

BIGHORN CANYON

NATIONAL RECREATION AREA

Visit a land
shaped by
moving water
since
the dawn
of time.

Bighorn Canyon HISTORIC DESCRIPTIONS

"Now, son, I live to be an old man four times. All the animals are my children. You are my child and may make all the fun you like. My name I'll give to you... Big-Iron. Only four things last forever and I am one of them. This river is Big Mountain - Sheep River. Call it that, I own it. When I die, let us still receive offerings. This river is yours."

—CROW INDIAN STORY OF BIG-IRON



"THE RIVER is broad, deep and clear water, strong current, bed stone and gravel about $\frac{1}{2}$ mile above this encampment. The river runs between two big rocks and loses $\frac{2}{3}$ of its breadth but gains proportionally in depth. There is no beach at the foot of the rocks. They are perpendicular down to the water. It is awful to behold and makes one giddy to look down upon the river from the top of those rocks."

—JOURNAL OF FRANCOIS LAROCHE, AUGUST 31, 1805

BIGHORN NATIONAL RECREATION AREA straddles the border between southcentral Montana and north-central Wyoming. It encompasses about 120,000 acres, including the 12,700 acres of Bighorn Lake.

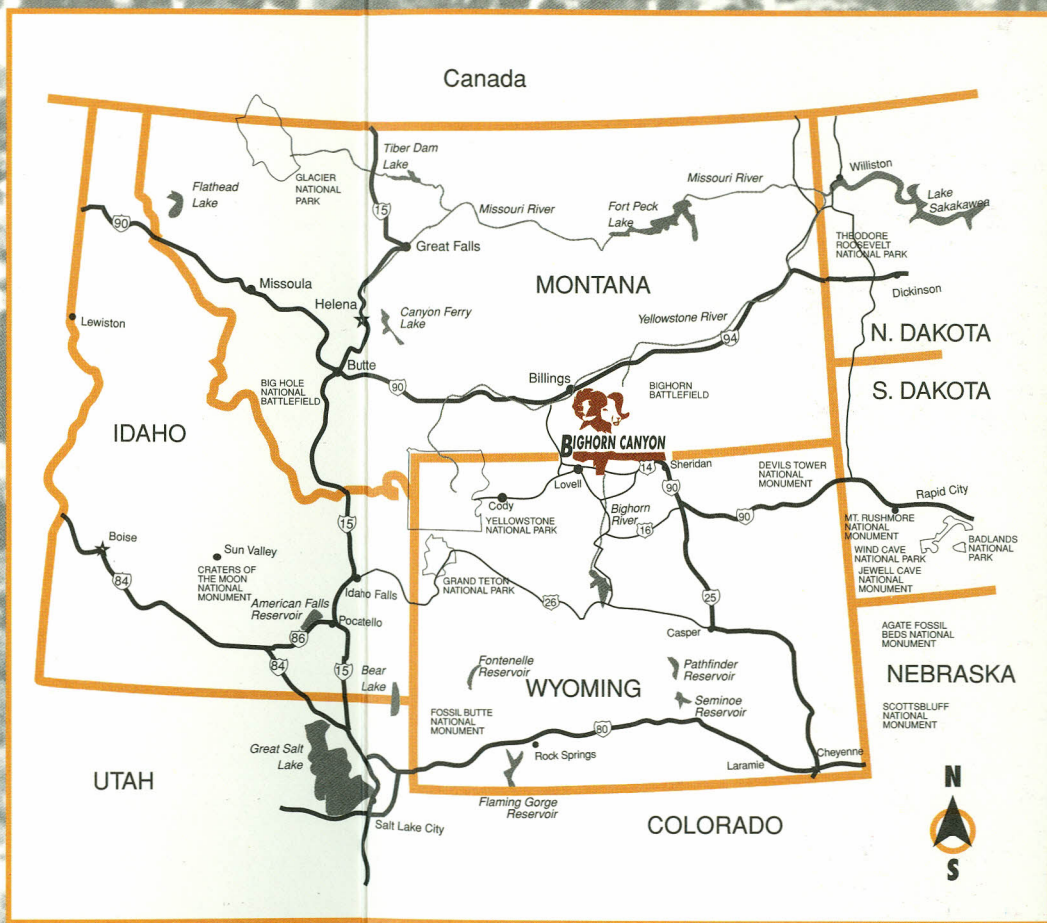
The canyon vicinity offers a diversified landscape of forest, mountains, upland prairie, deep canyons, broad valleys, lake and wetlands. It is bordered by relatively flat valleys and low grassy hills to the north and south while to the east and west rise the Bighorn and Pryor Mountain ranges, respectively.

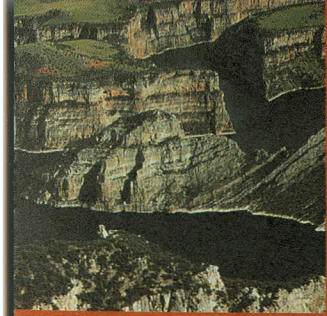
The Bighorn River is the major stream in this region. It flows northward through the Bighorn Basin in Wyoming, entering the Bighorn Canyon north of Lovell, Wyoming. The canyon was formed by a

combination of accelerated stream erosion and gradual regional uplift. Much of it is narrow and confined within sheer walls as high as 1,000 feet.

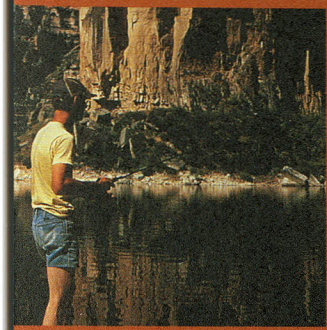
PARK HEADQUARTERS—
NORTH DISTRICT
 P.O. Box 458
 FORT SMITH, MT. 59035
 (406)666-2412

VISITOR CENTER—
SOUTH DISTRICT
 20 HIGHWAY 14A EAST
 LOVELL, WYO. 82431
 (307) 548-2251





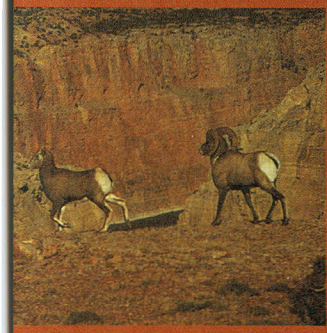
BIGHORN MONOCLINE
DEVIL CANYON OVERLOOK
 river cutting
 madison formation



HORSE/HOE BEND
YELLOWTAIL DAM
BARRY'S LANDING
 fishing
 camping
 boating/swimming
 hiking

