

History of the Upper Hamsfork Valley

By Jacob V. and Alice Antilla (1974)

Ham's Fork, a principal tributary of the Black's Fork of the Green, got its name in 1824, when it was trapped by Zacharias Ham, one of Ashley's Lieutenants. History has it that Zacharias Ham went to California from New Mexico in 1850-51 and is said to have drowned while trapping on the lower Colorado River,

The river head is around forty miles (as the crow flies) from Kemmerer, Wyoming. It begins with a small spring in the Devil's Hole country by the Red Park and runs into the Black's Fork of the Green just west of Granger, Wyoming. The river is around twenty to thirty feet across with the depth depending on the time of year and the snow fall. Sometimes in the late summer, you can walk across it on the stones without getting your feet wet. In the spring it can be too treacherous to cross at all. We have seen it when it flooded the complete meadow where the Viva Naughton Lake now is.

There are many tributaries and many ice cold springs running into it before it reaches Kemmerer. Dempsey Creek is to be mentioned, as it brings all of the ugly red clay down with it and really dirties the water. I remember at least one occasion coming to Kemmerer with my Dad when we couldn't cross the county bridge and had to go over the hill to Susie because of the flooding. The main road of the valley only goes as far as Indian Creek, then crosses the river to the west, goes down Basin Creek past the Big Spring (Kelly Spring), on to the west branch of the Hamsfork, then on to Kelly Ranger Station and over the mountain to Cokeville.

The river itself was a delight to the trapper. It housed martin, mink, muskrat, beaver, and rainbow trout, which in the early years were large enough to be known as salmon, as referred to in the Journals of J. Goldsborough Bruff, in August, 1849, as they crossed the Hamsfork. Other fish were the native trout, herring and suckers.

When one stands at the "Lone Pine", or on "Beaver Creek Hill", and looks up and down the valley, it is hard to realize that less than one hundred years ago, this was all covered with sage brush and willows. There must have been many trappers, and people who started to settle here and then gave up and moved on. We know this happened as we have seen it happen each year, a little more, since we can first remember. The early settlers had to clear the sage brush and willows and make irrigation ditches to grow wild hay for winter feed. Each generation has continued to do the same; the only difference being is that modern equipment has made the progress easier. This is not a farming country, but a very good sheep and cattle summer range, which apparently was what the valley was first used for. The early history seems to indicate that Beckwith and Quinn from Cokeville and the Spur ranch from Green River ran their cattle here in the summer. Perhaps there were others too.

This will by no means be a complete history of the people and events in the valley as it is many years too late for that, but by talking to people who know some information, and with our own knowledge, we will do the best we can. No doubt there will be those you who knew it differently. This is not the life story of anyone, but a little information on those we knew. Water Right dates are taken from the official record book. The dates on the ranches are taken from the Lincoln County Court House Records, the U.S. Blueprint Maps and other information from the Postal Department in Washington, D.C. and early local newspapers, beginning in 1898, from the Kemmerer Gazette Office. The town of Hamsfork that will be mentioned in the history was located about a mile and a half northwest of the present town of Kemmerer, Wyoming. We have very little information on the original town. The older generation says that it was first called the "Y"; perhaps before the Post Office was established. Hamsfork was first the Pony Express Mail Station located on the south side of the Black's Fork River, about a half of a mile southwest of the present town of Granger, Wyoming. When the railroad went through Granger, and the Pony Express was discontinued, this mail station was no longer needed. In Crofut's "New Overland Tourist and Pacific Coast Guide", Vol. 1-1878-9. Ham's Fork is mentioned, in part, (Ham's Fork rises about forty miles to the northwest, in Hodge's Pass.) This is from Granger, Wyoming.

We have been asked, "Why did they pick this location for the town of Hamsfork?" From reading history we learn that they had to have a helper [engine] to get over Hodge's Pass, on the Oregon Short Line, both

ways from east to west; therefore, Hamsfork and Fossil were both established and made with a Y, for this purpose. They were able to make a good deep well for water in the draw at the Hamsfork town site, with the town on both sides of the draw. When you think of this area (that later became Kemmerer) at that time being all hills and sage brush, with a Buffalo Wallow in the center, one imagines it could not have looked much better than the site chosen for Hamsfork. The Post Store and Dr. J. D. Hastle's home were on the south side of the draw. The town itself was typical of all other western towns of that time. The Oregon Short Line Railroad went through this area in 1881-1882.

In the discussions of the various ranches in Hamsfork Valley, we will follow their geographical locations on the Hamsfork road as it leaves Frontier and goes north along the river. The road at one time went over the hill to the west of the present highway, on what the Frontier people called "Gut Pile Hill" (named from a slaughter-house dump ground). It crossed the river on a county bridge (a little north of the one now used) and about where the Utah Power and Light Company have their pump house. Then it went almost where it does today, except closer to the meadow. A branch of the road went over the hill to where the Sawmill was later located, and on to the Fontenelle and LaBarge country.

First Ranch

The first ranch, now the James O. Maltby home, is located about two miles north of Frontier. The home is on the left hand side of the old La Barge - Piney Highway. The ranch has 140.6 acres of ground. Part of it was Patent to Emil A. Edlen in 1914, the rest to John A. Anderson in 1915, with both selling to Lincoln Kemmerer Coal Co. in 1915. Lincoln Coal Co. sold to Joseph A. Williams Jr. in 1931. The Fox Farm started here in 1928. On Dec. 9, 1952, Roy A. Mason, President of the Fox Farm, sold 40 pelts for \$60.00 each.

Rodeo

About half a mile west of the Maltby home, on the bench north of the highway, Nellie and Chuck Nelson held their first "Big K" Rodeo on August 7th and 8th, 1971. A two-day event, this was an R.C.A. approved Rodeo, with Swany-Kerby Stock being used. They held their second Rodeo on August 5th and 6th, 1972. The Rodeo for 1975 was held on July 29th in connection with the Kemmerer Community Carnival, proceeds going to the Community Carnival. Stock for the Rodeo was furnished by R. N. Rodeo Inc.

The Hamsfork Schools

The school on the lower end of the valley was on the Fenner ranch, north of the Fenner house close to the mouth of West Fall Hollow. School was also held in the old Sutton home at one time, since both Mary Wood Price and Sim Miller attended school at the Sutton home. Annie Wood Smalley told her daughter that her first teacher's name was Miss Curtis but we have no further information about her. Sarah Helen Fenner taught this school when she first came to Wyoming in 1886. An article from the local newspaper states; "Sept. 27, 1899 - Miss Maggie Cunnington arrived Monday from Evanston and will take charge of the school of Hamsfork, which began the first of the week." She was later married and her name was Maggie Cunnington Nickolson. In 1913, when the school district changed from School District No.10 to School District No 1, she became the County Superintendent. We have no further information on this school. Mrs. Dorothy Somsen is now the proud owner of the school bell used at this school.

The first school on the north end of the valley was located just north of Lake Creek, about half way between the Creek and the John Charlesworth house, on the Issac Ferguson property. The school was built by Issac Ferguson in 1897 and was a community building since it was made for a branch of the L D S Church, but was also used as a social hall and a school house. But referring to an article taken from the Kemmerer Camera, there must have been school held here before 1905. Sept. 30. 1905 - "Miss Agnes Brebner of Laramie, Wyo. under the direction of Prof. Swanson. had opened the Hamsfork school, which had not had a school for several years, there were fifteen to twenty children, mostly Primary. During the time the school was vacant, several different families lived in it. When Miss Brebner came to the Hamsfork to teach, the school was held in the little house Isaac Ferguson had built to the north of the Charlesworth house. This building was infested with "bed bugs" carried there by the swallows building their nest under the eaves. It was abandoned and, on Oct. 13, 1906, Samuel B. Adams, who now owned the Issac Ferguson property,

and was living in the building at this time, sold the log building, that Issac Ferguson had built in 1897 for a church, to School District No.10, and it remained the school until 1932, when it too, became infested with the "bed bug" brought by the swallows. At least one teacher had to put the legs of his bed in cans of kerosene, in order to be able to sleep.

This school was one large room with a platform in the front, which was raised about one step. The teacher's desk and a big pot-bellied stove were on the platform. In the back on one side were rows of metal hook hangers for the coats, with a shelf above for the lunch buckets. On the other side was a book case and water bucket with wash stand. The door was at the end or back, of the room and opened to the east, on to a porch which was the full length of the building and about two steps high. The seats were connected together in rows and were three sizes - large, medium and small. They faced the teacher's desk, facing west. There were four big windows on the south side. The water for the school came from a big hand pump just north of the porch. Later, the water was brought from the spring which was just over the edge of the hill to the west. This then was the appearance of the school in 1920. The teachers had to live in with the families, and a lot of the people boarded them free just to keep them, as rural teacher's wages in 1920 were \$75 to \$80 a month. In other communities this practice of boarding teachers and providing school buildings was also followed. Either in 1920 or 1921, the school district built one room onto the west end of the school for the teacher to live in. There were grades Primary through the eighth grade taught here until 1928 when the ninth grade was included. It was only required that the pupil finish the eighth grade or be sixteen years of age, before they could quit school. There was a long bench in front of the desks. There would be quiet periods when all of the pupils studied their lessons, then the teacher would call the class she wanted to come to the front and sit on the bench, such as, "Class four come to the front please." and she would hear the lesson. In this way each student received the primary class through the eighth grade lessons every year for eight years. I think this was a good system - at least for the 'thick' heads. There were Spelling Bee's when all of the pupils went up and stood in front and the first one to miss a word would have to take his seat. It was a proud moment for the one who managed to be the last one back to his seat.'

