RUNNING IRON

The Running Iron was a simple device but when the use of it was mastered by a cowboy bent on increasing his own herd a ‘work of art’ could be had in ‘working a brand,’ changing the character of the original brand to that of his.

To show you what can be done the brand “F” is changed easily with a running iron $\text{F} \rightarrow \text{F}$ The brand “CBC” which was used by the largest horse outfit in the world, Chappel Brothers, (Rockford, Illinois, October 24, 1927) was changed thusly: $\text{CBC} \rightarrow \text{QBB}$.

The running iron was an iron circle that could be easily carried, was heated in a fire and then two wooden branches were alternated through the ring to form a handle.

LETTERS

In letters applying for brands we receive many unusual requests and some humorous, odd and interesting comments such as:

“I am a lone widow and not very bright.”

“Please send me a brand that I can use on both sexes.”

“If possible give me a horse brand near the front end for it is mules I have to brand.”

“My name is Carpenter and am known by most people as “Carp,” so would like a brand made in the outline of a carp or fish.”

“I got your letter but I ain’t no madam.”

“Please send me a brand with a rustic and romantic sounding name. just the kind, that in your judgment, is the one for me.”

Unusual requests were for the brands:

- Chuting star (not recorded)
  - (Parachute hanging star)

- Bail E
  - This man’s name was Bailey and he combined the bail from a bucket and the letter E for his brand. (recorded)

- Indian Racetrack (recorded)
  - Indian lore shows that the Indians enjoyed horse racing and by running their races on this kind of a track they could see more of the race and both the start and the finish. The race started where the two loops touch, went around the small loop, back and around the large loop and finished at the starting point. The Indians watched from both sides of the race track where the two loops touch.
The language of 'Brand Reading' is an art in itself; the brand must be read so that it will be drawn correctly if a tally is being made or if the calf is to be branded correctly.

Brands are read from left to right, from top to bottom and from outside to inside.

A lazy letter - the top is always to the left 'lazy A'. If the A lays this way it is read 'lazy A top to the right'.

In case of a B or D and similar letters when turned lazy they are read as 'lazy bow up' and 'lazy bow down'.

Lazy W: A lazy A top to the right bar straight away
Lazy M: A A in a quarter circle
Tumbling T: A A in a quarter circle
Reverse T: A bar A connected
Pitch fork: Running W
Spear O: Running M
Halter: Circle H
Down T T over bar:
Walking Y: Hafter H
A hanging A: Bar over walking Y L
A standing A: Spear Five
Lazy T: Lazy T top to right
Lazy A hanging A: Drag Y
A bar A up and down

In Montana there are 55,000 recorded brands.

Inspectors for the Livestock Commission inspect approximately 2,000-000 cattle and calves each year.

You can understand from the volume of work that an Inspector must be or must become an expert at brand reading.

An Inspector — this is the cowboy that looks at each cow or horse before it moves out of the State or before sale at markets. He reads the brand and makes a determination of ownership of the cattle or horses. The stockmen must rely on the inspector to see that cattle and horses are identified and correct ownership determined. This is an exacting and highly skilled profession, with the Inspector approving the ownership of hundreds of thousands of dollars worth of cattle in a year.

When there is a question of correct ownership the cattle or horses are held by the Inspector or sold. The money from the sale, or the animal involved is held until ownership is definitely proven.

Rustling — stealing cattle is still a problem and a much faster moving problem that it was in the days of 'The Old West.' The truck and good roads allow the cattle thief to move stolen animals many hundreds of miles in a few hours into areas where brands are not used to determine ownership of cattle, such as in the middle east where farms are small and cattle are kept confined in small pastures or feed lots.
- family
- classical language: richly expressive, carry commerce of culture of an society, as Latin, Greek did, as English does today.
- quite a strain matter of language
- cute as vanity license plates
- chalk E
- Carpenter/Camp - outline of a path

- mandala-like

- a language text on its descriptive places in sayings or terms of phrase
- warm up w/ DARE 10 pp.
- 43 entries, 5 original w/me

- my books: Eng Cath to MLA T digests
  - Double W in latest one

- eloquent as well as creative
- diamond is a half
- peavy diamond
- tenkey track
- horse track
- Elkhorn
- ox yoke T / Nelson Story

ID Blackfoot Indian Agency

MHS microphone is new: Rosett-stone (family album.
MT people have given me a lot to Montana.
M help thru the years or a research for my life.
On thru years, I'm glad C & Ed do same &
MHS sound list can be a porn album for TV programmers.
fool brand: too complicated to be briefly named

--source: Montana trade jargon, "Range Jargon", in "ranch" lingo file
I n a recent interview author Ivan Doig called brands “the classical language of the American West” and emphasized that “it is important that we understand and pass on the classical language of brands.” This interview took place during a recent visit to the Montana Historical Society after he and his wife Carol Doig donated funds to support a project that microfilmed more than 130 years of Montana brand registrations.