Geology

Recreation

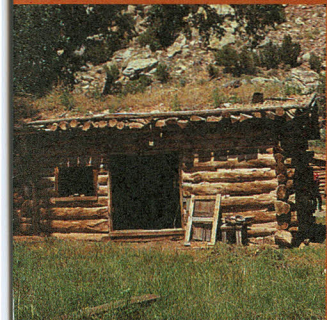


BIGHORN CANYON
 bighorn sheep
 wild horses
 diverse plant species
 birds of prey

Biology

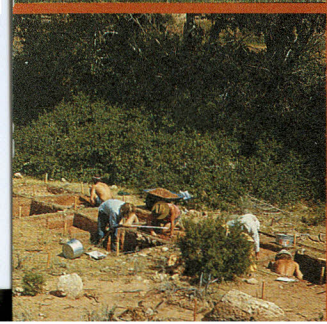
History

Archeology



HILL/BORO
HISTORIC RANCH
FT. C.F. SMITH
CROW CULTURAL SITES
 buildings
 artifacts
 battle sites
 spiritual sites

Bighorn Canyon
 National Recreation Area
 was established
 October 15, 1966,
 "to provide for recreational
 use and enjoyment of
 Bighorn Lake and
 adjacent lands,
 and to preserve the
 scenic, scientific, and
 historic resources."



BAD PASS TRAIL
 rock cairn trail markers
 cave shelters
 tepee rings

FORMATION OF THE BIGHORN CANYON

PALEOZOIC ERA—570 TO 230 MILLION YEARS AGO (*Age of Fishes*)

- more than 9,000 feet of sedimentary strata are deposited
- tropical, mostly shallow, marine shelf environment exists

MESOZOIC ERA—230 TO 65 MILLION YEARS AGO (*Age of Reptiles*)

- region is blanketed repeatedly by layers of sand, mud, and volcanic ash shed from rising mountains to the west

LATE MESOZOIC ERA / EARLY CENOZOIC ERA

- dinosaurs become extinct
- eastward shift of mountain building into Wyoming
- mountains surrounding the Bighorn Basin are thrust up by the Laramide orogeny

CENOZOIC ERA—65 MILLION YEARS AGO TO PRESENT (*Age of Mammals*)

- basin and mountains are uplifted, as evidenced by the course of the Bighorn River superimposed across the Bighorn Mountains
- river and tributaries deeply entrench themselves in the hard Paleozoic strata

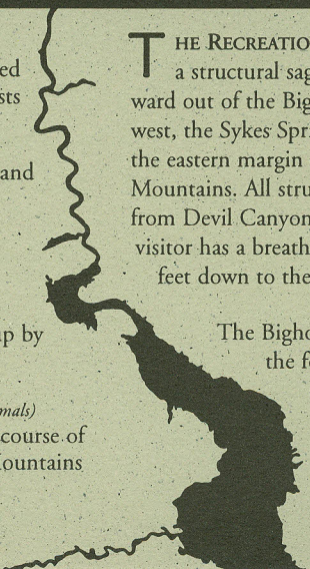
THE RECREATION AREA is located in a structural sag extending northward out of the Bighorn Basin. To the west, the Sykes Spring Fault Zone forms the eastern margin of the Pryor Mountains. All structures are visible from Devil Canyon Overlook where the visitor has a breathtaking view 1,000 feet down to the lake.

The Bighorn Mountains have the form of a long arch or anticline. The northern end plunges from a rather broad upland surface

flanked by steep limbs to the east and west. The crest is near the western limb, which slopes down 1,500 feet in a striking example of a monocline. The Bighorn River cuts down through this monocline one mile north of the confluence with Dry Head Creek. The Natural Corrals mark the initial path of the river as it cut the first 200 feet below the elevation of the overlook.

Erosion slowed at the resistant Madison Limestone. Consequently, the canyon rim rests almost entirely on this formation.

GEOLOGY 



ERA

PERIOD

CENOZOIC

TERTIARY

Willwood

Heart Min. blocks
(Paleozoic limestone)
shale, sandstone

Ft. Union

sandstone,
conglomerate, coal

Hell Creek
Lance

sandstone

Meeteetse
Bearpaw

shale

Mesa Verde
Parkman

bentonite

Claggett

sandstone

Eagle

shale

Cody

bentonite
sandstone and shale

Frontier

bentonite

Mowry

bentonite
shale with sandstone

Thermopolis

bentonite

Cloverly

shale, beds of bentonite

Morrison

sandstones,
conglomerate, shale

Ellis
Sundance

shale, sandstone

Gypsum
Springs

sandstone
shale, calcareous

Embar

gypsum

Tensleep
Amsden

bright red siltstone
gypsum, limestone

Madison

cross-bedded sandstone
red siltstone

Three Forks
Jefferson

limestone and dolomite

Bighorn

limestone, dolomite, and shale

Gallatin

dolomite

GrosVentre

shale and limestone

Flathead

shale

sandstone
granite

MESOZOIC

CRETACEOUS

PALEOZOIC

TRIASSIC

PERMIAN

MISSISSIPPIAN

DEVONIAN

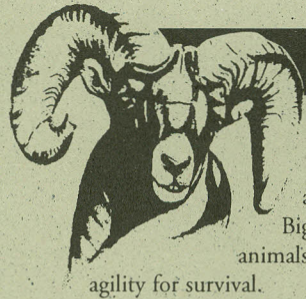
ORDOVICIAN

CAMBRIAN

PRECAMBRIAN

BIGHORN CANYON

Geological Formation of the



BIGHORN SHEEP — THE NAME/AKE OF THE CANYON

RUN FIRST, LOOK LATER— characteristic behavior of Bighorn sheep. These animals rely on speed and agility for survival.

Sheep are elusive prey on the high cliffs of a mountainside or canyon. They can jump up to 7 feet high and can see as far as 5 miles distance. The concave bottoms of their two-toed hooves, massive front shoulders, short legs, and remarkable balance allow them to scale almost any terrain easily and swiftly.

Both ewes and rams have horns, but the ram's horns are much larger and sometimes are fully curled. Unlike mammals with antlers that are shed annually, Bighorn sheep keep their horns year-round. Bighorns live on grasses and herbs, and, like cows, they chew their cud. The hair of the sheep is hollow and traps body heat to protect the animal from cold weather. A mature ram may weigh as much as 300 pounds.

