

3022

200988

Price _____

Revolver ~~Patrol~~

Overall Condition _____

COLT

(Manufactured By)

1873 S.D.

(Model)

(Type)

.41 Colt

(Caliber)

(Cylinder)

(Magazine)

4 3/4

(Barrel Length)

(Type Barrel)

(Bore Condition) (Smooth-Rifled)

shipped with 20 guns to tel
to Simmons Hdw. Co. St. Louis

(Stock Length)

(Overall Length)

(Weight)

(Date of Manufacture)

Oct. 18, 1900.

(Type Front Sight)

(Type Rear Sight)

Finish Blue - stock not listed, (2 pc Ivory)Engraved on backstep "Ox bow Ranch - Top Hand" - on Butt "L.R.D. 1901"with holster & Belt Holster marked "R.C.M.C." or R.C.M.C.? Belt Double & 40 loop

Remarks _____

Rex Throver

(Bought From)

Columbus, Mont.May 1, 1992

(Date)

4250.00

(Price)

(Sold To)

H1 Colt.

200988

(Date)

(Price)

4 3/4

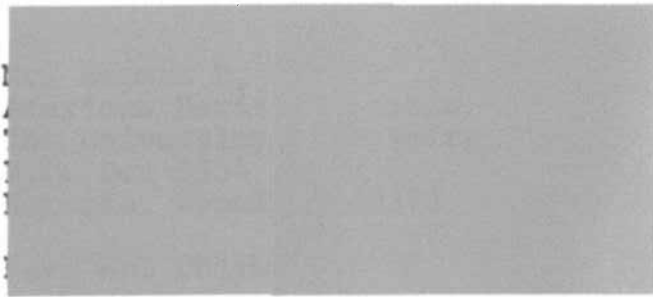
From Marc Wetz (123-4th St, Box 116, Zealand N.D. 58581 - Phone 701-423-5580)
Gordon Matson sold it to Marc Wetz about 3 years ago (1988-1989?)
Gordon Matson phone 916-677-3817 who purchased it from Bob Bell

Bob Bell

phone 916-333-1955

Bob Bell bought it several years earlier from Jim Gould? Jim Gold?

September 10, 1984



Thank you very much for researching the OxBow Ranch, even though it apparently did not exist in the State of Wyoming.

I suspect that my attempts to track down the provenance of this revolver is a hopeless one. The gun is a Colt Single Action Army revolver in .45 caliber, and was originally shipped to the Simmon's Hardware Co. in Saint Louis, Missouri, on October of 1900. Simmon's was a distributor for Colt, and a number of their salesmen were in the field in the early days, so it is possible the gun was sold in any one of the Western states.

The brand 'OxBox', appears in most of the state's brand books, and in several forms. The word 'Ox' over a bow - an actual oxbow, - with a straight line and two curved ones - and in one case the word 'OXBOW' in capital letters.

Again, my sincere thanks. I have written to the Nevada Historical Society, as you suggested, and will let you know, if I have any success.

Sincerely,

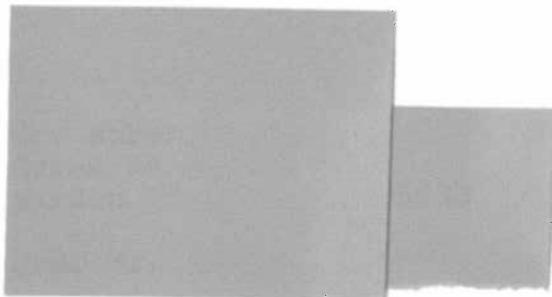
Robert Vaughn Bell



THE UNIVERSITY OF WYOMING
AMERICAN HERITAGE CENTER

LARAMIE, WYOMING 82071

August 31, 1984



I have gone through our files on ranches and I do not find an Oxbow Ranch listed among the ranches of Wyoming. There has never been a directory of the ranches of Wyoming published--a much needed item of information.

I am checking with the Wyoming Livestock Commission and if a ranch of this name ever existed, I will be happy to write you.

William T. Clark wrote the Oxbow Incident in Nevada. There is a possibility that there might be an Oxbow Ranch in Nevada. I suggest you check with the Nevada Historical Society located at 1650 North Virginia Street, Reno, NV 89503.

With best wishes,

Sincerely,

Emmett D. Chisum
Research Historian

EDC/va

Mr

August 14, 1992

De

A short time back I purchased a Colt Model 1873 S.A. from Rex Thrower of Columbus. Included with it were references to an early Rancher by the name of James William Follis and the Oxbow Ranch below Modora on the Little Missouri.

The revolver carried the Engraving "Oxbow Ranch-Top Hand". And the initials "L.R.D.-1901".

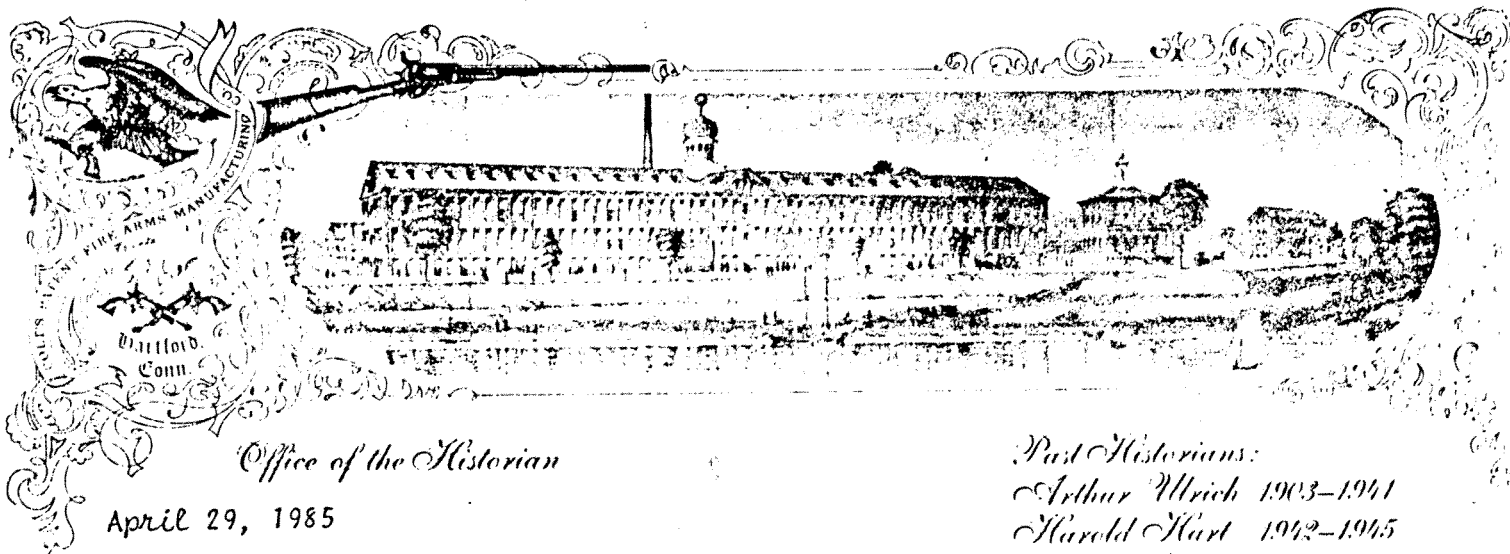
I have been trying to locate the ranch or any information concerning it, Mr Follis etc.

Rex mentioned that you apparently had a book that mentioned Follis etc. He gave me your name as you possibly could direct me to the title of the Book from whence came the information.

An assistance would be appreciated. At your convenience.

Sincerely

Lewis E. Yearout
308 Riverview Drive East
Great Falls, Montana, 59404



Past Historians:

Arthur Ulrich 1903-1941

Harold Hart 1942-1945

Charles Coles 1950-1965

Ron Wagner 1957-1972

In response to your request for historical information, we have researched our records and located the following pertinent data:

COLT SINGLE ACTION ARMY REVOLVER

Serial Number:	200988
Caliber:	.41/c
Barrel Length:	4 3/4"
Finish:	Blue
Type of Stocks:	Not Listed
Shipped To:	Simmons Hardware Co.
Address:	St. Louis MO
Date of Shipment:	October 18, 1900
Number of Same Type Guns in Shipment:	20

We trust the information supplied above will be of interest.

Sincerely,

M.S. Huber
Historian

MSH:bc

JOHN R. DAVIDSON, P.C.
Attorney at Law
TRANSWESTERN II, SUITE 111
490 NORTH 31ST
BILLINGS, MONTANA 59101
Telephone (406) 259-1550
FAX: (406) 252-9934

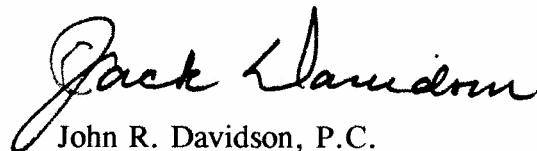
September 11, 1992



I received your letter of August 14, 1992 concerning the Ox-Bow Ranch near Medora, North Dakota. Rex Thrower has my book "50 Years In The Saddle" and he is in Kentucky. However, in a conversation with him he said there was an article on the ranch in the book. When he returns to Billings he will bring the book in and we will copy all the information we can find and send it to you.