The Montana Department of Livestock has held the original brand books for decades, but daily requests from historians, lawyers, and ranchers to check brand histories and to determine whether a particular brand or mark is currently in use taxed the beleaguered clerk’s ability to answer all the queries promptly. The need to have these legal documents publicly accessible became of paramount importance, and the Doigs’ timely donation has made the brands available at the Montana Historical Society.

First registered through county brand offices, and later territorial and state offices, brands have been used in Montana to identify livestock and help deter theft since the 1860s. Families often passed down brands through generations as beloved family symbols, but brands could also be sold, either with a ranch or livestock company or with a herd of animals. No matter how a brand was transferred or to whom, in Montana that transfer had to be recorded with the Department of Livestock.

The first brand entered in the Montana brand books was the Square and Compass registered on February 10, 1873, to Poindexter & Orr, one of the earliest and largest stockholding partnerships in the territory. An Irish-born wagon maker, William C. Orr joined forces with Pennsyl-

Montana’s original brand books are now available to the public at the Montana Historical Society Library and Archives. The handwritten entry above is for Poindexter and Orr’s Square and Compass brand, recorded February 10, 1873. The Square and Compass branding iron, above left, was donated by the Montana Stockgrowers’ Association to the Montana Historical Society Museum in 1967, along with numerous other branding irons.

vanian Philip H. Poindexter in the stock business in 1856, and they built their business supplying meat to miners, first in the Shasta Valley of California, then later in Idaho and Oregon. In 1864 they followed the mining boom to Bannack, Montana Territory, and established a ranch in the Beaverhead Valley. Later, Orr settled with his family in Dillon, where his mansion still stands. The Square and Compass reflects the men’s lifelong membership in the Masons, which used a carpenter’s square and surveyor’s compass as its symbol.

Understanding and reading the language of brands is an important skill and one that is unfamiliar to many historians. The main reference tool for finding information in the Montana brand books is called the “branda-
hadn't read anything in the newspapers about the balloons or heard about them on the radio though. They had some friends who lived on the West Coast who had written to them about the balloon bombs. Before investigators arrived, Davidson's sister cut off an eight-inch-square piece of the paper balloon. “It looked like it had been pressed together...[O]ne side was shiny and smooth to touch.”

Agents took the balloon’s catenary band, shroud lines, and fragments of the balloon envelope to the Billings FBI Office, where United States Army Security Intelligence Division personnel and an army bomb disposal expert from Fort Douglas, Utah, picked them up on March 23.

The only recorded balloon bomb deaths occurred on May 5, 1945, when a group of young people from the Christian and Missionary Alliance Church in Bly, Oregon, were on a fishing trip on Gearhart Mountain with Pastor Archie Mitchell and his wife Elsie. Reverend Mitchell had left the group to park the car after dropping them off near the creek where they were going to fish, and the bomb exploded as he was walking back to join them, killing Mitchell’s pregnant wife, four young boys, and a sister of one of the boys. Apparently the youths discovered a balloon bomb and attempted to move it. Two weeks after the Oregon deaths the government finally issued a statement warning of the danger of tampering with balloon bombs.

Balloon bomb activity peaked in March 1945 when government officials recovered seventy-four balloons and eighty-nine others were sighted. The Japanese military did not know if the balloons were actually arriving in North America or if their bombs were causing any damage because the incidents were not reported in the news, and they discontinued launching the balloon bombs that April. In August the United States dropped atomic bombs on Japan. The Manhattan Project, the project that created the atomic bomb, was also kept secret during its development. Ultimately it brought the war to a conclusion.

LARRY TANGLEN, a reporter and photographer for the Laurel (Mont.) Outlook, has spent over a dozen years working as a reporter, editor, and managing editor at weekly newspapers in Montana and Colorado.

In December 1944 FBI agent Donald D. Cook took this photograph when investigating the balloon bomb discovered near Kalispell. The federal government asked the press to voluntarily censor reportage to prevent information about the balloons from reaching the Japanese. Few Americans were even aware of them.
A "chronological index," a list of brands and marks arranged by symbol. These begin with the letter A (Lazy A, A standing A, Lazy A hanging A, etc.) and work through the letter Z before moving to abstract symbols. Montanans have used a wide variety of artistic brands—from hearts and crosses and dots and triangles to circles and half moons, even swastikas. These brands, Doig pointed out, are "historically expressive and artistic."

