



**ARIZONA
NATIONAL**

**Pioneer Stockmen
Ranch Histories**

Volume XXX

Compiled by:

Arizona State Cowbelles Association

Arizona National Pioneer Stockmen Association

Arizona National Livestock Show, Inc.

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Dear Pioneers,

We are pleased to present Volume Thirty of the Arizona National Pioneer Stockmen Ranch Histories at our 75th Arizona National Livestock Show.

As part of the Arizona National Livestock Show mission, our goal is to preserve Western heritage and educate the public on the legacy that our predecessors laid for us.

Thank you to those who contributed to this volume. We are fortunate to have these stories told in the words of the people who lived them. We hope you will take pride in preserving this history of ranching in Arizona. The legacy of this history will live on in the series of volumes compiled by Arizona State Cowbelles, Arizona Pioneer Stockmen Association and Arizona National Livestock Show, Inc. A special thank you to Janice Bryson and Barbary Jaquay for their assistance in collecting the stories.

Please share these biographies widely and encourage others to chronicle their families' contributions to Arizona agriculture in future volumes.

Sincerely,

Patrick Bray

President

Arizona National Livestock Show

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FRANK YRIARTE AUZA



Francisco (Frank) Yriarte Auza was short in stature but a giant in moral character, physical and emotional strength, and accomplishments. Frank was born March 3, 1905, in the small Basque town of Lizaso, Navarra, Spain to Jacinto Auza, a farmer, and Antonia Yriarte Auza who cooked for weddings and was a midwife. Frank was the oldest son of Jacinto and Antonia's marriage but there were five siblings: two from Antonia's previous marriage - Nemesio and Martina Gamiochipi, and three from Jacinto's and Antonia's marriage - Francisca (Frances-Fanny), Jose (Joe), and Martina (Marty).

In 1910, Frank's father, Jacinto and his stepson Nemesio, who was 17, emigrated from Spain to the United States to herd sheep in Arizona. Due to economic hard times in Spain, father and son sought a better life in America. The details on the route that the two men took to arrive in the United States remain unclear. Antonia had a brother, Francisco Yriarte, who had already established himself in Arizona and that is where they headed. When and why Antonia's brother and family migrated to the United States is unknown, but it was almost certain for the same reason that Jacinto and his son had come. Jacinto and Francisco homesteaded a farm in southern Phoenix. After five years of working hard, living frugally, and saving their money, Jacinto sent for his wife Antonia, and their four children Martina (15), Frank (10), Fanny (8) and Joe (5).

Antonia and her children traveled from Guerendiain, Spain to Bordeaux, France where they then sailed on the ship "The Espange" to Ellis Island, New York. Joe was sick when they arrived, so the family was detained under quarantine for approximately five days on Ellis Island before the family entered the United States in December 1915. If Joe had not recuperated from his illness within that time, Antonia and her children would have had to return to Spain. The family took the ferry to New York where they found communication very difficult as they only spoke Basque and no one they encountered knew the Basque language. While in New York the family went to a restaurant where they had to "act out" being a chicken so that they could order chicken to eat. They rode the train from New York to Phoenix, Arizona. When Frank recalled the long journey, he

expressed how hungry they were and how shocked he was when he saw other people on the train eating "worms" which he later learned was spaghetti.

When Antonia and the children arrived in Phoenix, Jacinto, Nemesio, Antonia's brother Francisco Yriarte and his family met them. Leaving his family at the homestead to live temporarily and work the farm, the men returned to their work in the sheep camp. Antonia and her children weeded, harvested watermelon, sugar cane and cotton as well as took care of the chickens, pigs, cows and the family garden. The farmhouse was a typical and humble adobe home with a tin roof and a dirt floor, which they "settled" with water. Antonia often described the house as an "inferno" during the summer.

Frank and his siblings began school only speaking Basque, but they eventually became fluent in three languages, Basque, English and Spanish. One day the truant officer stopped by their home and scolded Antonia for not sending the children to school. That afternoon she asked Frank where they had been going each day after they left the house to go to school. He said that the teachers at the nearby school were mean and belittled them because they didn't speak English, so he and Fanny went to a school further down the road where the teachers were more patient and helped them learn English and the other students helped them learn Spanish.

Frank was in second grade when the 1918 flu epidemic arrived resulting in the schools being shut down. Frank went to work in the sheep camp and never returned to school. In 1918 the two families sold the Phoenix house where the next child of Jacinto and Antonia, Martina (Marty), had been born. Nemesio left the Phoenix area and settled in Flagstaff where he married Dominica; they bought a house on O'Leary Street. Two years later in October of 1920 Frank's father, Jacinto, passed away in Phoenix at the age of 49, from a ruptured ulcer. Antonia and her children moved to Flagstaff to live with Nemesio and Dominica in the house on O'Leary Street, to be near her son, Nemesio and his wife. Nemesio and Frank continued to work in the sheep camp while Antonia worked in Flagstaff washing clothes for the teachers at the Northern Arizona Normal School, now Northern Arizona University. Fanny and Joe's job was to pick up the soiled clothes and take them to their mother to wash and then deliver the clean clothes back to the teachers and collect the

money for the cleaning service.

In 1922, Frank's mother died with pneumonia at the age of 46; Frank was just 17. As usual for the times, Antonia passed at Nemesio's house on O'Leary Street. Fanny married Domingo Uhalde and Marty went to live with them in the San Francisco, CA area. Frank returned to the sheep camp where he tended the sheep and Joe, his younger brother, who was now 12 and had severe asthma, was the camp cook. Joe would leave the sheep business and join his sisters later in California.

Frank continued to work with the sheep throughout Arizona but eventually returned to the Flagstaff area and worked as a shepherd for 8 years for the Espil Sheep Company, which was based on the San Francisco Peaks north of Flagstaff. The Aspen trees are beautiful in this area and he and other shepherders carved their names on the trees to pass the time and to leave some semblance of their existence in the cold heavily wooded San Francisco Peaks. Some of these carvings can still be found today and represent an historical period in the Arizona sheep industry. It was around this time that Frank met the love of his life, Elsie Barreras.

Elsie Barreras was born July 12, 1913, in Magdalena, New Mexico to Climaco Barreras and Modesta Schaefer Barreras. In June 1924 when Elsie was 10, her family packed up and with Modesta's brother, piled into their Model T and headed to Flagstaff, Arizona in search of better work. Elsie attended 3rd grade through the 8th grade at the Training School, now called the Bloom Building, part of the Northern Arizona Normal School. In 1926, when Elsie was 13 years old her younger brother George was born. She attended Flagstaff High School for three months. Against her family's wishes, she quit school to help her family financially as the economy was weak and her father had lost his job, George was sick with Scarlet Fever and the family badly needed money for medicine. At the age of 15 she went to work for a man named Bloomberg who had a clothing store. Within a year the store closed, and a friend referred her to Joe and Viola Babbitt who were looking for some help to wash and iron; she started working for them immediately.



Auza name carved on an aspen tree

During that time Ray and Rose Mary Babbitt approached Elsie and offered her a position at their home taking care of all five Babbitt children, Teddy, Jimmy, Rose Mary, Katherine, Margret and Mrs. Walsh, Mrs. Babbitt's mother. Elsie made beer for Mr. Babbitt and said he enjoyed it. She worked as their nanny for 4 years and kept in touch with all of them throughout their lives.

On July 4, 1930, while working for the Ray Babbitt family, Elsie visited her best friend, Nella Martinez; Frank Auza and Martin Uhalde were also visiting the Martinez'. Frank was immediately smitten with Elsie and knowing that she had a date with Martin Uhalde at the local dance that night, he devised a plan to take Elsie to the dance. He borrowed an Espil Sheep Company truck, went to the house and told Elsie that Martin had asked Frank to pick her up and take her to the dance and that Martin would meet them later that evening at the dance. Needless to say, Martin was not happy when he went to the house to pick Elsie up and found she had already left with Frank. When Martin got to the dance, he told



Elsie Schaefer Auza



Frank Auza

Elsie he had not asked Frank to pick her up. Elsie must have been smitten herself as she decided to spend the rest of the dance with Frank. Their courtship was interesting; on Saturday nights Frank would ride horseback to Flagstaff to take Elsie out. After he took her home, Frank would ride back to the mountain in time to work the following morning. Later Frank bought a motorcycle, so they could spend more time with each other. On October 15, 1933, Frank (28) and Elsie (21) were married. They were a couple destined to love each other and share a partnership from the first day they met.

At this time Frank worked for Dr. Raymond, a Flagstaff physician and a rancher. The day after the wedding Frank had to go to Howard Lake around Williams, Arizona to brand 3,000 sheep. Elsie stayed with Frank at Howard Lake for two weeks

until he had to go out on the trail with the sheep. She then returned to Flagstaff to stay with her parents. It was at this point she learned she was pregnant. Once the sheep were settled in the Bloody Basin area, Elsie joined Frank where they took care of sheep and lived in a tent for five months. Frank traveled to Phoenix for supplies and Elsie was left alone at the sheep camp for up to three days at a time. After the five months they returned to Flagstaff. After Frances, Frank & Elsie's first child was born, Elsie stayed in Flagstaff to care for the baby and the children that followed. Every year Frank returned to the Bloody Basin area to tend the sheep returning to Flagstaff as often as he could but often not until Christmas. Frank wanted to have 12 children; Elsie thought otherwise; Frank and Elsie had eight children: Frances, Joe (Joey), Frank Jr. (Frankie) , Peter (Pete), John (Johnny), Martin (Tine), George, and Elsie Jean.

Frank and Elsie rented a house on O'Leary Street for a while, but eventually bought the house located at 118 South O'Leary Street. They somehow managed to save enough money to make an offer to buy the house on O'Leary Street from Nemesio's ex-wife. The house was very special and held so many memories for Frank and Elsie, not only because Frank's brother, Nemesio, had originally owned and lived in the house, but Antonia, Frank's mother and his siblings lived here and his mother died there, in addition, all of Frank and Elsie's children were raised in the house. Their children all attended the Saint Anthony/Nativity school and Flagstaff High School. Years later, Frank, also died in the house. The O'Leary Street house remains in the family to this day.

From 1933 to 1945, Frank worked simultaneously as a shepherd and then as the foreman for Dr. Raymond and Ramon Aso, owners of the Flagstaff Sheep Company and Howard Sheep Company, respectively. He managed the two companies, moving the sheep operations to the Bloody Basin during the winter months and then to Flagstaff around the Aspen Spring areas during the summer months. The Aspen Spring Ranch was the Auza summer home for 15 years.

Frank and Dr. Raymond were the principal motivators behind the construction of the Bloody Basin Bridge. In the springtime when it was time to move the sheep from the winter pastures at Bloody Basin to the summer pastures at the Aspen Spring, it

was often impossible to cross the Verde River as the melting snow caused the waters to rise too high for the sheep to cross to the opposite side of the river. Frank had a solution to the problem for getting sheep safely from one side of the river to the other: a permanent suspension bridge, set high enough above the river that it wouldn't be washed away by the rising waters. Frank and George W. Smith, a carpenter familiar with suspension bridges, took a trip to Blue Point Bridge on the Salt River to get an idea about how to build the bridge. The first step in building the bridge was to gain access to the area; in 1941 Frank, the shepherders, and the local laborers Frank hired built an 8-mile road to reach the site; no small feat as the road had to be cleared by hand using picks and shovels. In 1942 under the employment of Dr. Raymond, Frank with his shepherders, mules and determination, began building the suspension sheep bridge across the Verde River. Frank managed all aspects of the bridge construction including determining the location, designing the bridge, supervising and working side by side with the men and organizing and paying the road and bridge labors. The bridge was constructed entirely with hand tools, mules and shepherders using salvaged materials from the copper mines in Mayor and Cordes Junction. No heavy equipment was used; even the cement was mixed by hand. Materials were very scarce during World War II, so Henry Cordes and Frank hauled the 1 1/2" coiled cables from the copper mines to the site where the bridge was built. Much of the money for the bridge came from the late Dr. Raymond. In 1943 the final cost of building the bridge was \$4,500.



Frank Auza
crossing the bridge

Frank also utilized the local natural hot springs by installing a tub so the shepherders at the camp could take a bath at the end of a long hard day. He continued to help maintain the bridge until about 1979, replacing the suspenders, stay cables, decking, and other components as needed to keep the bridge useable. Frank was the first man to ride a horse across the bridge.

The bridge was successfully used to cross the river to herd the sheep between summer and winter pastures. It was the last remaining suspension bridge built in Arizona and was rebuilt; an exact replica and in the exact location in 1988 with cranes, helicopters and all kinds of modern tools

and supplies and at a cost of a little over \$400,000; the bridge was inducted into the National Register of Historical Places in 1989. The bridge is a well-visited area and many people willing to drive or hike into the Bloody Basin still enjoy the natural hot spring and the bridge.

Frank had an eye for business and used his keen business sense and knowledge of raising sheep to become successful at what he enjoyed. In 1945, Antonio (Tony) and Marianne Manterola bought the Flagstaff Sheep Company from Dr. Raymond. Frank ran the Flagstaff Sheep Company and worked as foreman for the Manterola Sheep Company from 1945 to 1962. Tony Manterola passed in 1956. In 1959 Frank bought the Lockett Sheep Company and founded the Auza Sheep Company. He continued to manage the Manterola Sheep Company until 1962 when his son, Joe Auza took over managing the company until Tony's son, Joe, was old enough to run the business. Joe Auza had married Tony's daughter, Carmen, that year.



Sheep crossing Verde River
Sheep Bridge

For 17 years the Auza Sheep Company's winter range was in Roll, Arizona and the summer range was in Flagstaff, Arizona; Frank and Elsie lived in Roll during the winter and then moved to Flagstaff during the summer months. In 1976 at the age of 71, Frank sold the Auza Sheep Company, which included 4,000 ewes to the Auza Brothers owned by his sons, Frankie, Pete, and Johnny. Frank continued to collaborate and help his sons with the sheep until 1981.



Frank (left) with two of his Basque
shepherders

Frank and Elsie were the epitome of the kind of people we all strive to be but for them it came naturally. They were a partnership with Frank working with the sheep and Elsie taking care of the home, raising the children when Frank was working, and cooking for the workers, employers and friends that Frank brought to the house. When Frank was shearing sheep or rounding

up cattle, Elsie would fix the food at home and take it to where Frank was working. Thanksgiving was always a special day. Once the children began their vacation from school the family packed up the car and one of Elsie's children drove to the sheep camps in Casa Grande, Aspen Ranch, Roll or wherever Frank was working. When the family arrived at the sheep camp, the boys went to work with Frank while Elsie and her girls stayed at the camp to clean and bake. Frank always made it home to Flagstaff on Christmas, as it was the most special holiday of the year for the family.

Frank and Elsie treated everyone with respect and honor and that was reciprocated by anyone who was fortunate enough to know or know of them. During the depression, many a hobo or homeless person stopped by their house to get a bowl of beans and a homemade tortilla. Herders and friends alike were treated like they were family. Anyone who was at the Auza house at mealtime was always expected to eat with the family; "No, thank you," was not an acceptable answer. Neither of them ever turned down someone who needed help. Indeed, it was not unusual if a local sheep owner mentioned that he needed help, Frank volunteered one of his sons to go help for as long as needed, sometimes the entire summer.



Frank enjoying the fruits of his labor

Frank never let grass grow under his feet. He worked long hard hours seven days a week during his lifetime; he repaired, built, or helped anything or anyone who needed it. If he saw a board that needed to be replaced, a fence, cattle guard, windmill or stock tank that needed to be repaired, he would stop and take care of it; if he didn't have the right supplies, he would buy them and then return that day or the next to repair it never mentioning or looking for thanks, recognition or compensation. Anyone asking for help never had to ask twice. In 1926 Frank became the official cook for the Wool Growers Annual Barbeque picnic held at the Aspen Spring Ranch near Flagstaff. The picnics were moved from Aspen Springs Ranch to several places but eventually ended up at Fort Tuthill around 1954. Hundreds of people came as the entire town of Flagstaff was invited and most attended. It took a week to prepare for the

picnics and 3-5 days to return everything to normal afterwards. Frank and his family, friends and herders from all around Arizona worked together to cook the Wool Growers picnics until Frank and Elsie's son Frankie took over in 1980. The following year, Tine joined Frankie; they too had plenty of help from friends, herders and family in the preparation, serving and cleaning up after the picnic. Besides being a member of the Arizona Wool Growers Association, Frank was also a member of the Western Range Sheep Association, and a founding and lifetime member of the Sheriff's Posse of Flagstaff. Most important to Frank, he was a good husband, father, and friend.

Frank and Elsie's upbringing instilled in them a strong work ethic that they passed on to their children. From the time they were old enough to go with him, Frank raised his sons to work with the sheep; every summer and every school vacation Frank had his boys working in the sheep. Anytime Frank was home and the boys had friends over, the boys and their friends got up and headed off to work at 5:00 am with Frank regardless of the time they got home the previous night or that morning; no one complained not even their friends. Although as teenagers, they may have not been thrilled about leaving town and living in the sheep camp all summer, they all grew up wanting to be part of the sheep industry and indeed all eight children were involved in the sheep industry during their lives.

In 1985 at the age of 80, Frank along with Elsie returned to Lizaso and Guerendiain Navarra, Spain for the first time since he had left. They were able to visit with some of his family who had remained in Spain and with many men who had come to Arizona to work with the sheep and who had become his friends. Frank passed on September 30, 1999, at the age of 94; he passed at the house located at 118 South O'Leary Street. Elsie was 92 - 3 months short of being 93-when she passed in her home on April 28, 2006, in Tacna Arizona, they were both surrounded by loved ones at the time of their passing.



The Auzas in Spain

Francisco Yriarte Auza had many accomplishments in agriculture and the sheep industry. From overcoming language barriers, great life changes and the basic need to make a living, he built a thriving business, realized economic success and created an Arizona heritage; his achievements are unmatched. His and Elsie's children have been successful in life, followed their parents in the agriculture industry and have raised great families on their own. Frank and Elsie Auza have indeed lived lives that embody the American Dream. The sheep industry lives on in Frank's family through his children.



Back Joe, George, Frank Jr., Elsie
Jean, Martin (Tine), Frances, John and
Pete_ Front Frank, Elsie

Frank and Elsie's oldest (Frances) and youngest (Elsie) married Basque brothers, Fidel and Ramon Jorajuria respectively, from Sumbilla, Spain who came to the United States to work in the sheep business. Frances and Fidel had two children, Marie and Michael. Fidel took the sheep to Tacna, Arizona and Frances and her children joined him two years later. Fidel and Frances along with family and friends built a popular local restaurant in Tacna known as the Basque Etchea. The restaurant was family run for almost 40 years.

Ramon came to the United States to work for the Auza Sheep Company on his second work contract. Elsie received her Bachelor and Master's in Education and worked as a teacher for Flagstaff Public Schools. Ramon and Elsie were married and made their home in Tacna, Arizona. Fidel, Ramon, and Michael formed the Triple J Ranch for their sheep and farming operations. Elsie became an elementary teacher at Mohawk Valley School in Roll, AZ when they moved to Tacna. She taught in her field for 45 years. Elsie and Ramon had two daughters: Antonia (Tonya) and Nina.

Joey married Carmen Manterola and they had two children: Yvette, and Joseph. Joey and Carmen have continued to be sheep and cattle ranchers in the Casa Grade and Williams areas to this day. They are both very active in the Arizona and National Wool Grower's Organizations, Western Range Sheep Association along with many other organizations at the local, state and national levels. Yvette and Joseph also work in the family sheep business with Joseph having his own sheep company. Joseph's son, Jacob, recently purchased the Manterola Sheep Company thus making him the fourth generation in the sheep business. Joe's entire family continues to be very involved in the sheep, cattle, and agriculture industries.

Frank Jr., Pete, and Johnny jointly owned the Auza Brothers Sheep Company. Each of them worked for more than 50 years in the sheep industry along with farming. Auza Brothers Sheep Co. formed in 1971 in Chandler, AZ. They later moved the operation into Yuma County.

Frank Jr. married Ann Conway and had three children: Annie, Frankie III (Poncho) and Robert. Frankie and his family moved to Hyder, Arizona then to Roll setting up their sheep camp in the Mohawk Valley. In the mid 1980's he formed Auza Sheep Company with his brother Johnny. He continued to work in the agriculture industry with farming and trucking until his death on August 19, 2019 following his wife, Ann, on October, 18, 2009.

Pete married Joanie Cary and had three children: David, Danya and Ron. Pete and his family moved to the Yuma Valley area setting up the sheep camp along with farming. He continues to have Auza Brothers Sheep Co. Pete also established trucking and construction companies. Pete and his family have been involved in many agricultural organizations at the local and state levels.

Johnny married Mary Barkley and had three children: Hank, Caroline, and Christopher. He lived in Roll, Arizona working together with Frankie in the Auza Sheep Company. He worked in the sheep and farming industries until his death on April 24, 2019. His children continue in the farming industry.

Tine married Shirley Commons and had three children: Martin, Andrea, and Rachel. Tine moved his sheep operation to the Imperial Valley in California in 1989. He has one of the largest pasture feeding businesses in the US and also owns farms. Tine,

Martin Jr. and grandson, Anthony, continue to work with the sheep and farm in Imperial Valley, California. Thus, a second son of Frank's has multiple generations in the sheep business. Tine is part owner of the Mountain State Lamb Co-operative. He is an appointed member of the California Sheep Commission and has served for over 18 years on the board of directors, two of which he served as President. Tine served 13 years on the American Lamb Feeders board of directors as well as served on the American Lamb Board and was named liaison to Washington D.C.

