of whether they reside in the North, South, East or West. Practicality is the order of the day.



Residence of the James Scoon Andersons

William A. Scoon acquired his ranch by purchase through the settlement of his father's estate, despite the Scottish custom of the eldest son inheriting the ancestral property. The ranch lies east of the Torrington Highway, five miles down Horse Creek from the Meriden Store.

The scenic meadow valley has a south view ascension of rugged buttes, spotted with evergreens. Giving further beautiful effect is an outline of tall trees around the perimeter of the white ranch house and other buildings.

Hereford cattle and wheat crops constitute the ranch income.

Mr. and Mrs. William A. Scoon resided on

the ranch until 1969 when they retired in Cheyenne on their property at 1520 East 21st Street.

Mr. Scoon's tenure of residency in the Meriden community has seldom been equaled, and Mrs. Scoon came in 1921. She is the only transplant south of the Mason-Dixon line. Through the years she has blended southern and western customs to broaden her horizon and to give pleasure to her associates. Her versatility includes business attributes, enabling her to share with her husband in the management of their urban and rural properties, as well as other investments.

The Scoons are identified in worthwhile organizations and clubs and give generous support to charitable and beneficent causes. While on the ranch they frequently made the 100-mile round trip to attend services at the First Presbyterian Church in Cheyenne.

Their daughter, Norma Jean, is the wife of Marvin D. Anderson, also of a pioneer family. Mr. Anderson is the mayor of Albin. James S. and Joan are the couple's children.

For higher education Mrs. Marvin D. Anderson attended the University of Wyoming and college at Greeley before further study at Temple Buell in Denver where she received a Master of Arts degree in English and literature. She teaches in high school in Pine Bluffs, Wyoming.

Mollie Sawyer came to Wyoming to see how her brother, Claude Sawyer, was faring. After fifty years he is a retired widower living in Torrington. A widowed sister, Mrs. Arthur (Adele) Kilian, resides there as does another brother, Carl Sawyer, who has a family and owns a fleetline of livestock transport trucks.

William A. Scoon's brothers, Robert and Howard, are deceased. Surviving are two broth-

ers, John and Kenneth. For years John has been associated with the Chevrolet Agency in Cheyenne and Kenneth is a vice president of the First National Bank in Laramie.

Mrs. Archie Brown was the maternal grandmother of William A. Scoon. She and her children were established on a ranch on Horse Creek at the turn of the century. Besides Wm. Scoon her descendants staying on the land and becoming ranchers are his aunt and six cousins.

Mrs. Jelmer (Janet) Johnson of Lagrange is his aunt. Her sons, Edward, Frank and Ernest Johnson, and their families live on their own ranches near Lagrange. Her daughter, Mrs. Earl (Marjorie) Marsh, and her husband are identified in the Chugwater community, on Bear Creek.

William and John Brown, uncles of William A. Scoon, were lifelong ranchers on Horse Creek and each left a descendant in the area. Mrs. William K. (Betty) Romsa of Albin is one of William Brown's three daughters. John Brown's son, Harry, operates the paternal holdings. He and his family reside on Horse Creek, west of Meriden.

Family Continuity

The marriage of Patricia Peterson, daughter of the Bruce Petersons, and James Scoon Anderson, son of the Marvin D. Andersons, all of Albin, brought residents and a new surname to the Horse Creek valley, east of the Torrington Highway.

Mr. and Mrs. James Scoon Anderson established their home on the Scoon Ranch, of long-time family ownership, having been the home of his maternal great-grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Alfred F. Scoon, and their five sons. Later the ranch became the property and home of James grandparents, the William A. Scoons.