The hand-drawn brand sketches that appear in the brand books offer fascinating insights into Montana social life. Because brands must be renewed every decade, brand books are one way to track an individual's whereabouts. Doig's father, Charlie, for example, owned livestock but no land. The senior Doig is listed in the brand books but not on county land registers. Thus, the brand books can prove invaluable for genealogists looking to locate people who might not appear in city directories, homestead records, or land registers.

Each registration in the brand books includes a variety of information, on both the individual who registered the brand and the brand itself. A typical registration includes a sketch of the brand, its registration date, the name of the person or business who registered the brand, that person's town or county of residence, the type of animal for which it was registered, and the brand's placement on the animal. Each entry, then, tells the story of the families associated with a brand, including what type of livestock they raised and where they lived. By tracing a brand throughout the brand books, the history of a particular ranch can also be discovered—who took over the ranch and re-registered the brands, what types of livestock the ranch raised, and where the animals were pastured.

To research a particular brand, either the name of person who registered it or the brand must be known. The brand books are organized by decade. For each decade there are two indexes, one organized alphabetically by the name of the registrant and one "brandantically" by the first letter in the brand. When researching a brand by the symbol rather than the name of the owner, remember that each brand can be registered to more than one person for different locations on different animals.

The registers are one of many MHS Library and Archives holdings relating to brands. The collection also includes Montana Stock Growers' Association brand books, Crow and other Native American brand books, as well as brand books published sporadically by counties. To inquire about using the brand books or for further information, contact State Archivist Molly Miller at (406) 444-7482 or by e-mail at archives@state.mt.us.

CHARLENE PORSILD is the Montana Historical Society Library and Archives director. MOLLY MILLER is the Montana state archivist.
The Last of Its Kind: The Dearborn River High Bridge

by Jon Axline

Crossing the Dearborn River High Bridge can be an exhilarating experience. The transition from rolling grasslands to the craggy Dearborn Canyon is thrilling enough, but add to the experience the one-hundred-foot drop to the river and the sound of the rattling timber deck and any heart beats faster.

The 160-foot-long Dearborn River High Bridge is the only one of its kind in Montana and quite possibly the last such bridge in the United States. In technical terms it is a four-span pin-connected half-deck truss structure that uses a truss developed by Caleb Pratt in the 1830s. What makes this bridge so unusual is that the deck, the surface on which vehicles cross, is attached midway up the trusses, the metal framework of the bridge, instead of at the top or bottom. From below the structure resembles a giant spider web strung between the walls of the chasm. Although the bridge looks fragile, it has faithfully carried traffic over the gorge since 1897.

The Dearborn bridge also provides a glimpse into bridge building during the golden age of the craft. In December 1896 ranchers southwest of Augusta convinced county commissioners they needed a bridge at the Pend d'Oreille crossing of the North Fork of the Dearborn River to provide access to the railroad. Indians traveling to the buffalo country used the crossing for centuries, but by the late 1880s cattle and sheep ranchers who shipped livestock on the Great Northern Railway from Gilman and Wolf Creek had become the crossing's primary users. The county commissioners advertised for bids just before Christmas 1896 and received proposals from eight companies by the January 14, 1897, deadline.

Because of the engineering expertise they brought to the task, bridge construction companies under contract to the counties built every new major bridge in Montana during this era. Other than the length and width of the proposed bridge, county commissioners provided few
several-page FAX for Becky Newell:

Here's the pick of my brand file. Couple of things to note: more than one brand listed to Will James, but the Rocking Chair is a beauty. Teddy Roosevelt was an early member of the Montana Stock Growers Association even though he ranched across the line in Dakota Territory. And if you happen to need a non-Texas pic of branding done on the range, I have one of my dad branding solo in the Montana sagebrush in the 1920's.

Good luck with the piece.

[Signature]
Brande, A.E. Read (Wyoming, 1921)

- CRANE, Cheyenne, Cheyenne
- Ox Bar
- Reclining armchair brand used by此基础上
- Hossig in the 50s.

-X 7x7 connected as Buzzard Brand.
- Necktie
- J Luton
- F Damper as Revolver H
- A Camp stool

- Centennial Train Brand Book, 1964
- M 762
- CM 1 Bar Tie
- CM Antlers
- Turkey Track
- Flying X
- Dice Fines
- Rocking Chair
- "Herleicht Duncan Ranches Development Co."
- Three Tacks.

S 1 TED Ted N. Selring, Circle
A WORD ABOUT BRANDS

Ever since the cattle business was started, it has been the custom to identify the ownership of cattle and horses by burning a brand on the animal's hide. No other more practicable means of marking animals has been invented. Where cattle roam over wide spaces and intermingle with other cattle sometimes owned by a large number of different stockmen, marks which can be easily distinguishable at long distances are essential. The brand is practically the last word in determining title to the animal which carries it. Comprehensive and strict laws are administered and enforced in Montana by the competent Montana Livestock Commission and the Recorder of Marks and Brands. The first law regarding brands was introduced in Montana in the territorial legislature in 1864 and became a law on January 31, 1865. The first recorded brand in Montana was the Square and Compass which was registered by Poindexter & Orr. The brand is still active on the State records.