George married Margaret Miley and had three children, LeAnn, Steven, and Jennifer. George was a decorated Vietnam veteran receiving a Purple Heart, The Vietnam Citation Medal, Presidential Citation Medal, on two occasions, and the National Defense Ribbon. After returning from his tour in Vietnam, he worked in construction as a carpenter. A few years later, he owned his own sheep company. Then, he worked for his brothers in the Joe Auza Sheep Company, the Auza Brothers Sheep Company and the Auza Sheep Company. He passed on August 4, 2015

Frank was very proud to have four of his sons voluntarily serve their country in the U.S. military. Pete and Martin served in the U.S. Army and Frankie and George served in the U.S. Marine Corp.

Frank and Elsie were responsible for creating a large family that has remarkably held strong ties with each other. Family was very important to Frank and Elsie and they instilled into all of them the importance of family along with other values such as hard work and determination. They leave behind a legacy that continues to grow and it includes, 21 grandchildren, 41 great grandchildren and 5 great, great grandchildren.

DON BUTLER



Don Butler

While attending the National Cattlemen's Beef Association convention in Nashville in 2014, I had a chance to catch up with Don Butler and his wife Blue. Don was in attendance at the convention to receive the Swan Family Leadership Award. Recently retired as Director of Agriculture for the state of Arizona from 2003 to 2013, Don is a former president of the National Cattlemen's Association (now National Cattlemen's Beef Association). He received the Leadership Award for his many years of service to the beef industry. The presentation was made by NCBA and the Idaho Cattle Association at the Cattle Industry Convention and NCBA Trade Show on February 6th.

Don grew up on his family's lemon and avocado farm in Carpinteria, California. He remembers as a young boy in the 1930's, helping his father with the smudge pots in the cold winter temperatures. They would get up around 2:00 a.m. to light the pots and put them out at sunrise. Fortunately, improvements in technology allowed the family to become one of the first citrus growers in the area to install wind machines powered by five-cylinder Kinner aircraft engines and the smudge pots became part of the farm's past.

Don enlisted in the Army Air Corps following high school and after his service enrolled at the University of Arizona. Earning a Bachelor of Science degree in Animal Husbandry; Don even found time to serve as student body president. After graduation, Don landed a job in Phoenix working for Tovrea Land and Cattle Company. He worked for Producer's Livestock for three years and then headed back to Tucson where he developed the Livestock Loan Department for the Southern Arizona Bank and Trust.

Don's career took him around Arizona as he next went to Yuma with the First National Bank's Livestock Loan Department followed by going back to Producers buying and marketing cattle in Yuma. Returning to Tucson, Don served as president of the Coronado Cattle Company. This management company, which Don

later purchased, had cattle in twenty-three different feed yards. He became involved with the Arizona Cattle Feeders and on their Board going up the ladder to become president in 1981.



Don at a feed lot

In the early 1980s, Don served as chairman of the U.S. Meat Export Federation Board. He went to the Singapore office with Bud Middau and then on to Japan with Phil Seng. Don remembers the Japanese business cards included the line which translated meant, "You are not welcome." They didn't want U.S. Beef and the negotiations began. In 1988, the United States and Japan signed an agreement to phase out Japan's quota system for beef imports. The 1988 agreement culminated a series of negotiations about Japan's beef imports and defused what had been a major source of trade friction. The size and value of Japan's beef imports as well as the length and intensity of the negotiations made this a leading example of bilateral problem-solving in agri-cultural trade. Don received the Distinguished Service Award for his chairmanship of the Federation.



Don when he became president of the NCA

Don was installed as National Cattlemen's Association President in San Antonio in 1986. Some of the challenges to the beef industry during his term were the dairy buyout and the futures controversy. The Beef Checkoff had passed in 1985 and was initiated in 1986 during Don's term. From 1988 through 1998, Don served on the Chicago Mercantile Exchange Board of Directors. He also served with the Federal Reserve Bank of San Francisco where he chaired the group's agricultural advisory council. He was awarded the bank's Citation for Distinguished Service for his chairmanship.

President Reagan, aware of the Don's growing resume of service to agriculture, appointed him to a two-year post on the President's committee on trade and negotiations. President George H.W. Bush asked him to serve two additional terms on the committee.



Don presenting Arizona State branding iron to Governor Janet Napolitano in 2004

In the early 1990's, Don was chairman of Agrolink Corp. in Tucson. It is a company formed to promote international agribusiness, provide financial advice and services on transactions between Mexico and the U.S. under the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA). Prior to that he was chairman and president of Shasta Foods in Los Angeles, an international beef production company owned by a Japanese company. Shasta had ownership in a cow-calf operation in Cottonwood, California and Monterey County Cattle Feeders in Gonzales, California.



Don as director of the Arizona Department of Agriculture, left to right Doug Marsh, Ed Foster, Jack Peterson, John Caravetta, Brett Cameron

In 2003, Don received a call from a feedlot owner who encouraged him to throw his hat into the ring as Governor Janet Napolitano was looking for a new director of the Arizona Department of Agriculture. He was appointed to the post as a committee of state agriculturists selected him from a list of candidates. Upon taking the Directorship, Don's challenge was to pull the department and the agriculture industry together and create a great relationship.

One of Don's top priorities was for food inspection. The agency's livestock division was understaffed; however, the agency was charged with mandatory slaughterhouse inspections, milk inspections, and other related services. He also worked to create a more efficient and better produce inspection service. The inspection agency for produce grown in Mexico and headed to the U.S. was moved from the Mexican side of the border to Nogales, Arizona which decreased the inspection costs. There was not a single food safety recall in Arizona during Don's tenure at the ADA.

The department had 300 employees when Don became Director and now has 240. His agency was doing more with less. The budget for ADA today is less than the department's budget in 1991.

In reviewing all that Don has done for the beef industry and for agriculture; it is hard to visualize how he had time for all he has accomplished in his 88 years. During his tenure

as ADA director, Don traveled from Tucson to Phoenix on Sunday afternoons, worked the week at his office, living in an apartment, then heading home to Tucson on Friday afternoons. He is looking forward to spending more family time with his wife, their six children, thirteen grandchildren and two great grandchildren. He is keeping a hand in the beef industry by serving as a consultant to transport feeder calves from Mexico to Arizona and California.

I asked Don for his advice to youth wishing to pursue a career in the agriculture industry. He said there would always be ups and downs during your life; but always be optimistic about your future. Arizona's beef industry is proud of Don, his many accomplishments and his dedication to our industry.

In November, 2022, checking on what Don has been up to since 2014, I find Don has continued to be a busy man. As a life-long student, he continued to enroll and sit in classes at the University of Arizona. He would sit in the front row. Don could have taught the classes, but he still wanted to learn and be around the students. He liked the interaction and business.

As a thirty year 4-H Leader, I discovered Don was installed to the Arizona 4-H Hall of Fame in 2010. Arizona 4-H notes that "Don has been a strong advocate for youth and agriculture, beginning with the Junior Livestock Show in 1956 in Yuma when he was an announcer. From 1970 - 1985 Don was on the Pima County Fair Board. At that time, Governor Raul Castro came down to Tucson and toured the livestock tent during a rainstorm. Water ran down from the tents and got in Castro's shoes. Don was instrumental in getting the Governor to put \$500,000 to support the fair and build the current livestock building at the fairgrounds. No rain has run in anyone's shoes since then". Don also served on the Arizona 4-H Youth Foundation Board of Directors from its inception in 1972 to 1989. He then served again from 2003 - 2010.

The Arizona Cattle Grower's Association selected Don as Cattleman of the Year in 2014 and was selected this year as a 2023 nominee to the Arizona Farming and Ranching Hall of Fame.



2014 Arizona Cattle Grower's Association Cattleman of the Year, 1-r Don II, Don with wife Blue, daughter Marne Ruiz

Bas Aja, writing on behalf of the Arizona Cattle Feeders' Association, points out that all Don's work for the 30,000 ranchers providing them stability who had suffered in the turmoil of public land politics. All these efforts by Don still stand today exemplifying Don's character - leaving a legacy of leadership. He stands high on the list of those who gave their time and resources to always advance agriculture and the examples of his leadership still stand today helping producers.



Butler family in Carpinteria, California

The Arizona Farm and Ranch Group notes that Don is a quiet leader but is steadfast in his principles and decision making. He was always dedicated to working with industry leaders across the state to solve problems. He continues to be active in his golden years. He is a tremendous wealth of knowledge and wisdom, just take the time to sit and talk with him.



IBBIE CHAMPIE

- 2022 PIONEER STOCKMAN OF THE YEAR -

I would like to begin with acknowledging my family heritage in Arizona and more specifically in Yavapai county.

My great grandfather, James Willard (Bill) Stewart came to Prescott from Indiana in 1875 at the age of 19. He worked for a few ranchers and ended up purchasing the Cross Triangle. He went on to purchase the TF Quarter Circle and



Elizabeth (Lizzie) and Charles Champie

the Dumbbell Ranch. It was estimated he owned as many as 4000 head of cattle. The ranches were passed down to my grandfather, Clarence. My mother Elinore was raised on the ranch. She loved riding and working cattle. She was a true cow woman, and ranch wife.



Ibbie Champie

My grandfather Charles Edward Champie and grandmother Elizabeth Lee Champie came to the Prescott area in 1886 from Texas with the plan to make a fortune in gold mining. Charles' family had a cattle ranch and pecan orchard. Elizabeth's family raised racehorses. When they got settled in the Bradshaw and Humbug area, they raised Durham cattle and Angora goats to supplement their income. Grandmother would tell me stories of chasing and gathering longhorn cattle while riding a side saddle. I tried riding a side saddle once and when my horse broke into a trot, I had to throw my leg down to keep from falling off. I can't imagine chasing cattle in that compromised position. Grandmother loved riding. She was 83 when she took her last ride with my father Lawton. He had her mounted on his gentle bulldogging horse. She was checking out a mine hole when she and the horse both fell in. Dad had a terrible time getting them out and told grandmother that was her last ride. Grandmother willed me her cow herd when she passed away. I was fifteen and so proud of having my own cattle.



Lawton coming out of Hells Hole

My dad Lawton Champie did not like mining or goats, so he sold his goat herd and bought cattle. He started buying land in the Bradshaw foothills. He owned ranches from Hells Hole in the Crown King area to Lake Pleasant and west to about 20 miles from Wickenburg. Lawton

won the World Champion bronc riding in Madison Square Garden and All Around at the Prescott Rodeo many times. He rodeoed all over the US and would use his winnings to purchase more land and cattle. He had the reputation of being one of the best cattlemen in Arizona.



Elinore Champie riding Bright Eyes

I started riding much earlier than I could walk. I can remember my Mom and Dad carrying me either in front of them or hanging on tight riding behind. My first mount was a big fat mule, Tom. (Figure 3. Taking kids to school on my trusty mule)



Taking kids to school on my trusty mule

My first wreck I can remember, Dad and I talked Mom into letting me ride and gather the pasture at our ST Camp. I was riding my trusty mule. The trail went off a steep bank and down into a wash and of course I didn't have a britchin on my little saddle. The first thing I knew my saddle had slipped up on Tom's neck and I was sitting right behind his ears. I hollered for Dad to help. He said to hang on to Tom's ears and sit tight. It seemed the rest of my young life if I was in a wreck or trouble my Dad would appear out of nowhere and save the day. Between my Dad and my Uncle Bill, they mentored me into being as pretty darn

good cowpuncher. I am an only child so I had responsibilities as early as I can remember. Gathering the horse pasture early before the day's ride, hanging morals on the horses, milking the cows, then helping Mom with packing lunch and starting dinner. We would lead Mom's horse to the works and she would catch up with us. After ridding the drags on the drives which seemed like an eternity, I finally convinced Dad to let me take a spot on the sides. I really wanted to rope but Mom pitched a fit. She was worried I would get into a wreck and get drug to death. I can say it probably made me a better hand. She did weaken and let me pack a rope to whup up on the cows and my pony.

I cherish the memories of Dad and I riding along and discussing cattle breeds and confirmation. We had white faced cows the first I can remember. I used to go with Dad to a ranch in Skull Valley and buy the best young Hereford bulls. Then we decided to start cross breeding. We started with Angus bulls but they got too heavy and couldn't get around in our rough country. We bought 20 head of white Brahman cows. That put a whole new level of wild and mean in the mix. Bard had the VX ranch that bordered us, and he was developing his Barzona's. Those bulls had no respect for a fence or a cowboy. They bred with a lot of our cows. We then bought a nice herd of Charolais bulls. They worked out well for our cross-breeding program. Our calves stayed small and the cross could cover the rough country.



Putting a heifer in a cowboy sling

We had a herd of about 50 mares Dad had put together from catching wild horses and putting good Quarter Horse studs on them. We also had a dude string of 50-75 head that we rented to the Castle Hot Springs Hotel, guest ranches in Wickenburg and Prescott. That entailed a lot of long-distance riding 25 to 50 miles and gathering the wild herd. That was a thrill all on its own. We did a lot of Snowy River riding but in rougher country.

My mother-in-law, Jerre Cavalliere, bought a ranch in Mohave County, on the East side of the Hualapai mountain range. My husband Spence and I put steers on it to start. We did fine

but had a lot of water problems. I learned the skill of putting miles of pvc pipe and riding water lines. We had two beautiful babies, Lawton and Connie. I found myself driving the 200-mile trip back and forth between the two ranches to help with ranch work and all that entails.

That marriage didn't stand the test of time, so I moved back to help on the Champie Ranch. I married a Montana Cowboy, and we worked on ranches from Arizona, Wyoming, Nevada, and Florida. I learned to calve heifers and feed cattle in the snow. We added a little cowgirl to our family, Codie

Back to Arizona and home on the ranch. My kids learned to ride and make good hands. What a blessing.

Years past my mom and dad sold Champie LC Ranch. Codie was bitten by a rattle snake at the age of three. We almost lost her. She was in the hospital for two months, so I moved to Peoria. I fell in love with nursing, so I went to Phoenix Union Area Vocational Center and graduated as a Licensed Practical Nurse.

My dad and mom decided to sell the ranch due to age and illness. They moved to town so I could care for them. After Dad passed Mom and I wanted to get out of the city, so we moved to Chino Valley. I went to work for the Veteran's Administration where I worked for 28 years. While working full time I went back to school and graduated with Associate Degree in Nursing.

I joined Chino Valley Search and Rescue. It was an all-women mounted rescue unit. I talked Codie into joining with me. We got a great bunch of tough gals to join. We trained with Florence Prison mounted unit and dog team. We got us a couple of good hounds and started tracking. Our mock searches and training were a blast. We went on many searches under the direction of Yavapai County Sheriff's Office and were successful in rescues. I served as Captain multiple times. I put together a ride from Chino to Wickenburg three times and Paulden to Williams a couple of times. I later joined Yavapai Sheriff Posse. I got a wild hair once and Codie and I rode the 50-mile Man against Horse Race. We came in 12th and 13th.

After retiring from the VA, I worked for Hospice of the Pines. My area was going to Seligman to Bagdad and Congress. I loved going to help in rural areas and down dirt roads.

My son Lawton took the reins of the Cavalliere Ranch over in about 1995. He and I bought a bunch of cross-breed cows and here we go again. Later Lawton switched to Corrientes and his roping steers were top grade.



Lawton and I on top of the Hualapai's

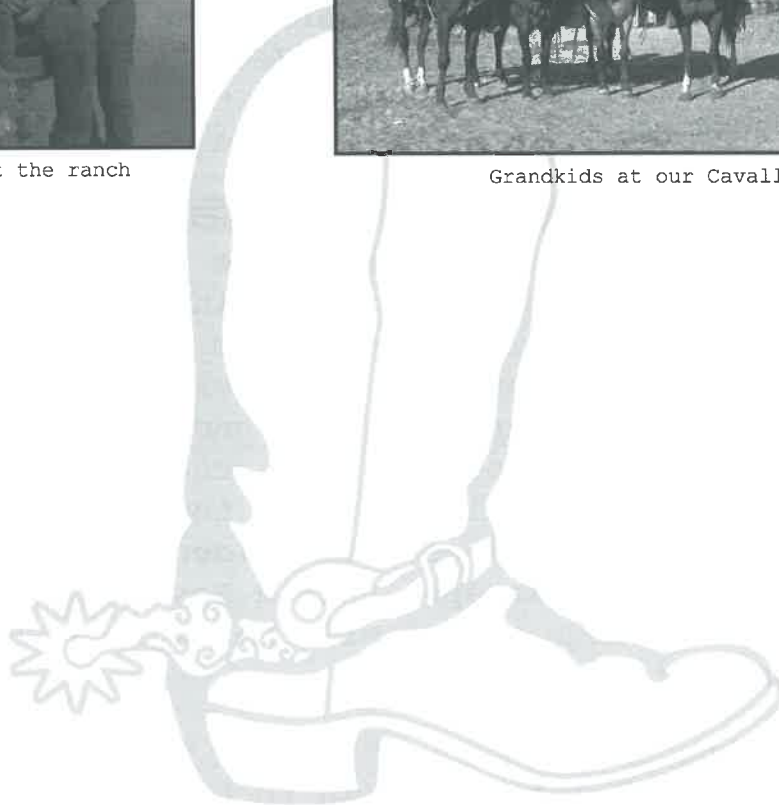
I was a member of Mohave Livestock, then joined Yavapai Cowbellees and Yavapai Cattle Growers. I've been a long-time member of Arizona Cowpunchers along with my family. We lost my son over a year ago. Daughter Connie jumped in and took over the reins with the help of all the family to back her.



Me and my kids at the ranch



Grandkids at our Cavalliere Ranch



THE DAVIS RANCH: FRED AND PEGGY DAVIS



Fred and Peggy Davis

The Davis Ranch is located twelve miles southeast of Tombstone in Cochise County; right on the divide between the San Pedro and Sulphur Springs Valleys. It is high desert grass land and rolling hills right on the north end of Mule Mountain, which originate in Bisbee. The ranch house is located exactly twenty-five miles north of the Arizona/Mexico border.

Fred Davis is descended from early Cochise County pioneers and is a fourth-generation cattle and horse rancher. His wife Peggy was raised on a cattle ranch in Wetmore, Colorado. The couple were married in 1972 and Peggy left the Colorado snow for a warmer Arizona climate.

Fred was born in Douglas on July 6, 1951 to parents Houston and Bennie Lucille (Bennett) Davis. He grew up with two sisters, Zona Lorig and Lucille Febbo. Peggy is the daughter of George and Leona Draper and a third-generation rancher at the family ranch. Agriculture has always played a major role in Peggy's life starting with 4-H when she was a girl. Peggy was named Colorado State Horse Project winner and attended National 4-H Congress in Chicago, Illinois as such.



Fred with sisters
Lucille and Zona



William Fourn

Fred's great-grandfather on his mother's side was William Fourn, who came to Arizona in 1862. His daughter, Daisy Belle, married Fred Bennett, who had come to Cochise County in 1895. He worked for Colonel William Greene as the wagon boss on the Boquillas Ranch at Fairbanks.



W J Davis on Spark Plug

William Cowan, who came to Tombstone in 1880, was Fred's great-grandfather on his dad's side. William's daughter Edith married Bill Davis, who homesteaded about five miles from where the Davis Ranch is located. Bill worked for the Chiricahua Cattle Company when he arrived in Cochise County in 1897. He soon struck out on his own and began buying small places after his original homesteading. The

Davis Ranch was the last place acquired by Bill Davis and his two sons, Clarence and Houston. Fred and the Davis Ranch was included in the Arizona Centennial book 100 Years 100 Ranchers by Scott T. Baxter.

Fred graduated from Tombstone High School and attended Cal Poly University for a year, then Arizona State University for a year and a half. In 1988, Houston's health worsened and Fred's parents moved into town leaving Fred and Peggy to take over the ranch.

The Davis Ranch runs mainly Beefmaster cows and use registered Red Angus bulls on them. The family has been involved in various cattle grower organizations through the years. Both of Fred's grandfathers and two of his great-grandfathers were at the first Arizona Cattle Grower's Association meeting in 1903. Fred is currently serving ACGA as the Cochise County representative. He has also followed in his father's footsteps as President of Cochise Graham Cattle Growers. Growing up Fred served as president of the Arizona Junior Cattle Growers Association. He feels the vast majority of society is so far removed from rural life that they don't have a clue who ranchers are or what they do, so ranchers need people representing them at all levels.



Ranch Cowboys including
Fred Bennett and Fred

The couple has done a lot of work and made improvements on the ranch over the years. Fred began working on the fences, both boundary and division, helping to control the time and duration of grazing. The water distribution was improved ending up with over 90% of the ranch within a mile of water. The past

eight years has seen a lot of chemical brush management on both mesquite and shallow-rotted plants (whitethorn, creosote, and tarbush). The ranch has been part of the Whitewater Draw Natural Resource Conservation District for the past twenty years. This has been a huge help with both technical assistance and cost-sharing through the Natural Resources Conservation Service.

Peggy is the clerk for the White Water Draw Natural Resource Conservation District (WWDRCDD) and also their Education Center Director in Southeastern Arizona. The purpose is to assist local farmers and ranchers with projects that protect their water and soil conservation, and to keep them abreast of the most current methods and technologies available to sustain their farms and ranches for future generations. The Education Center helps local agriculture students with providing local workshops and travel expenses for out-of-town events.