Sheep are social creatures. Acceptance of the ranking order allows them to travel and live in bands of 10–150 sheep. Seasonal migration is typical, and winter and summer ranges can be as close as the next valley or as far as 40 miles. Between spring lambing and the autumn rut, rams live and travel in bachelor groups, each group

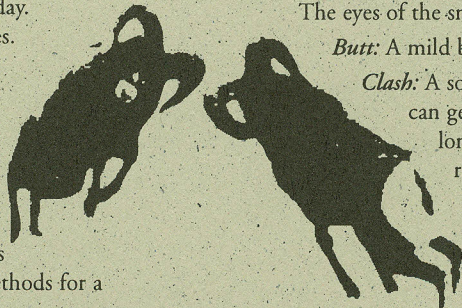
following the largest horned ram while ewes and lambs follow the oldest female. Juveniles or ewes in the band are tolerated by any sheep they follow. Ewes look after yearlings, acting as caring nannies. The firstborn spring lamb is the center of attention of yearlings and old, barren females. Young rams desert the maternal home range group of females after their second year and join ram bands. They reach full maturity by 7–8 years of age.

Often you can find bands of Bighorn sheep near Barry's Landing, Devil Canyon Overlook, and along the steep bluffs of Bighorn Lake.

BIOLOGY **B**

SHEEP BOND BY HORNING, one sheep rubs its horns on another to show affection. The preorbital glands on the face allow one ram to "impregnate" another with its scent. After a clash, a victorious ram does a similar horning to the subordinate ram. The scent identifies that ram as a subordinate so the victor does not waste energy battling him again soon. Rams clash or battle to achieve dominance and sometimes have as many as 40 clashes in one day. Primarily, only dominant rams breed with ewes. Mating or rutting occurs in late October and November.

Horn displays are the most common social behavior pattern used by Bighorns; however to further demonstrate a ram's dominance, sheep will physically battle one another on a regular basis. Although the clashing of horns is the most obvious, there are other common methods for a ram to assert himself. The various methods are:



Low-stretch: Horns are displayed from a lowered head position with the head parallel to the ground and the nose extended. This is a behavior shown primarily between rams of near or equal horn size in an attempt to use horn size alone to prove dominance. Bigger horns are directly associated with dominance.

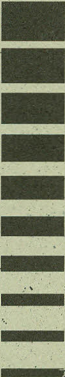
Present: The present is most conspicuous after a clash. Horns are displayed from an elevated head. Two rams presenting will be near one another and will appear to be looking past each other. In effect, they are showing their horns off in an attempt to intimidate the other ram. The eyes of the smaller, or subordinate ram may be closed.

Butt: A mild blow with much less force and intensity than a clash.

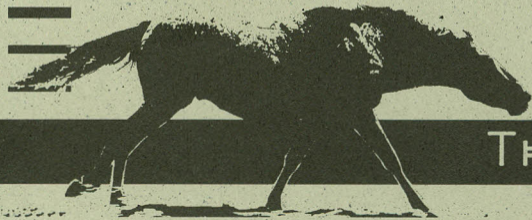
Clash: A sophisticated, specialized behavior concentrating all the force a ram can generate on one horn keel. Rams are vulnerable after very long battles and must then use their remaining energy for survival rather than breeding. The clash is the final determining factor of dominance between two rams.

Survival of the animals in the Bighorn Canyon depends on you. Please respect their home.

Battling for Dominance in **BIGHORN CANYON**



FOR MORE THAN A CENTURY, the Pryor Mountains have been home to free-roaming bands of wild horses. This herd of horses is a genetically unique population. Blood typing by the Genetics Department of the University of Kentucky has demonstrated that these horses are closely related to the old type European Spanish horse. As you explore the horse range, look for horses with unusual coloring that may



correspond to their Spanish lineage, such as dun, grulla, blue roan, and the rare sabino.

Unusual features such as a dorsal stripe down the back, wither stripes, and zebra stripes on the legs are typical characteristics of Spanish horses. The origin of these horses are unclear, but a common belief is that the horses escaped from local Native American Indian herds and eventually found a safe haven in the Pryors. Generally, wild horse herds with any degree of isolation, such as the Pryor Mountain herd, tend to lose genetic information through genet-

ic drift, which affects the final genetic composition of the herd.

Approximately one quarter of the Pryor Mountain Range is in the Bighorn Canyon Recreation Area. The range was established after a two-year grassroots effort by citizens concerned about the long-term welfare of the wild horses. In 1968, interested individuals and groups convinced Interior Secretary Stewart Udall to set aside 31,000 acres in the Pryor Mountains as a public range for the wild horses. This was the first of its kind in the nation.

THUNDERING HOOVES OF PRYOR HORSES

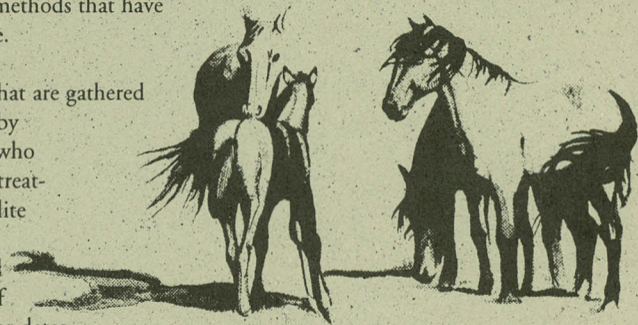
BIOLOGY **B**

SCIENTIFIC STUDIES of the Pryor Mountain horses have shown that the genetic diversity of the horses is high and the current level of inbreeding is low due to the large size of the herd. The Pryor population is managed at a successful size of between 120 and 160 horses. The population appears to be limited by natural and man-made factors. Since the horses have few natural enemies it is necessary to limit the number of animals. The only source of new horses is the birth of 20–30 foals each year. The Bureau of Land Management removes animals every 2–3 years in order to maintain the desired population and a balance within the entire ecosystem of the Pryor Mountains and the Bighorn Canyon National Recreation Area — of which the wild horses are only one component.


Horses that are removed from the Pryor Mountain Range are selected on the basis of type conformation, color, age, sex, location, and free-roaming behavior. Helicopter-drive trapping and baiting, (water, food) are two types of capture and removal methods that have been successfully used on the range.

What happens to the wild horses that are gathered from the range? They are adopted by qualified and approved applicants who agree to provide humane care and treatment of the horses. Each year satellite adoptions are held at different locations throughout Montana and other states. Contact any Bureau of Land Management (BLM) office for dates and locations of the adoption nearest you.

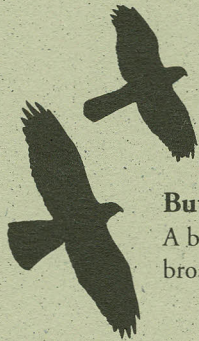
*Information resource: Brochure and Removal Plan
United States Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management*



Survival of the animals in the Bighorn Canyon depends on you. Please respect their home.



CANYON RAPTORS are carnivorous birds that use hooked bills, sharp talons, and keen eyesight to capture and devour their prey. Insects, small mammals, and other birds are hunted by raptors in the wide open spaces and high walls of the Bighorn Canyon.