There were programs and plays throughout the year, when the parents were invited to come and watch the talents of their children. Christmas was the main program of the year. The teacher always seemed to be able to provide extra treats, and the children were always excited about it. A Christmas tree was put up in the front on the platform, decorated and lighted with bright colored candles. The year Luella Bloom taught; her uncle played Santa Claus. As he climbed through the window he got too close to the tree and his whiskers caught fire, which caused a little excitement.

We never stayed in the school at recess time unless there was a bad storm. There was a flag pole out in front of the school where we tied a long rope and played Jump the Rope. Everyone had to take a turn at the end of the rope and two or three could jump at a time. There was a fence built around the school ground that had a pole around the top. We would see how many times we could walk or run around this pole before we fell off, and believe me the older boys were quite unhappy when they would meet the little kids and have to get off to go around them. Kick the Can was always a favorite, and wore the toes out of our shoes. We played tag as follows: the fence was one goal and we made a line in the dirt for the other. I didn't mind this game if I wasn't the last one getting to the fence; then I was IT and usually stayed that way until the bell rang. We played Dock on Davy, and many other games. As soon as the snow came, we made a big ring in the snow and played Fox and Geese. If we stayed indoors we played Tick Tack Toe or put a good march record on the phonograph and marched around the desks. In the spring of the year we would drown gophers out of their holes and how those boys would hate me when they would carry water in little cans all the way from the spring and I was left to drop a rock on it when it came out and I would miss!

We never had to take work home with us (except memory work) until we were in the grades where we made book reports. Then we had to read the books at home and write the book reports at school.

The teachers could punish the pupils the way they saw fit; usually it was to stay in at recess, but occasionally it was a little more. We would get a rap on the hand with a ruler during penmanship if we were caught doing wrong and a punch in the back if we didn't sit up straight. One of my sisters had been pretty trying one day and the teacher sat on the desk, turned her over her knee, unbuttoned the "back door" and layed it on, in front of the whole school. Our parents didn't go for that, but I believe it did some good. Once I

got a good switching on my legs for not doing my English, and I know now that the teacher should have switched a little harder.

The dances were held in the school and sometime in the late 'Teens the people held 'Box Socials' and raised enough money to put a hard wood floor in the building. They also purchased a cabinet type phonograph and the school bought records and used this for music in the school. They bought a sixty-cup coffee pot and cups to go with it; these were still in use as long as we had dances. The pot bellied stove was flat enough on the top to hold the big coffee pot.

When we moved to our home across from the present Viva Naughton Lake, our family were the ones farther away from the school (about three or four miles) so we used our team and picked up the Antilla and Carollo children. I am sure the school district must have paid my Dad for this. We would get up at five o'clock in the morning to get the team and ourselves ready for school. While my brother Ted was going to school, he was old enough to drive; other wise, one of the adults in the family had to do the driving. If they had to haul hay, they would make one trip do and we would ride on the hay. A barn was built to keep the horses in when they were kept at the school. Most usually it was a fun time for us riding to school together. We had the horses trained so that the minute we got in the wagon they would start off on a gallop. Because I always liked to be out first, one day Nielo (one of the 'Big' kids) swiped my cap and put it up on the transom above the door to tease me. By the time he finally gave it to me, I was so unhappy that I ran out and got in the wagon and sat down. The team took off on a gallop, and I just sat there. Believe me, Nielo really had to stretch his legs that day to catch up, or they would all have walked home. I don't know when I would have decided to stop the team; I could have, if I had wanted to.

Marcus Nelson remembers one of the teachers taking them over to the Batista Carollo ranch to see how they made cheese. Luella Bloom took the classes to the Johnson ranch to see the Post Office. We borrowed horses and went horse back. At the end of the school year we had a picnic which we always looked forward to. This school closed for the last time in May 1932, with Catherine Vehar as the last teacher. In the fall of 1932, the new school on Lake Creek was opened and was in session until it was closed about 1950 and the children from the Hamsfork were then bused to the Kemmerer schools. This school was located about a fourth of a mile south of Lake Creek, and on the east side of the present Hamsfork highway. The building was sold to Ben A. Brown who moved it to his ranch home, and had started to remodel it, when he sold the ranch to the Utah Power and Light Company. He then brought the building to Kemmerer, Wyoming to 1309 1 West Avenue and finished remodeling it, and it is their present home.

Another school, called the New Hamsfork School, was built in 1925. It was located where the Viva Naughton Camp Ground is now located. This school was built because of the distance the Percival Buck and Leonard Buck children had to travel. The Antilla and Sim Miller children also attended this school; later there were Junior and Robert Stock, the Bert Long children and then Johanna and Jaunita Baldwin. This made some competition as the two schools would visit back and forth and try to outdo one another. Both this school and the second Lake Creek school had teacherages built on to them, which opened into the school room, as well as having their own outside doors. The Lake Creek school had to have water carried from the Adams ranch; The New Hamsfork school had water carried directly from the river. The school furnished folding paper cups, and the water was kept in a bucket in the hallway of the school for the children to drink and wash. During the winter of 1929 and 1930, my sister Lucy and I carried the water for the New Hamsfork school and were paid for it; I believe it was 25 cents a day. I think there was a limit as to how much we had to carry but the teacher never used more than she had to. The money helped us to buy some of the things we couldn't have otherwise.

We walked to school most of the time. There was a foot bridge across the river, and a few times, in playing around, a lunch bucket would go floating down the river. In the spring it's a wonder we weren't drowned as some of us would bounce the bridge as others were trying to walk across it. Many a cold bath we took in the spring of the year since in the afternoon when the trail would get soft, we would go down without warning. They started school in August as we could never get there in the spring after the high water started. This school closed about 1944. Mildred Sutton was the last teacher at this school. The building was sold to Jacob Antilla in 1944 and was made into a home on the Antilla ranch. When the ranch was sold, it was moved to the lot back of 417 Pine Avenue in Kemmerer.

The County Superintendent made one or two visits to the school each year and the District Superintendent kept in touch, and once in awhile had to take someone out behind the barn. The school district furnished a baseball and bat, and a soft ball at the New Hamsfork school. I imagine they did at the upper school, too. So this was added to our recreation. We were able to play 'Anti-I-Over' the barn. In the spring we loved to just walk and look at the new grass and wait for the flowers to start to appear, and listen to the birds.

I finished the ninth grade at this school, but all of my grades came from the Kemmerer High School since this is where my book reports and examination papers were graded.

No doubt the teachers had some trying times. Philip Ferentchak Sr. told us of the time when Mr. Mercer was teaching in the log school house. Mr. Mercer saw Philip one day and he told him he didn't know what he was going to do. He thought he might have to go to the Superintendent because every morning he would have a full class but in the afternoon there wasn't a boy there. Philip told him "Oh, don't do that- you'll get your boys" The next afternoon Philip took a trip through the willows on horseback; Mr. Mercer got his class, and there was no more fishing for the boys.

The following is a list of most of the teachers who taught on the Hamsfork (some of the dates may not be exact but most of them are correct) Agnes Brebner, 1905; Margaret Scott, of Diamondville, 1906; Ida Stock, 1907; Inez Stock, 1908; both of Hamsfork; Ethel Ivy, of Kemmerer, 1909; Mr. Webster, 1910; Margaret Shaw, 1911, of Diamondville; Bert Reed, 1912; Emma Roberts, 1915 of Kemmerer; Anna Wilson, 1914; Adele Meyer, Sept. 1915 to Jan. 1917; Nora Stewart, Jan 1917 to May 1917; Barbara Von Orff, one week, 1918; followed by Emma Angelo, Kemmerer; Rose Peters, fall 1919 to spring of 1921, from Green River, Utah; Mabel Fleming, 1921, from Indiana; Neva Drury, 1922, from Idaho; Edna Pierce, 1925, from Carbon, Wyoming; Luella Bloom, 1924; Josephine Saunders, 1925 to May 1928; S.W. Mercer, 1928; Nelson Sammon, 1929 to May 1931; Joe Kanyid fall 1931 to Jan. 1932; Catherine Vehar, Jan. 1932 to May 1932; Cora Blanchard, Sept. 1932; Mildred Williams, Oct. 1932 to May 1935. I am not sure of the order of these: Irene Moon; Margaret Lee; Rita Dimond; Roine Gray; Mrs. Ida Purdy Rice; however Mattie Lawrence was the last teacher at this school. There were two other teachers mentioned in the earlier years, but they probably only stayed a short time: Lora Deuel and Myra Wycoff.

These teachers were at the New Hamsfork school; Rachel Baxter, 1925 to Jan. 1928 (she was Rachel Sutton when she quit); Mrs. Olive Pike, Jan. 1928 to May 1928; Cora Blanchard, 1928 to spring of 1951 (she married A.D. Hoskins); Alice Hall, 1951; Lena Rizzi, 1952; Marie Hatch; Irene Moon (who later became the County Superintendent); and Mildred Williams Sutton.