You might contact the Trotter family who have ranched on the Little Missouri for many years. They could have some of the information you need. Also, the Tescher family ranches in the same area. Jim and Tom Tescher were champion rodeo cowboys. I can obtain both addresses if you think it would be helpful.

Very truly yours,


John R. Davidson, P.C.

cc: Rex Thrower

the night of the second day. The ranch itself was nothing to brag about, just an old time set-up of log shacks with dirt roofs, but it did carry an air of cowman efficiency. One thing that greatly impressed me was the typically early day cowpuncher character of the men. Lean and slow speaking with a southern drawl, bowlegged trail drivers who had brought herds from the south and remained on the northern range, real cow waddies. Some of them had grey beards. The horses, also, turned out to be as much of the far south as were the men and were an outstanding lot of small Spanish type animals, seeming to have inherited and maintained the qualities of their Arab and Barb blood. We could not learn from the ranch hands whether this high quality of their mounts was due to careful early selection from the Spanish mustang herds or whether a quarter horse cross had been given by such studs as Steel Dust, Shiloh and Mommouth.

Woody had undoubtedly closed a deal, for early in the afternoon, the entire ranch remuda of some 350 horses were driven into the largest corral, and we were told to "look them over."

They were small, well-rounded animals of good colors and in excellent condition; had broad foreheads with nicely set, intelligent eyes, well-pointed alert ears, wide nostrils, flat boned straight legs on short bodies with good fronts and quarters. Altogether, a most pleasing lot of cow horses, approaching quarter-horse quality. Your author has often wondered if his fraternal ranch brothers realized the importance and necessary part horses of this type played in the development of the cattle west, for no other horse could have served the cowman so well. Truly, the Spaniards built better than they knew when they brought these horses to our shores.

Woody's deal appeared to be that the Hashknife foreman and permanent riders were to cut out and retain their respective strings after which we could select 40 head of our own choosing at the price of \$40 each, all of which was done with Woody showing excellent judgment in picking likely polo ponies of solid colors.

With our newly acquired purchase, we started for home the next morning, figuring on making the drive in 4 days and which we did for our "cavvy" was easy to handle and trotted along freely. The only trouble we had, and it looked serious, was a hold up by a band of Sioux Indians, who surrounded us in a rather hostile way. These dozen young bucks were off their reservation and were apparently on an antelope hunt in the big and open country in the head of Grand River. It was on this same Grand River, only 11 months before, that Sitting Bull had been so ruthlessly shot to death during the "Ghost Dancing Craze; and Indian bitter feeling was still running high. The situation looked serious, but there was nothing Woody and I could do but sit on our horses and await developments. These young, inquisitive Indians examined the brand on every horse and kept grunting, "Wastha, wastha," (good) and then pointing to some particular animal, would make the Indian sign of wanting to ride. It looked as though they were going to take charge of things. There was, however, one older man who seemed to

station in the northern part of the state where Woody had rented a well-equipped stable on a horsefarm. He had even engaged a winter board for me on the farm. My job, with a second rider, was to school the ponies in the game of polo by teaching them to stop, turn and start quickly and follow the ball when driven and particularly not to be mallet shy. We each rode 10 horses a day, out of doors when clear and indoors in tanbark when stormy. Woody used to turn up periodically and seemed pleased with the work. On his last visit in March, he brought with him a veterinarian and a blacksmith, and soon our little horses were shod with light running shoes, were clipped all over and had their manes roached and their ears and tails carefully trimmed. They also reach received a neat blanket and were tied with light halters in stalls and along the wall. They had the appearance of little thoroughbreds and were good to look at, clearly showing their lineal descent from Spanish and Barb stock.

With the coming of spring, we had visitors who through idle curiosity wanted to look our horses over, but it took letters, circulars and personal interviews by Woody to get the prominent polo players interested. In the meantime, a nicely furnished cottage on a nearby lake had been rented for a month in order to take care of arriving guests, and the services of a colored caterer secured to administer to their comfort.

Soon buyers from the east were arriving in small groups, quiet, clean cut young men who seemed to know just what they wanted in polo pony flesh and were anxious to make purchases. Equitable sales followed with buyers taking horses numbering from 2 or 3 head to 8 or 10 and paying nothing less than \$300 per head with a few outstanding ponies bringing checks of 4 figures. The little horses behaved well and showed off to advantage, only 2 disgracing themselves by getting rough and bucking off their eastern rider, probably taking exception to the ultra cut of his riding breeches or the way he sat in the saddle. Soon our entire remuda was disposed of, and it is of interest to know that many of these ponies filled prominent places in the big games, and some of them were outstanding mounts in international matches.

Truly, these little Spanish caballos lived up to their inherited breeding and proved their worth.

SKETCHES FROM HUIDEKOPER'S LIFE

It is a pleasure to print the story written by Colonel Huidekoper this month for the author is one of the very few old timers that operated in the Little Missouri River country when it was an open range, and many of his friends are hoping that he will be able to attend our annual convention at Williston on June 6-7-8.

Wallis Huidekoper first came to Medora in 1886 to visit his cousin, A. C. Huidekoper, who was in the cattle business with the well-known Eaton Brothers. The Marquis de Moers was there running the packing plant, and he also became acquainted

and ran some 2,000 or 3,000 head of cattle on the Railroad came through the country in 1890.

For the last 50 years, Wallis Huidekoper has taken an active part in the cattleman he has maintained his membership in Stockmen's Association. He has been pre Stockgrowers Association several times, had space to print a small part of his acth the most important has been his national r of quality beef these many years.

The outfit he acquired in Montana con ranches and 3 smaller ones, bought and ti ranch called the American Ranch, locate the Crazy Mountains and on the southern the Musselshell River, about 15 miles north of Melville. The ranch, as establish 30,000 acres of rich grazing grasses, c supporting 2,500 head of cattle.

In Dakota he handled steers altogether making purchases from the best herds in eastern Oregon. He brought no cattle fr at first locally of mixed herds. Later, he registered Herefords and at one time steers and fattening them for beef for the After establishing the American Ranch quired an interest in a big ranch on the Miles City, one of his partners being the of Chicago.

A wealthy New Yorker, Colonel R. T. named Secretary of War, bought the rem Ranch, after 3 prior land sales. Colon home and valley and the very best that ranch, according to Mr. Huidekoper.

Now the Huidekoper family has a hor small hay ranch on the north bank of where feeder steers are wintered for Huidekoper has more time to devote to and book collecting. He owns many fit Russell's paintings and has made gener institutions in Montana. Wallis Huideko of Doctor as well as Colonel, celebr February 2nd of this year (1955). Fro interested in the epic which transforme Indians into a white man's civilizaic publish additional information about hi tions to our cattle lore.

THE ITCH

By Andrew Johns
The summer of 1918 the influenza

Farm.



Nasset helped break horses here at the Logging Camp Ranch for W. H. Hanson in 1926. Photo was taken about 1949. The ranch house here was built by A. C. Huidekoper.

This farm's given name was "The Little Missouri Stock Farm." It was a title Arthur Clark Huidekoper carried back with him to Pennsylvania from western North Dakota (then Dakota Territory) where he was a pioneer rancher and cowboy from 1881 until 1907.

This "Little Missouri Stock Farm" at this date, January 1, 1964, belongs to Mr. and Mrs. Dale D. Kirkpatrick 862 Park Avenue, Meadville, Pennsylvania. They inherited it from the 2 sons, Albert and Earl Huidekoper. The 2 sons had never married. Mr. and Mrs. Kirkpatrick have kept and restored this home as a memorial to the sons, Albert and Earl.



Pennsylvania, and a man named Tarbell founded it and titled it HT for Huidekoper and Tarbell.

From 1882 until the early 1900's, the raising of horses flourished at the HT Ranch. Mr. Huidekoper specialized in raising a good Percheron breed, and they sold well to Eastern buyers. In the early part of the 20th century, they changed to the raising of cattle. In 1907 they sold out.

Many Huidekoper relatives and eastern dudes spent their vacations at the HT Ranch in those years from 1882 to 1907. Earl Huidekoper, Arthur Clark's son, George Woodmen of Boston, Massachusetts, and a man by the name of Bond were in the company known as the Little Missouri Horse Company. Wallis Huidekoper, a nephew, was also at the ranch and a John Earl Reynolds of Meadville, a brother of Mrs. Arthur Clark Huidekoper, who spent every summer at the HT Ranch from 1887 until 1903.