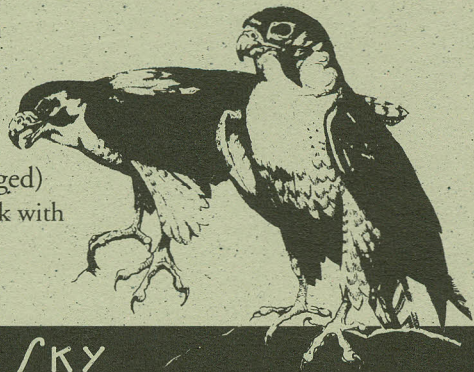


Accipiters

An accipiter is a small to medium size hawk with short, rounded wings and a long tail that allows for speed and maneuverability.

Buteos (Red-tailed and Rough-legged)

A buteo is a medium to large size hawk with broad wings and tail for soaring.



PROFILES IN THE BIGHORN CANYON SKY

The different species of raptors are distinguished by their size, identifying shapes, markings, and individual hunting styles.



Falcons (Prairie and Kestrel)

A falcon's body is streamlined for speed, with long, pointed wings, a notched bill, and a long, narrow tail.

BIOLOGY **B**



CAROLINE LOCKHART RANCH

Caroline Lockhart owned the L/♥ Ranch from 1926 through 1955. Starting with 160 acres, she added land through purchase, homesteading, and leases until she controlled over 7,000 acres. For almost thirty years she ranched employing a foreman and some hired help. When she bought the ranch, the buildings consisted of a two-

CAROLINE LOCKHART CATTLE QUEEN

room log cabin and a few run-down sheds. Lockhart added to the house, constructed fences, corrals, and other buildings. Buildings were also reassembled from property she added until she created the ranch seen today, the best surviving Dryhead country homestead.

Look for the L/♥ on the chimney of the main house and the variation on the unique corner chimney in the guest house. The room above the storage shed was built in the 1930s by Dave Good, Lockhart's ranch foreman, to use as an office and an occasional bunkroom. The wood planking

may seem out of place, but is original. Historic restoration projects at Lockhart have tried to match or blend with the original construction methods. Lower logs have been replaced. The roof on the powerhouse where the battery powered generators were run has been replaced. The bridge made from a railroad car has new stone supports and rough-cut lumber planking. Corral and stable work has been extensive. What other restoration work can you detect?

H I S T O R Y

Newspaper correspondent, author, and famous newspaper editor, Caroline was a liberated lady upon her arrival in the Dryhead. Caroline, born February 24th, 1871 in Eagle Point, Illinois, was raised on her father's ranch at Burlingame, Kansas. She attended Bethany College in Kansas, and later the Moravian Seminary in Pennsylvania.

Caroline served over 15 years as a correspondent and columnist starting in 1889 with the *Boston Post*. She wrote as "Suzette" for the *Philadelphia Bulletin*, and much later (1919) for the *Denver Post*. Freelance endeavors also added to her reputation as an enterprising, investigative reporter. Among other accomplishments she exposed political corruption and abuses of women and children in public institutions. She also participated in sensational and well publicized exploits, including visiting the bottom of Boston Harbor in a diving suit, and jumping into the fire department's safety net from the fourth floor. She interviewed famous celebrities including William F. "Buffalo Bill" Cody.

In 1904, a several-weeks stay in Cody, Wyoming produced a kindred feeling for the Western spirit of the place that linked her to Cody in varying degrees for the rest of her life. The next year was a major turning point in her life when she bought the house at 1126 Rumsey Avenue and moved to Cody. She saw the town as a colorful source of material for her future literary efforts.

She published seven novels between 1911 and 1933. She combined a nostalgia for the cowboy before the close of the frontier, a dose of the reality of change, and the introduction of strong female characters. Her heroines always exerted a moralizing influence over the rough cowboy heart and in the end they always married appropriately. *Me-Smith*, 1911, *The Lady Doc*, 1912, *The Full of the Moon*, 1914, *The Man from the Bitter Roots*, 1915, *The Fighting Shepherdess*, 1919, and *The Dude Wrangler*, 1921 mark a very productive decade, which secured her reputation as a creative writer. The true identities of her characters were scarcely concealed. Katie Prentice, the heroine of *The Fighting Shepherdess*, was in reality Lucy Morrison Moore, "The Sheep Queen of Wyoming."

Many of the characters, however, were

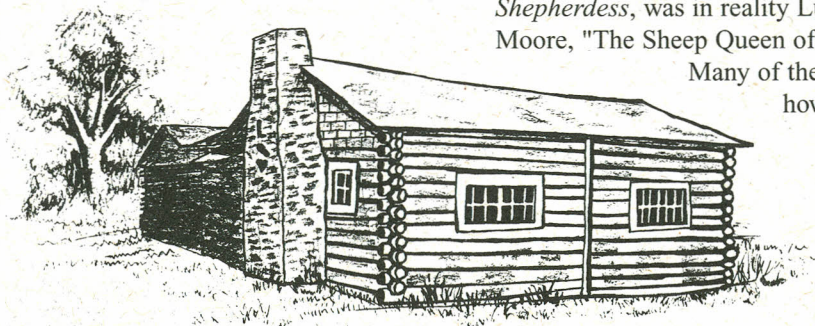
portrayed in a very unflattering manner, which produced bitter enemies. Her fourth and fifth novels were made into movies, which helped shape the perceptions of the West held by the rest of the country.

In 1920 she purchased the Cody Enterprise with four partners whom she bought out the following year. The small town newspaper soon bore her style and imprint. The only "wet" paper in the state was not without controversy. Her editorials were often picked up by papers across the country. She also helped start the annual frontier celebration known as the Cody Stampede and built a memorial statue of William F. Cody. But Caroline wanted to write another novel and become a cattle rancher, so she sold the Cody Enterprise in 1925.

In pursuit of her dream to be "the Cattle Queen of Montana," she bought a ranch in Dryhead Country in 1926. She was no stranger to ranch life, but operating the L/♥ and her Cody interests demanded most of her time and energy. Though fully intending to continue writing, she never produced anything of consequence after *The Old West and New* in 1933. Instead she went from writing the novel to living the myth.