Here are a few items taken from the local newspapers on the Hamsfork schools: In 1906, C.J. Richey was Superintendent of school district No. 10; in 1908 it was Ivy Thomas; both had their office in Evanston, Wyoming. An article dated Dec. 2, 1905, "It has been decided that the school on Ham's Fork shall continue three months in addition to the short term originally granted, and Miss Brebner, teacher at Hamsfork school, called at the superintendents office last Saturday. She is delighted with her little school" Another dated May 4, 1910, states, "At the annual school meeting, a representative of the Hamsfork district was present, and in response to his inquiry, the board stated that the district would have an eight month term the coming season." March 21, 1911." The Hamsfork school now has a nice start of 27 volumes toward the school library. These books were earned by an entertainment given by the school last Nov. and have already given much pleasure and instruction. The children wish to thank the Kemmerer friends who helped raise the funds. A mission work book case, made by the teacher, has been added to the school furniture and it is at least an advantage over having the books piled in boxes on the floor. The school is at present carrying on a contest in spelling with the Fossil school, which Miss Ethel Andon is teacher, each school receives a point each day that every scholar has a perfect lesson, Spelling lessons are improving rapidly and the children here are improving and have gained a point every day so far." April, 1911, "Prof. J.E. Burch of Green River, Wyoming was hired as the new Superintendent for the coming year." (He "was superintendent until May 1925). March 19, 1915: "During the past few years the Hamsfork school has been gradually growing until next year there will be almost thirty scholars in attendance. This being true, plans are being made to improve the interior of the building, the exterior having been placed in good condition last summer. With the new agricultural school law just recently passed and in force, and this being an agricultural community, it is

Intended to make this one of the leading country schools in the county, with reference to the advancement of the school work by the pupils allowance in money for this purpose has already been agreed upon by the school board, believing when the number is sufficient, that a first class school should be provided for them." August 25, 1916: "Fred Fenn made a trip to the county seat for doors and windows for the school house, which will be repaired during the coming week." Sept.27, 1918, "We greatly regret to say there has been no school this week, owing to the absence of the teacher. This is very discouraging both to the parents and the pupils, As some of the children have three miles to drive to attend school, and going day after day to find no teacher is hard on them." In Sept. 1926 both Hamsfork schools were opened with eight pupils at each school.

This item is not about the Hamsfork school, but it is about a Hamsfork boy (Jacob Antilla) while he was going to school in Frontier. One wintery day he and several other boys cornered one of the teachers, and snowballed her. After school was in session, each boy, one at a time, was called out of the room. They didn't come back, but when it was Jake's turn he soon found out what was up. Mr. Burch, the superintendent, was waiting outside with a rubber hose, and after he had used it, each boy was sent home.

Hamsfork Post Office and Mail Route

The Hamsfork Post Office was established at the town of Hamsfork on December 15, 1886, with Bringham Young Randall as Postmaster. In his application for the Post Office, Nov.25,1886, his first choice for a name was Hamsfork and second choice was Phelps. The Post Office was located ten feet north of the railroad tracks, in the Oregon Short Line Railroad Station. On May 29, 1889, William S. Post was appointed Postmaster. On Sept. 18, 1897 he moved the Post Office and located 600 feet west of the railroad in the new town founded by P.J. Quealy which had a population of 200. The Post Office was then renamed Kemmerer. The Post Office was re-established at the town of Hamsfork on March 26, 1898, with Charles H. Fields appointed Postmaster. At this time, it was located 500 feet north of the railroad tracks, but it was discontinued December 30, 1899. The Post Office was again established as the Hamsfork Post Office, this time twenty-two miles north of Kemmerer on the upper Hamsfork, and located on the Charles E. Burke ranch on May 4,1905, with Charles E. Burke Postmaster. On Sept.20, 1909, the Post Office was moved to the David F. Nelson ranch, with David F. Nelson appointed Postmaster. On March 7,1914, William Johnson was appointed Postmaster, and the office was changed to his ranch. On May 1, 1919; Annie Johnson, wife of William, was appointed Postmistress, and she held this position until she became ill in 1932. The Post Office was then moved to the Ralph O.Nelson ranch and Ralph was appointed Postmaster June 5, 1932. On May 5, 1933, the Post Office was discontinued, and this has been a rural route since, with the Ralph Nelson ranch being the north end of the route from Kemmerer.

Before the Post Office was established at the Burke ranch, the ranchers would pick the mail up from the Hamsfork Post Office, and later the Kemmerer Post Office when they came in for supplies; then they would deliver it to the ranches as they passed them on their way home. They would hold the mail for the ones farther north until someone came by who was going in that direction, until it would finally reach its destination. When the Post Office was established in 1905, it was to serve fifty people in the winter and one hundred in the summer.

Charles Burke and Thomas Chrisman were the first mail contractors. When Samuel B. Adams Sr. moved to the Hamsfork, he was awarded the contract, followed by a Mr. Fenn (either Jehu or David) in 1910-1914; Joseph Meklugan.1914-1918; Percival Buck, Oct.18, 1918 to the fall of 1922; Roy Adams 1922-1926; Philip Ferentchak,1926-1930; (for \$75 per month); Albert Parr Jr,1930- 1934; J. Ray Stock,1934-1938, (for either \$50 or \$55 per month); William Ferguson, 1938-1946, Alvin Adams,1946-1970; L.J. Cisz, 1970 to the present May 1974.

The mail contractor's job was really something in the early days. He had to pick the mail up at the post office on Hamsfork, not before a certain hour, which was eight a.m. as we remember. They took it to the Kemmerer post office, and they couldn't leave until after one o'clock in the afternoon for the return trip, and not stop, except for deliveries, until he made it back to the post office on the Hamsfork. Most of the contracts called for twice a week delivery, but sometimes it was cut to once a week. Many a blizzard was fought on these trips. I remember my Dad had an old pokey team, King and George. The black one, George, could

and would always find his way home. The carriers had to depend upon their horses a great deal of the time. When we lived on the hill above what is now the Arson Nate ranch, it would be way late at night when my Dad would leave the worn-out horses and take a toboggan to take the mail on foot to the post office. I remember well the years that Philip Ferentchak had the route. Mary would ride horseback when there was no other way, and, she would stop in at the school house on her way home to get warm as she would be half frozen. Always in the winter the road was used through the meadows, mostly through the feeding grounds, and in the spring of the year it was horrible. By the time they would get back in the late afternoon it would be thawed; the solid road would be like walking a tight rope, and if the horse stepped off they would have a terrible time getting back on. Sometimes the horse would be so tired they just couldn't get it back then the only thing they could do would be to unhook it and let it rest. Ray Stock had the route the bad winter of 1935-36. Many times it took him two days for a trip, then he would be home two days and start back again. He used a covered sleigh and had a little stove in it; it looked on the outside like a little sheep camp. When Albert Parr Jr. had the route, he made a snowcat to help him along. He could only use this part way so he still had to have a team some where along the line.

My Dad bought his first car Nov. 19, 1918, a Model T Ford for \$550, from Joe Mekluga (Dutch Joe). It was to help him out with the mail contract, for not only did the mail contractors carry the mail, but also passengers, and shopped for supplies for the ranchers.

As of May 1974, the Hamsfork mail route is the same route as of the past years. The contract is a two-year contract and calls for twice a week delivery from June to August, and once a week the rest of the year. The mail is picked up at the Kemmerer post office at 9:50 a.m. and the mail is brought back to the Kemmerer post office on the return trip.

The following are articles taken from the local newspapers to help tell the story of the mail; April 12, 1911- "Service re-established. Postmaster Palmer has received a telegram from the third assistant post master general instructing the reestablishment of the mail service up Hamsfork to twice a week. The attempted curtailment of post office expenses was made during the absence of Congressman Mondell to Panama and immediately on his return he took the matter up with the above results. Contractor Fenn will hereafter make two trips a week." August 18, 1916, "Hamsfork; Joe Nickols the Hamsfork mail man brought his car back on his last trip. Joe rode down horseback and his passengers walked."--Editors note- No, this is not a mistake, this is the way the article appears in the local paper, however the name should be Joe Mekluga. February 9, 1917, "William Boren mail carrier, between Kemmerer and Hamsfork; arrived last Saturday on his regular run, the schedule of which has necessity been changed, owing to the roads being full of snow, progress is slow, and instead of daily trips now they are made every other day. Mr. Boren resides on Beaver Creek and states that the best time he has made lately is eight and one half hours for twenty-eight miles. Editors note; No one we have contacted ever remembers the Hamsfork having a daily route, this must have been changed to once a week. This was the period when Joe Mekluga had the contract, so either they were helping Joe or had a sub-contract, since they carried the mail in 1916-17. But they sold their ranch in Nov. 1917, so they must have left the Hamsfork at that time. The next article indicates having trouble with the mail, Oct. 19, 1918; "Mail Once a Week; Hamsfork now enjoys once a week mail service after being threatened with being cut off altogether. Percy Buck makes an official trip once a week every Saturday for Uncle Sam. "March 25, 1925;"Mail Carrier Spent Night Fighting Snow; Roy Adams son of Samuel Adams, of Hamsfork who has the mail carrying franchise between the county seat and Hamsfork post office about twenty miles up river, underwent a harrowing experience last Saturday; encountering the largest snow drifts he ever experienced, along the route, delaying his arrival with the mail until Sunday afternoon. To his physique and being accustomed to rigors of outdoor winter are all that are responsible for Adams being alive today, as he was compelled to spend the night fighting his way through the drifts along the route."