This present day author, Nellie B. Noyce, has learned during her tracing of Huidekoper history that this John Earl Reynolds, brother-in-law of Arthur Clark Huidekoper, was President of the Merchants' National Bank and Trust Company of Meadville for 31 years, 3 times mayor of the city, and a leading citizen. He died in 1947, and his widow is still living at 639 Terrace Street, Meadville, Pennsylvania. Her home adjoins the city home that formerly belonged to the Arthur Clark Huidekopers.

The only close living relative of Arthur Clark Huidekoper is a niece who has been confined to a nursing home for the past several years at Newport, Rhode Island.

The above information and this picture of Mr. Huidekoper has been furnished to the author, Nellie B. Noyce, by James R. Shryock, President of Crawford County Historical Society in Meadville, Pennsylvania, and Mr. and Mrs. Dale Kirkpatrick of 862 Park Avenue, Meadville, Pennsylvania.

H.T. RANCH

Compiled by T. Junette Henke

The HT Ranch was part of the interests of the Little Missouri Horse Company located about 25 miles northwest of Bowman, North Dakota. The company was organized the spring of 1884 with A. C. Huidekoper of Meadville, Pennsylvania, as president; Alfred Bond as Secretary-Treasurer; Gorham Bond, a brother, was a stockholder and Harry Tarbell as manager. These men from Boston all owned interest in the company.

They began with 600 head of horses purchased from the Eaton Brothers, the Marquis DeMores and others.

Harry Tarbell closed his connections in 1886, and Peter Pellissier was hired until George F. Woodman of Boston bought an interest in 1888 and was made general manager.

The spring George Woodman took charge they bought 5 Percheron mares and a stallion at an average price of \$700 a head plus several cartloads of grade mares to be bred up.

Early day cowboys and cattlemen at the Dickinson Stock Yards about 1900.



Early day cowboys and cattlemen at the Dickinson Stock Yards about 1900; Bob Meyers sitting on ground, with black hat, Rassy Deffenback immediate foreground on right, Fred Dickinson on wagon tongue.

CHRISTMAS MEMORY

One Christmas when I was still a child and times were very poor because of a crop failure, I remember my father pretended to read in the newspaper that Santa would not be stopping that year and as a result there wouldn't be any gifts at our house. This was sadness for us younger children, for it was our custom to leave our plates on the table when we retired and the next morning would find some little gift. This particular Christmas Eve I remember how I left my bed when everyone else was asleep, crept downstairs and put my plate on the table, but it was still empty the next morning.

MARQUIS DE-MORES HAD VARIED INTERESTS IN MEDORA

(This article was taken from the June, 1979, issue of The Bad North Stockman Magazine.)

The 50th anniversary of the North Dakota Stockmen's Association will be held in the small cowtown of Medora, a city as rich as history and romance as the rugged North Dakota Badlands that surround it.

The city was christened in April, 1883, when the Marquis de Mores broke a bottle over the first tent and named the city after his wife.

The Marquis, a French nobleman who came to this country after he married Medora Von Medora, was a man of many

that drew the Marquis to the expansive area of the Badlands.

De Mores had tried to establish himself at Little Missouri, the first settlement in Billings County on the west bank of the Little Missouri, but failing to do this, he moved just across the river and founded Medora.

A building boom occurred in 1884 and 1885 and in June of 1885 de Mores described Medora as a 'good town with 3 hotels, a dozen stores, a church, brick yard and an enterprising population.'

A brick church built for Madame de Mores was completed in the fall of 1884 and still stands in its majestic setting in the small town.

The marquis demonstrated an abundance of civic pride towards his village as well as being the moving spirit in its growth. He made arrangements to secure a right of way from the railroad for the establishment of a park and appointed a committee member to organize a fire brigade for the town.

The primary business venture for the Marquis stemmed from his belief that slaughtering cattle on the range was preferable to shipping live cattle to distant slaughtering plants.

His slaughtering and transportation of beef enterprise, he advocated, would eliminate shrinkage; meat would arrive to compete favorably with the eastern shipper of corn-fed cattle during the months of May, June and July; and the reduction in the number of middlemen would reduce the price of meat to the consumer.

However, the Medora packing plant underwent its last slaughtering operations in the fall of 1886 when John Goodall, range foreman for the Marquis brought in the last bunch of slaughter cattle.



Here is the meat-packing plant De Mores built at Medora. At that time Gustavus Franklin Seft, Chicago meat-packer, was proving that refrigerated freight cars were practical for shipping fresh meat over long distances. His plan was to slaughter cattle at their points of origin and save enough in shipping costs to undersell competitors. De Mores decided to improve upon Swift's plan by eliminating the meat-packing middleman, selling direct from the range to the consumer. He owned the



Marquis de Mores

to eat 3 meals a day just as anyone, the cooks played an important role. Herman Holz, a man who sported a white shirt and duke hat, was the first cook for the dudes and remained at the HT for many years in that capacity. He was kind to animals. He had a pet antelope that he fed with a bottle and nipple. The antelope that he fed, with and his black and white cat, were with him at every opportunity. Herman was of German descent, a good ranch and roundup cook. When Herman left the HT, he owned some property at Medora. Frank Roberts tried to find out where he was to save his property from being sold for taxes.

FROM COW HORSE TO POLO PONY

By Wallis Huidekoper, Big Timber, Montana

This article taken from the June, 1955, issue of the Bar North magazine.

As a young man 65 years ago, I wrangled the saddle bunch on a large horse ranch operating in the open range country of western Dakota and eastern Montana. The horses I handled were of a different type from the general run of cow outfits in that they were picked geldings from mustang mares, bred to a Kentucky thoroughbred race horse, grandson of the great Lexington. The reason for this extreme cross was to obtain a rugged and fast horse capable of long and hard riding and one that could outrun and range-gather scattered manadas and wandering horses. These mounts were just right for this purpose, but too hot blooded for general cow work.

The mustang mares had an interesting history in that they formerly belonged to Sitting Bull. When that wily Sioux Medicine Man surrendered at Fort Buford the summer of 1881, after his 4 years exile in Canada, his ponies were confiscated and sold at public auction. Some 350 of these Indian horses were bought by the post traders, Leighton, Jordan and Hedderick who, a year and half later, sold 250 head including all mares, to that much talked of French adventurer and visionary stockman and founder of the town of Medora, the Marquis de Mores. As these mares were the type wanted by my outfit, the Little Missouri Horse Company, a deal was made with the Marquis whereby some 60 mares were bought, our choice. They were well suited as equine matrons to go with a thoroughbred stud, solid colors, strong and active, uniform in type, good rustlers and easy keepers. Many were war ponies and had been in the battle of the Little Big Horn, for they carried scars from the rifles of Custer's troopers.

But we are discussing cow horses and not race animals, so let us pick up our story as of early fall in 1891, and it is hoped the narrative may be of historical interest as well as illustrating the adaptability of the cow horse to new environments. At the time of which we write, the great northern range country was open and fenceless, well grassed and not too heavily stocked. The big cow outfits were operating successfully, but it was noticeable

As our story deals with this spread, let us review a little of its history.

Hughes and Simpson became active cowmen in the early 1870's and were known as keen operators, owning ranches on the Brazos River, west of Fort Worth, Texas. Their outfits had the name of being hardboiled and tough, and which they probably were, for those were the days when the law often had to be enforced at the point of a six-shooter. John N. Simpson was a most progressive man with a keen sense of anticipating what the future needs of the cattle business might be. This 'sense of the future' is well illustrated when in 1880 the great grassy northwest was open as a cattle range through the slaughter of the buffalo and the restriction of the war-making Indians.

Colonel Simpson, as he was called, scouted in the fall of 1879 and selected and pre-empted a large area of the finest grazing grounds in the northwest. In the spring of 1880 he built his cow camp and started his trail herds north, being the first of the southern cowmen to locate directly north of the Black Hills. This area was the large and heavily grassed basin at the head of the Little Missouri River and its tributaries, offering good water and shelter and every indication of being an ideal steer maturing country. The territory north was open with scarcely a hoof of range cattle grazing on the 600 miles of grass between the Missouri River and the foot hills of the Rocky Mountains. The Hashknife headquarters was situated at the mouth of Little Beaver Creek in what is now Crook County, Wyoming. It was just south from where the settlement of Alzada is today, which place was formerly called Stoneville through the name of a buffalo hunter maintaining a hide camp there. It was plenty tough.

Sixty miles farther north on Box Elder Creek, south of Eklatka, the Hashknife later ran a second outfit under a brand called the Milliron. With these 2 operating units, Hughes and Simpson annually carried on grass, scattered in the adjoining states of North and South Dakota, Montana, and Wyoming, from 50,000 to 60,000 head of southern dogies. They closed out their entire holdings shortly after the turn of the century.

The Little Missouri Horse Company was a large and active outfit, handling on the range and running a fine type of heavy draft horses, mostly Percherons. They also had within a pasture some 150 head of registered Percheron mares, held for special breeding in order to produce stallions for range work. The method of range breeding was through manadas or stud bunches with one stallion and 35 or 40 mares, closely herded for a month in order to familiarize the stud with his equine matrons. These Percheron stallions became remarkably proficient in range herding and bunch holding.