Life on the ranch was mostly self-sufficient. Potatoes, apples, onions, carrots, dried beans and peas, along with beef, pork, and wild game were stored in the powerhouse/storage building. Milk, butter, and eggs from ranch cows and chickens went from the milk shed and chicken coop to the chilly

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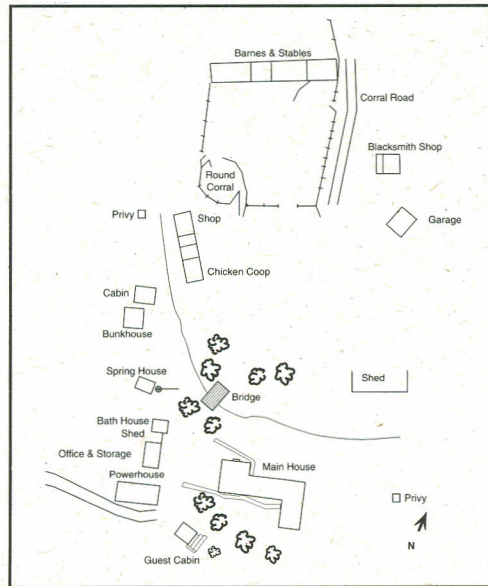


spring house. *Follow the path from the bath house to the spring house to see where these items were stored. In a land where water was precious, the spring location determined the original site for the ranch.*

Keeping equipment running, repairing or building items, and shoeing horses made a blacksmith shop a necessity. Most important to a cattle operation were corrals where livestock was branded, doctored, and separated for sale. When three loads of Lockhart steers topped the market in Omaha in 1935, Caroline must have indeed felt she was the "Cattle Queen".

Throughout her life she was involved with many men but never married. This contributed to her reputation as a liberated lady. In 1952, in her eighties, she moved back to her home in Cody, and later sold the ranch. She died in 1962. Her ashes were scattered over the L/♥. In her later years she wrote, "There are no old timers left anymore. I feel like the last leaf on the tree."

How can these areas come alive? History is the people, who they were, and what they did. Read the books about Caroline. Then return to the ranch and make the past come to life.



Red-tailed hawk

(Buteo jamaicensis)

HABITAT: open country

HUNTING METHOD: perching or soaring

PREY: small mammals, birds, reptiles & insects

PLUMAGE: (common) light underneath with bar and streaks on belly, dark head and upper parts, and brick-red tail

Rough-legged hawk *(Buteo lagopus)*

HABITAT: open country

HUNTING METHOD: perching or hovering

PREY: small mammals & carrion

PLUMAGE: (light phase) brownish above with light feather edgings, dark belly, white on base of tail, and black on wrists



BIGHORN CANYON RAPTORS

American kestrel *(Falco sparverius)*

formerly called the Sparrow hawk

HABITAT: open & partly open country

HUNTING METHOD: perching or hovering

PREY: small mammals, insects & vertebrates

PLUMAGE: (male) slate-blue wings, a rufous back, a reddish tail, and head patches of slate-blue, black, white & rufous

Prairie falcon *(Falco mexicanus)*

HABITAT: open country

HUNTING METHOD: perching or flying low

PREY: small mammals, insects & reptiles

PLUMAGE: sandy-brown upper parts, light breast and belly with dark markings, and brown markings on face referred to as a mustache; in flight, dark wing linings are visible

Turkey vulture *(Cathartes aura)*

HABITAT: open country in summer

HUNTING METHOD: keen eyesight

PREY: carrion

PLUMAGE: (adult) head lacks feathers and is red; in flight, pale gray feathers on trailing edge of wings contrast with dark body

Golden eagle *(Aquila chrysaetos)*

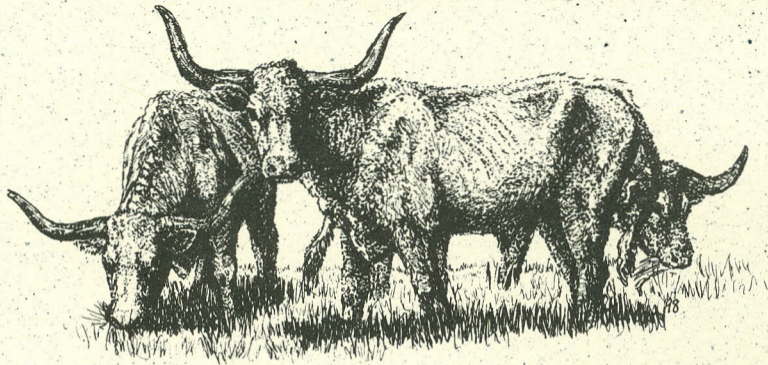
HABITAT: mountainous & open country

HUNTING METHOD: perching or soaring

PREY: small mammals, birds, reptiles & carrion

PLUMAGE: (adult) solid-brown except for a golden buff crown and nape

Survival of the animals in the Bighorn Canyon depends on you. Please respect their home.



MASON-LOVELL OPEN RANGE CATTLE RANCH

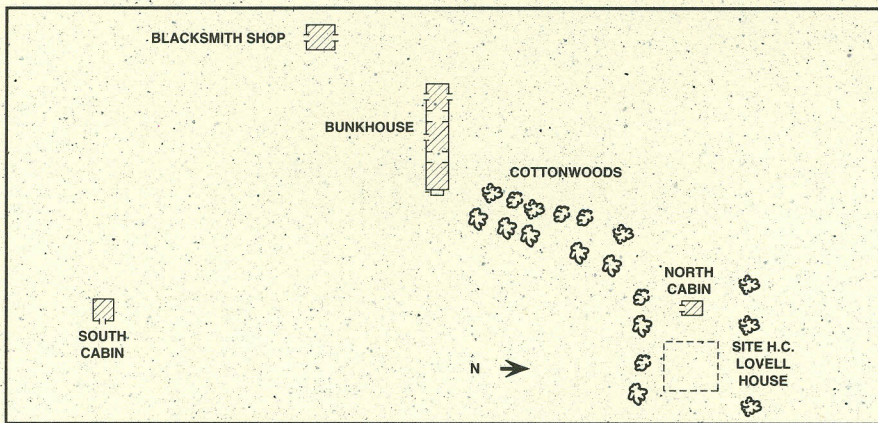
THE MASON-LOVELL RANCH

Henry Clay Lovell, born in 1838 in Kalamazoo County, Michigan, left the family farm at age of 14, heading southwest. He broke into the cattle business in Northern Texas and Kansas

where he met Anthony L. Mason, a Kansas City, Missouri capitalist. As Mason had the money and Lovell had the know-how, they formed a partnership to trail cattle to Wyoming.

In 1880, Lovell and his drovers entered the Bighorn Basin with two large herds from Kansas and located on the west side of the Bighorn River about three miles above the mouth of Nowood Creek. In 1882, Lovell trailed in 12,000 cattle from Oregon. Mason and Lovell were now running almost 25,000 head. They established a second ranch on Shell Creek at the mouth of Trapper Creek.

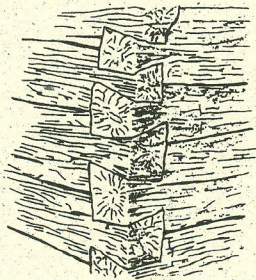
H I S T O R Y 



In 1883 on Willow Creek in the Five Springs area, they took up a small tract of deeded land with good water for a headquarters. Lovell built a bunkhouse, barn, and corrals. The following year, the home ranch was moved north to the Five Springs area and has been known ever since as the ML Ranch.