Telephone

In the history written by Ella Holden, the telephone was started in the Fontenelle country in 1898 or 1899, and since the people on the Hamsfork and Fontenelle were related, they probably started the telephone on the Hamsfork about the same time. It was first strung along the fence posts. From the Fenner ranch it went over to the Walter Wright ranch in the Pomeroy Basin as early as 1906, since we know it was there when the Fisher family came to the Pomeroy Basin. There was a phone in the Hoskins store in Kemmerer that

connected with the ranches on the Hamsfork. The line went north as far as the Kent Curtis ranch, and when Alfred and Irene Pomeroy were on their ranch they were connected. When they left the Hamsfork, the line then dropped back to the Kent Curtis ranch. It was taken out of the Hoskins store and put in the Edward Sutton home in Kemmerer for a few years. When the Sutton's moved to the Hamsfork again in the early 1920's it was discontinued to Kemmerer. In September of 1926, the line was extended to the Leonard and Percival Buck ranches. On May 2, 1930, a meeting was held at the John Niel ranch with Mr. Jeffiers of the Bell Telephone System. Attending the meeting were John Niel, Elijah (Jim) Buck, Edward Sutton, and Percival Buck. John Niel was elected Secretary. On May 14, Percy Buck helped Mr. Jeffiers put telephone poles into Frontier and the connection was made on May 15, 1930, with extensions to all of the ranches from John Niel to Percival Buck ranch. Either the same year or the following year, it was extended to the Lower School house. The ranchers had to keep the line up with the cost being 75 cents per month, for the services of the Bell Telephone System, and many a time Percy paid one of the members bills to keep the line going as he was the one who needed it the most. Our number was 202-F11, which was two rings. The rings were long and shorts, and everyone heard all of the rings, unless there was a poor connection. In this case, many a time a person who heard the ring would ring the ring on their phone so that it would carry through. Two of the ranches had switches that they could use to cut the upper end of the line off while they were talking, since everyone 'rubbered' in on the calls and a few times there would be heated words when someone would make a remark that a listener didn't like. My Mother and Dad had a different system: They would set a time for their good-night call, but as soon as someone happened to try to use the phone at that hour the secret was out, and they would have to set a new time. Percy went to live in Idaho in 1934, and I believe the line was discontinued in 1935 or 1936, but it remained between the ranches until most of the people had left their homes. James Maltby, John Petemal, and Ross Bagley are the only ones on the Hamsfork at the present time who have a telephone and they are connected onto the Bell Telephone System.

Lights

Lights on the Hamsfork ranged from candle light to kerosene and then to gas. The goose-necked gas lamps that hung on the wall were an improvement over the straight-necked lamp. Then the gas lantern came along, and it was much better as you could pick it up and carry it by the handle from room to room and place it on a table or hang it up. Then, too, it had a shade around it so the moths or millers couldn't fly by and break a mantle and leave you in the dark. A few of the ranchers managed to get a gasoline plant to provide electricity and light, and although they weren't the best still it was an improvement. In October of 1952 the electric lights were turned on at Hamsfork, through the Lincoln Service Corp., which is a part of the Kemmerer Coal Company. Each subscriber had to pay \$1500 and their monthly charge, according to what they used, and had to sign a contract that they would be a subscriber for five years. There being no power everything was done with 'elbow grease'. Everyone used a washboard and stove flat-irons. When the washing machines came along they took twice as much water, and one model turned with a swish motion, having a handle you turned half way around then pulled it back toward you. The other model, you pumped back and forth, and so it was much easier to rub the clothes on the board. They did come up with a suction can that you could use to squeeze some of the dirt out, and it was good for blankets and other large articles. Later, some people used gasoline irons and washing machines,

Recreation

The same entertainment and recreation known in the early days has seemed to pass on down to our time. There were dances mentioned on the Oscar Wright ranch February 1, 1899 and at the George Watts ranch Oct.4, 1911. On November 29, 1919, a shower dance was held for Irene and Sam Adams at the Fenner ranch. On July 4, 1916, there was a big picnic held in the trees on Lake Creek with thirty-five people in attendance. After the picnic, in the evening, they all went to the log school house and danced until an early hour in the morning, with a midnight supper. This same thing was a part of our life as we were growing up. Beside the dances and picnics, we had sleigh riding, skiing, and coasting parties. For the dances, all that we had to do was to have one or two decide there would be a dance. After there were two schools in existence, they would decide on the school, and whoever said the magic words would furnish coffee, sugar, cream, paper plates, and napkins. Everyone who came brought either cake or sandwiches, and anyone who could play a musical instrument would bring it along. There wasn't a piano at the schools until in the thirties, but a

couple of times the Robinsons brought their player piano, and the Ray Stocks brought their piano, but it was too hard on the pianos to move them around.

Until there were children in the families old enough to stay with the younger ones, the children were taken along and put to sleep in a corner on quilts brought along for that purpose. Of course, in the winter the quilts were brought along to keep people warm on the ride to and from the dances. Some people would put big rocks in their ovens during the day and they would be hot when they were put in gunny sacks and placed where their feet were to keep them warm. In the winter time, whoever started out with a team would stop at the ranches as they went by to see if they were going and wanted a ride. Dates were not necessary, as it was a family affair, and everyone danced with everyone else. Besides the waltz and the polka, we had many fun dances - square dance, Virginia reel, circle waltz, tag, and many others. We still kept up with the times, learning the toddle, Charleston, and jitter-bug as they came along. Callers for our square dances most of the time were Ralph Nelson, Jim (Elijah) Buck, Mac Caveney, and Sam Adams, Jr. All of the older people would teach the younger ones. The girls and boys did not seem to have the resentment they seem to have these days. We were proud to learn and danced with all of the Dads and brothers. Of course as the boys and girls took a shine to one another, they would try to sneak in a few extra dances, or sit together during the sleigh rides to and from the dances. No one who has ever heard the squeaking of the sleigh runners on the cold snow could ever forget it. We would sing and have a jolly time coming and going, even though it would be the wee hours of the morning when we were going home. As an example once when we had taken our team, we had picked up Elsie and Ben Brown and the Antilla's as we went by. The dance was at the upper school and it was a Christmas dance. On our way home, the Browns wanted us to stop in to see their Christmas presents and tree, so we all had a cup of coffee. Their little daughter, Pat, had received an Anagram game (word spelling game) and we sat on the floor by the tree and started to play the game, the Antilla's were still with us. When we finally decided to go home, Elsie looked at the clock, and said, "Heck, it's too late to go now, let's make some hot cakes and have breakfast." We did and then went home in time for chores; then, since it was Sunday, we went to bed!

It seems our family always lived on a hill so most of the ski and coasting parties were at our house. My mother never minded; she would fix hot chocolate, or something, and would usually sit and read while we were having fun. We liked to make a pan of fudge, and play some sort of game, usually cards. Of course it would take a while to make and set the fudge before we could eat it. Our mother always had Birthday parties for us; most usually we had guests, but presents were not expected. Our ski parties many times ended with us going to the school house afterwards to dance, especially if the school teacher was with us.

In the summer we played horse-shoe a lot, and when the sheep were near enough many of the men came by to play a game of horseshoe. We had picnics and went swimming in the cut-off stream or river, and went horseback riding, or just walking. When someone got married, they would give a wedding dance; then soon after someone would give them a shower dance. After the midnight supper, the bride and groom would show the gifts. There was usually something tucked away among the other presents to embarrass the couple as they opened it. Some of the fiddlers at the dances were Ralph Nelson, Ray Stock, Morris Sutton, Sam Adams Jr., Eddie Miller, and John Antilla; Ray Stock played the accordion and saxophone, Batista Carollo the concertina. Piano players were Minnie Stock, Dot Sutton, Mildred Sutton, and Alice Hall. Mandolin players included Jacob and John Antilla, Jim and Ted Buck, and Eddie Miller; several played the harmonica and guitar. In the later years, there were several who came out from Kemmerer and played. We also had quilting parties, with the wool for the quilts being washed and corded from the local sheep. Hannah Antilla had a spinning wheel and she made her own yarn; with it she knit the family socks and mittens. When the radio came it was an exciting time. The first one I remember was an "Atwater Kent" that my brother Jim had. It had a horn speaker as well as ear phones. The following is taken from the local newspaper on October 18, 1922: "A radio concert was enjoyed by a large number of guests, at the W.E. Fenner place, who had gathered there for the purpose of surprising the hosts, Mr. and Mrs. Fenner, on last Sunday evening. The guests were treated to a 'listening in' party on the Fenner radio set. Concerts were heard from all over the United States, while one which took place in Winnipeg, Canada, was heard distinctly. After the concert, refreshments were served by the hosts, and several newly converted radio fans departed more surprised than surprising.

Industry

A few of the ranchers tried growing grain on the Hamsfork, At present, some grow alfalfa, but it is mostly wild hay that is grown. An article from the local paper has this to say: Sept. 22, 1906 - " Thomas Chrisman of upper Hamsfork "brought into this office this week a bunch of wheat and barley raised here without irrigation. There is no question but what in the near future a number of farmers and ranchmen will be sowing and reaping as in the eastern states." In 1910 hay was listed as selling in Cokeville for \$15.00 per ton in the stack. In Oct. 1921, hay was worth \$10.00 per ton and could be bought In Idaho for \$2.00 a ton. In Feb., 1925, hay coming from Idaho was \$15.00 to \$16.50 per ton. Irrigating the meadows was sometimes a problem, especially in a year when the snow had been light the winter before. There were times when this would create hard feelings, and even fist fights between the ranchers, if someone decided to take more than his share of water; the water commissioner would then have to step in and settle the dispute. Ralph Nelson and Leonard Buck were water commissioners on the Hamsfork at different times. If the local commissioner failed to settle the matter, water commissioner Martin Wilson was called in, and sometimes the head water commissioner from Rock Springs, Mr. David P. Miller had to be contacted. Tampering with headgates brought a fine for the guilty party.