Fred has been a member of the Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association for over forty years and has a Gold Card now. He also belongs to the Senior Pro Rodeo Association. He roped at the Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association National Finals and was the Turquoise Circuit Champion Team Roping Heeler. He has also won the Oakdale Ten Steer average in California. In 2019 Fred was the National Senior Pro Rodeo Champion Team Roping Heeler.

All the horses Fred has won on were raised, broke and trained by the Davis Family. Fred looks for talent and disposition in his horses. The horse he rode at the National Finals Rodeo, A.J., was related to Charmayne James' great barrel horse Scamper and J. D. Yates' gray horse Little Gray. Fred had a Bay stud - his registered name was Otos Desire, but the family called him Cunado - that was a grandson of Montana Doc. The horses on the ranch are direct descendants or grandsons of Otos Desire. Some of their horses originally came from the Draper Ranch in Colorado. (



Fred and Peggy team roping in
Albuquerque, New Mexico

His talent with horses led him to be involved in the movies. Peggy's dad, George Draper, got Fred a job in Colorado on the movie "Comes a Horseman" in 1977, and he has been doing movie

work ever since - wrangling, stunts and bit parts. He is a member of the Screen Actors Guild and has worked on about forty movies over the years. One is the best-known movies he worked on was "Braveheart" in 1996. One of the scenes was actually filmed in Benson, Arizona.



Fred on movie set of
The Magnificent Seven

While Fred was busy with the movies, Peggy volunteered for various community services. She was a 4-H Leader in Cochise County for five years and served on the Arizona State 4-H Committee. She also served as President of the Miss Rodeo Arizona, Inc., and supervised their scholarship program as well as serving on the Miss Rodeo America Advisory Council.



Fred and Peggy in
Washington, D.C.

The Davis Ranch location so close to the Arizona/Mexico border has been a challenge with illegal border crossers. Many individuals crossing through the ranch are bringing drugs and people with them. Fred's life was permanently changed one morning when he walked into his barn and found thirteen illegal aliens sleeping on the floor. He and Peggy travel to Washington, D.C. each year to participate in the "Hold Their Feet to the Fire" gathering of talk-radio shows sponsored by the Federation of American Immigration Reform (FAIR). They have been interviewed by a number of American and international journalists.

Both feel problems at the border affects our nation's security and have met with members of the U.S. House of Representatives and U.S. Senators when they have visited Arizona regarding border issues. Peggy testified before the Sub-Committee on Homeland and Maritime Security in September of 2016 regarding the failed policy of Defense in Depth by the U.S. Border Patrol. Peggy also writes articles on border issues for the Arizona CattleLog.

Fred and rancher John Ladd worked with Arizona Game and Fish in creating a video production for education purposes depicting farmer and rancher's views regarding hunting, land

management, wildlife conservation and sportsmen's access as well as the associated impacts of recreational uses on private, State and Federal lands. The commission honored both men with Commendations of Achievement.

The couple's two children both live on the ranch. Son Jared as well as daughter Marlo, her husband Beau Compton and their children Zane and Macy all help on the ranch. Three generations of the family rope in their ranch arena. Fred says roping with his grandchildren has invigorated him. It is as much fun as the law allows. He firmly believes success takes perseverance. If you want it, you can achieve it.



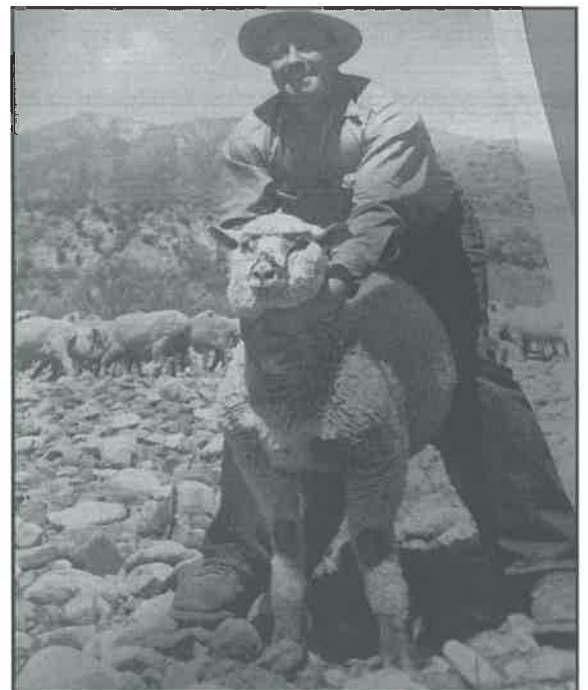
Jared, Peggy, Fred, Marlo, Beau, Zane and Mary



THE ETCHAMENDYS: ARNAUD, JEAN, JB AND MARTIN

Arnaud Etchamendy

Four Etchamendys came to the United States and the American Southwest to fulfill their dream of owning their own sheep operation, an impossible dream for them in their homeland of France. It all began with Arnuad Etchamendy coming to America from the Basque region of France in 1930. He was seeking a better life than what he could achieve in his home country. It was his dream to own his own sheep flock. He was 22 years old. To help him achieve this dream, he took a familiar occupation - a sheep herder - as he had worked with the family sheep in France and knew how to handle the flock. He worked for others for the first ten years he was in the United States. Working hard he learned the American way of life and taught himself English. He could speak Basque, French and English. On December 4, 1940, he became a citizen of his newly adopted country, the United States. Arnaud could now own sheep as he would be able to get forest permits and range rights as a citizen. He was able to accomplish this feat just less than a year later after becoming a citizen. His family would remember the stories he told of purchasing the ewes and rams as he was proud of the fact he was now the proud owner of his own sheep company. He told them that he purchased 2,008 ewes at \$11.85 per head and 35 rams at \$20 per head. He spent a total of \$31,645.00 for the sheep, forest permit and range rights, burros and camp equipment. It was a great deal of money for the time, but he was determined to raise his sheep and pay back what he owed. But his dream of being a wool grower was short lived.



Arnaud with his sheep



Arnaud in Army uniform

Citizenship came at a price as now he was eligible to be drafted into the United States military. With a broken heart, he sold his sheep, forest permit and range rights, etc. to another established sheep raiser, Frank Erramuzpe, Sr. Arnaud served in the military for 27 months before being discharged, as a Sergeant, in October 1945.

After Arnaud's discharge he returned to the sheep business and began to work for Fermin Echeverria for several years. With the help of

Fermin and Fermin's son Felipe, he was once again able start his own sheep outfit. He named it the Diamond Sheep Company. Within a few years of getting himself re-established in the sheep business, he would marry Ramona Gonzalez in 1948. Together they ran the company for another 18 years.



Arnaud and Ramona

They ran their sheep in the summertime in various locations. His niece said that shortly after Arnaud married her aunt, they invited her to spend the summer with them at the Babbitt Winter Ranch near Winslow. One of her memories was the trips into town so Arnaud could get a "ruth beer" and then they would go to the Chacon Boarding house where they met up with other shepherders and play cards, "Mus". They also had sheep in the Flagstaff area and lived at the Aspen Spring Ranch owned by another sheep family, the Manterolas. His niece remembers the picnic lunches her aunt would fix and the three of them would go to the sheep camp for the day. The food Ramona fixed gave the herders a welcome change in their diet. Roxane said that these were special times for her as a child and she has many fond memories of her time with her aunt and uncle and all the sheep.

Like all sheep men, the men were heavily involved in their sheep as it was labor intense from trailing, lambing to shearing and other tasks that needed to be performed. Arnaud was elected to serve on the Board of Directors of the Arizona Wool Growers' Association for several years in the 1950s and 60s and had been a member since he returned from his military service. Belonging

to the association was important to keep abreast of the many federal and state changes to the industry that affected the day-to-day operation of any sheep outfit. Arnaud was active in promoting the sheep industry through his helping at the women's auxiliary festival put on each year at Chris Town Mall. Ramona was active in the auxiliary until her death in the 1970s. She ran the Diamond Sheep Company after Arnaud passed away in 1964 until Arnaud's three nephews each bought a third of the remaining flock.

Arnaud sponsored several of his nieces and nephews as they wanted to immigrate from France just as he did; his nephew Jean would be the first.

Jean Etchamendy

Arnaud's nephew, Jean was the next to seek his fortune in the United States. As all young men in sheep families in France, he helped his family raise their sheep working alone with the flock in the summer high in the Pyrenees mountains. But he dreamed of having his own sheep one day and he realized at an early age, that if he stayed in France, this would be an impossible dream. He also had one more obstacle to having his own sheep as his father did not want more sheep but wanted his sons to add more cattle to their land. At the tender age of 19 Jean left France for what he hoped would be greener pastures in the United States. His uncle Arnaud had agreed to pay his air fare. Arnaud was well established in the sheep business coming to Arizona in 1930 and now owned his own sheep outfit. Jean would pay his uncle back for his passage to the states in the coming years.

Jean used what he had learned tending the family sheep in France as he set out to work with his uncle's sheep. His uncle made him the camp tender at his sheep camp near Winslow. This job involved packing and unpacking the burros twice a day as they carried the food that the herders would eat and the food for the many dogs needed to run an outfit. He also cooked the meals for them and himself. Cooking was not a job he cared for but he was fond of handling the burros each day as the herders and sheep would travel on the rugged Heber-Reno Sheep Trail between the summer and winter grazing areas and then remain in the area for the duration of the season.

As a child Jean spoke only Basque until he entered a French elementary school. But he would soon become fluent in two other languages. As he helped with the sheep, he taught himself English from a book for those who spoke Spanish; now he could speak four languages: Basque, French, Spanish and English.

Not long after starting to work for Arnaud, he was given two thousand ewes to care for. Jean had learned how his uncle worked the sheep and remained one of his shepherders for about eight years. It was at this time he was able to repay his uncle for the airplane ticket bought in 1949. Jean worked hard, saved his money for the day he could purchase his own sheep. Finally, with a handshake with the loan officer at a bank in Prescott, Jean bought his sheep. He was now the proud owner of his own sheep and would walk with them, on the Heber-Reno Sheep Trail, the longest most strenuous sheep trail in the country with its many elevation changes and rough, rocky terrain to cross.



Jean and his sheep dog
at a sheep camp

With a fellow, Basque friend Jean Arriage, who had emigrated to the United States in 1957, they began a partnership, A and E Sheep Company. The partnership lasted about two years then dissolved. During that time, the men ran their flock in the winter near grazing land around Parker, Arizona, and then trailed them northward to Williams during the summer months.

Jean married the love of his life in 1959, a Flagstaff native, Louisa Lopez whom he met at a Wool Growers' convention as her family were past wool growers. At the time of their meeting, Ms. Lopez was a teacher at Grand Canyon Elementary School and working on her master's degree at Arizona State University. Shortly thereafter Jean became a citizen of the United States in March 1960. The newlyweds spent their winters in the Scottsdale area. Jean wintered his sheep on the alfalfa fields in what is now Mesa, along Rural and Baseline Roads.

Upon the death of his uncle, Arnaud, in 1964, Jean helped Ramona, his aunt with the sheep and then upon Ramona's death in the 1970s, he bought a third of the sheep and added them to his

flock running them under the name his uncle had used, the Diamond Sheep Company. The other two thirds of his uncle's sheep were sold to JB and Martin, Jean's brothers who had also migrated to America and were herding sheep in Arizona.

Jean walked with his sheep to their summer grazing grounds in the White Mountains along the Heber-Reno Sheep Trail and returned in the fall. Jean walked the sheep from the pastures along the roads and desert to the beginning of the trail at Blue Point, the start of the Heber-Reno Trail. The sheep had the right-of-way on city streets and on the Blue Point bridge at the Salt River, the route used since the early part of the 1900s when it was designated as an official sheep trail, but with more houses being built along the driveway, it became too much trouble to continue to trail the flock. Trucking sheep to summer grazing grounds and then back to the valley for the winter was the only option left for many of the sheep ranchers, so Etchamendy began to truck his sheep. He always thought that it was best for the pregnant ewes to walk to their winter grazing and lambing area but he realized that outside forces were working against him. Jean retired in 1978 but was not happy being away from his first love, sheep. He bought himself a flock of two thousand sheep in 1980 and sold them in the mid-1980s. When he bought the sheep in 1980, he said, "I'll never leave the sheep business again. It is probable that I'll die with my boots on." When he could no longer find fields to graze the sheep during the winter months and for them to lamb, he moved to California. Jean was told one day that he needed to give up the sheep as he was too smart of a man to be a sheep grower. Jean replied that "Jesus had compared himself to the good shepherd and if it was good enough for Jesus, it was just fine for Jean Etchamendy." ("Shepherd of the Open Range", Arizona Highway, August 1978, Vol. 54, page 2).

A nephew wrote that Jean loved how the old herders in Arizona operated their outfits. He kept up the tradition of using a shepherd's tent, donkeys, sheep dogs, cast iron stoves for cooking on an open fire every day, and custom-made wood storage boxes to hold dry goods. Jean was a master carpenter and made wood benches, table and other things needed to have a functioning sheep camp. His nephew also stated that Jean would leave written communication on trees to other shepherders and look for messages other shepherders may have left him. This was a tradition for the Bascos now living in the American West. Many

of these arbor glyphs can still be found in the Aspen trees of northern and eastern Arizona.

Jean and his wife were very active in promoting lamb and wool. For the many years while Jean was in Arizona he was a member of the Arizona Wool Growers' Association and served many years on the Board and several as its President. He was also a director on the National Wool Growers' Association for several years. Jean was a member of the Western Range Association, necessary to hire foreign herders. Every year that the Arizona Wool Growers' Auxiliary would have their sheep festival at Chris Town Mall, Jean would have his herders prepare lamb and beans, Basque style, to have as samples for the many people who visited the festival. It was to the sheep men's best interest to promote lamb for eating and the wearing of wool. It was hard work for the auxiliary women but it was a time for them to showcase their cooking and sewing skills, teach sewing classes, and a place for the contestants who entered the Make It Yourself with Wool Contest to showcase their garments. Louisa was president of the Wool Growers' Auxiliary for many years. As a teacher of home economics, it made sense she would be a director of Make It Yourself with Wool (now called Make It with Wool) for eighteen years.

Jean Baptiste (JB) and Martin

Born in the Basque village of Esterencuby, France in 1932 and 1939 respectfully, Jean Baptiste, known as JB to all his friends, and his youngest brother Martin would be the last two to migrate into Arizona to raise sheep. Although they were not the only Etchamendys to leave their native land as two sisters were sponsored and moved to California. JB arrived about five years prior to Martin. They would work together for about five years in Arizona.



JB and a herder

A requirement for young men in France, a period of military service was necessary. JB served in Algeria, seeing battle and was rewarded with four medals for his bravery. After finishing

this requirement, JB made the decision in 1956 to migrate to the United States. In 1957, JB left his father and the rest of his siblings and headed to Paris to catch a plane to the United States heading to California. Like his brother, Jean, before him, JB could not speak English and was reliant upon the kindness of strangers, i.e., stewardesses, when he arrived in the United States to help him arrive at his destination. The story has been told that the stewardesses on JB's flight out of Paris were concerned about his safety with his lack of knowledge in English. They followed him until ultimately, he met up with a fellow Basque and cousin, Marcel Gastenaga.

The first fourteen months JB worked for his mother's cousin, Gracanne Labord as a sheepherder in Esparto, California. During this time, he was visited by his uncle, Arnaud, and his brother, Jean, who were running sheep in Arizona. Within a year, the two brothers and their uncle were all working sheep in Arizona. Arnaud was well established in the business and could use the help of another nephew.

Four years later the younger brother, Martin would join them. Martin, like his older siblings, was well acquainted with sheep, as at the age of 16, he was put in charge of a band of the family's sheep in France. At age 21, Martin arrived in the United States in 1961. His first taste of the sheep business in Arizona was as a camp tender for a flock of 2,000 sheep, its herder, donkeys and sheep dogs. But camp tender was not his only job as he helped the herder when it was necessary to move the sheep and to find water for them. The land was different than that in France where at the base of the Pyrenees Mountains water was plentiful. Here in America, he and the herder would travel



Martin on Snowflake herding sheep on eastern Arizona's high desert 1961

two to three days to find water for the sheep, the donkeys and for themselves. It could be as much as three days during the summer and four when they were bringing the pregnant ewes down to their winter range. To understand his sheep during this difficult time was a gift of the Arizona sheepherder. Martin would later become the herder and his responsibilities shifted to one in charge of the sheep and their safety.

While working independently for different sheep outfits, Martin and JB were able to each purchase 500 feeder lambs. With the little extra money made from these feeder lambs they were able to make extra cash and with borrowing \$5,000 they purchased 1,300 breeding ewes. They partnered together and formed the Etchamendy Brothers Sheep Company. With a bumper crop in lambs the next year, they sold the lambs and paid off their loan. That year they were able to purchase four hundred yearlings, and the company steadily grew. They decided to summer graze their sheep in New Mexico in 1966 to take advantage of cheaper transportation costs and the more plentiful grazing lands. Their flock grew in ewes and bucks. It was at this time that Martin decided to become a United States citizen, achieving that goal August 1969. He was already serving on the Arizona Woolgrowers' Association board, a position he held for five years. But things changed as in late 1971, Martin decides to return to France. Martin sold his sheep to his two brothers, Jean and JB and flew back to France. His brothers had convinced him he needed to go marry the girl waiting for him or to break it off. (Figure 7. Martin with a sheep dog on the winter range)



Martin with a sheep dog
on the winter range

While Martin was in France, JB continued to run his sheep outfit. He also would marry Barbara Ann Lujan whom he met while attending a party at his cousin's. They married a year after meeting so she could finish her college education. They raised three sons Mark, Robert, and JB while both working with most of the duties falling on Barbara since JB was gone a good percentage of the time tending his sheep either on the trail, during lambing, or shearing. Barbara often commented that JB's first love was his sheep but she knew her and the children were very important to him. Sheep raising is a full-time job, 24/7. It was because of this firsthand knowledge of the sheep industry that did not change from one continent to another (JB had experienced it on two continents) thus the hardships and hard work to keep his company growing, pay the bills for the business and the expenses of raising a family, JB never encouraged his sons to accompany him into the sheep business. His three sons would help on the weekends, holidays and during the summer when

they did not have jobs, the sons all pursued university degrees. When his sons did help him, he paid them an hourly wage for their spending money. JB and Barbara paid for their education at Arizona State University, an easy trek either walking or riding their bikes to the campus each day from their home.



Robert, Barbara, Mark, and JB., Jr., and JB at Knox Farms

In the summer months, JB had his sheep grazing on three different ranches in the White Mountain, near Snowflake, Show Low and Springerville. He would trail the sheep along the Heber-Reno trail with his herders taking anywhere from three to six weeks to arrive at the summer grazing area. Barbara and their children would join him in the summer where she would cook and help with the sheep if needed. The children, when older, would be put to work helping either around the house with their mother or with their father at the sheep camp.

A shepherd had many problems that ranged from obtaining winter grazing pastures, the cost of these fields, and trucking the sheep each spring to their summer pastures and then back to winter grazing. As subdivisions took over the fields for all the people moving there, it became more and more difficult to winter sheep in the Salt River Valley. JB grazed his sheep on the alfalfa fields in Tempe, near Kyrene and Warner Roads up to 1985. Moving southward, JB would graze his sheep on the Salt River Indian Reservation and Knox farms for the next 15 years. He sold his sheep in 2000 to his brother-in-law, Sebastien Minaberri, his sister, Anne Marie's husband, in California.

JB made the prophetic statement in the Ocotillo News, November 17-30, 2001, "Someday we're going to be short of food. The farmers are getting broke, the world market is bringing everything from outside, and September 11 changed everything. I think this new generation should see that food doesn't come from the store."

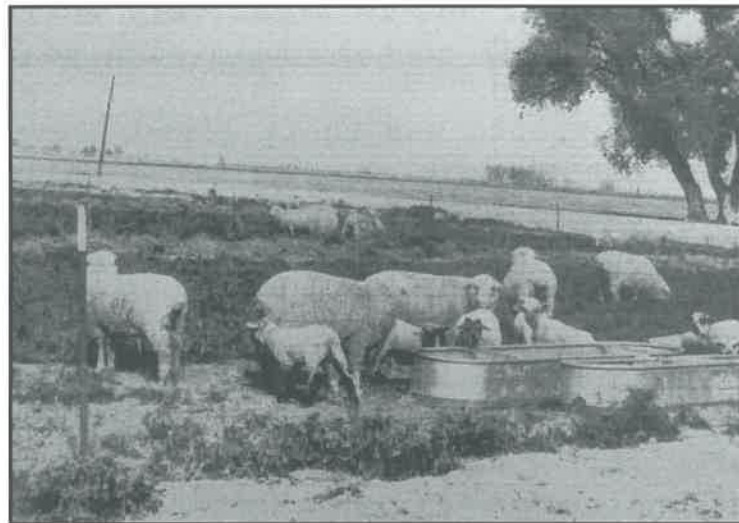
The Arizona Wool Growers' Association Auxiliary sponsored many festivals at Christ Town Mall to promote the products from the sheep - wool for clothing and yarn for various articles of apparel and meat. The men, like JB would provide the lamb and even have their herders cook it for samples for the many people who attended this festival. It was one way that JB could participate in community activities.

JB passed away in November 2018 at the age of 86. A livestock inspector, Tony Lucas said that JB came to Arizona, learned a new language and a new way of life. He was able to change as things around him changed such as urbanization which took winter feeding land from him so he adapted by moving further southward. Tony said that JB was a "man of great faith, stayed strong and always believed a better day would come." He was an active member in the Arizona Wool Growers' Association throughout his life. JB served on the board of directors. Every Christmas JB provided a lamb for the Resurrection Catholic Church live nativity scene. His wife was active in the Auxiliary of the Wool Growers Association and Make It with Wool, an organization that she is still very active in with the preparations for the annual contest held each year in the fall.