In 1956 there were 60,000 recorded brands in Montana. This does not signify that there are that many individual cattlemen and horsemen, as it is often the case that one person may have several recorded brands.

Under the laws, all cattle and horses must be inspected before being removed from any county and when sold at a market. No cattle may be shipped to any market out of the State unless inspection and clearance is issued before the cattle leave the State's boundary, unless the cattle are destined to a central market out of the State, where a Montana brand inspector is regularly stationed. This process saves many thousands of dollars for Montana stockmen in the period of a year. Stray cattle are recovered both in the country and at markets. The brand inspectors establish ownership of these estrays and when they are sold the returns are sent to the State Livestock Commission which holds them subject to claim by the proper owner. Because of this strict brand inspection arrangement the theft of livestock is kept at a minimum.

Total livestock inspections of horses and cattle at markets and for shipment in 1956 was 1,900,322 cattle and 41,044 horses. It is of interest to note that 958,634 cattle were inspected for sale in Montana and eastern markets.

The tremendous volume of business in cattle and horses by Montana Stockmen can be realized from these figures. Recording fees, inspection fees and special tax levy on livestock provides the funds for the maintenance of the State officials and inspectors in whose hands the administration of brand laws is placed.

Brands have been called the heraldry of cattledom - a brand almost amounting to a coat of arms for its owner. It has been the custom for many years to name a ranch from the brand which its livestock carries. Some of the most famous brands in Montana's history were the Square and Compass, CK, Mill Iron, Hat X, Hashknife, Circle Bar, Spear O, XIT, LU Bar, Bar R, Cross, N Bar N, 79, Flying D, Big, 2 A Bar, IX. Will James, the cowboy writer, owned the Rocking Chair. Theodore Roosevelt's brand was the Maltese Cross. The U.S. Department of Indian Affairs uses an ID. The Montana Livestock Commission's brand is Bar One Bar. Most of these brands are still of record.
BRANDING AND BRAND INSPECTION

A good plain brand means dollars to anyone raising cattle and most stockmen are not in the habit of throwing $100 to $125 in cold hard cash away but some of them will put a brand on a $125 cow or $75 calf with a small thin faced iron that will blotch so no one can read it. Besides the possibility of losing the animal, other indirect costs are investigation of ownership by your brand inspection department, loss of your time, costs of handling and advertising for owner if sold as an estray.

One thing to remember when branding is: "You are not branding only for your own identification, you should brand the animal so anyone can read the brand." Your critter will get back home or you will be notified of its whereabouts if the brand is plain.

Often feeders in the corn belt area write your inspection agency and ask for ownership of a certain brand because those feeders carrying that brand fed out so well. Make your brand YOUR TRADEMARK, you don't want that feeder to contact anyone else for cattle in such an instance and there are many of them. A brand inspector's job is determining ownership by the brand on the critter. You must depend on good inspection and investigations for protection of your industry. Help your inspector by branding with a good iron, each letter should be at least 4 inches and the face of the iron should be no less than 1/4 inch wide.

Go to a sales market some day and watch your inspectors work. He will appreciate your interest and you will see the importance of good branding. Notice how quickly good branded cattle are passed by him. Watch him rope, clip and examine a blotched or small dim brand on a critter. He will try to decipher it and may pass it on close examination. If he doesn't pass the brand, proceeds or critter are held for definite proof that animal rightfully belongs to claimant.

Remember an old cow can't tell where her home is so depend on your brand to get her home.

MONTANA LIVESTOCK COMMISSION
Helena, Montana

BI #8
9/20/57
YOUR BRAND PROTECTS
YOUR LIVESTOCK

FIRST. Choose a good brand. One that is distinctive, and readily recognized. The Recorder of Marks and Brands will aid you in selecting a brand which has the desired qualities within the limits imposed by brands already on record.

SECOND. Have your brand recorded. Unrecorded brands afford little or no protection and result in much confusion with consequent loss and waste. Brands are recorded by the State Recorder of Marks and Brands for a fee of $6.00. A $3.00 payment every ten years maintains the brand on the records.

THIRD. Apply the brand properly. It should be on the position recorded, of sufficient size to be readily seen and should be clearly and cleanly burned in with a hot iron having faces at least 3/8 inch wide, and letters, figures, or characters should be 4 inches in length.

FOURTH. Give a proper bill of sale when selling. Protect yourself and others by insisting that the buyer take a completely and properly filled out bill of sale.