As has been mentioned before, people of the Hamsfork could dig their own coal from the mine east of the Fenner home. Most of the ranchers, however, used mostly wood which was dried quaking aspen, hauled from the closest tree patches to their ranch. Two items are as follows from the local newspaper. Nov. 16, 1901: "A gentleman, who called at this office Monday, stated that coal prospectors are thick up the creek. From a point 16 miles up Hamsfork from Kemmerer, he says claims have been taken on both sides of the river for a distance of 10 miles". On Oct.8, 1920 - the paper stated that: "Dan Sullivan and associates were opening a mine a fourth of a mile from the Progress Dairy, they were going to ship their coal from the Sublet railroad. However we don't believe this mine ever started. John Mitchler and son operated a wagon mine north of the town of Hamsfork about two miles directly west of the Peternal home. This mine was in operation for several years. Percival Buck opened a wagon mine in the first canyon east of the Fenner home, either in 1927 or 1928. He operated it with his son Ted's help and sometimes Jack, until he went to Idaho in 1934. He paid the Government 25 cents for every ton he took out, and according to his records he delivered the coal for \$5.00 to \$8.00 a ton. I went into this mine one time and saw what a back-breaking job it must have been as you couldn't even stand up straight while down in the mine. He laid rails for the boat to run on, and pulled it to the surface with his Model-T truck. John Niel opened a wagon mine just east of this three or four years later. He hired his brother-in-law Vero Kimball to work it for him, and although it was made on a larger scale it lasted only about one or two years. According to the local paper another mineral was found on Hamsfork, but to our knowledge it was never developed. We note on August 11, 1916: "A Hamsfork Vein; Lew Henderson Is showing a piece of ore which he secured in the upper Hamsfork district and which is interesting to those who know what a good find is. He has located a four foot vein of manganese and tungsten and it is said that quite a bit of this ore is to be found in that vicinity. While at the present time there is no large demand for manganese, which predominates, there is a good market for tungsten, should it be found in sufficient quantity it may prove a big thing."

The sheep and cattle were the main source of income in the valley. Before the homesteads were taken, many of the larger outfits from Evanston and Utah used the Hamsfork as grazing ground for their flocks of sheep. An interesting article is found in the local newspaper Aug. 22, 1903: "950 Sheep Smother to Death. One night last week H.F. Shurtliff met with the misfortune to lose 950 head of sheep while grazing his herds in Dempsey Basin. A coyote or some other animal frightened a large bunch of his sheep and they made a break after the leader, running off a steep declivity, falling into brush and timber. About 1500 of them made the run and when they were found, about 950 of those under the mass were crippled and smothered to death. He recovered about 550 out of the bunch. It is a heavy loss, especially when coupled with poor lambing season this year."

In 1903, Joseph Smith of Utah, who later homesteaded on Hamsfork, had several bands of sheep on the upper Hamsfork. In Oct. 1906, Walter Fenner and Sammon Brothers shipped 12 car loads of lambs averaging 70 pounds each. In Oct.1907, Walter Fenner secured top prices for eight car loads of lambs for \$7.55 per hundred and a car load of breeders for \$6.85 per hundred. In June, 1915, Joe Smith sold his wool for 16-1/8 cents while in 1912 he had received 18 cents.

In 1975, the average for wether lambs was \$325.00 a hundred, and wool was selling for 87 cents. The highest price ever received for wool, that we know of, was in the 1950's when the price went up to \$1.42 a pound.

In 1919, there were between twenty and thirty shearers at George Watts shearing corral in Opal where they were to shear around 100,000 head. At this time most of the sheep were sheared either here or at Fossil. Later E.J. Brandley built a shearing corral on Trail Creek, and David Nelson made one on the west side of the Red Hill. In June 1919, the shearers went on strike at Opal. They were getting 17-1/2 cents a fleece and wanted 19 cents. The shearer's wage scale was still 17 cents in 1920. In June, 1921, Bonner and Wade were operating two shearing corrals at Fossil where forty shearers agreed to 12 cents but they wanted their board included. They were offered 11 cents and board so they refused and went on strike. There were 30,000 to 40,000 sheep waiting to be sheared. A week later thirty-five men went back to work but the agreement was not made public. The men doing the shearing only had to shear the fleece off of the sheep. The owner of the corral hired other help: one man was hired to tie the fleeces which was done by folding the edges to the center, folding it over and tying it with a heavy paper fleece twine; another man took the fleeces in a cart and piled them on top of a platform. There was a round hole in the top of the platform where the large wool sack was hung and secured with a ring around the top. This was high enough so the sack would not touch the ground. Then the wool stomper would drop about four fleeces in the sack, and then he would climb in and start to stomp. As he tromped, he would reach up on the platform for the fleece until the bag was full, then he would sew the top and start on another bag. This was a greasy, dirty job. Today the bags are tromped by machines. The shearing is done by contractors who carry portable corrals and hire their own crews.

On June 28, 1918, George Watts was operating the dipping corral on Beaver; by July 12, they had completed the job having dipped 60,000 animals, and the operation had required about twenty men to do the job. There was also a dipping corral at the head of Fish Creek, on the Dempsey Rim called Sharps Corral. This dipping was important to control Scab disease and in July 1923 David Nelson was fined \$50.00 for moving his sheep without the permission of the State Board and Livestock Commission. I am sure there must have been others who made the same mistake.

We did not find very many prices listed for cattle. The cattle were shipped to Omaha, Nebraska, and in the earlier years they were shipped from Opal stockyards, then Frontier. Later, a stock yard was built about five miles north of Kemmerer on the railroad going to the Sublet coal mines. This track was taken out in 1975 as the cattle from the Hamsfork area are now hauled out in large cattle trucks.

When the Taylor Grazing act came into effect, there was a Hamsfork Grazing Association formed. And the Farm Bureau Organization began in the late 1950's. A Home Economic Group was started at the same time, but did not last long. This also was the result when a Community Church was started. It seems that Sunday for some reason was the best time for the ranchers to catch up on their extra work and ask their neighbors for help.

The cattle roundups on the Hamsfork in our time, were not quite like the big cattle roundups. As soon as the fences were made around the hay stacks in the fall of the year, the ranchers would open the gates to the outside range and the cattle would start to drift onto the meadows for better feed. There were a few that had to be hunted down, but most of the riding was done on the meadows. When the word spread that they were ready, the men from the ranches would gather together and ride the fields cutting out their cattle and driving them home. The final job was done at branding time and when they were cutting out for shipping, neighbor helped neighbor, and if there were any belonging to others they would take them home. This was always a big Job and especially on the women, as they would prepare the meals for the whole gang, also while they were riding the meadows the men would stop for a meal on whatever ranch they were riding.

The Roads and Bridges on Hamsfork

The bridges on the Hamsfork were few in number. The County Bridge, as it has been called since we can remember, was probably made by the Wright family so they could go to Twin Creek and Evanston for

supplies, and that could have been any time after 1880. But after the log drives, it would have to be rebuilt. George Watts mentions a bridge being on his ranch before he went to the Hamsfork so it was perhaps built by Bill Daley in the late 1880's. About 1880, the Joseph Miller family made a bridge across the river on the old Emigrant road. For awhile, there was a swinging bridge on the Curtis ranch. There is a bridge now south of the Curtis (now the Bagley) home, that the Dimond family made to use in crossing the river. Ed Brandley had a sheep bridge made by Jacob Antilla. Sr. and Otto Suikko in 1918 located at the north end of the present city reservoir. A foot bridge was made at the lower school house; it was pulled out in the spring of the year and put back in the fall. There was a bridge at the mouth of the hollow from the Charles Miller house where the road went across at the Antilla ranch. The bridge now located at the north end of the Lake Viva Naughton was made by the Utah Power and Light Company in 1966. There was one at David Nelson home, and a sheep bridge at Colombari's which was pulled out each year. The bridge that was farthest up the Hamsfork river was at Elk Creek Camp Ground and was made by Charles King, for the forest Service probably about 1914. It was replaced by the Forest Service in 1959.

A few articles we found in the local newspapers are as follows: Nov. 5, 1908: "County surveyor E.C. Gradert was in town on Saturday last having just returned from a trip into the upper Hamsfork country where he surveyed an extension of the old wagon road to the present Hamsfork Post Office about twenty one miles north of here. The new road is about eight miles long and will be put in shape by the county for the benefit of the ranchers of that section." Nov. 1, 1911: "Road supervisor Jack Mathews has completed the bridge over Willow Creek Gap which will permit safe travel during high water." Dec. 6, 1911: "Road supervisor Jack Mathews is now putting the finishing touches on the Kemmerer-Sublet road, which he has put in excellent shape since the summer. This week he is placing a new bridge in the first horseshoe bend from Frontier which will complete the work on this road. As soon as the river freezes sufficiently to hold the props, he will make repairs on the county bridge over the Hamsfork near the Wright ranch." May 29, 1916: (this is only part of an article) "Bids will be received by the Board of County Commissioners of Lincoln County, Wyoming, for the construction of a county road from the bridge over Hamsfork at Frontier, thru the Quealy tract to Hamsfork County Bridge, thence to a point on the Willow Creek road near Willow Creek Gap." Aug. 11, 1916, "The stretch of road from the County bridge north of Frontier to Sublet that was recently promoted and surveyed was completed during the past week, excepting a few finishing touches, which is a great improvement over the old dugway between Frontier and Sublet. The new road is of steady and easy grade and it is a pleasure to ride over its course, after riding the perilous old dugway by reason of the new road it is expected that travel between Kemmerer and Green River Valley points will be greatly increased."