Martin's time in France was short lived, seven months. He would marry but not the girl he had left. While on a road trip, he picked up two girls hitchhiking and one, Maria Teresa Jaunsaras Echanndi, would become his wife in a very short period. But his love for sheep, a way of life that had been instilled in him at a very early age would drive him back to his sheep. And so, he told his wife that he missed his sheep! They returned to the United States in 1972. At once he began to look for sheep to purchase. An opportunity soon allowed him to buy part of an outfit that same year and The Etchamendy Sheep Company was born. The couple would settle in Bakersfield where they raised their four children.

Once purchasing the sheep, he trucked the sheep to Arizona grazing them near the New Mexico border. Once again, he was back in Arizona grazing sheep but it would only be for a short time, April to October 1972. That fall he loaded his sheep for their return to Bakersfield where he had secured winter pastureland. Today, at the age of 83, Martin still has his beloved sheep. He is active in the Basque Festival in Bakersfield and the California Wool Growers Association. He has been the Master of Ceremony for the festival several times, most recently this past May. He has been on the California Wool Growers' Association Board of Directors, served on the California Wool Marketing Association as a director, represented Kern County Wool Growers' Association and a member of the Western Range Association. As Martin wrote in Range, Winter 2019/2020, "My sheep flock has provided me and my family with a very honest living. As in so many occupations, there are good times and bad, but all through the years, I've never known a sheepman to go hungry. And that's thank to America, the country of my dreams."

All four of the Etchamendys were hard working men as they were involved in an industry that required a great deal of time, every day of the year. But family was important to them also. Each of the men were able to live their dream of having their own sheep company with Martin continuing that endeavor today.



Etchamendy's beloved sheep

JEFFERS CATTLE COMPANY:

DAVID, W.B. "BILL", SR., WILLIAM "BILL", JR., AND ANN

The Jeffers Cattle Company has been a working ranch on the Holbrook landscape for the past 80 years. In actuality, the family has ranched in Arizona for 81 years if you credit them with trying to raise their cattle here in 1940 but then leaving in 1941 when drought hit the state, returning once again in 1942.

The Jeffers Clan had their beginnings in New Mexico and Texas. The patriarch of the family, David Jeffers may have been born in New Mexico, but his son, William, was definitely born there in the hamlet of Weed on the southeastern slopes of the Sacramento Mountains, in the southern part of the state. Not much is known about their time in New Mexico. But we do know that before coming to Arizona in 1940, they had a ranch in the Guadalupe Mountains near Morton, Texas. Drought was a plague to the rancher and it was a particularly hard drought that forced them to leave. David Jeffers, his son, W. B, David's brother James H., James' wife Elvira and their son, J. C. "Cooney", arrived in Holbrook area believing that the grass was better here than in Texas or New Mexico.



David Jeffers with
granddaughter,
Peggy Leslie

Approximately 450 cattle were shipped by train to the two ranches that they established. David and his son located their ranch north of Holbrook. His brother's ranch was south of the Little Colorado River, out of Holbrook. A partnership was formed between the two families. But luck was not with the Jeffers as drought hit Arizona the second year they were here and they were forced to ship their cattle back to Crow Flat, Texas. When weather and the range improved in Arizona in 1942, the cattle were shipped back to the two ranches. They would become Arizona ranchers for the rest of their lives.

W.B. had an interesting life prior to his departure from Texas to settle in Arizona as he led cattle drives out of Mexico. One story he told the family was the time Pancho Villa raided his camp and took all their supplies and cattle. The cowboys, getting advance notice, had hidden in the mountains and were not harmed by Pancho and his men. Pancho took cattle, horses and food to supply his army as they fought for control of Mexico. But William was never deterred from being a cattle man. It was natural that he would accompany his father into Arizona to begin a new ranch.

Their original homestead was made up of three townships encompassing an area north of Hennessey Buttes. David and W.B. worked the ranch together until David passed away while working on the ranch in 1946. W.B. continued to work the ranch north of Holbrook and after the passing of David's brother James in 1952, his son, Cooney worked the southern ranch.



William, Sr. and Nancy

In 1951, when he was 55 years old, W.B. married Nancy Sherwood from Joliet, Illinois. Her parents had moved to Arizona for health reasons and Nancy soon followed. When she met William, she was Navajo County's court reporter. Two children would be born to the couple. William "Bill" Jr. was born in Clovis, NM in February 1952 and a daughter, Ann Elizabeth Jeffers was born also in Clovis, NM in September 1954. Nancy was very impressed with the doctor in Clovis; she decided to return for the birth of their second child. As was common on a ranch, children grew up learning to help in all aspects of ranching. Bill

went to the University of Arizona, 1970-74 graduating with a BS in AG Econ, with Distinction and Honors, and earned an MS in Economics. He was also the outstanding student in agriculture economics his senior year. Ann attended Fort Lewis College in Durango, Colorado.



Nancy with Bill and Ann

The original partnership between David and his brother was divided in 1971. The ranch was sold south of the Little Colorado River. The ownership of the north ranch was divided between the two families for a time. In 1986, Cooney sold his land to Ann and her brother, Bill, as partners and who still run the ranch today.



Cooney Jeffers near Mitten Peak during a cattle roundup, about 1948

In 1958, the ranch was enlarged and now would encompass an area from the Navajo Reservation to Holbrook. The land added included what had originally belonged to Mr. George Hennessey, Hutchinson's and then to the Spurlock's sheep then cattle ranchers. The house that Bill and his wife Lois live in today is the original house build by Mr. Hennessey with additions that have been made through the years by Hennessey, Spurlock and the Jeffers. Over the years the land has been improved upon with adding roads to make it easier to get to the various parts of

the ranch. Water tanks were added, wells drilled, pipelines installed and fences built. The Jeffers Cattle Company have worked to be good stewards of their land as best as mother nature would allow. They have endured droughts and the vagaries of the economy - low prices for beef and high cost to keep the land working - to raise a family.



The homestead about 1989

The women of the family have also taken their part in community activities. Nancy joined the Cowbelles and held the office of president in 1972. She would be active in the organization helping with fund raisers and attending Arizona Cattle Growers' Association as well as the National Cattle Growers' meetings. The Cowbelles participated in the National Beef Cook-off and the Arizona winner went on to win second place in the National Beef Cook-off. The Cowbelles were active in the state awarding scholarships each year. The ladies would promote



Ann working the cattle

beef for the holidays and at the state fair. Her daughter, Ann would also follow in her footsteps joining the Cowbelles and being active in the County and State Association. Ann also served for some time as Secretary of the Navajo County Cattlemen. Ann, as a partner of the ranch still rides the range, brands and works all the other jobs expected and required to be done to keep a ranch running.

The ranch today is larger now than its original 1940 size, even though a portion of it was sold to the Government to form the Petrified Forest National Park, which is the eastern border. The Navajo Reservation is the neighbor for 18 miles on the northern boundary. I-40 is on the southern border. The ranch contains many cultural and natural resources. Another portion of their ranch is in the expansion plan to enlarge the Petrified Forest National Park but this has been in the planning ... waiting for the government.

The ranch has always had beef cattle except for a short time when sheep were raised on the land. The Navajos had a sheep trail that passed through the ranch, with water stops, on their way to the Holbrook stockyards for shipment by the railroad in the earlier days of sheep raising in Arizona. As was typical of the 1940s, Hereford cattle were the breed of choice. In the 1970s the Herefords were crossbred with Brahman bulls, producing an outstanding (F1) cow. Later, in the 1990s, Angus bulls were used on these crossbred cows. Bill explained, "we raise what the buyers want today and that is Black Angus. The Angus Association has convinced the public that Black Angus is better tasting

beef." Jeffers Cattle Company is definitely black-hided, but they still have some crossbreds on the range.



Left to right: Billy Chitwood, grandson to cattle buyer Burt Chitwood from Texas; Sam Yellowhair, long time cowboy for Cooney & Bill Jeffers; Ricardo Moreno Gamboa, a long-time cowboy from Mexico; Cooney Jeffers, partner in Jeffers Cattle Co.; Frankie Baca, a cowboy that worked for Cooney; Bill Jeffers. Picture taken by Ross Barnes, 1971 during a roundup

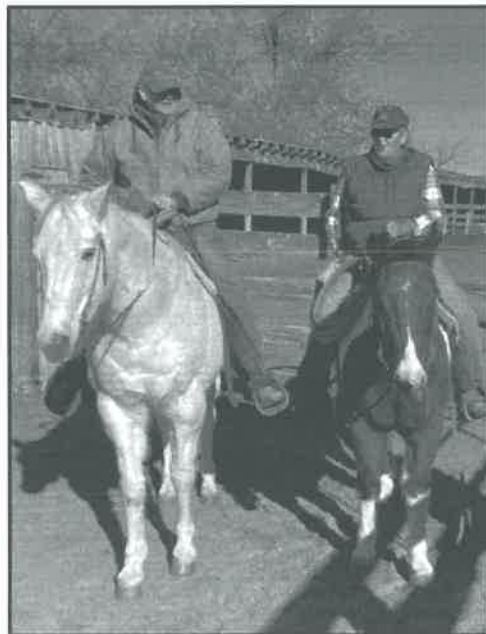
The family has been active in the Navajo County Fair by entering livestock in competitions and sponsoring various events at the fair over many years. Ann has served on the Navajo County Fair Board for many years.

In 1983, Bill married Lois Tiffany, from Kansas. They met at church, with Lois coming to Holbrook to teach school in the elementary grades. They had one daughter, Tiffany, born in 1985. Tiffany is presently living in Kansas with her family, husband Jeff, children Kara (4) and Emet (2). Together they serve as co-pastors of a Covenant church. Cooney had one daughter, Ivah, who is married to Mike and they have two daughters. They live in Holbrook.

As a rancher, Bill has worn many hats as he is active in many community boards and organizations. He was appointed by President Barack Obama to serve on the Arizona Farm Service Agency Board. He served from 2010 to 2016. He is the past president of the Arizona Association of Conservation Districts, National Association of Conservation Districts for six years. For 16 years Bill was a trustee of the Navajo County Community College District Governing Board. He has been a member of the Cooperating Association board for the Petrified Forest National Park since 1978. Of course, he has been a member of the Arizona Cattle Growers' Association, secretary of the Navajo Cattle Growers' Association from 1975-1977 and a Farm Bureau member to name just a few of the many responsibilities he has taken on.

The degrees that Bill received at the University of Arizona in Economics have helped him to run the ranch economically in this world of uncertainty. While he would like to spend more time out on the range, paperwork keeps him tied to a desk most days. Riding the range is left to Ann. Bill is quoted as saying, "I have based my entire life on ranching and being a working cowboy. The feeling a cowboy/cowgirl gets after bringing in a sick heifer and nursing it back to health, the elation of coming across a Mule Deer stuck in a bog and pulling it out, the satisfaction felt when he/she drives home 300 head of cattle during fall or spring roundups, and yes, even the solitude, those are the things that keep cowboys/cowgirls in the saddle day after day." (Holbrook Chamber of Commerce website).

Ann and Bill have continued their family legacy and it is hoped that there will be other Jeffers, Tiffany and her family, to take on the reins in the future.



William and Ann Jeffers

DON KIMBLE

The Kimble family migrated to Arizona in 1919 from Oklahoma and Texas. The women of the family claim they landed in the southeast corner of Arizona because it was good ranch country. The men joke the other reason is because it was during prohibition and Aqua Prieta, Mexico had whiskey available in large quantities and it was legal. Grasslands or good whiskey, the Kimble family legacy has made the ranching community proud.



Don Kimble

Don is the third generation of the Kimble family to ranch in Arizona. The family settled in a remote, scenic place that straddles the New Mexico/Arizona state line between Lordsburg, New Mexico and Douglas, Arizona. Don, the son of Ralph and June Kimble, was born in 1950 in Douglas and raised in a ranch house in Apache. He has an older brother Larry and one sister Virginia. Don was raised in the ranch's rock house built in 1890 that was the headquarters of the historic San Simon Cattle Company. The ranch is part of an area located in what is nationally known as the Malpai Borderlands, thought to be one of the most biologically diverse habitats in North America.

Don is proud of his heritage and points out that one of his great uncles fought at the Alamo while the family was still Texan. Kimble County, Texas is named for that uncle.

Don learned to ride and rope from his dad and grandfather. He started roping range cattle when he was about twelve. Screw worms were the bane of cattle ranchers and Don learned to ride and rope doctoring cattle for screw worms after branding. He was about twelve when he started building his own herd running them on the family ranch. By the time he headed to college, his herd had grown enough for Don to lease a ranch of his own. He has been in the cattle business his whole life.

Grade school was in the one room schoolhouse in Apache followed by attending Douglas High School. After two years

at Cochise Community College in Douglas, Don completed his education at the University of Arizona. He graduated with Bachelor of Science degrees in Animal Science and Ag Education. Don was the West Coast Regional Team Roping Champion all four years of college for the Intercollegiate Rodeo Association. In addition to competing in team roping as both a header and heeler, he also competed in bull dogging and calf roping. While in college he maintained good grades and was listed in the Who's Who among Students in American Universities and Colleges.



Don at the heels

After graduation Don worked around Tucson, putting on ropings and doing construction work. While in Tucson he became ill with Valley Fever, losing a lung as a result. Don moved back to Douglas, taking a job teaching agriculture at Cochise Community College and was coach of the college's rodeo team. His busy schedule did not keep him for team roping on the side.

In the 1970's Don was a tough competitor in the Turquoise Circuit division of the Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association. He won the circuit in team roping several times. In 1978 he missed qualifying for the PRCA National Finals Rodeo after attending fifty rodeos in his spare time. He set a goal in 1979 of attending enough rodeos to get to the finals while holding down his position at Cochise College and managing his ranch.

In 1979 and 1980 he logged 100,000 miles traveling to sixty rodeos around the country. His winning more than \$7,000.00 team roping at a single rodeo with his partner Kent Winterton was a record for many years. At the 1979 National Rodeo Finals, Don and Kent won or placed in each of the first five rounds and the team finished fifth in the world. After two NFR qualifications, Don roped mostly at the Turquoise Circuit events and the larger pro-rodeos. He remained a tough competitor at the circuit rodeos. His wife Lynn Brashears was an avid team roper also.

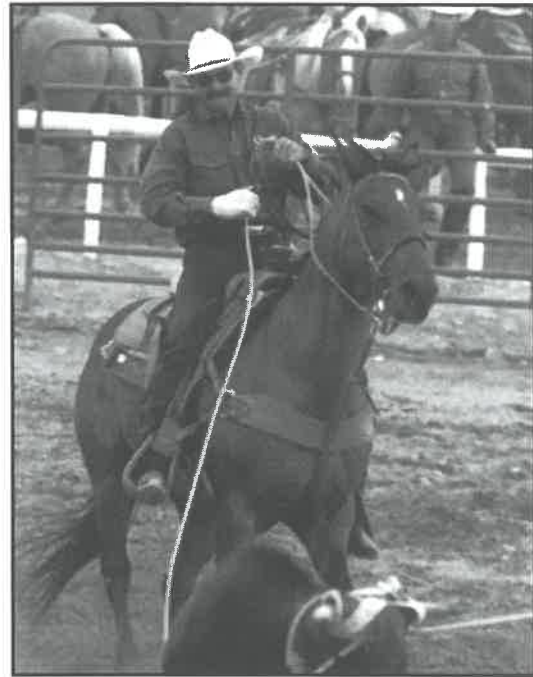


Don and Lynn

In 1988 Don's father Ralph became ill with cancer and Don took over the duties on the family ranch. He quit teaching at Cochise College and slowed down on the rodeo trail. In 1991 Ralph died and Don became a full-time rancher. He bought out his uncle's portion of the ranch and became the majority owner of the original Kimble ranch along with his mother as a partner. At the Kimble Ranch, they left their bulls out year-long in the mild climate. They raised predominately Black Angus cattle and usually shipped about four hundred calves both spring and fall. Don is on the Board of Directors of the Malpai Borderlands Group which focuses on building working relationships with the U.S. Forest Service, Fish and Game, and various conservation groups. He is an active participant with the group and a strong voice for border issues.

Don had owned or leased ranches throughout the years, but his main operation was always the home place his family had settled in 1919. After a year of drought in 2010, Don made the decision to sell the ranch in 2013. He and Lynn now ranch on Silver Creek, northeast of Douglas, and in Double Adobe. Don notes "There is an old saying that you can tell a true cowboy by the type of horse he rides. And I always ride great horses."

His lifestyle has been hard on him. Don has had both knees replaced, a broken neck fixed, a hip replaced, a broken leg and a cut spinal cord. He also had his back fused and has rods on both sides. Don always overcame his health issues and continued to participate in team roping events.



Don heeling

Willcox inducted Don into their Cowboy Hall of Fame in 2016. In an interview with Arizona Range News upon receiving the honor, Don talked of his years as rodeo team coach at Cochise College. "I liked working with the kids, fine tuning their skills or teaching them horsemanship. I was busy staying one jump ahead of them to keep them out of trouble." In 2020 Don's father Ralph was posthumously inducted into the Willcox Cowboy Hall of Fame.

Don received another honor when he was inducted into the Cochise Community College Hall of Fame in 2017. The Cochise College Hall of Fame is a joyful celebration of the college's supporters, student success, and college impact on the community. Don attended Cochise College as one of the first recipients of the Kenneth Gunter Memorial Scholarship for agriculture students. He was part of the rodeo team that hosted the first national intercollegiate rodeo at the college. Don taught and coached at Cochise for eleven years and has served on the board of the Apache School, his alma mater, for twenty-seven years.

Don is an authority on Arizona/Mexico border issues. He has been an active participant and a strong voice for ranchers regarding immigration and border issues. Don testified before the Arizona State Senate in 2010 regarding border issues in the Douglas area.



Don speaking on border issues

Arizona Range News quoted Don, "Ranching is synonymous with gambling. The market, the weather, the financing, everything you do is a gamble. There is no set regiment to guarantee success. You make your own success by your own decisions." Don always liked to be his own boss and he always liked cattle and horses.

Don said he would like to be remembered as a person who "Treated other people just like he would like to be treated, and that his word was always good. If your word and handshake aren't good, there were no contracts to make up for that anyway".

JOANNE RYAN PERRY



Joanne

Joanne Ryan, the daughter of William "Bill" Albert and Edith Watkins Ryan, was born August 7, 1930 in Phoenix, Arizona. She joined a family of four brothers - William Paul, Edward, Emmett and Kenneth and two sisters - Edith May and Alice.

Her mother Edith was born in Texas in 1892, the daughter of Southerners from South Carolina, Isaac Henry Watkins and Sallie Bomar Eaker. Her father was a physician, graduating from Vanderbilt University in Tennessee. The family came from Texas to Benson where Dr. Watkins was employed by the Southern Pacific Railroad.

William was the son of Irish immigrants William and Anna Moloney Ryan, from counties Tipperary and Limerick. William arrived in Globe, Arizona Territory in January, 1881. Anna's Uncle Denis Murphy had brought Anna to Globe in 1883 where she met William. The couple married in 1884 and became parents of six children. Their four sons, William "Bill", Neil, Emmet and Joseph worked together for many years in both cattle and sheep ranching.

Bill was the oldest child, born in 1886 in Globe. He grew up in Arizona Territory, with the exception of a few years in New Mexico. His father was involved in mining, smelters, a dairy, cattle, and had opened the Ryan & Company Store in Globe which would evolve into the Ryan-Evans Drug Store chain. Bill always liked to tell of the trail herds that stopped at Globe on their way to the railroad in Holbrook during his childhood. All the cowboys wanted to take advantage of the saloons and dance halls in the lively mining town before the final leg of their trail drive to Holbrook. They would pay the Globe boys to watch the cattle while they headed to town. The local boys, including Bill, would spend all their time practicing their roping skills, bull dogging and riding the steers. Bill always said it was a wonder none of them were killed from all their escapades.

In 1908, Bill decided to join the newly formed United States Forest Service as a Forest Ranger in the Cochise County area. The cattlemen called the Rangers "Teddy's Pets" referring to Teddy Roosevelt. Some of the Supervisors and Rangers, such as Bill, were cowboys or men who knew the ways of the west and were at least partially tolerated.

Bill was stationed in Benson where he met Edith Watkins. The couple were married in September, 1912 in Tucson. The Ryans had leased land on the Apache Reservation to run cattle and the couple moved to a small one room cabin on the Reservation. Many of the Apache men had never seen a white woman and were curious about her. When Bill was out riding to check the cattle, they would look at Edith through the window. They were always polite to her and she fed them lunch. Bill told her to just close the curtains and they would probably go away, which they did once the novelty of watching her wore off.

The couple's oldest child, William, was born at San Carlos. With the exception of Joanne, her other siblings were all born in Globe. Bill was joined by his brothers Neil and Emmet in running cattle on the Reservation. The Ryan Brothers was awarded the beef contract at Fort Apache and Bill and his family lived on the Fort. William started first grade there; always enjoying telling the story of the schoolhouse at the Fort burning down so he got to miss several weeks of school. When the fort closed, Edith spent the school year in Globe with the children.