The headquarters of the spread was situated on Deep Creek in the Little Missouri River Valley about 40 miles south of the historic town of Medora. The ranch crew was a bachelor gathering of the usual type at that time, a man cook, foreman, many riders, 2 tough bronco fighters, horse wrangler and general

the company. There was more dissatisfaction in the company after this, as none of the stockholders resided here. They decided to sell out their interests.

Fred Pabst of Milwaukee brewery fame bought the horses and most of their land holdings in 6 townships during 1906. Pabst did not retain ownership long. In 1907 he sold the horses to Campbell, Reidland, and Murdock, of St. Louis, where the horses were shipped and sold. Most of the land was sold to the Western Securities Company. Since then the land had been sold in parcels, a little of which remained with the ranch buildings. Much of it has changed ownership under mortgage title several times.

November, 1940, Mr. and Mrs. W. O. (Bill) Rabe of Dickinson, North Dakota, purchased the old HT site and 6 sections of the surrounding land. This was the largest sale of tax-forfeited land in Arvidson. They stocked the ranch with cattle. This is the second time the HT has been purchased with money made in the bottling business. Herman Rabe, the head of the Rabe Clan, established the Dickinson Bottling Works many years ago.

The land holdings of the original ranch extended from Black Butte to the Logging Camp, including the latter, and from Round Top to Sand Creek in alternate sections. Huidekoper purchased the first township in 1882 at \$2.00 an acre from the Northern Pacific Railroad and other lands for \$.25 and \$.75 an acre. A. G. Sanders of Dickinson was hired to survey the land. Huidekoper considered this the best township in the Badlands. It had a frontage of 6 miles on the Little Missouri River. Deep Creek ran south to north almost through the center of the tract. All streams ran from south to north in the Little Missouri. It did not turn south until it emptied into the Big Missouri. About a mile east of Deep Creek was Sand Creek (then known as Beaver Creek), which watered the east side of the tract. Then there were Second and Third Creeks farther north. There were lots of springs and the best stand of bull pine timber in the area.

Huidekoper was part of a wealthy Dutch family from Meadville, Pennsylvania, that had acquired its fortune by assisting the revolutionaries during the war. He had purchased considerable land from the government through script that was issued at the time of the Civil War by the government to pay for services rendered. They had assisted with their ponies as well as their persons.

In 1894 the company trailed up 100 head of Arizona steers to run as a side line and bought another herd of the same number the next year. These steers were held 1 year on the range before shipping to market. These belonged to Mr. Nasbit and his partner. They shared the profits.

Mrs. Huidekoper and their 2 sons visited the ranch often. Earl spent most of the summer months there hunting with the hounds. Gorham Bond committed suicide. Then his brother took over the duties of Secretary-Treasurer, later selling his interest to A. C. Huidekoper. A. C. thought his son would take an active part

as well as other men. The Huidekoper horses bearing the brand HK. The barns were built as one in the form of the letters H of T but, because of a change in plans, the Eaton household moved to the Logging Camp and the barn material was hauled up the river on the ice and half of it erected at the Logging Camp and the other half at the HT Ranch where they still stand.

The fine log hunting lodge was erected in 1896 for his private use as well as the barn to match on the west side of the creek from the main ranch buildings. These became popularly known as the "Dude House and Barn." The house was called Shackford in many stories.

The cowboys called the easterners, "Dudes," thus, the name Dude House. The house was built by Huidekoper in 1896 from logs from the Badlands. The base is made of native stone cut into rectangular blocks to fit into the foundation. It is a 2-story structure about 40 x 40. It is built on a high bluff facing east. It rises to the west so that the steep incline leaves the basement open to floor level on the east side making the house appear to be 3 stories high. The basement story is fronted with a full porch whose rustic pillars support the balcony of the first story. The first floor balcony is built continuously around the east and south sides. Owing to the steepness of the hillside, it reaches ground level on the west so that one walks onto either porch directly from the ground. The second porch is roofed with pillars and railing made of logs. A large fireplace chimney made of native stone of different colors is built into the west side of the house. It makes an attractive addition to the rustic house that is so well built.

In the basement one finds a dining room, kitchen, pantry, and furnace room. The basement walls are of stone and the floor of cement. On the first floor is the living room, 3 bedrooms and a bath. Two large bedrooms and a bath are on the north. One bedroom is in the southwest corner with the rest of that floor comprising the large L-shaped living room which is full length of the house from east to west except for the southwest bedroom. On the west is the large brick-lined fireplace, which is of stone on the outside. The black bricks hollowed in the back by the heat speak of the great fires which once burned there. (There were little seats on each side of the fireplace.)

Along the south wall from the bedroom partition to the southeast corner and along the east wall to the door in the northeast corner is built a wide settee upholstered with leather. These were used for storage of saddles and other tack as well as other items. The seats raised in sections making it possible for this storage. The walls and ceiling of this first floor are of wainscoting, the floors of fir wood. The top floor was not finished, although, it was divided into rooms with short walls not reaching the ceiling. There was a stairway to the basement and also to the dormer attic.

The company had built a complete set of buildings at Gladstone with the idea of taking their desirable horses to the

to eat 3 meals a day just as anyone important role. Herman Holtz, a man with and dude hat, was the first cook for the HT for many years in that capacity. He had a pet antelope that he fed with antelope that he fed, with and his black him at every opportunity. Herman was good ranch and roundup cook. When owned some property at Medora. Frank where he was to save his property from

FROM COW HORSE TO

*By Wallis Huidekoper, Big T
This article taken from the June,
Bar North magazine*

As a young man 65 years ago, I was on a large horse ranch operating in the western Dakota and eastern Montana. T of a different type from the general n they were picked geldings from mu Kentucky thoroughbred race horse, gr ington. The reason for this extreme cro and fast horse capable of long and hard outrun and range-gather scattered man ses. These mounts were just right for blooded for general cow work.

The mustang mares had an interest formerly belonged to Sitting Bull. Medicine Man surrendered at Fort Bull after his 4 years exile in Canada, his and sold at public auction. Some 350 of bought by the post traders, Leighton who, a year and half later, sold 250 he that much talked of French adventure and founder of the town of Medora, if these mares were the type wanted Missouri Horse Company, a deal wa whereby some 60 mares were bought well suited as equine matrons to go solid colors, strong and active, unfat and easy keepers. Many were war p battle of the Little Big Horn, for they c of Custer's troopers.

But we are discussing cow horses a us pick up our story as of early fall in narrative may be of historical interest adaptability of the cow horse to new of which we write, the great northern and fenceless, well grassed and not to

found that the old range outfits of 777 (Berry-C choice) and OX (Towers and Gudgeith) on the Little Missouri 50 miles south of Medora, had closed out and their fine grass range was open, so he established the Bull Head Ranch at the head of Deep Creek and ran some 3,000 to 4,000 steers there until the Milwaukee Railroad came through the country in 1904. This was near the present town of Marmarth.

For the last 50 years, Wallis Huidekoper has lived in Montana and has taken an active part in the cattlemen's affairs there, but he has maintained his membership in the North Dakota Stockmen's Association. He has been president of the Montana Stockgrowers Association several times. We only wish that we had space to print a small part of his achievements, but one of the most important has been his national reputation as producer of quality beef these many years.

The outfit he acquired in Montana consisted of 3 fairly large ranches and 3 smaller ones, bought and thrown together as one ranch called the American Ranch, located on the east slope of the Crazy Mountains and on the southern or American Fork of the Musselshell River, about 15 miles south of Twodot and north of Melville. The ranch, as established, contained about 30,000 acres of rich grazing grasses, capable of successfully supporting 2,500 head of cattle.

In Dakota he handled steers altogether on the open range, making purchases from the best herds in Texas, and later from eastern Oregon. He brought no cattle from Dakota but bought at first locally of mixed herds. Later, he ran a very fine herd of registered Herefords and at one time specialized in running steers and fattening them for beef for the Chicago market.

After establishing the American Ranch, Mr. Huidekoper acquired an interest in a big ranch on the Tongue River, south of Miles City, one of his partners being the well-known John Clay of Chicago.

A wealthy New Yorker, Colonel, R. T. Stevens, who was later named Secretary of War, bought the remainder of the American Ranch, after 3 prior land sales. Colonel Stevens secured the home and valley and the very best that remained of the original ranch, according to Mr. Huidekoper.

Now the Huidekoper family has a home in Big Timber and a small hay ranch on the north bank of the Yellowstone River, where feeder steers are wintered for finished beef. Wallis Huidekoper has more time to devote to his historical writings and book collecting. He owns many fine examples of Charley Russell's paintings and has made generous donations to public institutions in Montana. Wallis Huidekoper, who earned the title of Doctor as well as Colonel, celebrated his 85th birthday, February 2nd of this year (1955). From boyhood he has been interested in the epic which transformed a wilderness of hostile Indians into a white man's civilization. *But North* hopes to publish additional information about his interests and contributions to our cattle here.

did enjoy scratching until they got medicine and could kill the itch germ which could almost be called a bug, as it was so large it was almost visible without being magnified. Canada and Mexico both had it when we did.