The roads, however, were taken care of a good deal of the time by the ranchers; May 2, 1919: "Alvin Anderson and J.E. Burch are progressive ranchers of Hamsfork. They have a great deal to do in attending to their regular affairs, but found time to grade the road from Frontier to the old county bridge, about three miles of the toughest kind of pike. The bumps, ruts and gullies have disappeared and altogether this stretch of road is now in fair shape." In Sept. of 1918 the county bridge was listed as being unsafe. In May, 1921, D.B. Miller, formerly with the State Highway Dept., was awarded the contract to build the road from Frontier two miles in length, and two bridges steel span 70 foot, and have it completed in sixty days. He began work on the road in June, 1921. This is when the road first went by the Fox Farm. The bridges were the one at Frontier, and the one that crosses the Hamsfork at the mouth of Willow Creek. This was a \$57,000 Job and he began with fifty horses and sixteen men.

The roads for many years were wagon roads and were changed as the ruts got deep, or for some reason it was found to be better to go in a little different place. We don't know when the county took over the maintaining of the roads, but in my Dad's notes of 1950, he was still draining the road and taking care of the culverts, as he hauled coal. There were not too many cars, and when they first started to use a snow plow, my Dad was one who was against its use. He said it piled the snow up and they eventually had to end up with the team and it made it worse. In 1939, the Public Works Administration built a new road between the Curtis ranch and the City Reservoir. They built it up, and in the spring of 1940 it was like driving on a tight rope. The ruts were so deep that if you slid into them, that was it. Travel was mostly in the early morning.

On Aug. 17, 1950, the first stretch of oiled highway was completed by the State Highway Department, from the old highway 189 to the Caveney ranch. Then on July 27, 1957, another stretch was made from the Caveney ranch to the City Reservoir. The last stretch was completed on Oct. 9, 1960; this went from the City

Reservoir to Lake Viva Naughton. From there up it is still a dirt road with gravel and the county maintains it as far as Beaver Creek and sometimes goes to the forest line; from there the Forest Service Department takes over.

Now just a little information we received on the Utah Power and Light Company. After purchasing the property in 1958, the equipment was brought in for the dam construction in the fall of 1959; in the spring and summer of 1960 the dam was built, and they began filling the reservoir in 1960-61. In April 1961, ground was broken for the Naughton No. 1 plant south of Kemmerer, and the site clearing and grading began; this was completed by July 1961. Survey for the construction of a settling basin dam was completed and preparation for diversion of the river at a plant pumping station was completed July 2, 1961. The first concrete placement in the river pumping station was made Friday, August 11, 1961. Naughton No. 1 unit synchronized on the line April 1, 1965. The plant was dedicated June 22, 1965. At the present time there are three units. Utah Power and Light Company plan to build two more units, with work to begin in 1975. This will enlarge Lake Viva Naughton to 85,100 acre feet and another 27 feet will be added to the present 78 feet high dam. Water will back up approximately another three quarters of a mile. The ground is already being purchased for the project which will do away with more of the Hamsfork ranch land.

Emigrant Trails

Hamsfork valley has the distinction of being one of the areas where the emigrants made their roads traveling from east to west, mostly going to Oregon. The Indians and trappers were here before the emigrants made their route. Many of the journals of the emigrants mention the Indians and called them Snake Indians, also Absoroka Indians, which means a big bird. This is where the ridge on the east side of the Hamsfork got its name, Absoroka Ridge. It is now called the Commissary Ridge, though there are those who would argue the name was never officially changed. The ridge on the west, in the Dempsey Basin, is called the Dempsey Rim, and the flat after you get on top of the ridge is called the Hamsfork Plateau. This reaches to the next ridge known as the Rock Creek Ridge, then the Plateau comes south as far as Twin Creek or Shuster Canyon and Hay Hollow. When you are on the Hamsfork Plateau, the mountains you see east of the Commissary Ridge is the Oyster Ridge. Far away on the sky line to the south, the Uinta Mountains can be seen, and to the far northeast the Wind River Mountains climb to the sky. The Indians had a trail that is known as "The Old Indian Trail" which can only be traveled by foot or horseback. It came up Fontenelle Creek from the east to the bend at the foot of the Commissary Ridge; It went up over the top of the Commissary Ridge to the west down the main Beaver Creek to its mouth to the Hamsfork River. Then it followed the Hamsfork River south to the Dempsey Trail, following it over into Rock Creek. As has been mentioned in the history, the Indians stayed on the Hamsfork to trap for the summer or went over onto the Bear River, and they used this trail to travel on. Their main camp on the Hamsfork was at the mouth of Beaver Creek.

The Greenwood-Sublet Cut-off of the Oregon Trail, came over the Commissary Ridge from the east at what is now known as the Brandley Pass. (The name Brandley Pass was established after 1900 so there is no significant history connected with the name.) The road angled from here to the south west, coming down the canyon to the Curtis Springs, at the foot of the hill. From the springs the road went directly to the south for about three fourths of a mile, then turned west down to the Hamsfork River. After it crossed the river, it went southwest to the mouth of Quaking Aspen Canyon. It stayed on the north side of the creek, circling around the base of the hill following up the west side of the hill, working to the crest of the hill where it went up the steep white point following it to the top about twenty-five feet from the point of the ridge on the north side. The ridge itself on the west side is a rock ledge. From the top, on the plateau the road goes directly to the west, keeping more to the south, following the rim of Quaking Aspen Canyon, with Meadow Canyon on the north for one and one half miles, where Meadow Canyon runs out and Robinson Hollow is then on the north. It is two miles from the bottom of the hill to the top; it is six and six-tenths miles to the Emigrant Springs at the head of Robinson Hollow, where the road turns to the north. It is three and six-tenths miles from here to the junction of the Emigrant road. At the head of Fish Creek, one branch continued on north going along east of the trees and joined with the Dempsey Trail on the top of the ridge to go over into Rock Creek. The left hand road turned to the west about one fourth of a mile to the trees, then turned south going three-fourths of a mile to the top of Rock Creek Ridge, It circled around the west side of the hill about one and one-half miles, turning to the west going down the second canyon, and following the top of the hill to the

bottom of Rock Creek. The first road went directly off of the steep hill instead of circling around the ridge. This was perhaps because they had to cut dugways in some places on this road. We will include part of some of the Journals that mention this road, at the end of the description of these roads.

Grave Sites

There was a second branch of the road on the east side of Hamsfork. Instead of coming down the canyon to the Curtis Springs, It branched off to the right and went down the west side of the hill; then turned south, crossed the river, went three-fourths of a mile farther south, then went three-fourths of a mile where it ascended the hill to join with the first branch one mile from the top. This made the hill one-half mile shorter, but the meadow was more swampy. Just as the road comes out of the meadow, on a knoll to the right of the road is a grave marked "Sarah G. Noel, died July 5, 1854 - 12 Mo". The ranchers in the area say that there were at least five other graves here. Just below the peak of the white hill to the north of the road are several graves; the only marker that is marked has a date 1864. It is said the Indians attacked a wagon train as it was going over the top; they pushed many of the wagons over the steep side of the ridge to the west. Ranchers in the area say there were more graves at the foot of the ridge, and they gathered parts of wagons from here for many years. Directly to the south of the white hill on a point on the south side of Quaking Aspen Canyon is the Lone Pine. This could very well have been used as a land mark on the road, though we never read that it was.

At one time a branch of the road went up Meadow Canyon, and turned south to join with the first branch one and four-tenths miles west of the white hill. Four and one-tenth miles from the top of the hill there are five or six graves on the south side of the road. The Bureau of Land Management has made a pole fence around them; there is only one with a marker, which is "Alfred Corum, Died July 4, 1849". The following is part of an article taken from the local newspaper, April 5, 1957: "In the journals of Bennitt C. Clark of Cooper County, Missouri, whose companions consisted of the following, Beverly Lampton, John Tucker, William T. Cole, Samuel Peters, John Corum, Newton C. Peters, Jesse Newman, William Norman, Mark Cole, John N. Bibson, Alfred Corum, Andrew B. Cole, John Brown, John Hill, Thomas Craig, Lewis Hutchinson, James M. Hill, Herod Corum, Simeon Corum, James Campbell, James W. Newby, Hardise Reddick and Dr. Saul J. Tutt, who left April 10, 1849, for the California gold fields, as shown by an entry in a journal written July 2nd in the Missouri Historical Review, October, 1928, the death of Corum is related: 'Reached Smith's Fork of the Bear River after a rough day's travel where we found a large number of Snake Indians encamped.' (Here the writer wishes to correct an error of the diarist. This was Hams fork as he transposed the names, calling Smith's for Hamsfork. Diarists often called Ham's Fork of the Bear River instead of Green River.) Beyond the stream ascended a very long and exceedingly steep hill which led up to a high tableland on which we found a great abundance of the finest grass. Here, on account of the increased illness of Alfred Corum, who had been sick a week or ten days, we laid up a day. Traffic heavy. July - 5, whilst lying by, some 200 wagons passed us and Alfred continued to grow worse and as there was no prospect of his living, it was deemed prudent for the wagons to start the next morning. Accordingly they left on the 4th, leaving behind the Bearbourn and a party of six men to render every service to our dying friend. As there was no wood or water near us we concluded to move him about 1-1/2 miles where were found both. About 1 o'clock he died without a struggle and in full possession of all his faculties until the last.

It was truly melancholy to reflect that whilst our friends at home were doubtless enjoying this great anniversary of national Independence In the usual way, we were performing the last sad office to one of our dead companions. July 4 - The wagons reached this day a small valley In the mountains (Rock Creek near Bear River) with abundant grass, having traveled this day about twelve miles. Road exceedingly rough. July 5 - Struck the Bear River about 8 o'clock. Road fine. Crossed this day Ham's Fork at which we had great difficulty. The Bear River Valley abounds in grass of the most superior quality. The road also down the valley, except at the crossing of the tributary streams is very good. We traveled this day about 30 miles.