The ML Ranch site today consists of the long bunkhouse, the north and south cabins, and the blacksmith shop. The main house was destroyed by fire. Notice the various construction styles especially the methods to interlock the logs on the corners. In places wood was included in the chinking between logs.

Through the years, roof and other repairs were made with modern materials. Historic restoration is the method preferred today. Can you still see signs of improvements the ranchers made to make the buildings more comfortable? The cottonwoods, an integral



part of the ranch site, are dying one by one because water is being diverted upstream. What other changes do you notice?

With the expansion of the Northern Pacific Railroad in 1883, Lovell was the first to ship his cattle north out of the basin to Billings instead of much further south to the Union Pacific. Business ties between the northern Bighorn Basin and Billings, Montana remain strong to this day.

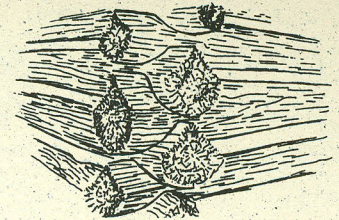
During the heyday of the open range, the ML Ranch ran cattle as far south as Thermopolis and as far north as the Crow Reservation. The harsh winter of 1886-87 dealt a severe blow to the open range cattle industry on the northern plains and in the Bighorn Basin. Lovell estimated that half of the ML herd died of exposure and starvation.

As an experiment in 1888, Lovell took cattle into the Bighorn Mountains for summer

grazing. Until then most cattlemen held that cattle grazed on mountain grasses would not put on solid fat and meat. Lovell learned that they were mistaken. After that summer grazing in the mountains became popular.

Lovell worked to improve the quality of the herd by buying some choice Hereford bulls and heifers. The ML was also the first ranch in the basin to raise alfalfa.

Rustling of unbranded cattle born on the open range was a problem right from the start. The Wyoming Stockgrowers Association wrote rules which the legislature made into laws. The Association also hired men to inspect and control roundups, and to apprehend and prosecute rustlers. Soon settlers with small herds of cattle took up land along the rivers and started to farm



and fence it. The power of the cattle barons clashing with the small ranchers led to the 1892 Johnson County War on the east side of the Bighorns and to killings in the Bighorn Basin as well. The invasion of sheep and dropping beef prices led owners to depend more on winter feeding and less on the open range. By 1897 there were more sheep than cattle in the Bighorn Basin.

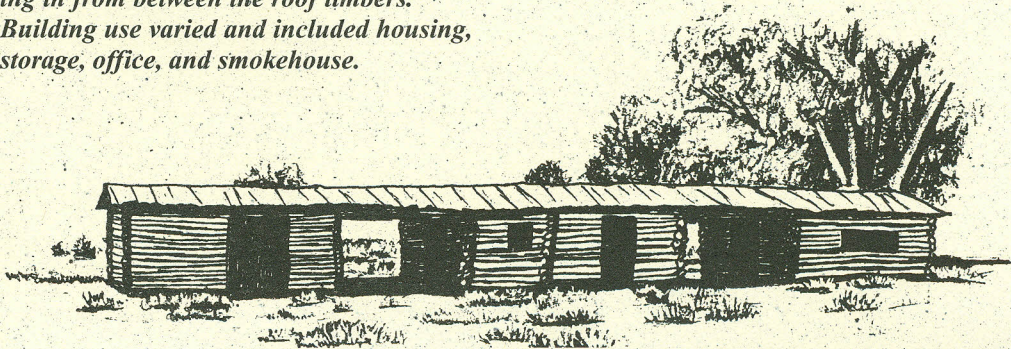
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By the turn of the century, the days of the open range had passed.

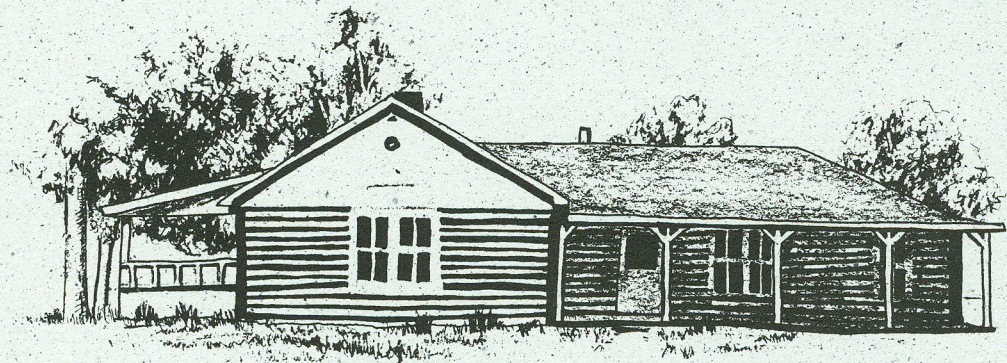
Mason died in 1892 and the "Big Outfit" was broken up to settle his estate. By 1896, proceeds from the sale of cattle had eliminated the estate's interest in the ML Ranch. Lovell kept the deeded land and restocked the range. He continued ranching with a herd of about 1600 until his death in 1903. Lovell's son Willard worked the ranch for a few years, but by the time Lovell's estate was settled and the bank loans paid off the ranch was again heavily mortgaged. Willard and his wife sold out in 1909 to Christian and Peter Yagen of Billings. They in turn sold to the Spear brothers in 1917. Over the years, the ranch passed through many hands, but it was always known as the ML.

Did you notice some interior walls were covered with newspapers held in place by nails pounded through small metal disks and then painted over in blue or green? Wood pegs, wires, and even railroad spikes were used to hang up clothes and equipment. Cloth ceilings trapped the dirt coming in from between the roof timbers. Building use varied and included housing, storage, office, and smokehouse.

During the Wyoming centennial, a variety of living history programs helped us imagine life here in the late 1800's. Many details are still unknown. Much of the history is lost to time. Often we can only wonder, but we invite you to imagine yourself back then as a working hand on the ML spread.



EWING-SNELL FAMILY RANCH



THE EWING-SNELL RANCH

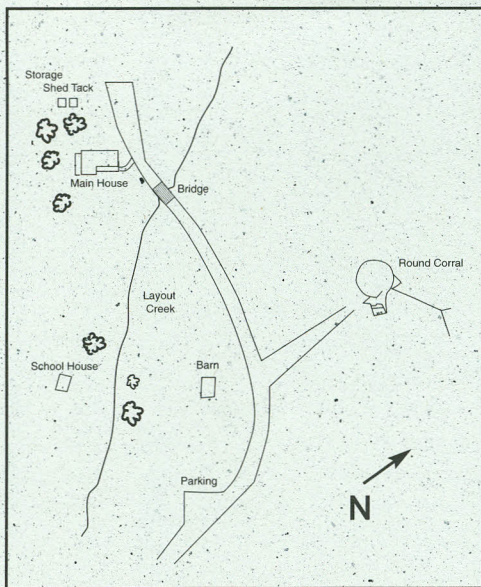
The history of the Ewing-Snell Ranch reflects the history of the Dryhead Country, an area nestled below the cliffs of the Pryor Mountains and eastward to the rim of Bighorn Canyon.