To catch this itch you had to get in contact with it. This often happened when someone slept in a bed in which all the sheets and blankets had not been sterilized or by sleeping with someone who had it.

We heard it was in the south and in Nebraska, so we thought it might be coming to our locality. One December morning I told my brother, who was sleeping with me, that my arms and feet both itched, and I had done some scratching. He said he had the same experience. Later, we wondered if this itch could have been carried by the wind. In a few days we found it was through the entire neighborhood.

We started changing clothes, boiling the clothes, and taking frequent baths in an effort to clean it up. In a short time we were scratching our ear and big toe at the same time with no relief. The germ would not work on the inside of your hands but under your finger nails you would get so many germs they would take the skin off and your fingers would get sore.

We realized, after about a week, that we were making no progress getting rid of the itch. So my brother took the train to Dickinson and called on Doctor Davis, who was prescribing medicine for the itch. He had a green liquid you dissolved in water and then washed with that solution before applying a salve. When I attended the American National Cattlemen's meeting, I learned that some doctors were prescribing other medicines but that this was the medicine used in most cases.

You couldn't get rid of this itch without the use of medicine. The only relief was to lay in bed without covers, and when you got cold, the itch germs would let you rest. But you were so cold you could only take it so long, and you would cover up to get warm. As soon as you started to warm up, they would start working and make up for the lost time.

Scoty Philip's nephew and a friend were on Tom Jones' roundup, and they had some medicine in partnership. But they could not get rid of the germ because they could not wash and boil their clothing often enough. Scoty Philip's nephew went to work on another wagon. When he packed up his clothing, he took the medicine. The partner made a 'holter' about it. The nephew sent word back that he had nothing to holter about for "you know I did not resist to any certain number the times you are allowed to scratch, and furthermore, I did not go into your herd of bugs and take one bug."

At the American National meetings for years we had much mention of this itch. It would be quite a story if someone had made notes of it.

In our case my brother and I were the ones that were out to the other ranches getting and moving cattle, so that is how we got it. Father was at home and had not gotten it. Mother soon discovered how to handle those clothes and bedding with care.

the river go this mail at Buford. Whoever chanced to go to Buford got the mail for the whole neighborhood. As it cost \$2.00 per round trip with a team on the old steam ferry, the Sam Silly, we didn't go to town any oftener than we had to. After a time a post office was established at the home of George Cartwright. Almost on the site of where the town of Cartwright now stands. It was called Cartwright after him. He and his sons carried the mail for several years after the post office was established. In 1902 the first cable ferry was established just below the old Sioux Crossing, where Stung Bull and his band crossed the Missouri on their way to Canada after the Custer Massacre. About 1904 the first filings were made on land on the divide. Adolph Olson built the first farm house on the divide on the land now occupied by Frank Comegys. Henry Clay Moore built the next one, a sod house, on the land now owned by Ed Shaide. In 1907-07, the settlers commenced to come in earnest and shacks dotted the landscape everywhere. About this time the mail route was changed to a star route. Then everybody had their individual mail sack and left it at their mailbox for the carrier to take to Buford and bring out the mail in. There used to be a large mail box on the corner where the Sioux Crossing school house now stands, where 42 heads of families got their mail. Ed Adler and family looked after this mail and used to bring it to his house in a grain sack. Sometimes the sack would be nearly full. The settlers used to take turns a week about, coming for the mail. The next week Austads would get it, so it would go. Many of the settlers that got their mail at Mr. Adler's were wholly unknown to him, but he knew which way to send the mail, so they got it just the same.

We will have to go back to the schools. In the winter or spring of 1903 the first school was opened in Mr. Cartwright's house. Miss Sara Thames was the teacher. Later it was moved to Miss Thames claim shack a little west and south of the town of Cartwright. Later it was moved again to the claim shack of Miss Jeness Thames, a sister of Miss Sara, and Miss Jeness took charge of it. As there was no school organizations, the school was a private one kept up by the parents of the pupils. After our county was organized, it was divided into 2 school districts, this one being called Alfred, then there was a school house built on the creek about a mile west of the present town of Cartwright. The building is the one now occupied by Mr. Cook. A little later another school house was built on the site of this one and was called the Pleasant Center School. Still later, after the county was settled, the 2 old school houses were sold and the 4 modern school houses we now have were built. The present school district was organized in 1913. Since that time, the district has kept 4, and for a number of years 5 schools running for full 9 months in the year.

..... and put a good woven wire fence around it. In the summers of 1925 and 1926 we put in good native cedar posts all around and now we have a fence that will stand as long as any of us are here.

In the summer of 1911 the Great Northern Railroad started to build the tunnel by the Yellowstone River. This was the one structure that was begun at the top instead of the bottom. The top half was put through first, this was put through by hand with the aid of dynamite. The dirt was hauled out with one horse and a small car. The horse had a syrup pail with a lighted candle in it fastened to his neck, so he could see to follow the rails. At the same time that this was happening, the bridge was built and in the fall of 1913, the rails were laid and McKenzie County had a railroad. Naturally, the railroad put the ferry out of commission and Buford ceased to have a monopoly of the south side grain trade. Since then the Great Northern has planked its bridge over the Yellowstone so vehicles may cross and with the completion of the Missouri Bridge at Williston, the "Island Empire," as the county of McKenzie is sometimes called, will have easy access to the entire world from both ways.

Note: April 17, 1958--Mr. and Mrs. M. M. Millhouse were Sunday evening callers at the Alfred Gullickson home. They brought B. V. Kellogg out for a few days before going on to Devils Lake where he plans to enter the Odd Fellows Home. He has made his home at Union City, Oregon, the past 12 years. April 24, 1958--Alfred and Marianne Gullickson took Vern Kellogg to Williston Saturday where he will visit a few days before he goes to Devils Lake where he plans to make his home.

ARTHUR CLARK HUIDEKOPER

By Nellie B. Noyce

Arthur Clark Huidekoper (famous rancher and cowboy of Western North Dakota from 1881-1907) was born in Meadville, Pennsylvania, on June 15, 1845, and died in Meadville on November 30, 1928.

In regard to his schooling the Harvard University Directory, 1910, page 343 states: Arthur Clark Huidekoper, 1865-7, L. L. B. Agr.; Meadville, Pennsylvania.

He married Frances Louise Reynolds of Meadville, Pennsylvania, on September 21, 1869. Arthur and Frances have 3 children. They were Albert Reynolds Huidekoper, born January 18, 1871, and died at Conneaut Lake Farm, Pennsylvania, January 27, 1948; Earle Colhoon Huidekoper, born January 31, 1872, and died April 13, 1949, in Meadville, Pennsylvania; and Edith Ellicot Huidekoper, born April 28, 1880, and died in Meadville, Pennsylvania, on February 29, 1887. Mrs. Huidekoper died February 29, 1932, at the Conneaut Lake

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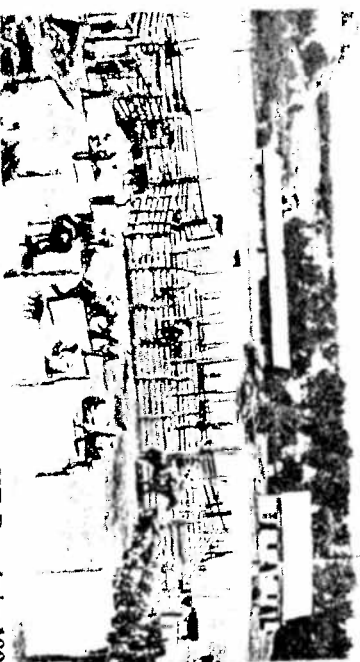


Nasset helped break horses here at the Logging Camp Ranch for W. H. Hanson in 1926. Photo was taken about 1949. The ranch house here was built by A. C. Huidекoper.

This farm's given name was "The Little Missouri Stock Farm." It was a title Arthur Clark Huidекoper carried back with him to Pennsylvania from western North Dakota (then Dakota Territory) where he was a pioneer rancher and cowboy from 1881 until 1907.

This "Little Missouri Stock Farm" at this date, January 1, 1964, belongs to Mr. and Mrs. Dale D. Kirkpatrick 862 Park Avenue, Meadville, Pennsylvania. They inherited it from the 2 sons, Albert and Earl Huidекoper. The 2 sons had never married.

Mr. and Mrs. Kirkpatrick have kept and restored this home as a memorial to the sons, Albert and Earl.