This grave was evidently marked by someone later as it has a stone marker on it and in the Journal of J. Goldsbrough Bruff he passed the grave in August the same year and he mentions the marker being a board. Also he mentions a Margaret Campbell, departed July 28, 1848, within a few yards of Corum. Nancy Hill's grave is two-tenths of a mile farther west, on the right hand side of the road. In the local paper

August 1934, three residents from Kemmerer had seen the grave in some tall sage brush. They contacted Joseph Weppner of the Wyoming State Historical So., and asked him if something couldn't be done to preserve the grave. As a result, the paper reported on Sept. 15, 1934, the State Historical Society had paid for the fence, and Otto Angelo and R.H. Embree had taken it to the grave site. The following week a group from Kemmerer was to meet Ed Barret and Frank Wexelberger, who were going to show them the grave, and the iron fence was put up. There were three accounts as to the age that had been on the stone. Ed Sutton's story seemed the most complete, also Mr. Sutton told us the same story. About 1900, an elderly gentleman had spent one winter in the vicinity. When he was ready to leave, he sold Mr. Sutton his wagon and horses, and left on the train. He told Mr. Sutton that Nancy was to be his wife. She was a strong healthy girl, six feet tall and twenty-one years of age. She was well in the morning. By noon she had become ill and died. They hurriedly buried her, and went on, as the wagon train had been having trouble with raids. Mr. Wright stayed behind for a few hours to cover her grave with rocks, then left to catch the wagon train. He came back in the 1870's and put a headstone on her grave. The iron fence was broken and the Bureau of Land Management has put a log fence around it. Mr. Sutton stated that there were seven graves close by, and that there was a dozen or more along the trail.

We have read many journals describing the Hamsfork as emigrants traveled through the area. We will include a little taken from the journals naming the writer and the date:

Keller, George (physician to the Wayne County Co., May 1850): "Next day eighteen miles travel brought us to Ham's Fork of Green River. This we found impossible to ford, on account of its swollen state. Next day was spent in getting logs from the mountains, and constructing a ferry. Next morning the ferry was launched, the ropes arranged, and in a few hours everything was safely landed on the opposite bank. This stream is about fifty feet wide and six feet deep. Later In the season it is much shallower."

Hickman, Richard Owen - July 1852: "On the following day, about an hour by sun, we reached Ham's Fork of Green River and camped for the night. Here we had some fine fish. The Snake Indians came to our camp with large sacks of fish to trade for hard bread or fish hooks. I caught some very fine ones and whilst I was fishing there was an old squaw came to our wagon with some fish to trade, James made a deal with her for several fine salmon trout, and when I returned I commenced to run him about trading with a squaw. He flew into one of his old bachelor pets and almost angry enough to throw it all away. Here we saw the Indians have their dogs or wolves packed like mules. They have wolves in place of dogs. I saw a little papoose lashed to a wolf's back and the animal appeared to be as harmless and gentle as a lamb. He followed close to the squaw all the time. Yesterday we came up the highest mountain we have yet made with our wagons, it was the dividing ridge between the waters of the Colorado and the Great Basin, and in the evening came through the most beautiful grove I have yet seen. It was composed of spruce, pine, and aspen. It was the prettiest place I have seen on the whole journey. After passing it we descended the mountain four miles down to the valley of the Bear River, where we camped in the most luxurious and nutritious grass I have seen since we passed Fort Laramie.

The following journal is what we consider one of the better descriptions of the road. The Overland Journal of Vincent Geiger and Wakeman Bryarly -1849: "Saturday, July 7th. Owing to the very affectionate endearings, whisperings and communings of the mosquitoes we were easily aroused this morning & made a start at daybreak. We descended a very steep hill immediately, at the bottom of which we found considerable of a creek. This is called Ham's Fork. It empties into Bear River & from this is called one of the feeders of the Colorado".

The road after crossing turns to the left & runs down the Valley 1-1/2 miles & then turns again to the right up the steepest hill we have yet ascended. In reaching the top of this we got on the top of a ridge which has been in our sight for two days. The road was hard and firm. We kept this ridge (the grass being excellently good on each side as far as the eye could reach) for 8 miles & then nooned at a slip of woods where we found an excellent spring. This spring has not been mentioned by anyone heretofore, but having found many fragments of the Fourth (of) July dinner which had been held by some emigrants before us, we called it "Independent Spring", Just before we stopped we saw upon the roadside a fresh grave, which was an emigrant who died on the 4th of July. We found at the spring some Indians who had assembled for the purpose of trading. They were of the "Shoushounes Tribe" or vulgarly known as Snakes. We nooned

4 hours and again started, still keeping the ridge for two miles. We then commenced descending a steep hill, upon which the dust was at least 1 foot thick. The wind was blowing immediately up the valley to which the road ran, & it was almost impossible to open your eyes. Many of us had goggles which succeeded in keeping the dust out of our eyes but did not allow us to see through it. Some quarter of a mile down we found a road branching from the main road to the left. This our guide took, which kept more on the bluff & with a more gradual descent to the valley, although in some places we had to "back lock" & to ease our wagons down with ropes. The main road is a half mile nearer, but about half way, there is a regular "break-neck" jumping off place, where it was necessary to unhook the animals, lower the wagons down by hand, & drive the animals around to reach the bottom. All this trouble & detention was saved us by the knowledge of our guide. I doubt not, had we attempted this "Devil Hill" or better known as "The Big Hill" or "Sublette's Hill" we would have lost some of our wagons, as others had done before us, as we saw many remnants of such departed spirits at the bottom. In the valley we crossed a little stream of cool, pure water, & then came up a steep winding hill, from the top of which we came in sight of Bear River."

Many of the journals of the emigrants remark how amazing it was to see the huge snow banks and just below them the abundance of green grass, and beautiful flowers; they made mention of the pretty Blue Flax on the Table land. And enjoyed snow balling each other from the huge snow banks. There were also remarks of the number of Indian Wigwams and a trading post as they reached the Ham's Fork river. Almost all of the journals make mention of the long steep hill going to the table land.

Stills

Here were many stills on the Hamsfork to help keep the Booze' Cellars In Kemmerer and surrounding towns supplied. Besides the John Henry still; there were stills located at Pole Creek, up in the canyon above the Ferentchak home, on Trail Creek, on Brandley Pass, at Quaking Aspen Canyon and on the west side of the river from the Fenner home; there may have been others. At almost all of the dances someone would show up with a couple of bottles of 'Moonshine'. They were not allowed to bring it into the school room but there were frequent visits to the outdoors; occasionally some would make too many trips out then there would be a scrap, but this, too, was not allowed in the school. Sometimes the young men would be like a group of young boys and pull pranks on someone who was not looking. Sonny Parr was one who just loved to dance, so one night those who did not dance that much spent some time outdoors. When Sonny went out to get his team to go home, much to his surprise he found his sleigh sitting on top of the barn. Some of the ranchers visited the stills and got mash to feed to their chickens. My Dad had a calf that had been rounded up and taken to the Fenner ranch where it got some of the mash and was really 'tipsy' for awhile.

The old Hamsfork Cemetery, about one mile northwest of Kemmerer, is listed in the Kemmerer Gazette, Friday Dec. 24, 1957, as being the oldest Burial Ground in the Kemmerer district. The oldest burial on record was in 1894. The following was taken from the original Quit-Claim Deed, loaned to us by Charlotte Carlisle. "Made this 9th day of June 1915, between T.A. Streight and Desire Gaspard, M.H. Lambermont, Alex Inama, William Purdy, F.D. Fagnant, Mrs. P.J. Quealy, Peter Gordon Sr., Mrs. Fred Leilman, Griffith Davis, M.F. NaylIn, Peter Gordon Jr., H.E. Christmas, Emil Duthle, Dan McKenzie, John Beachler, Mike Hendrickson, E.J. Harris, First National Bank of Kemmerer, C. Watt Brandon, Joseph Hanak, Joseph Piz, Louis Leonardi, James P. Rosenberg, Henry A. Streight, Alex Duthie, Andrew Boroni, George Hunter, John Cameron, Gus Carlson, Mrs. Sarah Hughs, Celeste Inama, William Nisbet, George Jarvie, Lampra. For the sum of One Dollar and other good and valuable consideration." Then follows the description of the ground, - Signed by T.A. Streight in the presence of G.W. Tanner, and J. W. Sammon, Notary Public. Registered T.A. Streight - to - Desire Gaspard, et.al. 16th day of June 1913; County Clerk-H.R. Harrison. Fee-\$4.70. Most of the markers are of native Diamondville stone and the mason was Henry Ingom.

Just north of the old Sutton home on the Sutton-Wood fence line is a cemetery where Hannah and James Westfall are buried, also William and Samuel Haddenham, children of Mr. and Mrs. John Haddenham; Clara Burke, daughter of Johanna Miller Burke; Grace Wright; child of Mr. and Mrs. James M. Wright; and one Emigrant grave.

North of the Ralph Nelson home on top of the hill, looking down into Beaver Creek, in the corner of the fence, is a small cemetery. Those who are buried there are; one boy of Mr. and Mrs. William Fenn; George

and Clarence Adams, sons of Mr. and Mrs. Samuel B. Adams; Alma and Marion Nelson, children of Mr. and Mrs. David F. Nelson; and a premature baby of Martha and Rudgar Nelson.