In the 1920's the Apache Tribe notified the ranchers leasing land that they would not be renewing leases as the Tribe would be establishing cattle ranching on their land. Ryan's lease was up and all their cattle had been gathered and were held at shipping pens waiting for the buyer. No buyer showed up for two days. On the third day the buyer sent a representative to tell Ryans that livestock prices had crashed and he had no money to buy the cattle. The Ryans bought a ranch on the Salt River outside of Globe. They were able to sell the cattle on that ranch and drove the cattle on the reservation to the ranch. They branded the 5/ they had acquired while raising cattle in the White Mountains.

The Depression affected all four of the Ryan brothers. Emmet ran the Five Slash and lived there with his family. The bank hired Neil to take cattle to Ely, Nevada until they could be

sold. He was there almost a year before the cattle were sold. He and the other cowboys, including Everett and Skeet Bowman, spent a lot of time rodeoing. Bill was hired by Valley National Bank to gather off the Horseshoe and XL Ranches near Prescott. The ranches were owned by Bill Colburn, brother of western author Walt Colburn. Neil joined Bill at the ranches after he returned from Nevada. Their brother Joseph stayed in Globe with the drug stores. Edith and the children lived in Prescott during the school year and at the Horseshoe Ranch during holidays and the summers. The cattle off the Coburn Ranch were driven from Bloody Basin to the railroad in Glendale for shipping.

After completing the work on the Colburn Ranches, Bill went to Phoenix to settle-up with the Valley National Bank. He was looking to buy a cattle ranch. However, the bank explained to him that no banks were investing in cattle ranches at the time. The bank had come into possession of the George Scott Sheep Ranch as well as one owned by Jim Scott. In 1928, John Dobson has purchased the George Scott sheep ranch and the bank was getting tired of holding on to the Jim Scott ranch. Walter Bimson talked to Bill about taking over the Jim Scott outfit. Bill didn't think he had the money to do it and besides, he was a cattleman and this was a sheep outfit. Bimson advised they would finance Bill and all the herders were still with the operation and knew their jobs. Bill told him he was not interested and returned to his room in the Adams Hotel. Just before he reached the door of the Adams, Bill decided he would take a chance with the sheep outfit as he didn't know what else he would do. The Scott operation consisted of 10,000 head of ewes, desert range near Florence Junction, a lease on the Apache Reservation near Show Low and headquarters between Clay Springs and Pinedale.

Bill and Edith moved to Phoenix and purchased a home there on 13th Street and McDowell; the houses stopped at 16th Street at that time. The winter range was fields in the Chandler, Gilbert, and Mesa area. Emmet continued running the Five Slash at Globe and Neil joined Bill in the sheep business. The sheep went up the Heber-Reno Sheep trail to the summer pastures. There were several different summer ranges during the years - the Duffield Ranch on Paradise and ranges at Pinedale, McNary and Heber.

Joanne's brothers had grown up on cattle ranches and were now learning the sheep business in addition to settling into new schools. William had noticed all the sheep herders were drinking out of the irrigation ditches. None of them seemed to get sick so William thought he would try it and ended up with Typhoid Fever. Edith had all the kids get Typhoid shots and kept William away from the other children in case it was catching. William ended up missing a whole year of high school.

In the early years, summers were spent at a ranch between Clay Springs and Pinedale. There were two houses there and Bill and Neil's families both lived on the ranch. A small burro was at the ranch and Edith May, Alice and Joanne like to ride it together. Joanne was only around 3 years old and was riding with her sisters. The burro stopped and would not go any further. Edith May and Alice jumped off to get a switch and the burro ran away with Joanne. Luckily the burro just ran back to the house and Joanne did not fall off. The girls enjoyed meeting friends in Pinedale and went with their family to baseball games. One of the older herders, Vicente, stayed at the Pinedale location most of the time to handle chores. The girls enjoyed being with him and followed him around to "help". Joanne has a picture of herself, Alice and youngest brother Kenneth riding in a wagon driven by Vicente.

From the time she was a toddler, Joanne and her sisters enjoyed visiting the sheep camps in their winter pastures in the Valley. They always were there at shearing time and liked to eat at the sheep camps. Somehow the beans always tasted better cooked in a Dutch Oven as well as the bread. The herders camped at the fields and cooked over a fire. One time a couple who were friends with the Ryans were invited to eat at one of the camps. The wife was not pleased with the invitation as she complained openly that the camp would be filthy as it was in a field. After seeing the impeccable cleanliness of a white canvas laid on the ground with the Dutch Ovens, pots and pans; she changed her mind. The woman said she was going to go home and scrub her own pots and pans as they were less clean than the ones the herders used.

When the girls were a little older, they liked to go help move the sheep between winter pastures. Bill liked to walk with the sheep so he would have Alice drive his pickup. When Alice was around 12, Bill would put his pickup in low gear and Alice

would steer while the truck rolled along slowly behind the sheep. Joanne soon begged to have her turn driving. Law enforcement never said anything when they saw the girls.

After several years at Clay Springs, the summers were spent at Paradise in the White Mountains, close to McNary. A two-room house was located there. Bill and Edith slept in one room and the other room was a kitchen. The three sisters slept in a storeroom built by Del Owens. Due to the grain stored there, Joanne remembers listening to mice run around during the night wanting to get into the grain. One advantage of being in the storeroom was that when the girls got hungry, they would open a can of tomatoes for a snack. Tents were erected for the boys and visitors. It always took a while to adjust to the altitude in the summer. Joanne would wade in the small stream there and she remembers the fish swimming by and tickling her toes. She felt like her brothers all worked hard during the summer while the girls enjoyed more time playing.

Edith May did not like to ride horses; although she would on occasion. Alice and Joanne enjoyed riding. They would put some jerky in their pockets and go riding for hours enjoying the beautiful forest. They felt they didn't have a care in the world. Joanne does feel bad about one thing she and her sisters did one summer at Paradise. One of the herders stayed at the headquarters and when he left to do his work, he would leave a Dutch Oven cooking with chili and potatoes. The chili was always so good that the girls would always sneak some during the day. Joanne hoped they left enough for him to eat for supper.

Edith was always an excellent housekeeper and she wanted her children dressed in clean clothes. Her sister Neen remembers that during the summer Edith washed clothes every day; using a scrub board until her fingers would bleed. The family always had lots of visitors to enjoy the cool weather and enjoy the excellent fishing. Joanne remembers Ranger Huey never cared if you caught over your limit on fish; just don't do that with the turkeys! She remembers the family listening to Fibber McGee and Molly on the radio in the evening.



Bill Ryan with his girls -
Joanne, Alice and Edith May

In 1937, the Ryan Brothers purchased the Bar Eleven Ranch in Gila County from Marleys; right across the Salt River from the Five Slash. Neil left the sheep to Bill and ran the Bar Eleven. In 1941, sheepman George Wilber was killed in an automobile accident. His sheep ranch in Long Tom Canyon was for sale and Bill Ryan purchased it. Bill also was involved in an auto accident that same year. His brother Joseph asked if he had time to make a delivery to the Ryan Store in Globe. Passing through Superior, a car hit his pickup head on. He suffered a bad break in one of his legs and had to stay 100 days in the Superior Hospital. Joanne says they only got to visit him a few times due to WWII rules on gasoline and tire rationing. Joseph remained active in the family's stores and owned a feed lot in Tempe at Normal Junction near Rural Road and the railroad tracks.

Joanne and the entire family enjoyed the move to the Wilber Ranch. The headquarters was located in a beautiful meadow and Elk would be seen at the north end each morning. They often hit the wire fence running across the meadow. A nice log cabin with two bedrooms, a second story, a kitchen, living room, and bathroom was there in addition to a one room cabin across the meadow. Barns and corrals were there at the headquarters. A water tank was located on a hill behind the house so there was running water for a sink and bathtub; however, there was still an outhouse. No electricity but there was a Forest Service phone line that could be used for emergencies. Joanne remembers a funny incident with the phone. Edith told Bill several times to take down everything the operator said as they were expecting a call. Evidently the operator couldn't hear Bill answer and kept saying hello, hello, hello. Bill wrote down each time she said hello.

A good-sized storeroom was located by the house. All the supplies for the herders were stored there. Joanne remembers they had twenty-five-pound bags of dried apricots and apples. The "refrigerator" was shelving surrounded by chicken wire and it was located high up on the side of the storeroom. The cool air kept the food safe and it was located high enough the bears could not reach it. Joanne's nephew Butch always remembers his Grandmother Edith shooing a bear cub off the porch of the house with a broom. (The mama bear was not close by)

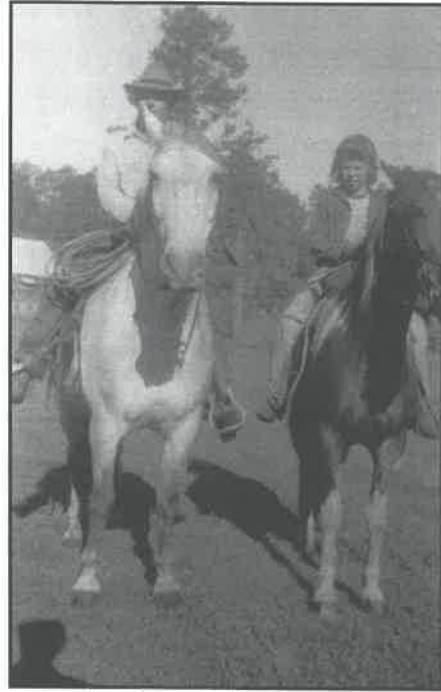
The Mogollon Rim always attracted many visitors at the ranch. There was a swing in a tree in front of the house for

the kids. One time Alice and Joanne joined their cousins, the Holmes boys, and they ran an old buckboard down the hill to crash into a big pine tree by the barn. Joanne's brother Ed worked for one of the mines in Globe and he often brought his family for a visit.

Joanne rode horseback with her dad when he checked the sheep camps. She remembers she liked to ride Teddy and Baldy. The horses would be turned out in the yard to keep down the grass. One time Joanne and her mom went with her dad to check one of the camps. The truck got stuck and Bill told Edith and Joanne to get out and push the truck. Bill really stepped on the gas as the truck began moving and threw mud all over Edith. She was not happy to be wet and muddy.

The WWII years were a trial for the family. Three of Bill and Edith's sons were in the military - William, Emmett and Kenneth. During the summers, mail was sent to Holbrook so there were always time periods of no correspondence until a trip could be made to Holbrook. They all waved at the troop trains as they came through Holbrook and the soldiers would wave back. Joanne was the only child left at home and a great help to her parents. William stayed stateside until after the surrender of Germany. He was then sent to California before being sent to Japan. The surrender of Japan kept him stateside. Emmett was originally in the Arizona National Guard Bush Masters; then was transferred to the 4th Infantry Division and landed at Utah Beach on D-Day. Kenneth joined the Marines and was missing in action at the Battle of Tarawa. Joanne remembers her mother setting by the window at the ranch in a rocking chair and tears streaming down her face.

Bill and Edith's son Emmett had married Norma Owens from Pinedale in 1941. She and their daughter Janice were at the Wilber Ranch as were her parents, Del and Florence Owens. Del was working for the Ryans and had even come up the sheep trail one year. The couple were living in the cabin across the meadow from the main house. Florence was from Connecticut and had a New



Joanne riding with her Dad

England accent. Joanne remembers her running across the meadow shouting in her New England accent, "The war is over, the war is over." She had been listening to the radio and heard that Germany had surrendered.

When Emmett returned from the war, he worked for his dad; he and family stayed at the Wilber Ranch. During the whole time Bill Ryan owned the ranch, the Forest Service signs all called it the Wilber Ranch. When Bill sold the ranch, the Forest Service signs all said Ryan Ranch.

Bill became very active in the Wool Growers. He served as Chairman of the Heber-Reno Sheep Drive Committee, on the Board of Directors and as Vice-President. Bill, Edith and Joanne always attended the summer meeting in Flagstaff. Bears were a



Joanne with bear hide

problem off and on through the years. One summer Bill sent a telegram to the Wool Growers requesting a hunter as a bear was attacking the sheep. A hunter came with his dogs and soon had the bear treed. Bill asked Joanne if she wanted to shoot the bear. She declined and the hunter shot the bear. Joanne did get her picture taken with the bear hide.

Bill and Edith always cleaned and closed-up the house at the Wilber Ranch for the winter. Firewood was kept in the kitchen in case a hunter got stranded and needed shelter. That happened several times but during the last few winters that Bill owned the ranch, destruction was done to some of the furniture. One year Edith was taking out the chimney pipes before closing up the house by standing on the wood stove. One of the burner lids flipped and her leg fell down into the stove. Luckily, she did not break her leg.

Bill developed a partnership in a sheep outfit with Leo Ellsworth. They had their winter range at Florence Junction and in the Mesa-Chandler area. When Bill sold his sheep in the 1950's, he purchased the Florence Junction ranch and ran cattle there with the Bar Eleven and Club brands. Joanne did not spend much time at this ranch as she was completing her education. She had attended Whittier Grade School and graduated from Phoenix Union High School. Joanne completed her education at Phoenix College and Arizona State University with an education degree.

Bill's last ranch was the Box Bar on the Verde River in the area of the Fort McDowell Indian Reservation and Four Peaks. When Bill sold the Florence Junction Ranch all the cattle were gathered and Bill's brother Emmet and his daughter Frances Runic came to help gather the cattle and drive them to the shipping pens at the railroad at Queen Creek.



Joanne's family at Mesa. William, Emmett, Ed, Will,
Edith May, Alice, Edith, Joanne

The Box Bar Ranch was a favorite with all Bill's grandchildren. A jeep had come with the ranch and Ed drove his children and nieces and nephews around exploring Indian ruins and just enjoying being out of doors. The Verde River ran close to the headquarters and the kids would wade in the river. Unless it was raining or water released from the dam, the water was not deep and the children would spend hours playing in the water. There was a good fishing hole there and many trespassers just opened the gate and came on in. The gate was eventually kept locked and that did not always deter people. Emmett was working for his dad and his children often would crawl through the wooden gate and pretend to fall as they retrieved the hidden key because many times people were there wanting to drive through the gate. One individual even tried to saw through the wooden gate.

Joanne would come to the ranch to help Edith with the large garden she had planted and to help her cook. Best of all, Joanne had purchased a movie camera, which was not a common thing to own in the 1950's. She took many movies that the family enjoys to this day. The majority of the ranch was across the Verde River from headquarters. Joanne would ride with her dad, Emmett and the cowboys, riding back and forth across the river. A

calendar company asked permission to take pictures of the cattle crossing the Verde River during round-up. The picture was great except neither Bill nor Emmett was in the picture. The cattle had started to scatter and of course the owner and his son went after the cattle while all the cowboys stayed with the small group still in the river so they could be in the picture. There were seven cowboys driving about 18 head of cattle across the Verde.

Bill only owned the Box Bar for several years as he would get asthma so bad from the Ironwood Trees and end up in the hospital each spring. He sold the ranch to Francis Curtis. Bill did lease two pens at Tovrea's and traded cattle for a couple of years; one summer he pastured cattle at Parks.

Joanne discovered a love of traveling. As a teacher, she got three whole months off in the summer. Her first venture was spending summer school in Hawaii with a fellow teacher. She took education classes and included the fun classes of Hawaiian Cooking and Hula Dancing. This trip seemed very exotic to the family and siblings as well as nieces and nephews came to Sky Harbor to see her off on her flight. Other trips included a Caribbean cruise and visiting Cuba before the revolution there. One summer she and two teacher friends spent the whole summer touring Europe. The last two weeks of her trips were in Ireland meeting her relatives. She taught at Washington Elementary School in Phoenix for thirty-five years.



Don and Joanne Ryan Peggy

In 1976, Joanne married Don Perry, a Deputy Sheriff with the Maricopa County Sheriff's Office. They were very active in the Elks Club and Don was Exalted Ruler of the Tempe Lodge. They also belonged to the American Legion as Don was a Korean War veteran. The couple traveled around the United States to many BPOE events as well as to Hawaii and Ireland. Don passed way in 2009.

Joanne celebrated her 92nd birthday in August, 2022. As the "baby" of her family, she was much loved by her siblings. Her many nieces and nephews love her dearly as well as her grand and great nieces and nephews. She is every one's favorite Aunt, fun to be with and we all enjoy hearing memories of her travels and of the ranches.

STEVE PIERCE

- 2021 PIONEER STOCKMAN OF THE YEAR -



Steve Pierce

Steve Pierce's roots run deep in Arizona's cattle industry as a third generation Arizonan whose family began ranching in the state in 1915. He followed in the footsteps of his father Delbert and grandfather Nelson Clyde Pierce. Steve was born in 1950 in Phoenix

Delbert was one of the founders of the Arizona National Livestock Show. He and his brother Bill raised shorthorns at the family's Phoenix farm located at 44th Street and Thomas. Steve can remember their cattle being driven down 44th Street to Tovrea Stockyards. The Pierce family had

ranches in Mayer and Payson when they purchased the Las Vegas Ranch on 1959.

In Spanish, Las Vegas means "The Meadows". The ranch covers more than 42 sections of lush bottom land in Williamson Valley. It is about twenty-five miles northwest of Prescott at an elevation of 4,600 to 5,000 feet. The valley is a sub-irrigated bottom with shallow and artesian wells. Grasses include Timothy, Kentucky Bluegrass and Alkali Sacaton.

Delbert, wife Anna Beth and their children Michael, Gary, Steve and Betsy moved to Prescott in 1963. The ranch was on a twenty-five-mile rough dirt road from Prescott. Two of the youngsters were in high school so the family purchased a home in town. Delbert worked to add several adjoining ranches to the Las Vegas ranch.

When Delbert purchased the Las Vegas Ranch he started a Hereford operation as he wanted to produce a line of Hereford cattle that would do the job for the commercial producer. The ranch began breeding top quality Hereford bulls.

Delbert brought some heifers from Walter Heiden when Steve was five or six and Mr. Heiden gave him a calf. Steve raised the

calf and sold it for a profit to Tovrea's and he was hooked! Steve remembers watching the Cattle shows at the ANLS. As a 4-H member, he showed calves at the Arizona National and was active in the Arizona Junior Hereford Association, serving as president.



UA livestock judging team

Steve graduated from Prescott High School and earned a Bachelor's Degree in Animal Science at the University of Arizona. He worked six months for the U of A Alumni Association before returning to the Las Vegas Ranch. He married wife Joan, a teacher, in 1973 and the couple became parents to Tyler, Nelson, Steve, and Lindy who blessed them with seven grandchildren. With the ranch being twenty-five miles from a grocery

store, Steve has been quoted as saying, "This upbringing teaches improvisation and problem-solving skills. On the ranch, when something breaks, you can't just stop and run to town for a part. You have to improvise and be practical".

Around 1973, the Pierce's purchased the historic 7V Ranch. It is where Harold Bell Wright worked as a cowboy and wrote "When a Man's a Man". This property, comprised of deeded acres, Forest Service acres, and State leased land, completed what is known as the Las Vegas Ranch.

Steve and Delbert were friends with Larry Stark, who had been their neighbor in Phoenix. Larry was a successful livestock showman and in 1977, Larry and wife Phyllis joined the Pierce family at the ranch. Steve and Larry traveled to Colorado where they purchased seed stock from Ferry Carpenter. Adding the new stock to the ranch's base cow herd, the Las Vegas Ranch showed 14 reserve champions and 17 Grand Champions at the Arizona Livestock Show. A highlight came in 1981 when a Las Vegas cow, Mabel, received Grand Champion Hereford Female at the National Western Stock Show in Denver. Another highlight was the top selling bull, Poncho, at the annual Arizona Hereford Association Bull Sale at the Prescott Fairgrounds. In 1993 for the seventh year in a row, the Las Vegas Ranch took home the trophy for "Best Three Head" at the 20th Annual Hereford

Association Bull Sale. The Las Vegas Ranch showed cattle at the ANLS through 2004.

The ranch runs commercial Hereford/Angus crosses. They use a sixty-day breeding period and calves in both spring and fall. The cows are culled rigorously for non-performance. The American Hereford Association Total Performance Records are used on the registered herd and have been for thirty-five years.



Steve Pierce at halter, Larry Stark in cowboy hat

The Pierce's and Larry Stark were partners in raising quarter horses for sale and breeding purposes. Their horses did well, winning races at Prescott Downs in Prescott, Arizona and at Turf Paradise in Phoenix, Arizona. The race horses were sold earlier in 2022.

In 2008 Steve ran for the Arizona Senate District 1. His opponent was from Chicago and he felt that as an Arizona native and raised on a ranch, he would be able to represent rural Arizona. In an interview for the Arizona Cattlelog in 2008 he told the reporter "Because of my involvement in ranching, agriculture and rural Arizona, I have noticed we are not getting the representation we deserve. Feeding America is paramount. If the food supply moves to Mexico, we lose control how our food is raised and that is not good. Rural Arizona is most of Arizona as 13% of the state is private land".

During Steve's tenure in the Legislature, he was a friend to the Arizona National and the State's County Fairs working hard to maintain funds in the budget to sustain these events. He served as Arizona Senate president 2011-2012.

Hereford World magazine reported that being a steward of the land is always a consideration on the Las Vegas Ranch. Steve and his family have won environmental awards,



Arizona National Hall of Fame

including two Range Manager of the Year Awards from the Society for Range Management, the Arizona Game and Fish Commission's Wildlife Habitat Stewardship Award and the 2006 Private Lands Fish and Wildlife Stewardship Award from the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies of the United States, Canada and Mexico.