This is the horse breaking crew on the HT Ranch in 1891 taken in front of the bunkhouse. Standing left to right are Wallis Huidекoper, J. W. Foley, Jim Kelly, Peter Roth, John Tyler. Seated left to right are Frank Philbrick, Jud Lebo, Jack Snyder, George Woodman, Herman Holtz, and Schuyler Lebo. John Tyler is referred to in this story by

In Western North Dakota the historical HT Ranch located in Slope County, 10 miles west of the county seat of Amidon, North Dakota, is still kept and restored by its present owners, Mr. and Mrs. William O. Rabe. This ranch began its colorful career in 1882 when Arthur Clark Huidекoper of Meadville,

Huidекoper, who spent every summer in 1887 until 1903.

This present day author, Nellie B. Noyce, has learned during her tracing of Huidекoper history that this John Earl Reynolds, brother-in-law of Arthur Clark Huidекoper, was President of the Merchants' National Bank and Trust Company of Meadville for 31 years, 3 times mayor of the city, and a leading citizen. He died in 1947, and his widow is still living at 639 Terrace Street, Meadville, Pennsylvania. Her home adjoins the city home that formerly belonged to the Arthur Clark Huidекopers.

The only close living relative of Arthur Clark Huidекoper is a niece who has been confined to a nursing home for the past several years at Newport, Rhode Island.

The above information and this picture of Mr. Huidекoper has been furnished to the author, Nellie B. Noyce, by James R. Shryock, President of Crawford County Historical Society in Meadville, Pennsylvania, and Mr. and Mrs. Dale Kirkpatrick of 862 Park Avenue, Meadville, Pennsylvania.

H.T. RANCH

Compiled by T. Junette Henke

The HT Ranch was part of the interests of the Little Missouri Horse Company located about 25 miles northwest of Bowman, North Dakota. The company was organized the spring of 1884 with A. C. Huidекoper of Meadville, Pennsylvania, as president; Alfred Bond as Secretary-Treasurer; Gorham Bond, a brother, was a stockholder and Harry Tarbell as manager. These men from Boston all owned interest in the company.

They began with 600 head of horses purchased from the Eaton Brothers, the Marquis DeMores and others.

Harry Tarbell closed his connections in 1886, and Peter Pellissier was hired until George F. Woodman of Boston bought an interest in 1888 and was made general manager.

The spring George Woodman took charge they bought 5 Percheron mares and a stallion at an average price of \$700 a head plus several cartloads of grade mares to be bred up.

In 1904 the company bought the Spearhead brand of horses, approximately 1,200 head of all grades at \$25 or \$26 a head from Sherman, whose ranch was on Cedar Creek close to the George Harkins Ranch. After being halter broke at this ranch, the horses were shipped to the large training and fitting barns maintained by the company at Meadville, Pennsylvania, to be finished for the trade. Some were sold to the Knickerbocker Ice Company of New York. The trade soon learned that HT stock was superior and the brand then became a mark of distinction. George G. Woodman left the Company in 1898 and Guy Clark took his place as general manager. He owned no stock in

*By Wallis Huidekoper, Bug Under, Montana
This article taken from the June, 1955, issue of the
Bar North magazine.*

fit into the foundation. It is a 2-story house built on a high bluff facing east. The steep incline leaves the basement east side making the house appear to be built on a high bluff facing east. The second story is fronted with a full porch on the balcony of the first story. The house is continuously around the east and west steepness of the hillside, it reaches so that one walks onto either porch. The second porch is roofed with pillars. A large fireplace chimney made of stone is built into the west side of the house. In addition to the rustic house that is

is a dining room, kitchen, pantry, and bathroom. The walls are of stone and the floor of the living room, 3 bedrooms and a bathroom and a bath are on the north. One end corner with the rest of that floor is a large living room which is full length except for the southwest bedroom. A brick-lined fireplace, which is of stone bricks hollowed in the back by the bricks which once burned there. (There is a fireplace.)

from the bedroom partition to the living room the east wall to the door in the wide settee upholstered with leather. The settee and other tack as well as the saddles and other tack as well as the ceiling of this first floor are of fir wood. The top floor was not divided into rooms with short walls there was a stairway to the basement.

It is a complete set of buildings at taking their desirable horses to the living and fitting, saving the hauling of the management was built large boarding house for the 30 men shape of a hollow square that would This did not work out, as horses raised of stand confinement and many died to the other ranches. The boarding dilapidated log house at the Logging house at the HT was built out of some face the old log bunkhouse. all ranching swing. Since Dudes have

As a young man 65 years ago, I wrangled the saddle bunch on a large horse ranch operating in the open range country of western Dakota and eastern Montana. The horses I handled were of a different type from the general run of cow outfits in that they were picked geldings from mustang mares, bred to a Kentucky thoroughbred race horse, grandson of the great Lexington. The reason for this extreme cross was to obtain a rugged and fast horse capable of long and hard riding and one that could outrun and range-gather scattered manadas and wandering horses. These mounts were just right for this purpose, but too hot blooded for general cow work.

The mustang mares had an interesting history in that they formerly belonged to Sitting Bull. When that wily Sioux Medicine Man surrendered at Fort Buford the summer of 1881, after his 4 years exile in Canada, his ponies were confiscated and sold at public auction. Some 350 of these Indian horses were bought by the post traders, Leighton, Jordan and Hedderick who, a year and half later, sold 250 head including all mares, to that much talked of French adventurer and visionary stockman and founder of the town of Medora, the Marquis de Mores. As these mares were the type wanted by my outfit, the Little Missouri Horse Company, a deal was made with the Marquis whereby some 60 mares were bought, our choice. They were well suited as equine matrons to go with a thoroughbred stud; solid colors, strong and active, uniform in type, good rustlers and easy keepers. Many were war ponies and had been in the battle of the Little Big Horn, for they carried scars from the rifles of Custer's troopers.

But we are discussing cow horses and not race animals, so let us pick up our story as of early fall in 1891, and it is hoped the narrative may be of historical interest as well as illustrating the adaptability of the cow horse to new environments. At the time of which we write, the great northern range country was open and fenceless, well grassed and not too heavily stocked. The big cow outfits were operating successfully; but it was noticeable that they were handling their herds on a more conservative and much saner basis, the losses and set-backs of the disastrous winter of 1886-87 still serving as an example of what reckless gambling in cattle and over-stocking of range could result in. There was plenty of activity, however, and it was considered a small outfit that did not turn loose 2 or 3 trail herds a year, and as it took from 2 to 3 years to grass finish a beef critter, one can readily imagine the range was sufficiently stocked. One of the largest of these outfits was the Continental Land and Cattle Company, owned by Hughes and Simpson of Texas and generally spoken of as the Hashknife on account of the brand.

grounds in the northwest. In the spring of 1880 he built his cow camp and started his trail herds north, being the first of the southern cowmen to locate directly north of the Black Hills. This area was the large and heavily grassed basin at the head of the Little Missouri River and its tributaries, offering good water and shelter and every indication of being an ideal steer maturing country. The territory north was open with scarcely a hoof of range cattle grazing on the 600 miles of grass between the Missouri River and the foot hills of the Rocky Mountains. The Hashknife headquarters was situated at the mouth of Little Beaver Creek in what is now Crook County, Wyoming. It was just south from where the settlement of Alzada is today, which place was formerly called Stoneville through the name of a buffalo hunter maintaining a hide camp there. It was plenty tough.

Sixty miles farther north on Box Elder Creek, south of Ekalaka, the Hashknife later ran a second outfit under a brand called the Milliron. With these 2 operating units, Hughes and Simpson annually carried on grass, scattered in the adjoining states of North and South Dakota, Montana, and Wyoming, from 50,000 to 60,000 head of southern dogies. They closed out their entire holdings shortly after the turn of the century.

The Little Missouri Horse Company was a large and active outfit, handling on the range and running a fine type of heavy draft horses, mostly Percherons. They also had within a pasture some 150 head of registered Percheron mares, held for special breeding in order to produce stallions for range work. The method of range breeding was through manadas or stud bunches with one stallion and 35 or 40 mares, closely herded for a month in order to familiarize the stud with his equine matrons. These Percheron stallions became remarkably proficient in range herding and bunch holding.

The headquarters of the spread was situated on Deep Creek in the Little Missouri River Valley about 40 miles south of the historic town of Medora. The ranch crew was a bachelor gathering of the usual type at that time, a man cook, foreman, many riders, 2 tough bronco fighters, horse wrangler and general superintendent, who we will call Woody, a man well-versed in horse flesh but an eccentric character. It was at an early breakfast in November of the year above mentioned that this Woody, pointing his finger at me, remarked, "Huide, put a toothbrush in your pocket and catch a good horse, for we're going on a long trip this morning." And on a trip we went.

We rode south on a cattle trail for about half an hour before Woody opened up, as he was apparently meditating over something. He told me we were headed for the old Hashknife Ranch in Wyoming, 125 miles south, that he knew all the polo players in Philadelphia, New York and Boston, that they were fine

... were cupped all over and had
and their ears and tails carefully trimmed.
ved a neat blanket and were tied with light
long the wall. They had the appearance of
and were good to look at, clearly showing
om Spanish and Barb stock.