The Saw Mills and Log Drives

The Saw Mill on Saw Mill Creek, on the Hamsfork, was thought to be a Mill brought in by Joe Meklugan from Canada or Alaska; also he established the Shingle Mill. This could not be established for certain, or the date they were there, however Joe had a Sawmill on his ranch and sold it to Ephriam Stock for \$50. Kelly Hamilton had a Saw Mill at the Kelly Ranger Station site, which establishes the name of this Station and also the Kelly Springs. Information in the local newspapers reports that on Sept. 29, 1915, Edwin Porter and Martin Christensen were preparing to move their Saw Mill, from the site where they were operating nine miles north of Nugget on Beaver Creek, to a place just above the Sam Adams ranch where they would have some fine red pine to cut from. They had a steam mill with the capacity of about 4000 feet board measure daily. Lumber was selling for \$16.00 per 1,000 feet, and cheaper where parties desiring the lumber got out their own logs. Their business had increased so they did not make the move until Dec. 1915, then moved only about twelve miles from where they were to the head of Robinson Hollow, where the timber was better and there was more water.

In May 1916, Sarah H. Porter and Martin Christensen were married and later took up a homestead in the Shuster Canyon where they lived while they worked at the Mill. In January 1918, Edwin P. Porter sold his interest to his son-in-law Martin Christensen and moved to the old home place in Kaysville, Utah, which had been his parents' home since 1847. Just how long the Saw Mill was operated we are not sure, but they were still in business in July 1925. Some thought Joe Meklugan bought the Mill. The boiler was moved out to the head of Robinson Hollow, and was there until World War II, when it was taken for scrap iron.

The timber cutting and the log drives were a big thing and we were both lucky enough to be able to remember them. The men who worked on the drives and as timber cutters were mostly ranchers, who would take time out to help as they always needed the extra money, and the coal miners, who were not working steady in the mine. There are many remains of cabins built by the timber workers on the different creeks on the upper Hamsfork. Many of the men took their families with them. They would go up in the fall of the year and stay until all of the logs were cut and slid onto or by the river, ready for the high water to come in the spring of the year, when they would bring them down the river to Frontier. A crew of men was needed for this. They would use long pole hooks to keep the logs moving in the river, and pull them out at the end of the line. We will use articles from the local newspapers to better tell the story although these are not complete articles.

April 26, 1899 - "S. (Sim) Westfall has secured the contract for log drive on upper Hamsfork to start about May 10th, for the Diamondville Coal and Coke Co. for ties." The season was late so he did not go up until June 21, 1899.

June 28, 1899- "S. Westfall came down from the log drive Tues. Hamsfork river is still on the rise. The road between Kemmerer and Frontier has been inundated for the past week, and is almost impassable." Sim Westfall was down for provisions on July 5 and on July 26, the tie drive was at Charles Millers and expected to be in Frontier in ten days. They finished the log drive on August 9, without mishap, and there was a mile of logjam at Frontier. On Sept. 27, Sim Westfall was at work replacing the bridges on Hamsfork which he had removed at the time of the log drive.

January 20, 1900 - "William Dally was in town and reported a new log drive arriving at his home."

April 18, 1908 - "Fifty men were sent out this week to Hamsfork river to assist in the big log drive for Kemmerer Coal Company."

Jan. 12, 1910 - "Jay Fenn has gone to the timber camp on Hamsfork to complete his timber contract." "Feet Frozen-- Friday morning last a man by the name of Ernest Rice, working at the logging camp at the head of Hamsfork left for Kemmerer afoot. Before leaving he was advised to follow the river down on the ice, as it was thought that the walking would be easier. He had not proceeded very far until he broke thru the ice,

getting wet up to his armpits, and was only able to make six miles that day, to the old Jack Carrol cabin. In the morning when he started out he found that his feet were badly frozen, and by hook or crook managed to get to the George Spencer's place, a distance of about three miles. The next day the logging camp team on its way down picked him up and brought him in, arriving in Kemmerer about 11 o'clock Sunday night. Dr. Stafford was called in and found the man's feet badly frozen, but thinks that it is possible that amputation will not be necessary. He was taken to the hospital at Rock Springs the following morning."

Feb.9, 1910 - "A. McDonald, who has been in charge of the timber cutting for P.J. Quealy on the head of Hamsfork, came in Sunday after having discharged his crew of men, on completion of the large contract. Mr. McDonald informs us that 80,000 pieces are now cut many hauled on the ice and others skidded for rolling into the water as soon as the swell commences. A boom will be built at Frontier, where they will be hauled on shore and cut into props and ties for the mines of Kemmerer Coal Co. Teams are now busy and will be kept so for some time, hauling in supplies for the big drive in the spring when sixty men will be put to work."

Jan. 25, 1911 - "Forest Ranger F.A. Travis was a visitor at our office on Wednesday of last week, on his way to his headquarters at Cokeville coming down from the timber up Hamsfork, where he had charge of the timber contract for the Kemmerer Coal Co."

May 10, 1911 - "Jay Quealy left for the logging camp at the head of Hamsfork Saturday where he goes to take charge of the log drive in the interest of the Kemmerer Coal Co. The past winter has been favorable to the choppers and this will be one of the big drives Jay has been with these drives in prior years, but this will be his first work as a master."

May 24, 1911 - "Logs are all in the water and moving down Hamsfork. Jay Quealy came down from the log camp Saturday evening but was easily recognised by his parents and friends in spite of the long blonde whiskers and crewly (sic) neglected look. Logs were all in the water and the head of the drive at the Adams ranch, while the tail reached back to east fork and the ice is all out and the water is in fair condition now to allow the logs to reach the Frontier booms within two weeks. There are 91,000 ties and props in the drive, which are for Kemmerer Coal Co. 20,000 of which will be sent to Gun mines. Jay says the weather is quite warm up that way and the snow is fast filling the streams so there will be plenty of water to get the logs in. He returned to the camp Sunday afternoon."

Dec.17, 1915 - John Norman who has a logging contract on the head of Hamsfork, came down last week, and will spend the winter in Frontier. He reports the snow is about three feet deep in the timber, with considerable less in the meadows. There are still a few at work up there, but it is probable that the work will stop during the coming week."

Sept.1, 1916 - "Arnold Gumberunner had a timber contract for the Frontier Supply Co. on the north slopes of Elk Creek."

June 6, 1919 - "The spring log drive is on at Frontier. Huge rafts of lumber began arriving Monday and all hands turned out to land them at the lumber yard. These logs are cut about 45 miles north of Frontier, and are floated down the Hamsfork with the high water each year. Most of the timber is used for mine props."

June 3, 1921-"William Roberts of Frontier returned from the head waters of Hamsfork, the first of the week, where the timber camp of the Kemmerer Coal Co. is located, having been called there owing to a strike of about 20 workmen, which later proved to be a lockout. The crew went up to cut timber for the mine at a wage of \$5.00 a day and board, but later decided they should have the outside mine scale, which was between \$7.00 and \$8.00 a day. Presenting their demands they were refused so struck. The manager discharged all of the crew and imported another crew from Green River and the latest report all was well on Hamsfork. The strike may have had something to do with the present stage of the river, as it is flooding all the low lands in the district, through which it passes." This was probably about the last year of the log drives on Hamsfork.

Bridger National Forest

The south boundary of the Bridger National Forest is about one half mile north of Carl Creek. Charles A. Beam, Forest Supervisor with headquarters in Afton, Wyoming, came to the Hamsfork to establish the south boundary in 1907. Mr. Beam continued to be Forest Supervisor until 1922 when he was transferred to Nevada, at this time he had headquarters in Kemmerer. The Elk Creek Ranger Station was built in 1914; it is still standing this 1974, but has not been used as a station for many years. The following is a letter which we received upon seeking information on the forest from Mr. William O. Deshler: Dated May 2, 1972. "Kelly Ranger Station, Wyoming National Forest, was a year long station established in 1907-08. This location was used as a summer headquarters for the Cokeville Ranger District. The original ranger dwelling was moved to Cokeville in 1948 and is presently being used as the home of the Assistant Ranger. The old ranger office, constructed in 1922, was converted into a two-room dwelling and is referred to as the Kelly Guard Station. Besides this building, there are two others - the barn and garage - storeroom. Kelly Guard Station is located 20 miles from Cokeville. The present Elk Creek bridge that crosses Elk Creek was rebuilt in 1956 and is located 5.1 miles from the Forest Boundary on Kelly -Hamsfork road. The Sawmill Creek Culvert was installed in 1955 in the Sawmill Creek on the Kelly-Hamsfork Road located 3.4 miles from the Forest Boundary. The Shingle Mill Creek Culvert was installed in 1955 in Shingle Mill Creek located 3.8 miles from the Forest Boundary on the Kelly-Hamsfork Road."

The Forest Department built the Elk Creek camp ground which is located on the east side of the Hamsfork river between Elk Creek and Indian Creek. It is a beautiful place. In the fall of the year after the campers have left, it is the most restful place that could be found any where in the world, with the gentle breeze whispering in the pines, a few birds still around, and the rippling of the river below. Or in the spring of the year before the crowds begin to come, and the croaking of the frogs joins the rest of Mother Nature's wonders.

The stockmen have permits and allotments for the summer months for grazing their sheep and cattle. Some of the stockmen no longer trail their herds to the summer range, but haul them in large livestock trucks. The forest is a busy place in the fall of the year. The big game hunters flock in, to go high up into the Devils Hole Country, coming from all parts of the United States. Big Game is also found all through the Hamsfork valley. During our years of growing up there were very few big game to be found, perhaps they had been hunted too much and the cattle and sheep kept the feed scarce.