FIFTH. Require a proper bill of sale when buying. Be particular as to brands and the legal requirements of the bill of sale. By so doing you will save yourself much trouble, annoyance and expense in future transactions.

SIXTH. Cooperate with the Montana Live Stock Commission. The stock laws of the State were enacted solely to protect the interest of the stockmen and your assistance can make them more effective in accomplishing that purpose.

When offering stock for sale which carry brands other than your own be prepared to prove ownership.

In order to avoid delay give your local inspector as much advance notice as possible when requiring inspections.

MONTANA LIVESTOCK COMMISSION
Helena, Montana
SIGNIFICANT BRANDS IN MONTANA HISTORY

"Three Christian Crosses" reportedly used by Cortez during the 1500's in Mexico. 

Was this brand to be used in North America?

The Branding Iron used by the Lewis & Clark Expedition. An iron of this type would have been used to mark packing crates, etc. rather than livestock.

Branded horses 38 horses and cut off foretop.

"Mission Cross" used at St. Mary's Mission near Stevensville during the 1840's.

LH "Ox-Yoke T" left rib and O left hip was the brand on the first herd of Texas cattle to be trailed to Montana. This was accomplished in 1866 by Nelson Story who recorded this brand in Montana on January 21, 1880.

"Square and Compass" recorded in 1872 by Poindexter and Orr of Beaverhead County. This is the first brand shown in the book kept by the Clerk of the Supreme Court of Montana Territory.

Erroniously reported as being the first brand registered in Montana.
Recorded by Con Kohrs on May 25, 1876.

RANDED FROM SAND SPRINGS TO THE REDWATER
NORTH TO MISSOURI

Montana Cattle Company, John T. Murphy, Manager. Recorded on July 31, 1879.

Known as the "DHS". Recorded by Davis, Hauser & Co. on February 23, 1880. Later sold to Con Kohrs who operated under the name of Pioneer Cattle Company.

"Elkhorn" was recorded by early day rancher and later President of the United States, Theodore Roosevelt on July 17, 1884.

Recorded by Pierre Wibaux on May 22, 1885.

40,000 CATTLE
BANKER IN MILES CITY

The Capitol Freehold Land and Investment Co., LTD, of Texas recorded this brand on August 11, 1890.

Built Capitol Building For Texas
Received Land Grant
James Fergus & Son of Ft. Maginnis purchased this brand from W. W. Welte. The transfer was recorded on September 26, 1890.

Recorded by E. C. "Teddy Blue" Abbott on October 20, 1892.
"Born in England
With Helena Hunting, Ten Smith
3rd of Stock Commissioners"

Recorded by the Price-Russell Co. on December 30, 1905. This was a partnership between Con Price and Charlie Russell.

Will James recorded these brands on April 28, 1931.
Wrote "Smokey" made into a movie in which he starred.

HM/snm/41
## BRAND RECORDS IN MONTANA

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1864</td>
<td>Law passed governing the recording of brands or marks and brands to be filed with county clerk in applicant's county of residence.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1872</td>
<td>*Law changed providing for a central office for the recording of marks and brands. This responsibility was given to the Clerk of the Supreme Court.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1877</td>
<td>The responsibility was transferred to the Treasurer of Montana Territory.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1887</td>
<td>Transferred to the Board of Stock Commissioners.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

### Recopied in 1903-1905

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Book</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1911</td>
<td>First Re-record</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1921</td>
<td>-A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1931</td>
<td>-B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1941</td>
<td>-C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1951</td>
<td>-D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1961</td>
<td>-E</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1971</td>
<td>-F</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1981</td>
<td>H-</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
BRANDS FOUND IN THE ART
OF
C. M. RUSSELL

Across Nams
Recorded to Stadler and Kaufman of Helena on June 5, 1878. Appears in "Waiting for a Chinook" (1886), sometimes called "Last of the 5000".

Right Thigh

Right Shoulder
Recorded to Stadler and Kaufman of Helena on February 4, 1884. Appears in "C. M. Russell and His Friends" (1922).

Right Thigh
Recorded to R. W. Clifford of Ubet, Fergus County, on May 16, 1887. Appears on the grey horse in "The Herd Quitter" (1897), "Hooverizin" (1918), "Bronco Bustin" (1895), and a bronze "The Horse Wrangler" (no date).

&O
I have been unable to determine if this brand was recorded in Montana. Appears on the bucking horse in "Bronc to Breakfast" (1908). It is possible that this brand came from Oregon or one of the other northwestern states.

Right Shoulder
Recorded to Harmon Ranney of Helena on December 19, 1883. Appears in "Men of the Open Range" (1923).
Brands & Brand Recording in Montana

The first Montana Territorial Legislature in 1864 passed laws providing for the registration of brands or marks and brands with the County Clerk and Recorder.