Steve has been a member of both Yavapai Cattle Growers and the Arizona Cattle Growers Association. He is a member of the Arizona Hereford and Arizona Angus Associations. Steve served the cattle industry's Arizona interests on the Arizona Beef Council and also as a member of the U.S. Beef Export Board. It was his committee that came up with the famous slogan "Beef, It's What's for Dinner." Steve is also a member of The Arizona Farm and Ranch Group, The National Cattlemen's Beef Association, and the Society of Range Management.

Continuing to serve his community, Steve is on the County Bank Board of Directors, the Anasazi Foundation and the Central Arizona Project. He even found time to be a 4-H Leader.

Steve believes the livestock industry is a critical part of Arizona's economic history and embodies our western heritage. Congratulations on being selected as the 2022 Pioneer Stockman of the Year.



WILLIAM KENNETH RYAN SR.

William "Bill" Kenneth Ryan Sr., the son of Emmett and Norma Owens Ryan, was born in April, 1947 in Phoenix, Arizona. He joined big sister Janice and would later have three younger sisters - Nancy, Frances, and Susan.

Bill is descended from pioneer families who settled in Arizona Territory in the 1880's and 1890's. His Irish great-grandfather, William Ryan, settled in Gila County, where he was involved in mining, owned a dairy, raised cattle and opened four Ryan & Company stores in Globe, Miami, and Superior that would later become the Ryan-Evans Drug Store chain.

William's four sons, William Albert, Neil, Emmet and Joseph raised cattle on the Apache Reservation. In the 1920's, the tribe notified all the families their leases would not be renewed as the tribe would be raising their own cattle. Ryan's gathered their cattle only to be told by the buyer that the livestock market had crashed and there was no money to buy the cattle. Ryan's purchased a ranch on the Salt River near Globe and moved the reservation cattle there. They used the Five Slash brand they had acquired while ranching in the White Mountains. Emmet ran the ranch for the family and Neil took cattle to Ely, Nevada for the bank. He was there for almost a year before a buyer was found. Joseph remained in Globe manning the stores. Bill's grandfather, William Albert, gathered off the Horseshoe and XL

Ranches for Valley National Bank. They were owned by Bill Coburn, brother of western author Walt Coburn. After settling up with the bank and learning no cattle ranches were being financed; William ended up buying the Jim Scott Sheep Company at the urging of Walter Bimson at Valley Bank.



Karen and Bill Ryan



Ryan cattle gathered off Apache Reservation

Bill's Aunt Joanne always said she could tell where people knew her dad from. William Albert was born and raised in Globe where he was called Will; in later years when he had sheep and later cattle in the Valley, he was called Bill. For the sake of this story, I will call him Will so as not to confuse the reader with all the Bill's. Joanne Ryan Perry's story is also in this volume.

Bill's dad Emmett had been called up in 1941 with the Arizona National Guard Bush Masters, serving in Panama. He was later transferred to the 4th Infantry Division and landed at Utah Beach on D-Day. He was wounded twice and went all the way with the 4th Division to Germany. Emmett was sent home after Germany's surrender and came home to his wife and daughter living at the Ryan's sheep ranch in Long Tom Canyon on the Mogollon Rim.



Bill's grandfather Will Ryan at sheep ranch with Dan Morgan and Kenneth Ryan

When Bill was born in 1947, the family was dividing their time between the Valley in the winter months and at the sheep ranch on the Rim in the summer. Emmett and Norma's first winter home was on Higley Road between Broadway and Southern, east of Mesa. Shortly after Bill's birth, Will purchased 80 acres on the northeast corner of what is now Val Vista and Southern Ave in Mesa. Emmett moved his family to that location. There was a house and a big hay barn right in the middle of the property in addition to a small two room house. Bill's maternal grandfather Del Owens enclosed two sections of the hay barns for storing all the sheep camp items, saddles, grain, etc. He also built corrals and a loading chute. With the exception of a few years in New River, Bill grew up on this farm until right before he married when his parents built a new home on the property along Southern Ave. Neither Emmett nor Will were farmers and the field property was always leased to area farmers including Lon and Jim Hudson.

Bill was too young to remember much of the sheep ranch in Long Tom Canyon. As young as he was, he does remember staying with his grandparents when his parents, along with his Uncle Emmet and Aunt Vola, went to Arkansas to look at some farm

property. Upon their return to the summer ranch, Bill was rocking really hard in his rocking chair and it fell over forwards trapping him. His mom looked at him through the rocking chair bars and asked if he was in jail.



Bill and his dad Emmett Ryan

Bill's mom was having Thanksgiving for the Ryan family at their home on Higley Road in 1947. Thanksgiving was sad for the family as Emmett's brother Kenneth had been reported MIA at the battle of Tarawa and the family had held out hope through the years for better news. Norma wanted to have a nice Thanksgiving for her in-laws. She had a large table set up with a white tablecloth and all the plates and silverware in place. The coal oil heater in the house exploded and sent oil and ashes all over the room including the table. It was a hard mess to clean up before everyone arrived for dinner.

When the family moved to the house on Val Vista and Southern, the fields would be planted in either alfalfa or cotton. When alfalfa was growing there, Will would pasture his sheep on the field. The herders would camp by the barn under the Tamarack Trees. The herders were always nice to Janice and Bill and Bill liked to go visit them. His dad got a kick out of seeing him visit with the herders as he couldn't speak Spanish and they didn't speak English but Bill would just visit away with them. The neighbor boys, Pete Ulate and Bruce Hovde, would ride by on their bicycles to check out the sheep. Emmett would always invite the neighbor kids to come with them when the sheep were being sheared.

Will always kept a lot of mesquite wood at the farm for the sheep camps. The herders would collect it on the desert and bring it to Mesa. The wood was always full of scorpions. Janice, Bill and even baby Nancy were bitten by scorpions. Bill had some irrigation boots he kept in the barn and didn't check them for scorpions. That was his first time bitten. He got bit so many times it didn't seem to bother him anymore.

Will ended up selling the sheep outfit and going back into the cattle business on a ranch at Florence Junction when Bill was around four years old. Emmett continued to work for his dad. The family remained at the Val Vista house and Emmett went back and forth to the ranch. There was no house on the ranch; just nice shipping pens. Will purchased a "Jim Walters" pre-built one bedroom home and had it brought to the ranch. Del Owens added a screen porch for the cowboys and built a small barn and corrals.

Bill remembers his dad getting him up early one morning to take him to the ranch. The family had kept the home outside of Mesa and Emmett went back and forth. Someone had hit a cow on the highway and the Highway Patrol was stopped at the accident site. His dad stopped and the patrolman asked what to do about the cow. Emmett had told Bill to stay in the truck and he broke the cow's neck and cut his throat. Boys always remember things like this.

The house at the ranch was close to an El Paso Natural Gas pumping station. Will had the house placed near the station as they had a good water well and allowed the ranch to share the water. The men working there had a large garden as they didn't have much to do each day. Bill was never scared to have an adventure and he decided to walk to the pumping station; however, he forgot to mention this to anyone. His dad found him later almost all the way to the station. These little treks didn't bother Bill. When he was six, he wanted his mom to take him to visit Joey LaPella who lived further south on Val Vista. She told him no as she was hanging out clothes. When she finished hanging the clothes, she realized Bill was missing. He had ridden his tri-cycle all the way to Baseline Road before his mom caught up with him.

Bill's parents were active in the newly organized American Legion Post in Gilbert. Members were raising funds to build

their meeting hall and held BBQ's and Bingo games. Bill remembers helping his mom by handing out Bingo cards. His dad always helped with the pit BBQ. The new hall was completed the year Emmett was Commander. The years at the Florence Junction ranch were good years. It was close to town and friends and family came for picnics. Pottery shards were easy to find although they were usually just adobe colored and undecorated. Bill and Janice got to ride horses and their Uncle Ed often brought his son Butch from Globe and he would ride with them. A favorite gentle horse was Nestor. It seemed like he lived forever and all five of the Ryan kids rode him through the years.



Bill with sisters Janice and Nancy at Florence Junction Ranch

Will sold the Florence Junction ranch and bought the Box Bar ranch on the Verde River near Fort McDowell. All the cattle on the Pinal County ranch were sold. Will's brother Emmet and his daughter Frances Rumic were among the crew that drove the cattle from Florence Junction to the railroad in Queen Creek.

The Box Bar was a favorite ranch for Will's grandchildren. A jeep came with the ranch and their Uncle Ed would take the kids for rides to Indian ruins or to just enjoy being outdoors. The Verde River was close and not too deep by the headquarters. It was an easy walk from the house to wade and enjoy the cool water. There was no electricity at the ranch but a generator was in use. There was a good fishing hole on the Verde and word apparently spread about it and trespassers became a problem. Eventually the wooden gate into headquarters had to be locked. A key was hidden and Bill and his sister would crawl through the wooden gate and get the key when no one was looking because vehicles were often waiting there hoping to get access to the property. They would open the gate and their dad would drive through while they quickly closed and locked the gate.

The ranch trucks had no air conditioning back in the 1950's and Bill noticed that his dad and the cowboys often had the back of their shirts wet and that must mean they had been working hard. On one trip to the ranch, Bill made sure he kept his back

against the seat so his back would be wet. When he and his dad got to the ranch, his grandparents Will and Edith were sitting in the breezeway in the house and asked how Bill was doing. He had to show Will his wet back to show him he had been working hard.

Bill remembers his Uncle Bill and Aunt Kay gave him a book All About Snakes that he found very interesting. The kitchen at the ranch had a snake under the wooden floor. If you stomped on the floor; the snake would rattle. One day Bill was reading his book by the bunk house and one of the cowboys asked if he wanted

to help feed. He said yes and watched the cowboys load a flat bed truck with hay and they headed out to the pasture to feed. They asked if Bill wanted to drive; yes, of course. The throttle was pulled out and the truck put in gear. This was exciting, Bill was standing on the seat driving. His dad later told him that the ruts were so deep the truck just followed around the pasture in the ruts.



Box Bar Headquarters

Will only owned the Box Bar for several years as he would get asthma so bad from the Ironwood Trees that he would end up in the hospital each spring. He sold the ranch to Francis Curtis and Emmett agreed to stay to gather the cattle for a count. Cholla cactus was prevalent on parts of the ranch. Emmett's horse got cactus on his hip and was pawing with his back foot trying to get the cactus off. His foot hit Emmett's spur so hard he broke Emmett's foot. Whenever Emmett tried to get off the horse to attempt to remove the cactus, the horse would start bucking. The crew was quite a ways from headquarters and Emmett thought if he got off, he could probably not get back on the way the horse was acting. He couldn't walk back with a broken foot. Richard Doka told Emmett to ride on in and when they got to the barn, he would ride close to Emmett and catch him when he tried to get off the bucking horse; which he successfully did. Emmett was taken to St. Joseph's Hospital in Phoenix to tend to his broken foot.

After the Box Bar was sold, Emmett opened a feed store in

Scottsdale with Tom Cooley. He also did extra work at Sunshine Farms, a feed lot in Tempe, owned by his Uncle Joe Ryan. There Bill met Mel Counselor and found him painting a picture of cattle on the pasture. Mel later became quite a good artist and sold his paintings and drawings. Emmett decided the store was not for him and when it was sold, Emmett became a Federal Meat Inspector. Up until that time, only Cudahy had Federal inspectors. Bill would go with dad sometimes to meat packing plants such as Stone and Randall in Mesa. He remembers sausages hanging off the racks.

Emmett's real interest was always in the livestock. He took a job working for Sid Moeur at the Spear S Ranch at New River. He took the job because Sid advised him that he could put his own cattle on the ranch after two years. The ranch was right between New River and Cave Creek. The lower part of the ranch was on the I-17 and the acreage was for sale by Lee Akerman as Desert Hills and Desert Lake. The lake was a good-sized dirt cow tank. There were problems with the buyers not being able to establish a water well. Only one person, Jess Long, struck water and his well was exceptionally deep. That property is the site of Anthem and there are still water problems. No wells; CAP water is purchased from one of the tribes for Anthem.

The family moved to the Spear S Ranch. Janice stayed in Mesa with relatives to finish 8th grade; Bill and Nancy went to the one room school in New River. Bill was in 5th grade and Nancy was in 2nd grade. Each row was a different grade. Bill remembers the 5th graders were called to the board to do math problems involving fractions and he had to admit he did not know how to do fractions. His teacher worked with him and helped him learn his math lesson. Bill was always glad of the teacher's help as when the family moved back to Mesa he was ahead of his class in math.

The next year, the 6th, 7th and 8th graders went down to Phoenix to Arrowhead School. The high school students rode the bus with them and were dropped off on the corner of what is now I-17 and Bell Road to wait for the Washington High School bus. The school bus arrived at the Spear S ranch at 5:30 a.m. for the first pickup; then on to several ranches and up to the Yavapai County line. The Spear S was the last drop for the day. It was a long day for Janice and Bill. Nancy continued at the New River school.

The family had some excitement when New River got heavy rain for several days in a row. Janice and Bill were on the bus and the Aqua Fria was rising too high for the school bus to cross on New River Road. The students, as well as individuals who worked in town, were all at the New River Station owned by the Smithart's. Edie had the high school girls help her make Chef Boyardee Spaghetti and salad. Everyone enjoyed a nice supper. Emmett had left the ranch to go pick up Nancy at the New River School and was caught between two washes. The students at the little school were stranded. The teacher gave them dinner and they waited for their parents. Norma and the two little ones, Frances and Susan were back at the ranch. Finally, about 10 p.m., the water level in the washes had gone down and the school bus was able to cross on a back road. All the Ryans eventually met up and made it safely home.

Another exciting adventure at New River was when it snowed! The family attended Sunday School and church at the school. It began snowing during church and much to the delight of Bill and his siblings, it continued to snow. Bill and his sisters got to enjoy playing in about three inches of snow. Very exciting when you are used to the dry desert.

When Bill was 12, Sid Moeur came up to the ranch and wanted to check out the waters. He asked Bill if he knew where the all the wells and waters were located. Sid offered Bill \$5.00 if he would drive him around the ranch to check them out. His Dad gave him permission to drive Sid around. At the end of the day, he gave Bill 50 cents. Bill was upset and told his dad. Emmett jumped Sid the next time he visited and he gave him \$4.50 for Bill.

Rattle snakes were bad at the ranch and you always had to watch for them. One year 35 were killed; 7 of them in the yard.

Fellow student Pat Hammond was a friend of Bill's and his parents invited Bill to the State Fair with them. Bill was given \$5.00 and he proudly spent it all trying to win plates which he took home to his mom and dad. A 4-H Club was started in New River and both Janice and Bill joined. Janice did a cooking project and Bill showed rabbits. The 4-H Club enjoyed going together into Phoenix to see Ben Hur.

Rustler's Roost Dude Ranch in New River was bought by new owners and Emmett was asked to help them. The owners were going

back East for the summer and Emmett suggested turning the dude horses out at one of the pastures at the Spear S. The horses were so used to just walking along single file that it was easy to get them to the ranch. Bill was riding Blue Belle Wrangler and his dad told him to get in the lead and open the gate. He opened the wire gate and the horses never even got out of line; just followed along through the gate. The Ryans enjoyed getting to use the dude ranch pool all summer. Much different from the metal watering trough that was their usual swimming pool.

One summer it seemed like Emmett and Bill did nothing but pull wells as the leathers were all worn out. Jess Long, who owned property near the I-17, helped. Bill would drive the truck to pull the rope. One well could not be reached by the truck so the rope was pulled horseback.

Al Deckelmyer was a maintenance guy who repaired some fence for the ranch. His son was with him and Bill had to ride horseback to Cave Creek where the truck and trailer had been left. Al's son was invited to ride along with Bill. Norma fixed sandwiches for the boys and they headed out. When it was time for lunch, Al's son wouldn't eat as he could not wash his hands. But dirty hands didn't bother Bill as he enjoyed his mom's sandwiches.

One Christmas, Sid had promised a bonus if it had been a good year. Bill and his siblings were excited as they knew how hard their dad worked. Emmett pretty much did everything at the ranch although he did have help at round-up. Sid did pay for Emmett to have Jack Dawes shoe the horses. Emmett's shoulder was wounded in the war and the horse leaning on his shoulder began to bother him. It became too uncomfortable for him to shoe the horses. There wasn't even a Spear S branding iron; only running irons. When you were branding, you had to make sure you were on the right side of the calf to get the S done correctly. Harder than you think to draw an S upside down. The bonus ended up being a hand juicer. Emmett had worked two years and he and his dad Will were anxious to put their own cattle out. Unfortunately, the price for putting the cattle out was too high and not possible to make a profit.

At this time, Doc Agee, one of the livestock inspectors, passed away and Lester Fuller was appointed to Doc's job. Emmett was hired to take Lester's place as a sheep inspector.

Bill often went with his dad to inspect sheep. Bill remembers one time he was with his dad to inspect Frank Erramuzpe Sr.'s sheep. Frank had been a close family friend for years and he offered Bill and his dad coffee with brandy. Bill drank it as his dad told him it would be impolite not to. He also went with his dad to inspect some sheep on Alma School Road. The Basque herders were staying in a building there and Bill got brandy again. One day he went with his dad to a sheep feed lot at Casa Grande. The sheep were being put through a dipping tank as a protection against scabies. Bill helped get the sheep out and got dipped himself making him sure he would never become a victim of scabies!

Emmett wanted back in the cattle business and leased the P Bar Ranch, now the site of Fountain Hills. Bill Barnett worked for him at the ranch. The house was not in great shape and barely together. The ranch was close to Mesa and Bill's high school friends liked to come to the ranch. Janice's future brother-in-law Donnie Bryson was visiting the ranch from Flagstaff. He and Bill stopped at a cement water tank while they riding to water their horses. Wild burros were around the tank and Donnie roped the head of one and Bill was trying to heel it. The burro ran head first into the cement tank and dropped dead.

Water flowed from the cement storage tank to a cement trough. Bill was sitting on the trough one day when a rattlesnake crawled out from under the trough. The snake had a big bulge in its body. Bill hit the snake with a big rock right where the bulge was located. Surprise, soon seven little snakes appeared!

There were lots of adventures for Bill on that ranch. He remembers a gold miner who helped watch out for the place and sometimes drove the water truck. A deer was shot out of season by one of the cowboys. A venison roast was cooking in the oven when a game warden stopped by. The oven was quickly turned off so he wouldn't smell the roast.

A rod went out in the pickup at the P Bar. Bill hitch hiked to the Triple B service station at Country Club and the Payson Highway to see if they would come tow the truck in. They were busy so just tossed the keyed to Bill and told him to go tow the truck himself. Bill was only 15 and shouldn't have driven the tow truck but he got the job done.

One of the wells at the ranch had a Fairbanks motor and

the head gasket blew. Bill and his dad tried to cut one out of leather but were unsuccessful. They were told of a machine shop on 51st Street and Washington that could probably help them. Entering the shop, Bill and his dad saw 2 gaskets hanging on the wall. They bought both the gaskets and the motor ran again; although sometimes it wouldn't stop running.

Emmett's lease on the P Bar was a sub-lease. Steward Udall made a ruling that you could not sub-lease government land so the lease on the P Bar was done. The cattle were gathered and Emmett had been able to lease the ranch land of the Flying E Guest Ranch in Wickenburg.

Emmett went into business with Bob Roether, son-in-law to M.G. McCreight. Bob bought cattle at Sells and sold them at the Casa Grande livestock auction. There was a house at the auction that Emmett and Bob used. Emmett leased several pens and they were allowed to use the squeeze chute. When the cattle came from Sells, they would work them in the pens; dehorning, castrating, etc. The pregnant cows he bought were sent to the Flying E. McCreight would sometimes sell the cattle for them.

One summer Bill was staying at the Casa Grande house. He was cooking for himself and used the same frying pan and grease each day. After four days, his stomach rebelled and Bill ended up in Southside Hospital in Mesa.

Bill attended Mesa High School and he and his friends drove to Casa Grande for a football game. The group's driver was driving his dad's big Buick convertible. They bought a case of beer and dropped Bill off at the house at Casa Grande because he needed to work there the next day. The other boys got back in the car to head home to Mesa; however, the driver could not resist spinning a couple of turns in a dirt lot by the auction yard. A Deputy Sheriff was parked across the street and pulled the boys over and discovered the beer. Bill didn't get in trouble as he had been dropped off. They were good friends and didn't tell on him.

There was no house on the Flying E. A frame house was bought from Slim Babb for \$500.00 and the house was moved to the Flying E. Slim put in the butane gas line for the house. Bob Roether had three boys and they and Bill were often at the ranch. One night the Roether boys were there and everyone was sleeping.

One woke up, stood up and passed out. Another heard him fall and realized gas was in the house. He picked up his boot and threw it through the window to start clearing the gas out of the house. A very lucky escape for the boys.

Bob Roether had to pay cash when he bought cattle at Sells. Bill Barnett and Bill were driving the old bob tail taking \$44,000.00 in cash to Bob. They had a flat tire along the way and neither Bill had money to fix it. Bill Barnett had to open the money sack and get a \$20.00 bill to pay for the tire repair. He got a receipt and was really worried about people seeing they had the money. They made it to Sells ok and went with Bob to buy cattle.

Bill married Karen Jackson in 1966 and was drafted in August/1967. He trained at Fort Bliss in Texas and Fort Polk in Louisiana. Bill signed up for Airborne and went home on leave. After the leave, he took a bus all the way back from Mesa to Fort Benning in Georgia. A lady shared cookies with him all the way for which he was very appreciative. After Airborne training at Benning, he was assigned to the 173rd Airborne and sent to Viet Nam. Bill arrived in Viet Nam on April Fool's Day in 1968 and was wounded on June 17. He spent 20 days in ICU in Viet Nam, then 21 days in the hospital in Japan before being flown to Fort Bliss, Texas. On the way to Texas the plane stopped to refuel at Williams Field. It was hard to be so close to home and not get out of the plane. The pilot told him he didn't realize Bill was from Mesa.