Spring, we had visitors who through idle
look our horses over, but it took letters,
tal interviews by Woody to get the
rs interested. In the meantime, a nicely
nearby lake had been rented for a month
of arriving guests, and the services of a
d to administer to their comfort.

the east were arriving in small groups,
men who seemed to know just what they
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or 10 and paying nothing less than \$300
outstanding ponies bringing checks of 4
es behaved well and showed off to ad-
icing themselves by getting rough and
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weeches or the way he sat in the saddle.
I was disposed of, and it is of interest to
se ponies filled prominent places in the
of them were outstanding mounts in
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OM HUIDEKOPER'S LIFE

print the story written by Colonel
for the author is one of the very few old
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tions to our cattle lore.

THE ITCH

By Andrew Johnston

The summer of 1918 the influenza covered the entire United
States and Canada and a large part of Europe. The American
soldiers had contracted it in Europe. It was very severe and took
a large toll of people of all ages. The influenza was no joke, but
I will mention a disease that was.

In 1898 an itch spread over the western part of the United
States. It did not cause death, but those who contracted it sure

We started changing clothes, boiling the clothes, and taking
frequent baths in an effort to clean it up. In a short time we were
scratching our ear and big toe at the same time with no relief.
The germ would not work on the inside of your hands but under
your finger nails you would get so many germs they would take
the skin off and your fingers would get sore.

We realized, after about a week, that we were making no
progress getting rid of the itch. So my brother took the train to
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The only relief was to lay in bed without covers, and when you
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got it. Father was at home and had not gotten it. Mother soon
discovered how to handle those clothes and bedding with care.
So Father kept his coat, cap and mittens in a place aside from
our regular place. Through Mother's care, she, Father and sister
never did have the itch, but some of the families that were not
as careful had their round with it.

THE LEASING OF INDIAN LAND ON FORT BERTHOLD RESERVATION

By Andrew Johnston

Hans Christenson was said by the old Fort Berthold Indians

be leaving most
through picking
arent grazing."
his beef herd for
the night. This
lie now stands.
"I will have you
ground to the
want them."

Then Follis and his men went to the Beaver Creek Camp and found that the cook had supper waiting. They did not have long to wait until it was dark as this was a long move, since there was no water to camp near before Beaver Creek.

They bedded down for the night and some time in the middle of the night Boice and Gudgeall arrived, and they heard them hunting for something to eat.

William Follis told me, "This was the first time either Boice or Gudgeall told me how to handle the stock in my roundup."

A COWBOY'S COWBOY

*Taken from Bar North, November, 1976
By his granddaughter, Mary McDonald Victory*



James William Follis

James William Follis, known always as Bill, was born March 19, 1865, on a ranch near Stevensville, Texas. His parents were W. J. Follis and Mary Huges Follis. His father served as a cavalryman with the Confederate Army during the Civil War.

When Bill was 7, the Follis family left Texas and drove its herd up over the trail to Trinidad, Colorado, near the New Mexico line and settled. Bill's earliest memories were of that drive. Young as he was, he

rode herd just as though he were a grown man.

At the age of 15 Bill left home. He was considered a man by that time. He went first to New Mexico and worked for a large cattle company for 2 years. About that time, Bill used to recall, he got the urge to travel to see other parts of the West. He had heard cowboys from Colorado tell of a company called the "Three Seven" Outfit operating in eastern Montana and western North Dakota. Bill decided to see what it had to offer. In 1883, just past 18, Bill took a train to the small town of Keith, about 1 1/4 miles east of what is now Wibaux, Montana. He remained in the general area the rest of his life.

Bill was hired immediately by the 777 Outfit. It was owned by the Berry-Boyce Cattle Company of Texas. It had a reputation for being a fair outfit with its employees, but Bill was hired with this piece of advice: "Don't get the idea we can't get along without you." The reminder served Bill Follis well.

Bill was promoted to foreman in 1884 at a salary of \$175 a month. He was also a representative, or "rep," for the company. This meant that he had the authority and responsibility for buying or receiving cattle for his employers anywhere in the country.

In those days when cattle were purchased, the next and biggest job was to get them to the home range. Many of the cattle bought for the 777 in the 1880's were from Texas. Originally, these cattle were trailed the whole length of the Chisholm Trail--about 1,500 miles--through some of the most rugged country in the West. A large herd did not make over 10 miles a day, and it took nearly 5 months to complete the trip. In 1888 the 777 Outfit and others began shipping cattle partway and trailing the stock only about 400 miles. Even the shorter trip required a month.

In the "80's" there was open range in the areas where the big herds ran. Bill used to tell about the range where 777 cattle grazed. Other well-known herds of the day were the Wibaux, (W); and the Towers and Gudgeall, (OX). These outfits ran cattle east and west between Dickinson, North Dakota, and Glendive, Montana, (about 100 miles), north of Wibaux to the Big Missouri, the country between the Yellowstone and Little Missouri, (120 miles), and south from Medora, North Dakota, about 60 miles. the entire area was open range until 1900, when settlers arrived. After 1908, range land had to be leased. Prior to 1908, it cost about \$.90 a year to run a cow or steer. The average selling price was about \$32 to \$38 per head. After 1908, it cost \$10 to \$14 a head.

Grass was rich and plentiful. There was no feeding. Water from rivers and creeks was available in abundance. Cattle thrived on those conditions, fattening quickly. The first cattle were shipped from western North Dakota in 1884--1,200 carloads went to Chicago markets.

The first outfit to bring cattle into this area was the Hughes and Simpson Company, known as the "Hashknife," in 1882. In 1886, they had 100,000 cattle on the range. The Towers and Gudgeall Company ran between 10,000 and 15,000 head. The Wibaux company had 40,000 cattle on the range in 1897. The "101" Outfit came to the area in 1896, by most accounts, and ran 10,000 head a year. The "Flying V" averaged 15,000 head a year during the 80's. The DeMores Company bought and slaughtered cattle for packing in the 80's. The Eaton Brothers ran about 1,000 head in 1886. Bill Follis ran about 30,000 head a year for the 777 Outfit from 1888 to 1898.

Bill Follis remembered vividly his 15 years with the 777 Outfit. Friends recall his telling how the 777 offered to let him buy cattle out of his pay and run them free with company cattle. Somehow, he related, he always seemed to be short of cash because he enjoyed poker and having a good time. He used to tell about an employee who worked for \$40 a month as a cow hand, but who was more provident than he and took advantage of the company's offer. When the 777 closed out, the hand sold his cattle for \$28,000. Bill used to laugh and end the story by telling how he ended up owing the company \$250.

As a foreman, the old timers attest to Bill's ability. He has been called the "Cowboy's Cowboy." He knew every phase of cattle raising and possessed all of the cowboy's skills. He enjoyed a reputation, even when he reached quite an advanced age, as a superb roper. He was the sort of leader other men respected.

Bill Follis and the men who worked for him spent long periods, sometimes even months, out on the range. The chuck wagon moved along with the men when they changed locations.

Some cowboys had small tents; others had tarps. Bill preferred the wagon. The cook's meals did not present much variety, but the meals had to be good and big. Typical dinner fare was barbecued beef, beans, potatoes, baking powder biscuits, and when it was available, dried fruit. Pancakes were standard breakfast fare--big, thick, stick-to-the-ribs kind.

In 1898, the 777 Company closed out its holdings. Bill Follis, as foreman, helped round up and ship 6,500 head of cattle--13 trainloads.

During the years Bill Follis was foreman of the 777, he worked with all kinds of men--men whose character and individuality made that era the colorful page of history that it was.

Teddy Roosevelt was one of those men. He had come from New York to Medora in 1882 to recover from a respiratory illness. His original intention was to hunt buffalo and to see a part of the United States that was not yet settled. He hunted buffalo, but he became so enamored of the area and its way of life that in 1883 he bought a spread and became a working rancher. His spread, "The Elkhorn Ranch" some 25 miles north of Medora on the Little Missouri was primitive, as all ranches were in those days--a log cabin, barn and corrals.

Bill Follis worked with Roosevelt in the big roundup in 1884. He became well acquainted with the man who was to become president. Bill was not a man to condemn another man readily, but neither did praise come quickly. After working with Roosevelt, Bill described him as "as good mixer, even if he didn't drink, himself," and as "as fellow willing to learn." He never forgot that Roosevelt, unlike most owners, stood night guard and shared all the work with his men. He wanted to learn about everything.

When Roosevelt lost most of his herd in the hard winter of 1886, he decided not to continue ranching. The cattle that survived were placed in the charge of a hand, and arrangements were made to run them with the 777 Outfit. When Roosevelt returned to western North Dakota as president, he greeted hundreds of people who used to know him, but one of the 2 men he asked to come to see him was Bill Follis.