In the ensuing years it was decided that there should be a central office for the recording of brands. The 1872 Legislature made the recording of brands part of the duties of the Clerk of the Supreme Court. This is the beginning of our present records.

The first brand to be entered in the books by the Clerk of the Supreme Court was (Square and Compass) recorded by Poindexter & Orr of Beaverhead County.

In 1877, the Territorial Legislature moved the responsibility of recording brands from the Clerk of the Supreme Court to the Territorial Treasurer.

In 1885, the Board of Stock Commissioners was formed. This Board is the beginning of the present day Department of Livestock.

In 1887 the Board of Stock Commissioners were given the responsibility of recording brands.

At present there are Brands recorded in Montana.

Listed below are a few brands that may be of interest.

- Davis, Hauser & Company
  Later became Pioneer Cattle Co.
  Conrad Kohrs & G. Stuart

- Bloom Cattle Co.
  Ran cattle in Northern Montana along the Milk River

- Right Rib and Left Rib (Known as the Elkhorn)
  Theodore Roosevelt, Oyster Bay, New York
  Later United States President

- Right Rib-Cattle

- Right Rib -Cattle & Right Thigh Horses

- Price-Russell Company
  This was a partnership between Con Price and noted cowboy artist Charley Russell
Left Rib Cattle

E.C. "Teddy Blue" Abbott
Teddy Blue was a Texas cowboy who came to Montana in the 1880's. He later married one of Granville Stuart's daughters. He co-authored the book, "We Pointed Them North."

Right Thigh - Horses
Left Shoulder - Cattle

Will James
Noted cowboy author and artist. He wrote "Smokey" which was made into a movie in which the author starred.

Left Rib  O  Left Hip
Known as the "Ox Yoke T"
This brand was used on the first trail herd from Texas to Montana in 1866, owned and trailed by Nelson Story of Bozeman who later recorded the brand on January 21, 1880.

This is an old Texas brand used on many thousands of cattle trailed from Texas to Montana with range in eastern Montana. The brand was first recorded in Montana as a "Texas Hashknife" on October 4, 1882, to Continental Cattle Co., of St. Louis, MO.

Tongue River Reservation, Lame Deer
December 22, 1932

This brand has been used throughout the West to brand those cattle owned by the Indians on the various Indian Reservations.
J. L. Perkins

MORIN

Meagher

20 Oct 1882

Vent - Northerly Race Beneath Bank

Neceloodle, 50 of Mo. River

RN.
Agency Brands

1D LHC  Blackfoot Indian Agency
      Chouteau County
      Browning
      Pa. 72 (1905)
      31 March 1879

2C RHC  Crow Indian Agency
      Crow Agency
      Reserve County
      (Cancelled 9-4-1912)
      Pa. 339 (1905)
      2 Nov 1885

3L LTH  South Piegan Indian Agency
      Chouteau County
      Pa. 362 (1905)
      5 March 1886

4B RC  Indians of Ft Peck Reservation
      Poplar
      2455 (1905)
      13 Aug 1904

5L LTH  Blackfoot Tribe of Indians
      Browning Teton
      5523
      15 Jan 1916
1D *LH*  Black Feet Indian Agency
   Browning
   P&72 (1905)
   31 Mar 1879

1D re  FT Belknap Indian Reservation
      FT Belknap Chouteau Co
      3415 (1905)
      23 Oct 1908
      RE RECORDED
      PG 219
      14 Aug 1911
      (0403)
      2433 Ref No
      22 Sept 1911

1D *LSH*  FT Belknap Res. Res.
      FT Belknap

1D *RH*  Crow Indian Reservation
      Crow Agency
      5329
      21 Oct 1915
Trans 10-20-51 to 4752-5
The Northern Cheyenne Reservation
Lamedeer

1D LHC LSH
Also LRE
ID LSHH

Tongue River Res. Lamedeer
1-23-41
C-7102
382-3
12-22-32

1D LSH LC

Flathead Indian Agency Dixon
12-31-41
C-33407
1376-3
1-29-38

1D RSH

Ft Belknap Indian Agency Harlem
D-16591
5-2-51
C-32745
12-31-41
651-3
1-27-34
1D RJ

Rocky Boy's Agency
Rocky Boy Rt, Box Elder

D - 16592
5-2-51
2-5-41
C-9153C
13712-4M
5-8-44

1322-3C
7-9-37

1D RH

Blackfeet Indian Agency
Browning

1015-4
1-3-44
1350-3
10-20-37
Mission Brands

St Mary's - Circa 1840's Not Recorded
But Records Indicate Use.