Bill - 173rd Airborne

Bill had to walk with a cane but it was good enough for the Army to station him at Fort Hood in Killeen, Texas as a clerk. He wanted Karen to join him there, but it was hard to find a place to live as the Army was sending everyone there to finish their final paperwork before their discharge from the service. People were sleeping in cars and anywhere they could. Bill was dressed in civilian clothes and took a bus from the base to town to try to find an apartment. He saw someone moving out of an

apartment and asked if he could rent it. The landlord let him pay the remainder of the month's rent and said he could come back on payday to pay \$70.00 for the next month's rent.

Bill had to make a quick trip home to get Karen on a three-day pass. He went to the Killeen Airport to fly to Dallas/Fort Worth Airport and catch a plane to Phoenix. Trans Texas Airlines had an old DC3 to fly to Dallas. The pilot had Bill sit in the co-pilot seat as he couldn't fly without a co-pilot. Back in Mesa, he loaded Karen up and they headed back to Texas in their pickup. They were almost back to Killeen when they ran out of gas and money. Bill had an expired credit card for R & R Cattle Company and wondered if the account was still good. He got \$15.00 worth of gas and prayed the charge would go through, which it did. He was supposed to have guard duty on day four but a friend changed the date so he was OK. Bill and Karen's son Bill Jr. was born in Killeen on New Years Day. Back in Arizona, the couple had three more children - Kristine, Patricia and Mike.

Bill was ready to get out of the Army. Fort Hood was handling 100 guys a day coming back from Viet Nam and ready to be out of the Army. Bill was a clerk so he typed up his own discharge paperwork. If you got accepted at a college you could get out 90 days early. Bill had previously been taking classes at Mesa Community College and was accepted again as a student. He had spent 1 year, 9 months and 6 days in the Army and was ready to bring his family home. It usually took two weeks to process out. You had to take paperwork to a number of different departments to be signed off. The last department usually took two weeks of waiting in long lines. Bill had just put his folder down when his name was called. He went into the office wondering what was wrong. A guy asked him if there was a town in Arizona named Ajo. Bill said yes and explained where it was. The other guy said - "I told you" and went ahead and processed Bill out without the two weeks wait. Karen's parents came to help and they headed back to Arizona.

While Bill was in the service, his dad had bought half interest in the Bert Conley Ranch at Wenden. It was located at Black Mountain on the way to Alamo Lake. Emmett and his dad formed Ryan and Ryan Cattle Company and put cattle on the ranch. Emmett also leased the Tyson feed lot on 51st Avenue and the River Bottom in Phoenix. Bill went to school and worked at

Talley Industries. He helped at the feed lot or went to the Wenden Ranch on weekends. He had a 67 Chevy pickup and getting close to the ranch, a horse ran out in front of the truck and Bill braked so hard all four tires went flat. The Sheriff wondered about the tire marks in the road. While Bill was in the Army, his own horse had been hit and killed on that same road.

As on many desert ranches, it seemed like so much time was spent pumping water. Sometimes the water truck went into Wenden and filled up with water bought from the railroad. Bill Barnett, who had worked for Emmett at the P Bar, would come up to the ranch to help at round-up. Bill's brother-in-law Bum Bryson was always there to help and Bert Conley's son-in-law Bill Sweetlin was good help. When Will passed away, Emmett had to sell the cattle to settle the estate per one family member. It was hard on Emmett's whole family as they knew how much he loved the cattle industry as did Bill.

Emmett worked for a while at Hughes and Gantz and then he and Bill worked for a cousin, Jack Moloney, driving truck hauling feed from the mill at Scottsdale Feed Yards to Hughes and Gantz, Stanfield and Red River. Bill and Karen decided to open a feed store in Apache Junction and brought his parents in as partners. Rural Feed and Supply did well for many years. They were a top seller for Lakin Pellets and Arizona Feeds. They were the only feed store in the area until eleven feed stores opened; nine shortly went out of business. It was decided to sell the feed store and Bill and Karen invested in a scrap yard. Bill also purchased a tractor/trailer and drove truck for a number of years.

Bill was always an excellent mechanic and has an auto repair shop at this home in Apache Junction. At the age of 75, Bill is still a workaholic. Daughter Patricia and her family are in Minnesota; right at the North Dakota line and Bill and Karen visit often. Bill Jr. is manager of Stotz in Willcox. He and his wife Kelly established the R/5 brand and raise Longhorn cattle



Bill and Karen with Bill Jr.,
Patricia, Kristine and Mike

on their property in Willcox. Bill has kept his dad's club brand and his nephew Ryan Bryson has Will's bar eleven brand. Kristine and Mike and their families have stayed in the Salt River Valley.

Bill and Karen have lived in Apache Junction for 46 years. They enjoy spending time in Willcox and it is just like old times for Bill when it's time to brand. They have been blessed with 11 grandchildren and 12 great-grandchildren.



ELMA THUDE SANUDO

Elma Thude Sanudo's sons share their memories of their mother.

Elma was the eldest daughter of Gunnar Mikel Frandsen Thude and Anna Sophia Norby; born in 1926. She was no stranger to sheep as she had worked with her father many years working his flocks. She had been around sheep most of her life, preferring them to cattle. She did not want to ride a horse all day as would be necessary if she would help with the cattle so instead chose the sheep side of his livestock enterprise. At age 20, Gunnar put her to work following her father's sheep into the White Mountains every year. This was 1946. In the summer, the sheep were trailed to greener pastures in the Heber area of the White Mountains.

The trailing of the sheep took 30 long days in order to reach the summer pastures. There were certain locations that she would meet them on the trail to bring provisions, mail and at times assist at crossing the sheep bridge and Tonto Creek. At some of these crossings they would count the sheep to make sure they had no strays. After 3 months the sheep were tagged (their forehead and around the rear end were sheared) and the whole trail process started in reverse with the herds headed back to the valley. She was always at the tail end of the flocks as the sheep would be moved on city roads in Chandler and Mesa to begin the Heber-Reno trail northward and the return south.



Carlos and Elma crossing
Tonto Creek

Once the sheep arrived at their summer grazing pastures, she was responsible to get the herders' supplies, food, tools, dog food, mail, etc. Another responsibility was keeping the books, records of purchases for supplies and wages. This was all accomplished while living in a cabin with no electricity and only a wood stove to cook on at Ryan Ranch, which Gunnar had purchased from Bill Ryan who previously ran sheep on the property. Ryan decided to go back in the cattle business and purchased a cattle ranch at Florence Junction. The cabin had no telephone or electricity and only kerosene lighting for use

in the evening. Her father believed that every child should learn to work and indeed, she worked. Elma continued to dislike riding a horse for hours on end which was required for taking care of cattle; she was willing to care for the sheep. She was up at 4 a.m. in the morning and after a few cups of coffee she would start her day. At times during the lambing season, it was necessary for her to bottle feed the lambs. There were times she

would have two or three lambs in the house by a portable heater at death's doorstep and she would nurse them back. Her job was to get them back on their feet and back in the herd. All of the bottle-fed lambs were fed fresh cow's milk in the morning and afternoon. That was after the cows were milked and fed. She learned early on that even if she grew attached to the lamb, it was to be sold or eaten!



Sheep at Ryan Ranch

Elma married Zane Howe and had two boys, Phillip Michael Howe and Gerald Frank Howe. After divorcing Howe Elma married James Byde Hancock on March 12th, 1950. They had three children, James Byde Hancock Jr., John Gunnar Hancock and Dennis Lewis Hancock. She raised her five children in that cabin at the Ryan Ranch in the summer. Water was pumped from a well to a tank behind the house up on the hill. The stove had a radiator attached to it that heated the water. To have hot water for baths she would stoke the fire in the stove burning all day in order to heat the water enough to draw one bathtub full of warm water. The boys would fight over who got the first bath. Second and third bathed would be in dirty water. She loved to bake fresh bread starting in the morning mixing flour and whatever to make the tastiest loaves and frying what was left. The children all had chores to help around the house. Three chores that always needed done was chopping wood for the stove, milking cows and gathering eggs.



James Byde Hancock Family James, Elma with Dennis on lap, Gunnar, Jim, Mike, Gerald

Elma married Carlos Sanudo in 1962. Carlos had come to the United States in 1957 when he was 37 to herd sheep and worked for her father. She continued to work for her dad until 1968 when Gunnar sold part of his sheep outfit to her. She named her sheep company, Long Tom Sheep Co. as their sheep ran in Long Tom Canyon on the Mogollon Rim.



Carlos and Elma



Carlos Sanudo with Franco, his pet sheep

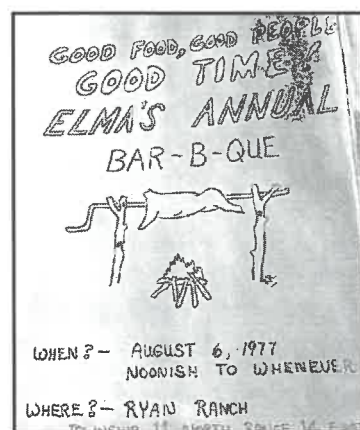
Now instead of moving her dad's sheep along the trail to summer pastures in the White Mountains and then back to the Salt River Valley, she now ran her own sheep along that trail along with her husband, Carlos. As the sheep were moved from the fields in Chandler, through the town to get to the Heber Reno trail, she delighted in telling complaining motorist and Department of Public Safety officers that livestock and that included sheep, had the right-of-way in Arizona. However, many obstacles got in her way, from DPS officers or complaining motorist, or angry people in subdivisions, nothing would keep her from her beloved sheep. Trucking of the sheep was not an option as it was too expensive. Her desire to remain as a shepherdess was dependent upon the hazards of trailing and being able to find winter feed, alfalfa, for the sheep. That became very difficult with all the housing developments buying up the land that she fed her sheep on.



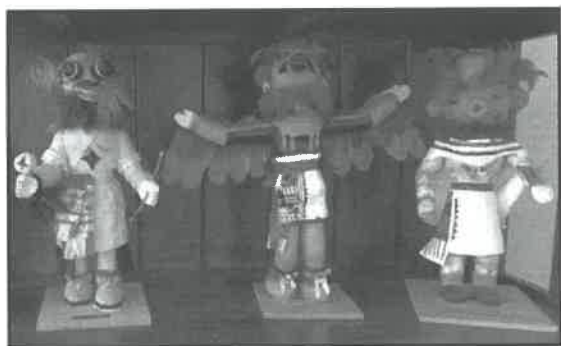
Tagging sheep at Ryan Ranch, September 1984

She moved her operation from Chandler to Elfrida in order to find a place with alfalfa instead of houses. While in Elfrida she began farming around 1300 acres and purchased some adjoining property with lakes full of catfish and started raising fish. She would go around each lake and feed the fish once a day.

For almost 60 years Elma raised her sheep until selling out in 1999 to the Auza Sheep Company, Casa Grande, Arizona. Elma raised her five sons, Gerald (1947), Mike (1949), James (1950), John Gunnar (1953), and Dennis (1955), while tending her sheep. Her boys always had food and clothing much of which she made for us to wear to school. Each year the younger would get the hand me down from the older. She was a great seamstress and craft person. In the evenings at the ranch where there was no electricity, she used a treadle sewing machine to make clothes for her dad, her husband and herself. Her dad's shirts were all western style with snaps and yokes. For her dad's shirts because of his large-tall size, she added longer arms and tail. She truly loved making his shirts. She would make leather bags and carved kachinas. There wasn't much she could not do if she put her mind to it and that included changing the oil in trucks. Gunnar's daughter Betty from his second marriage remembers a time she came to the beauty parlor to get her hair



Elma's Barbecue announcement



Kachinas and leather work of Elma's

done covered in motor oil. Betty also said that the spinning wheel that belonged to her grandmother from Denmark was given to Elma. Her hands were always busy sewing shirts for her sons and dad, knitting sweaters and mending whatever needed it. Elma was also known for her annual barbecues which brought people from every neck of the woods to eat of her delicious foods.

Raising sheep was a full-time job and she was always up early to start the day. Carlos and Elma would make a plan for the day over a pot of coffee and a few camel nonfilter cigarettes. Sadly, none of her children continued in the business she loved. Elma passed away in 2002 and Carlos in 2006.

—•— GUNNAR MIKEL FRANDSEN THUDE —•—

Gunnar Thude was a humble man instilling in his family the traits of hard work and honesty. He was always willing to lend a helping hand to other ranchers and people in need. He helped many begin in the sheep business. Gunnar was both a farmer and owner of livestock, first cattle and then sheep. The story of the Thude family in Arizona begins when Niels Pedersen (Petersen), a naturalized Arizonan from Denmark went back to Vilslev, Ribe County, Denmark, his home village in 1887 and recruited his cousin, Gunnar's father, Hans Peder Thude and two other men to return with him to Arizona. Pedersen, being well established in the Arizona farming community by this time, had two reasons for bringing men from his home village: workers for his farm and ultimately for them to acquire their own farmland. Pedersen paid the passage of the three men and the men paid off their debt by working on his farm.

Within five years of arriving in Arizona Hans Peder, using the Homestead Act, acquired 160 acres in 1892. He worked the land until sometime between 1901/02 he made a return visit to his hometown, Vilslev, Denmark. He had every intention to return to the United States and Arizona but those plans were thwarted when he met Kirstine Frandsen and they married shortly thereafter. They had seven children of which three of their sons migrated to the United States. Hans never returned to the United States. He lived the rest of his life out on the family farm in Vilslev, Denmark.

His eldest son, Gunnar, migrated in 1921 at the age of 17. First, he worked in New York earning the money for the passage to the West. He then moved to Nevada working a short time for a cousin doing cement work in Reno before coming to Arizona and working for Pedersen, just as his father had done before him. It was here at Pedersen's that Gunnar met his future wife, Anna Norby, Pedersen's maid. The couple married in 1924 and they had three children: Eldon (1924), Elma (1926), and Mary (1928).



Gunnar with Ann and children Elma and Eldon

Gunnar started clearing and working the land his father had homesteaded in 1895. Gunnar and Anna then purchased additional land near Price and Ray Roads and began farming. They began with a few milk cows. The years 1924 to 1927 were good years for Thude. He was able to buy more land and made good money. Gunnar Thude believed that Arizona had many opportunities for the legal immigrant who was willing to work hard and he was proof of that as he became a United States citizen in 1928.

But the depression came and he lost everything but his land. Hay was cut using horses as no one had money for fuel to use gasoline powered equipment. If it wasn't for that hay being sold, he would not have been able to pay the expenses during those lean years. He also did some custom hay work for others. But not all his hay was sold and it was stacking up on his farm. Jose Valencia, his foreman, told Gunnar to buy cattle or they themselves would be eating the hay!

Thus, began his livestock business! In the 1930s he purchased sheep, diversifying his livestock holdings. He bought a bigger farm in 1937 and at the same time expanded his sheep herd.

Another lesson Gunnar learned from his foreman Jose Valencia was learned when they were attending to a bloated cow they found lying down in the field. Dismounting their horses, they stabbed the cow's stomach to release the pressure and the cow jumped up quickly charging the men. Jose laid still on the ground playing dead, the cow sniffed him, turned and headed for Gunnar who was running to the fence, arriving just before the cow caught him.

By the mid-1940s, Gunnar was raising sheep under the name of the Paradise Sheep Company, bringing in two partners, Kemper Marley and Don Brown. His daughter, Elma, loved the sheep business that when she married, she did not take a wedding gift from her father but asked that the gift be invested into the sheep company. Kemper Marley had land in Scottsdale that could be used to winter the sheep and Gunnar also utilized his land in Chandler for winter pasture.



Farm in Chandler

Thude trailed part of his sheep into the White Mountains along the Heber-Reno Driveway and the herds were driven to Williams on the Tangle Creek Trail/Grief Hill Trail thru Black



Gunnar Thude at the ranch in the Holbrook area

Canyon and Cortes junction. This sheep drive took approximately six weeks. There were certain points along the trails where Thude could meet the herd to provide shepherders with supplies. If it was a good year for rain, the sheep could do some grazing in the Salt River Valley. Thude acquired additional ranches in many different parts of northern Arizona: Williams, Heber, Holbrook, and Springerville. On his ranches he raised both sheep and cattle. His land in Chandler was

used for winter grazing of the sheep. He also farmed the land in Chandler year-round, and the Springerville ranch had water rights where he grew corn for silage as well as his cattle, making it necessary for him to make frequent visits to his ranches to check on the herders, cowboys and the crops and workers. Paradise sheep company lambed approximately 13 to 14 thousand lambs a year as well as purchasing 1 to 2 thousand feeder lambs from producers (Native American Navajo Indians and others) in the Holbrook area, and at the same time running 300-400 head of cattle.



Gunnar and herder, Eliseo

Gunnar married Patty Pearce in 1948. They had three children: Betty (1950), Gunnar Mikel (1953), and Frances (1955). Pat had two children from a previous marriage, Charlene (1944) and Bill (1945). Riding horseback Pat would accompany Gunnar as he visited his sheep camps in the White Mountains. She told her children that the sorest she ever was, happened when she rode a horse with Gunnar to visit the sheep camps.



Pat, Bill, Betty, Gunnar Mikel Jr., Charlene, Gunnar holding Frances

In the late 1940s, Francis Line, a film maker, traveled with a band of Gunnar's sheep as the shepherd took them on the trail to the White Mountains. The story has been documented in the National Geographic Magazine, April 1950 issue, a book written by Francis Line, Sheep, Stars, and Solitude: Adventure Saga of a Wilderness Trail, (1986), and a documentary film.



Elma Thude Sanudo and Francis Line,
Author and Filmmaker

Gunnar was a member of the Arizona Wool Growers' Association in the late 1950s to 1977. He was also one of the directors of the association. Gunnar was a member of the Arizona Cattlemen' Association. He was also a member of the Coconino Sheriff's Posse and the Flagstaff Elks.



Arizona Wool Growers Convention, Flagstaff 1964 Board of
Directors, Seated, John Sr, Pete Espil, Harry Emback, Cliff
Dobson, standing Philip Echeverria, Jean Etchamendy,
Frank Erramuzpe

Gunnar purchased many ranches over the years. One of the ranches he owned, the 26 Bar Ranch in Springerville, he sold to John Wayne in the 1960s. At the time John Wayne requested the brand to be included in the sale of the ranch which it was.



Gunnar with a bull at 26 Bar Ranch

In 1968 he sold a band of sheep and the Heber ranch to his daughter Elma. In 1977 Gunnar sold the Williams Moose Ranch and Holbrook ranch to his nephew, John Frandsen Thude, along with the Paradise Sheep Company, its sheep and the rest of his livestock. With no responsibilities in Arizona now it made it easier for him to visit his hometown in Denmark during the hot Arizona summers. Gunnar and his third wife, Gerda would visit Denmark every summer, June to October. School children would run home telling their parents that the "Cowboy is here, the cowboy is here." One child told the author that Gunnar was well-known for his cowboy hat and boots. He remembered Gunnar and Gerda visiting his parents wearing them. The store owner in the town would make sure he was well stocked with whisky and cigars for the time Gunnar visited.

Gunnar Mikel Frandsen was proud of his accomplishments of raising a family, being a good steward of the land and taking care of his livestock, farm and his workers. He lent money to those who needed a helping hand during rough times, just like he received when he first arrived. He was always available to help fellow sheep and cattle ranchers and farmers when they needed extra help. Gunnar died in 1980, leaving a very strong legacy of hard work and honesty for his descendants. His daughter, Elma, and his nephew, John Frandsen Thude, would continue to raise the sheep he sold them for many years.

GEORGE VENSEL

I am certainly not a pioneer, but I am the grandson of pioneering families in Territorial Arizona.

My paternal grandfather, William James Vensel left the family farm in Armstrong County, Pennsylvania as a young man looking for his own land and opportunity. He arrived in Arizona in about 1885. Jim Vensel married Alice Alzina Josephine Mosier from Hickory County, Missouri on July 9, 1886, in Phoenix. They had ten children. My father Jay was their youngest child born in 1907. Their oldest daughter Sydney Belle Vensel was a 1907 graduate of Tempe Normal, "go devils"! Sydney and a sister Ada died during the 1918-1920 flu pandemic. Sydney left two daughters Eva and Elaine who were also raised by my grandparents.



George

The first Vensel Farm was on 54th Avenue in Phoenix, Arizona. The old Vensels always referred to locations by which irrigation lateral serviced the property. The Vensels down-sized probably in the 1920s when all their children were grown. Their last farm was 80 acres, between Thomas and McDowell Roads on the east side of 35th Avenue, also referred to as Lateral 15.

My grandfather Jim Vensel also had a cattle ranch at Aguila, Arizona. Jim died in 1935 at 73 years of age. Grandmother Alice died in 1951.

My maternal grandfather A. G. Walker came to Klondyke, Arizona from Rock Springs, Texas in 1906 or 1907. He married Jessey Wootan, and they had four daughters and one son. Jessey died in the 1918 flu pandemic. My mother Thelma was the youngest, born in 1915.

A. G. remarried to Francis Cobb, and they had two children, Irene, and Jerry. Jerry died in the South Pacific during World War II.