Bill Follis bought his first ranch in 1897 while he was still working for the 777. When the company closed out, he took up ranching for himself. His spread was located 20 miles south of Medora, on a bend in the Little Missouri known as the Little OxBow, from which the Follis Ranch derived its name. He used OX as his cattle brand and a "Lazy 7" as his marking for horses.

Amid his ranching tasks, Bill found time to serve 2 terms as sheriff of Billings County, from 1899 to 1903. At that time, Billings County encompassed all of what is now Golden Valley and Slope Counties as well as McKenzie County, as what is still Billings County proper. Bill received no salary but was paid mileage. He hardly fit the Hollywood stereotype of a western lawman. Bill always insisted there was very little gun play in the west. Many cowboys carried no gun at all, and those who did used them mainly for hunting.

He was always irritated by illusions to "the wild and wooly west." He said that during his whole term as sheriff, he could only recall one gun battle.

Eventually, Bill Follis built his herd to about 1,000 head, all quality stock. He took pride in his horses as well as his fine cattle. His teams of work horses were the envy of fellow ranchers--especially a team named Pud and Charlie, whom many of the older ranchers recall. Bill broke and trained all his own teams.

Bill Follis retired twice. In 1928 he sold his last ranch--the one on Bullion Creek--and retired. He moved to Dickinson.



James William Follis

When the stock crash came in 1929, Bill was just getting the feel of retirement. The purchaser of the Bullion spread was unable to fulfill the financial obligations and Will came out of retirement for another 8 years of ranching.

No biography of Bill Follis would be complete without describing the Badlands, which he loved. The hills were named by early explorers. General Alfred E. Sully, who fought the Sioux there in 1864, described the land as "hell with the fires blown out."

Approaching from the east, one is unprepared for what he sees. Driving west from Dickinson, one sees mile after mile of rolling prairie; then suddenly, just west of Belfield, one tops a rise, and the jagged, scarred, colorful and bizarre Badlands spread out before him. The Badlands follow the Little Missouri in a strip varying from 30 to perhaps 50 miles wide.

The land has been twisted and gouged by nature into cone-shaped hills, flat-topped buttes, deep-washing canyons, and winding, open valleys covered with thick, rich prairie grass. Most remarkable is the coloring. The hills and buttes are of clay and shale, and each hill has not one, but several veins of lignite coal, which are bare and ring the hills with stripes of black.

In Spring grass is a brilliant green and in Fall it turns soft olive. The sun is brilliant most of the year, and sunsets are spectacular.

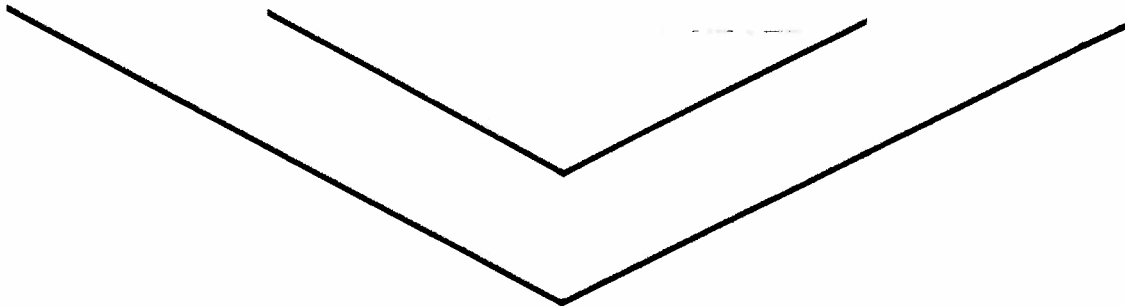
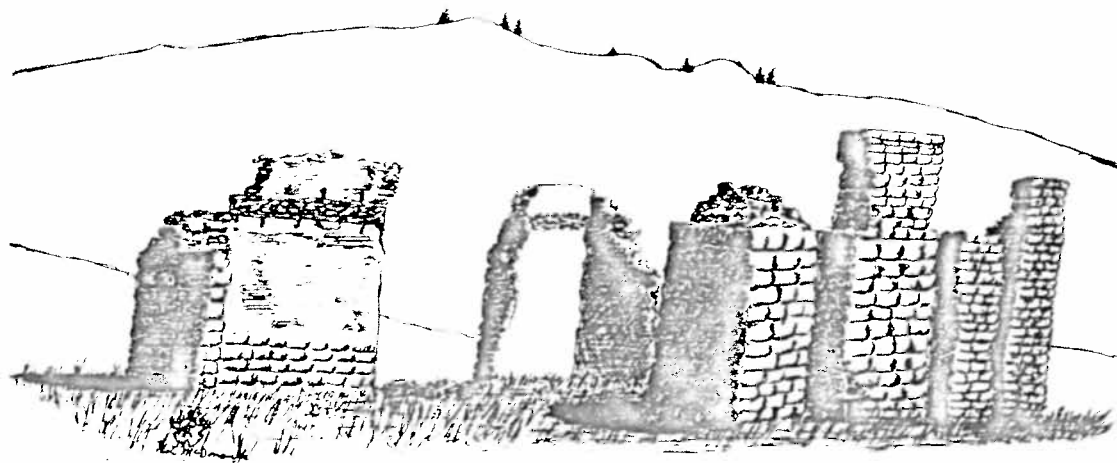
Brandings, then as now, were a special event at the Follis ranches. Gatherings of 100 adults from as far as 100 miles distance were not uncommon. After the work was done, the ample dinner eaten and the roping bronc riding contest completed, Bill liked to entertain his guests with a story. The old timers remember Bill as a great story teller, but not much of a "talker." He never lost his Texas drawl, and he had the trick of all good story tellers--building up suspense and then making the listeners wait--but just long enough--to hear what happened. It was during this dramatic pause he would draw on his old pipe, tap it, empty it and start to refill it. Only then, when he had everyone's attention, would the story reach its climax. Ironically, he was never the hero in one of his yarns.

The branding became the annual birthday party when at 73 Bill Follis finally retired. He played host to his friends on those occasions either in the Dickinson Elks or Eagles clubrooms. The gatherings used to last from 2 to 4 days. Guests played poker,

DEARBORN COUNTRY

A HISTORY OF THE DEARBORN,
WOLF CREEK AND CRAIG AREAS

-1976-



\$18

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RANCHES IN DEARBORN COUNTY

Cabrin, Laurence.....	$\frac{C}{C}$
Cabrin, Myrle.....	-HO
Canfield, Les.....	6
Cloninger, Jim.....	Y
Corrigan, Elgan.....	W
Curran, Mike.....	E
Davis, Walter.....	W
Evans, Alvin.....	
Evans, Louie.....	
Fiers, Albert.....	
Garrow, Leo.....	GT
Gregg, Alfred.....	G
Gerner, Marguerite Hicks.....	LY-
Heydwielder, Tom.....	76
Hicks, Alfred.....	W
Hicks, Bill.....	LY
Hicks, Calvin.....	2V
Hicks, Everett.....	↑
Hicks, Lila.....	W
Hilger, Don.....	②
Hilger, Donnie.....	CH
Howe, Everett.....	NS
Ingersoll, Milton.....	
Ingersoll, Wilmer.....	
Jensen, Al.....	5
Jones, Frank.....	J7
Kantorowicz, Carl.....	⑦
Kantorowicz, J.C.....	$\frac{1}{C}$

Lahti, Clyde.....	2
Lemire, Art.....	J
Lemire, Wilfred.....	W
Levine, Roy.....	→5-
Mannix, John.....	W
McDaniel, Bob.....	W
McDonough, Norman.....	Y
Melaney, Chuck.....	H
Murphy, Art.....	A
Murphy, Gary.....	W
Nahrgang, Roger.....	RN
Neilson, Carrie.....	NV
O'Connell, Prian.....	L
Ostle, Adolf.....	W
Ostle, Mary.....	VN
Ostle, Tom.....	◇
Ox Bow.....	OX
Pollack, Don.....	H
Pratt, Ferris.....	FP
Reeder, George.....	W
Reinig, W. W.....	NT
Rock Creek Ranch	◇
Rittel, Emil.....	E
Rittel, Frank.....	W
Rittel, Tag.....	W
Romberg, Roy.....	7-
Skees, Jack.....	LS

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April 18, 1984



Your letter was a welcome sight. I think I have told you before how much I like your stationery.

Our files show no references to the Oxbow Ranch. I checked with one of the archivists, and he suggested that you write to the gun manufacturer giving them the serial number and asking if their records show where the gun was shipped.

I am sorry that I have not written before to acknowledge the copy of your book that you sent to me. It was greatly appreciated. The reason that I did not write immediately was because I wanted to write more than a few lines. I have been snowed under reading proof for an index that I compiled covering twenty volumes of our quarterly journal. Our editor thinks the plot is extremely boring.

Are you in the process of writing another book? I do miss hearing from you. If I come across the Oxbow Ranch I will let you know. Sorry I couldn't help you.

Sincerely,

Betty Loudon
Research Associate