St Peters - Not Recorded But Evidence of
Use is noted @ RD MTG 22 Apr 1891 = Reinders &
Chestnut Pool shipment Carroll & Earlier

St Labre's Mission
Ashland
Pg 688 - 1905
13 Sept 1890

St Paul's Mission
St Pauls - Chouteau Co
Pg 777 - 1905
4 Feb 1892

St Xavier Mission
St Xavier - Custer Co
Pg 925 - 1905
19 Dec 1893
ian.
also Society
s
59620-9990

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them. Didn’t the various Indian tribes have brands also?
Were they registered with the Territorial or State Auditor?

I hope you don’t mind the pestering. I’ll probably see you
around early July--I need to do some research at the
library.

Thanks again for all your help.

Sincerely,

Rick Stewart
Curator of Western Painting & Sculpture
April 6, 1993

Dave Walter
Reference Librarian
Montana Historical Society
225 North Roberts
Helena, Montana 59620-9990

Dear Dave:

Your letter arrived with all the information and I deeply appreciate all the efforts you made on my behalf. The articles on President Harding’s visit to Butte were most helpful, even if the sculpture wasn’t mentioned. Since it was Nancy Russell who said Harding got the sculpture, I’ll take her word for it. (Anyway, there was an exhibition not long after that where Harding was mentioned as the owner of a Russell bronze, so he must have received it.)

I was pleased to get the information about Hank Mathiason at the Brands Office. I’m very inexperienced in researching brands, and the Russells in our collection have a lot of different ones depicted. That Quarter Circle P brand is a puzzle—of course, it could easily have been garbled on the bronze. I have enclosed four tracings; the puzzle brand and three others from Russell’s other “cowboy” bronzes. I’d like to know the identity of any of them, if Hank can find them. Didn’t the various Indian tribes have brands also? Were they registered with the Territorial or State Auditor?

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File: Brands - Blackfoot Reserve

p.3 Wm. H. Buttleman
Cattle: 
Horse: 

p.7 J. A. Gravely, Johnson, Broadwater Co.
Range: Eagle Creek
Cattle: 5-W
Horse: LL

p.22 C. H. Young:

8 Callum Bain

11 Miss Minnie Kramer, Administrative
Range: Seven Blackfoot and Indian Creek

19 R. C. Setton
T
also: 5

File: Brands - Blackfoot Reserve

p.3 Ben Angleide ⌞ left side (Spade)
Gibson + Fellars ⌞ " " (Flying U)
Sam C. Beard ⌞ " " (flying ⌞)
A. B. Hamilton ⊗ " " shoulder (lower back)
John J. Calhoun ⌞ " " ribs (picket shaded)
Hank Mathiason / Dave W. - Brand
- Bought C.P. wool - 3rd hour e. side of tracks
- Sold: Outlaw, 10 yr. (GED)

24 - "magpie cow"
34 - "next a couple of cattle"
- 66 minutes on St. Livestock
48 - old cow, year & Bigalow, a larger, then Sidney
- "on a funny deal"

60 - commanded w/ law enforcement powers & B2Z men
68 - Butte, '67-8
74 - '69: going to Montana Capitol @ May
92 - '70: Helena
96 - "lead up wife... came up & fed: I'm even"
104 - did, in '71 (was '67.)
111 - 1st & 2nd, no second thoughts
123 - "I heard of burned out"
- "headed me around: crying"

132 - Major crime to death crime scene reopen
147 - '72: police went to school (to suspect local inspectors)
154 - local people like "policeman & best"
160 - distinction 2-5 centch; locals, county & etc.
165 - Sheriff's deputy: local in Helena
176 - majorly, locally hired for Troop Francis; 36-40, Aug.-Nov. strictly season
- "did have make up w/ all, to '30's.
197 - 50% of cold winds out Dec. more
- "in other 9 mos".

210 - 1400 * the "off grays" (do hit coal mine, off 1st lot)
217 - "in dist. in grays" keeps in contact w. locate a suspicion
220 - "Th is such a thing as an honest story"

233 - out of extraordinary H = 2 cow & cow & cow & different brands.
249 - changes samson fee for sheriffly: 2$/head; local keeps fee
- "do pretty well & a cow & pull" - enough tax $7

279 - tell busineess, how to get up with for $5 worthy - 2 hrs
- plus $5 for gas (worry out of pocket) can split mileage
288 - dist. man & Helena M. yr
   - "get things spread out"
319 - retired in '93 (after export/import)
329 - recording blanks: 1921 long, every 10 yrs blanks re-received
   - cards of cattle, normally 5 diff. combs, submitted
353 - be need done for conflicts & mistakes
376 - w/ modern mkt/ly, they at wish for conflicts
   - "it's been a long way but they're newly breeding them out."
360 conflicts: "after you burn 'em & cool"
   H & N - filter across
6 & reverse J
A & waiting Y (seen in middle)
418 - position on animal; 4 exact opposite (nud/4 ox);
   stampion on wrong side
438 - "when they get handed up" - have to chip every animal
   to tall; identify
457 - E-1 (Ranier); Blk B-K
493 - any breed can be changed into a 'thing'