A. G. was an Angora goat rancher and part-time deputy sheriff in Graham County, Arizona.

A. G.'s brother-in-law Kane Wooton was one of the four men killed in the shootout at the Power's Cabin in the Galiuro Mountains while attempting to arrest Tom and John Powers for draft evasion during World War I. Reportedly the largest manhunt in Arizona's history at the time ensued. The Power's brothers and Tom Sisson were captured by a U.S. Cavalry Troop in Mexico. The brothers and Tom Sisson were sentenced to life in prison as there was no capital punishment in Arizona at the time.

A. G. was appointed Warden of the State Prison in Florence, AZ in the 1930s and 1940s. In 1948 he was appointed Superintendent of the newly formed Arizona Highway Patrol. His Administrative Assistant was none other than Rose Mofford, who later became an Arizona Governor.

A. G. had a ranch at Kirkland Junction, Arizona. His last ranch was the J V Bar east of Wickenburg, Arizona. His son Ira kept the ranch into the 1960s. A. G. died in 1951.

My Parents

My father A. J. "Jay" Vensel and an older brother Pierce were establishing a farm between Coolidge and Casa Grande in the mid-1930s. My dad also managed the Florence Prison Farm and that's where my dad, Jay and my mother Thelma Walker met, when Thelma came to visit her dad, A. G. Walker, (prison Warden) and stepmom Francis. That's right my folks met in prison!

In 1945, the year I was born, my father sold his share of the Vensel Brothers' Farm to his brother Pierce. Due to family health reasons we moved to Prescott, AZ where my dad became the Shell Oil Distributor. While in school I participated in football, track, and wrestling. I was also involved with FFA and was President of our Chapter. When I graduated from high school in 1963, my family left Prescott. I attended Arizona State University in Tempe. I graduated from ASU in 1969 with a degree in Wildlife Biology and a minor in Range Management. I also attended the University of Arizona to obtain my final Range Management certification (Linda made me put that comment in my history - we have a mixed marriage ASU & U of A). I worked for the Santa Fe National Forest in New Mexico where I became fluent in speaking Spanish. I then returned to Arizona to work for the

Coughlin Family in Peeples Valley, Arizona. I married Julie Coughlin in 1969 after graduation and work in New Mexico.



George taking care of business

In 1971 the Coughlin's formed a company in what is now Namibia, Africa and purchased a sheep and cattle ranch with an African partner. I worked there to convert it into a wildlife operation that would eventually offer fee hunting for a variety of antelope and other wildlife. Their son, Rick Coughlin was an avid hunter and died very young. The African Ranch was to honor his life. I left the Coughlins in 1973 when their daughter, Julie and I divorced. However, I returned to manage the ranch after Jim Coughlin's death until it was sold.



George at Namibia, Africa



George and Hub Cap

I enjoyed team roping during high school and college. I won a few pots, although I was a very average roper, but I really did enjoy the sport. My horse "Hub Cap" got old and crippled, and I had to put him down in about 1975 and that ended my roping days.

From 1975 to 1980 I worked for the Victorio Company. I administered range improvement projects on their ranches. I lived on the Heady Ashburn, Buenos Aires, and Gray Ranches. In 1975 I married Marguerite Cowan Jones while living at the Buenos Aires. We had two children Bill and Dess. Marguerite's parent were Bill and Cordy Cowan. I learned a lot from Bill and hold him in high esteem. The last couple of years I was at the Buenos Aires, I managed the north half of the ranch with three great Mexican cowboys. Marguerite and I divorced in 1980. Seems like Range Management was a better fit for me than marriage.



George on one of his hunting trips

Hunting has always been one of my most enjoyable pastimes. When working for the Victorio Company, I started a hunting program on the Gray Ranch in Southwest New Mexico - Whitetail and Mule Deer along with Antelope. My record book Coues Deer came from the Gray Ranch.

I later started my own company the Western Resource Management Company. I offered expertise in public lands conflicts, rangeland wildlife management and interim ranch management. I spent most of my time traveling and working between Arizona, New Mexico, and Oregon.

Around 1982 I met Linda Brooks Carpenter during the Arizona National Livestock Show. We were introduced by some of my ex-in-laws - go figure. In 1984 we decided to take a chance and get married. To be closer to home, I sold Western Resource Management Company and went to work for Louis Maxcy at the Arizona Livestock Production Credit Association (PCA). This began my many years working in the agricultural banking industry.



George and Linda

In 1990 I worked for the Stockmen's Bank as Vice President of Agricultural Lending. I worked out of their branch in Buckeye, Arizona. When the bank sold to National Bank of Arizona I left and began working with Frank Shelton in starting Central Arizona Bank in Casa Grande, AZ.



George enjoying one of his and Linda's trips

In 2009, Linda was able to oversee the building of our new house along with some property that her family left us. After our home in Mesa sold, I drove from Patagonia to Casa Grande to work for a period of time. After two years that bank sold and I happily retired in 2011. Farm and ranch folks are the best people to deal with. I maintain many friends to this day with some of my former customers.

We became involved in Sandhill Farms between McNeal and Elfrida, Arizona in the Whitewater Draw. The property had 60 acres of farmland and about 100 acres of seasonal wetlands. We grew millet and smart weed for waterfowl, and some pinto beans. I pastured 50 head of cattle. We sold our share in 2013 but continued a small operation on property between Sonoita and Patagonia where we now live on land that was left to us by Linda's parents, Stayton and Rose Brooks.

When we started Whitewater Cattle Co., we had some Brangus cattle. During one of the livestock industry organization fundraisers, I won a registered Polled Hereford heifer from the University of Arizona's (U of A) show string. Linda immediately claimed her, and the Brangus cattle were no more. We purchased another Polled Hereford heifer from the U of A and so began our little herd of registered calves. Linda kept the cattle gentle as dogs with carrots; she says they are a new breed of cattle "carrot critters". We also pasture a few cattle in the winter if we have had a good monsoon.



George getting ready to brand



We use the following brands for Whitewater Cattle Co., although it seems more Linda's than mine since she took over the registered herd. Linda's brand is L backward B, stacked and my brand is triangle bar inverted triangle.



I am very proud of Linda and all her accomplishments and awards with all the agricultural organizations. Linda and I are fortunate to have so much in common. We really enjoy our rural lifestyle in a beautiful home that Linda designed. We are now heading into our 39th year of marriage, I think we got it right this time. I am sure I will stick around as my headstone is already at the Black Oak, a pioneer resident only cemetery. As I told Linda, we are on the pay now die later program.

We are active in our community and participate in many events at the Sonoita fairgrounds and our church. We have our cows to watch over and dogs that watch over us. I got a bird dog in the past couple of years that is smart as a whip, but we seldom go bird hunting. I still hunt, but I don't shoot much.

The hills have gotten a lot steeper the past few years. It is also difficult to get a permit. I refer to the draw period as "Passover". But we love our home with mountain views and a green countryside when we have a good monsoon.



LINDA M. BROOKS VENSEL

This is the biography of Linda M. Brooks Vensel; daughter of Rose C. Wearne Brooks (Globe, Arizona) and J. Stayton Brooks (Sonoita, Arizona). Linda has one older brother William (Bill) Elbert Brooks.

Linda is probably known for being a consummate volunteer with a love for Cowbelles, Agriculture and Hereford cattle.



Linda



Linda feeding one of her calves

Linda's dad was Stayton Brooks, born in Tempe in 1917, but lived on the homestead in Sonoita, Arizona. He remained in Patagonia, did ranch work and broke colts for neighboring ranches, then later had his own contractor-maintenance company, The Will-Do-It Shop. Her mother was Rose Celia Wearne Brooks who was born in Globe, Arizona 1924, but lived in Patagonia most of her life. Rose worked for the government at Ft. Huachuca, and the U.S. Forest Service for many years, in Patagonia, Arizona, then finally retired from the U.S. Border Patrol in Nogales, Arizona. For a couple of years, we lived on the Andrada Ranch where my brother and I attended a two-room schoolhouse in Vail, Arizona. Our teachers were Ms. Lotti (grades 1-4) and Ms. Estes (grades 5-8). After those grades we would have been bussed to Tucson for high school. However, we moved long before that time.

Linda's brother Bill graduated from Patagonia High School and Northern Arizona University with a teaching degree then later received an Engineering Degree as his Masters. Bill, like his dad is known as someone who can fix anything. He has two sons, Will and Tyler.

A little background for Linda's pioneer heritage. Her maternal grandfather Nicholas Wearne was born in Silverton, Colorado in 1897 and came to Globe, Arizona when he was a miner. Her maternal grandmother Ida May Wills, born in 1899, came to

Arizona from Cornwall, England when she was 4 years old. Linda's great-grandfather was William Wills. He had an insurance agency in Globe, and was the mayor of Globe, AZ until his passing of Tuberculosis.

Her paternal grandfather, Ira Dealos Brooks was born in 1886, and came to Arizona by wagon from Floresville, Wilson, Texas, he was two years old. His father started a dairy in Tempe, Arizona on Creamery Row (now University Blvd). They brought good horses, cattle, oxen, and draft horses. They often rented out horses and oxen to dredge the canals in the Tempe/Phoenix area. As Ira grew older, his dad kept sending him to Sonoita, to prove up a homestead, but he kept returning to Tempe.

Linda's grandmother (Lillian Stayton) was born in 1891. She came to Arizona from Salt Lake City, Utah in 1910 as a young girl to attend Tempe Normal (later Arizona State University) to obtain her teaching certificate. While attending school she lived with and served as a nanny to the Dr. B.B. Mouer family.

During this time, on his trips back to Tempe, she met Ira Brooks. Upon graduation from Tempe Normal in April 1912, they married later that summer. Only after his marriage did Ira and Lillian Brooks prove up their homestead in Sonoita. While living on the homestead, each time Lillian became pregnant (Elbert, Sidney, Stayton & Margaret), she would return to Tempe to have Dr. Mouer deliver her babies. Linda's father, Stayton was delivered by Dr. B.B. Mouer who would later become an Arizona Governor.

The Brooks homestead had good horses and cattle in addition to some dairy cattle and a large garden. The milk was either sold locally or put on the train and sent to Tempe to the Brooks Dairy there. As the boys grew older, they hunted pelts to sell to the University of Arizona, broke colts for neighboring ranches, worked for the Sonoita Fairgrounds and anything else they could do to add to the income. Lillian also taught school in the nearby one-room schools. It was an exciting life with interactions with Pancho Villa, some Indians, and an unsettling life in the new West.

Linda was born on May 3, 1948, in Nogales, AZ. She always said she could have had one of the best birth certificates on file, as her pregnant Mom (Rose C. Wearne Brooks) became "in

labor" while attending a Sonoita Horse Show where Linda's Dad (John Stayton Brooks) was showing horses. The veterinarian at the fairgrounds helped Rose to sit on the wheel-well of a horse trailer until they could get the car over to her to take her to the hospital in Nogales. Linda had always wished that her birth certificate would have read: born at the Sonoita Fairgrounds, at the Sonoita Horse Show, and delivered by old Dr. Pickerell, DVM, the local veterinarian - what fun that would have been!



Linda with her prize winning roses

Something very special to Linda was that she was raised in Patagonia, attended and graduated from the same schools as both of her parents; so, her family has had a long-standing history in the community of Patagonia.

At our home in Patagonia, we had a large orchard, attached to that were corrals/pens and arena-area where I could keep and work my horses, raise my 4-H steers, sheep, and lots of chickens. People would drive by and watch my horses as we worked out each day or watch as my steers or sheep as they were being groomed or halter trained - often critiquing or offering suggestions to help out.

As a child I was able to have the run of the town, everyone looked out for each other; it was a great place to be raised. After school, I could just tell my mom or grandmother which direction I was going to be riding my horse and I could take off for a couple of hours on a nice leisurely ride, usually by the nearby Sonoita Creek - just as long as I was home when my mom got home from work. We were safe and didn't have to worry about the troubles of today with children off by themselves. It was not unusual to see me riding my horse from Patagonia to Sonoita (13 miles) during the horseshows or 4-H events. But by the time I got to Sonoita, my horse would be drawn up and certainly not in any show condition.

I was also very active in sports at school, particularly in Volleyball and cheerleading, so never missed a game at school, plus my brother Bill played football, baseball, basketball, and

track, so the family was always there to cheer us on. The whole town always showed up to support our team and school events.

The annual Rodeo and Fair were always big events in Sonoita and the whole family would always attend. My dad usually volunteered at the fairgrounds in some manner and my mom typically baked some goods to donate to the kitchen. It was always a busy time.

Being a member of the local 4-H program was probably the most influential thing in my life, as it taught me to work hard for a project and hopefully be rewarded, if not try again next year. 4-H taught me to care and maintain my animals or sewing projects, and perseverance - if it didn't work out this year try harder for next year. It also taught me recordkeeping for my projects and verbal presentation. But most of all, it taught a shy person to be able to speak up in public whether it was giving "reasons" for the county livestock judging team, being interviewed, or giving a demonstration. I think 4-H was my best preparation for my future.

I ran for Rodeo Queen each year and always got runner-up, then I ran for Miss Santa Cruz County, and you guessed it, I got runner-up. I was known for my sewing skills and received a National 4-H Award and scholarship which helped to further my education, along with the sale of my steers with money saved for college. I was very lucky that I didn't have to purchase a steer for my 4-H projects. Our neighbors, the Bergiers, had a ranch just outside of town and they would bring the little "doggie" calves to me to bottle feed and raise for my projects. Of course, at show time, my steer was about half the size of most of the other steers. But it was fun, and I learned a lot. In many counties, my steer probably would have been "sifted" because it was too young or small, but Santa Cruz County Fair always let me compete.

After graduating from high school, I took off for The University of Arizona in Tucson, lived in a dorm and worked part-time at the Corral and Wallace's Western Wear while in school. My major was in Home Economic and Business Education through the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences. And I did receive the honor of being a U of A Volleyball Letterman

After one year of college, I married Bill Carpenter and moved to the Carpenter Ranch in the Tortolita Mountains in

Marana, Arizona. I began working at the Tiger Den (serving ice cream and hamburgers), owned by the high school principal, Tony Komadina - best decision I ever made. Mr. Komadina soon hired me on at the high school as an attendance clerk and encouraged me to go back to the UofA, even letting me off work early in order to get to my classes in Tucson on time (as long as I came to work early or didn't take a lunch). I continued my coursework until I finally graduated in 1974 and got the job of Business Education Teacher at the high school. I also was the Volleyball Coach, Cheerleader and Rodeo Club Sponsor for several years.

While married I helped to raise two stepsons, working with my horses and cattle and dogs, working at the school and taking classes at the UofA, and we enjoyed going to Roosevelt Lake and waterskiing with a wonderful group of friends from the Tucson Ski Club. In addition, we attended many rodeos and team roping's over the years. Unfortunately, after 11 years this marriage ended in divorce, however Bill and I remained friends until his passing.

After the divorce, I moved to Tucson and bought a house and had two wonderful roommates, Beth and Lynn who worked at the high school with me. I also took on extra work with Pima College to help make ends meet. Over the years I have met some great friends, however, at this time in my life I had to sell my horses as I didn't have a good location to keep them and financially it just didn't work out. A sad day in my life. I plugged along for another 7 years living in Tucson without my horses. During this time, I was also working towards a master's degree and accounting certificate, so in 1980, I finally accomplished that part of my education.

Along my journey, I was always a volunteer or belonged to Cowbells or Cattle Industry Organizations, which was my fun time in life, and I could still stay connected to livestock in many ways and old friends. It was at one of these events - the Arizona National Livestock Show in the old Coliseum Club that some friends of mine, the Cowans, introduced me to their ex-son-in-law George Vensel. We dated a couple of years, then got engaged.

In 1984 George and I got married. He was a Range Management Biologist and was doing quite a bit of travel. I had said if we are going to be married, we should at least be in the same



Linda and George

state, so he became an Agriculture Loan Officer at the Livestock PCA. From George's marriage, he had two children Bill and Dess. They are now adults, both successful in life, and have given us four grandchildren: Alexya, Garrett, Madelyn and Deven.

We moved to Mesa, and I left education at Marana High School. I had been employed at the school for 17 wonderful years. Connie Cowan recommended that I work in the Agricultural Dept. at Valley National Bank; so there my big change began. During my 16 years as a banker, it was the tumultuous times in banking - I worked in the Agricultural/Credit Departments for 5 banks but only in 2 buildings in downtown Phoenix, due to the name changes of the banks. With these changes, many banks did not know if they wanted Agriculture or just Commercial Depts., so it was difficult for an employee and customers if you really wanted to stay with an Agricultural Bank. So, one day several of us left the bank and went to the Arizona Dept of Agriculture at the Arizona Capitol Complex. I became their Procurement Manager and Auditor, which I did for another 9 years before I retired. Yeah!!

In 2003, I finally received my Agriculture Degree from the University of Arizona, just for fun. During this time, I was active as a U of A Alumni, enjoying Wildcat athletics, Homecoming and belonging to several U of A organizations, and I received several awards and honors from the University, along the way.

Over the years, George and I have been on many fun trips to Rocky Point, cruises to Mexico and Alaska, a wonderful trip to Ireland and spent time traveling the country, and a fun trip to the New England States: Massachusetts, Maine, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, Vermont, and Cape Cod. In addition to our travels, we spent many fun years with friends attending the National Finals Rodeo in Las Vegas. We have similar likes and interests, to the livestock industry and friends we have met over the years, in addition to our love of animals. We are so very lucky to have found each other and I am happy to say that today we have been married for 38 years. George is a very patient, humorous and loving person. I am a lucky lady.

Immediately after my retirement, I went back to Patagonia to help care for my mother who had recently become ill. I was so happy I was retired and able to be with her. While I was there, I looked over the building of our new, forever home. We were lucky enough to have enough property to run our little herd of registered Polled Herefords as well. George stayed in Mesa to sell our beautiful home there, and to work his last days until he could retire. My Mom passed away in April 2009, and our new home was completed in May, but George was soon to join me in our new home.

We call our home the Whitewater Cattle Co. using my brand of L backward B stacked, and George's brand Triangle Bar inverted Triangle.



Moving back to Patagonia has been a real blessing to us. We both love it here and our new home. We have enough land to run some cattle and keep our animals. George has a Brittany Bird Dog that keeps him busy, he enjoys hunting and living out in the country and has become one with the community and made many friends here. We are members of the Fair and Rodeo and the Elgin Community Club (which my grandmother was a charter member of in 1932), we attend many of the events in town, oversee Communion at the Patagonia Methodist Church and enjoy visits from our many friends who like the drive down to our beautiful country.



Linda with her pride and joy

And we know that we will always remain in this area as we will be buried at the Black Oak Cemetery on the way to Canelo, which only accepts pioneers to the area or their family. As a matter of fact, our headstone is already there. George says we are on the pay now die later program.

Over the years, Linda has received many awards and recognitions, but she thinks her biggest reward as meeting George Vensel and making the big loop and returning back to Patagonia, Arizona.

Linda belongs to many organizations including the Arizona Cattle Grower's Association, Southern Arizona Cattlemen's Protection Association, Arizona Farm Bureau, Sonoita Fair and Rodeo, Trustee of Sonoita Fair and Rodeo Association, Mountain Oyster Club, Patagonia Historical Museum, Sonoita Heritage Museum, American Hereford Association - Producer, Trustee 1988 - 2004, and she is a former Board Member of the Cowman's Club.

A life member of the Arizona National Livestock Show, Linda served as a Board Member and on the Scholarship Committee. Linda is a past Board Member of the Arizona Cattle Industry and Education Foundation, currently serving as a Scholarship Trustee. She was Chairman of the Logo Contest and Boice Hall of Fame.

Linda was Secretary and prior Board Member of Maricopa County Extension as well as serving on the Pima County Farm Bureau Board and a member of Santa Cruz County Farm Bureau. She was a member of Class II of Project CENTRL - Center for Rural Leadership Program. She is Past-Executive Board Vice-President and Past President of the alumni association. Linda was prior Board Secretary and Scholarship Committee for the Bill Owen Cowboy Scholarship Association.

A prior member of the University of Arizona Ag 100, Linda was on the National Alumni Board and prior U of A Homecoming Chair for two years. She was a member of the Agricultural Alumni Board serving as President, Past-President, secretary and committee member for the National Agriculture Alumni and Development Association (NAADA), Letter Women in Volley Ball and AdvoCat.

Linda is a consummate volunteer with a love for Cowbelles and is a life member of the organization. She is Past State President and current scholarship chairman. Linda belongs to several Local Cowbelle groups including Tucson Cowbelles President, currently serving as Past-President and Chairman of Tucson Festival of Books. She is a forty-year member of Santa Cruz County Cowbelles and is Vice-President of the Local. Linda serves as Scholarship Chair of the Elgin-Sonoita Cowbelles. She is a member of the American National Cattle Women and when Arizona State Cowbelles hosted the National Beef Cook-Off, Linda served as Fundraising Chair (2000-2001). She was also Chairman of the 1995 and 2000 NCBA Region VI meetings hosted by Arizona State Cowbelles.

The Arizona State Cowbelles selected Linda as Cattle Woman of the Year in 2009 in honor of her outstanding work for the organization. The University of Arizona Alumni Association honored Linda as 1998 Distinguished Citizen and she received the President's Award in 1999 from the Alumni Association. She was selected as a member of the University of Arizona National Alumni Board and outstanding Alumni Association - College of Agriculture (CALs) in 1999. In 2022, Linda was chosen by the Center for Rural Leadership as the Outstanding Agrarian Alumni.





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