In 1896, just five years after the Crow cession of 1,800,000 acres from the western end of their reservation, Erastus T. Ewing

HISTORY

entered the Dryhead searching for gold. The Bald Mountain gold strike in the Bighorn Mountains had played out and some prospectors believed, or hoped, the rugged canyons might contain a mother lode. While some gold was found and many claims staked out, no big strikes were ever made in the Dryhead.

Most of the prospectors left, but Ewing stayed and turned to ranching. He settled his family on unsurveyed land along Layout Creek, the first reliable source of water to be found in the Dryhead when entering the area from the south. Water was the key which allowed ranching to exist. Ewing had three children. When Ewing died in 1904, his son, Lee W. Ewing increased the water rights to irrigate more farm land.



Clint Hough of Bridger, Montana bought the Layout Creek Ranch from the Ewings in the winter of 1910-11. Hough had to borrow money in order to eke out a living for his family. In 1920, deeply in debt, Hough sold out to Philip Snell, a young rancher from Kane, whose father owned a ranch on Crooked Creek near Horseshoe Bend.

In 1920 Philip Snell married Alma Wasson and they moved to Layout Creek. Alma had originally moved into the Dryhead in 1909 when her father James Wasson bought the George Berky Ranch (later to become the Lockhart Ranch). In 1917 the Wassons moved into the big frame house built by Henry Clay Lovell when James became foreman of the Mason Lovell spread. Thus Alma Wasson Snell has the distinction of having lived at three ranches that would later become historic sites within the recreation area.

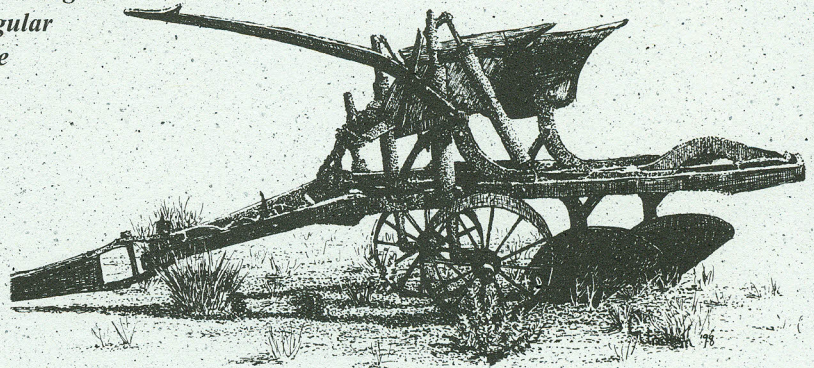
The Snells lived at Layout Creek for over thirty years. Four boys blessed the home: Rufus born in 1921, Cecil in 1923, Jim in 1934, and Ray in 1936. Mrs. Snell's mother had prevailed on authorities to establish the Dryhead school in 1916 about a half mile north of their house. By the time Rufus and Cecil started school, there was a new school house three miles further north than the one attended by their mother. When Jim and Ray started first grade, many homesteaders had moved out from the area further north and Mrs. Snell persuaded school officials to move the school to the Snell Ranch.

The log shop about 100 yards east of the house was thus turned into a one room school. School was conducted here only during 1945-46 and 1946-47. Just three students attended: the Snell boys and another student who boarded with the Snells. The teacher also lived with the Snells. What do you suppose their school day was like? Reading, writing, and arithmetic were the main subjects. How do you think their books and school supplies compare with those of today? Some years school was reduced to a four month summer term.

The Snells ran about 100 head of cattle, and kept poultry even though the bobcats and coyotes took a heavy toll of their chickens and turkeys. On the land they irrigated from Layout Creek, they raised wheat, oats, and hay. They also had an apple orchard and garden.

Philip Snell died in 1950. A year later Mrs. Snell sold the ranch but later came back into possession when the buyer failed to make payments. They then sold to E. E. Hanson in 1955. In 1964 Snell, who still had an interest, and Hanson sold to Clarence Mangus and Newell J. Sorenson. In 1968 Newell and Garnet Mangus Sorenson sold to the United States Reclamation Service for inclusion in Bighorn Canyon N.R.A.

The National Park Service has used the ranch as the Layout Creek Ranger Station. Unlike the other ranch sites, Ewing-Snell has received regular care and maintenance. Various owners made improvements. While phone lines have never made it into the Dryhead, the house has heat, electricity, water, and indoor plumbing. Being furnished and lived in makes the house seem like any ordinary house and it seems easy visualizing life here through the years. Visit the pond out back. Sit on the front porch for a spell and share the view all those ranchers and rangers have enjoyed.

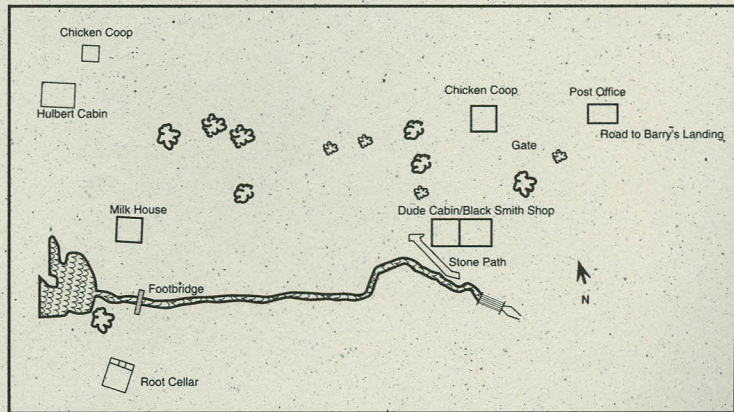


HILLSBORO DUDE RANCH

HILLSBORO

About 1903, Grosvener W. Barry chanced upon Trail Creek Valley and liked what he saw. After deciding to stay, he built a cabin and several other buildings from the dead timber on one side of the canyon. Apparently years before a prospector had set a fire to get a rattlesnake and the fire got out of hand. Barry's wife Edith and Claude St. John, her son by a previous marriage, joined him.

Barry liked to call himself "Doctor" but whether he was ever a medical doctor is unknown. He was a true promoter from New York. Over the years, his schemes to extract a fortune in gold from the Bighorn Canyon placer deposits led to the formation of three gold mining companies: Hidden Canyon Gold Mining, Big Horn Gold Dredging, and Gold Creek Consolidated Dredging Companies. Stock was sold in the first two of these companies and enough money was raised by the second to purchase, ship, and assemble a huge dredge on the Bighorn



H I S T O R Y

River at the mouth of Trail Creek. The dredge never recovered enough gold to even pay for its operation.

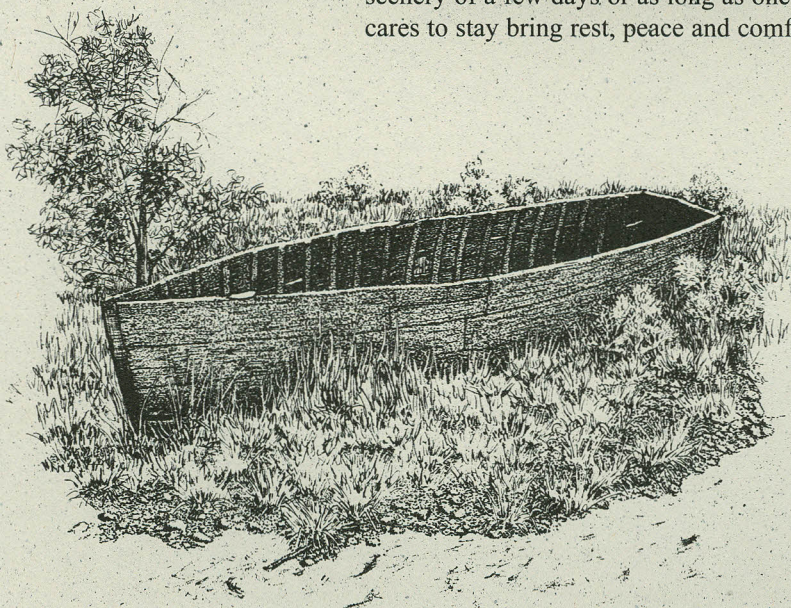
Barry turned his place into a dude ranch where he bred and sold English hackneys as the Embar Horse Company. *Be sure to take the side trail to the left just past the second bench to see the stable and corrals where Barry kept some of his stock.*

To advertise the wonders of his ranch, now called Cedarvale, Barry circulated tourist brochures proclaiming it:

**THE SPORTSMAN'S
PARADISE OF AMERICA:**

"The ranch lies in a beautiful valley between the Bighorn and Pryor Mountains,

this valley being divided by the canyon of the Bighorn River. The ranch house is far removed from the environments of civilization, but it is thoroughly modernized, being electrically lighted throughout. The bountiful and well prepared table is supplied from our extensive gardens, and fresh meat is available at all times due to the large ice plant we operate. We have the typical stock ranch of the west. The hunting and fishing is remarkable. Parents can send their children here where there are no bad influences. The ranch is easy of access by our high powered motor boats, the only power boats on the Bighorn River. Those who have made the boat trip through the entire canyon pronounce it to be the finest and the only trip of its kind. Ascending the river is sublime and coming down is positively thrilling. Camping trips in the fine mountain scenery of a few days or as long as one cares to stay bring rest, peace and comfort."



The boats used at Barry's Landing were built by Barry and Eddy Hulbert. To publicize Cedarvale and the Barry boats, Claude St. John and a neighbor, Bert Smith, started downstream on May 31, 1913 in the sixteen foot, motorized Edith. On June 3rd they entered the Yellowstone and four days later the Missouri. They entered the Mississippi on July 15th and on August 1st they reached New Orleans. Claude's uncle sold the boat the next day, but it had proven its sturdiness. Years later three boats, presumably the Flirt, the Reliance, and the Mistral, slipped beneath the rising waters of Bighorn Lake. The Hillmont, saved from this watery grave, is now displayed near the boat ramp at Barry's Landing.

Eddy Hulbert, one of the orphans Barry had brought to Montana, became a skilled silver- and blacksmith. As you visit the shop, imagine the workbenches filled with tools, feel the heat from the forge, or hear the clanging as Eddy hammers steel on his anvil. Photos of spurs, buckles, and other items of his silversmithing along with life at Hillsboro highlight EDDY HULBERT MONTANA SILVERSMITH, recently published.

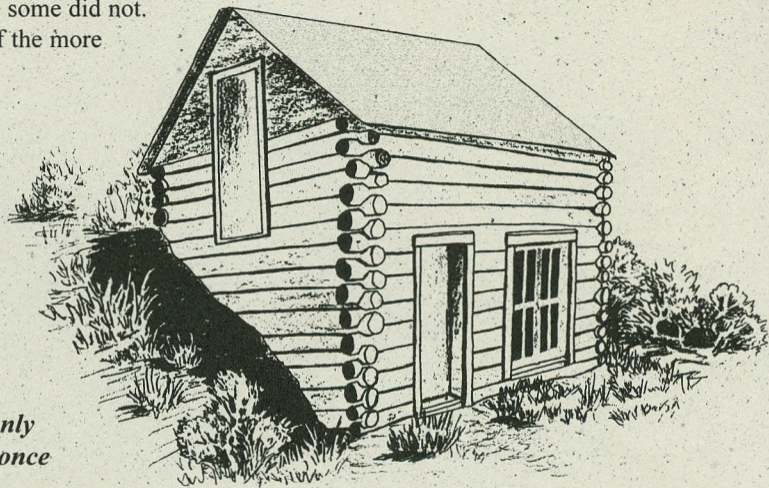
A post office was established at Hillsboro in 1915. Barry was appointed postmaster. With the exodus of homesteaders during World War II, the post office closed in 1945.

Records describe court cases and other instances in which Barry refused to pay for shipping of mining equipment, saddlery and

other ranch equipment, boat motors or employees' salaries. Some got paid, some did not. Throw in a few neighbor feuds, some of them violent, and you have one of the more colorful Dryhead characters.

The successful dude ranch was operated by Edith Barry, for many years after Barry's death in 1920. The main house burned down in the winter of 1947-48. The St. Johns added to their three room cabin the next spring. Later that home also burned. During his later years, Claude turned to cattle and horse ranching. The days when dudes were put up was something only reminisced about. Grosvener W. Barry enjoys the distinction of being the first person to recognize and exploit the recreation potential of Bighorn Canyon.

Most of the buildings stand empty now. Some have entirely gone or only a foundation remains. Roof timbers give way and collapse. This was once a center of activity. Years ago you might have stayed in the carpeted bunkhouse with its large squared off timbers, watched the Dryhead ranchers come by for their mail, and enjoyed the beauty of Bighorn Canyon.





Visitor Center—South Unit

20 Highway 14A East

Lovell, Wyoming 82431