Side 2
5 - not training, then siphoning off 'call'
20 - hands back roll of silver stamps - "rainbow head"
43 - dam (in legal) 2 x 7 days or limit each etc...
55 - mono, electric implants, # of places on animal
57 - implants called as: carrying of ownership, or moved out 7 cattle
   - set up tuck & place for insects
71 - writing tally in an alley, watch ev animal as it goes by
   - tally: C (for cow), X (for calf); $ (sheep, bifers)
15 for bull.
   - may count entire herd list (no tally means match) - make up
   - "on a pasture ahead," stears or bifers; check-em by ranch
112 - yippee, hope animal or chip it
   - calves are "real fuzzy" at hand, or not's?
   - plate details given; must have to have copy
150 - call truck & check, brand inspector is called
161 - brand inspector started in colonial NE
172 - 45 min to inspect 110 calf, rem. if all goes well
188 - Brand changing is not as it's way out
197 does not racce freez. Brandon, Clever in shoe polish ed case
- E of: Masonry &. Destroyer, another out of Brandon area, e.g. nope

222 - try to sell low brand
- poor not charge slippily branded case

253 - Branding is done quarterly & slippily even now
"Cawone mondays do...have no patience,"

292 - how applied: Work inspectors & detectives
- by Bd of Livestock, second by supervisors
- detectives stationed in major shp cities (capacity shp/commis)

370+ $365/ma pay in '60 s when farm started

440 - paid: 1st, mead allowance, exempt 6%, plates (11)
477 - 10-12 inspectors in Billings shper - 1/4 mid earth
1994 - no courses in Poolbrook branch; learn b. yds

/extra 78 - touting: sample
"So it all adds up..."

26 - full learning: pack copy of learned health rules cons
- "call on...other side of..."
- "Time sunder fall of a truck!"
- call to WA

50 - 24 farm @ yds, boys call sold @ yds
- cow & today cow jockey

100 - barn tag: blue whip @ & on; in left ear
135 - 47 barns of livestock @ 5, gram pl of entry
147 - annl 5-01 grand confere: exchange info of suspect!
"I do' have all incidentals..."

"goose neck leader"

182 - I am inspected by owner
da

241 - charge: commonly permitted, pp g track on mornings
244 - co., air exam inspectors inspected
- exempt from inspection

- remain call 10 days, 2 was ahead of time
brands cont'd.

- numbers may mean vine too small (because of leather goods)
- no excise ID yet!
- fire brand on horses OK, but...

"cow's return address"

- look! 2 total animals! (also they fit on road)
- must have killed bull during hunting season
- a dead and a dead!
- matches w/ phone #!

- guns of wild in river

- they all come up missing
- portable canals (cheaper than lumber)
- stamp iron vs. running iron
- only numbers: "requisite precedes them"
- właśc w reminder
- nodes store handled like any body else's; but annual, so they can more
- can sell land as personal property
- valued for $5,000 (vs. $50 to register a new one!)
- if not re-recorded (every 10 yrs), becomes public
- breakdown order! 4A, 4B, 22

brand used L to R, top to bottom
- no ones on 1/4, but
- 45,000 re-records! (longest registration system)
- 65,000 on record

- on new side of brand cut off a segment from tail end, not from head
- at re-record, guy bought 20 more brands, sold them
- now you can have only 3, unless you can you need + (affirmative)
- scattered brands - can own vials, etc.
- inspect brand - "not spelled out" - go thru same process as any other
- new is worth full face brands
- purchase not unethical for local inspects

- most inspectors have computer access to every brand in state
- brands/palaces - not inspected yet, but owners col petition for it.
tape 3/18 21 dict imposter, 200 local
68 - 1.3 mil cell they willed in '77 '96, 650,000
50 - 2,000 more cows kept on man area (but ag farm in state)
193 - need to make him test to vote in Billings... being turned into suburbia
111 - 3,000 horses in lot in Billings... "cd" get away from 4 horses new...
133 - '70's; urban renewal etc.
127 - recorded size of towns:
   - calf, 2.5" h x 3" app, keep under - free of iron min 2.5"
   - yulego (judging stone, 4") - "" "" "" 3/8"
   - horse (elephant, 4") on broad beam (2" center, 2") free
145 - B or C, tendency to bloom
155 - 10" hi head!
165 - 1/2 leave gap in middle not to create hot spot
   - A, same
175 - answer an O, check it up
179 - still problem with around to do it
189 - judging values: 100-200 church, 4/12 of view kept heating
206 - tall poles, my purpose even to heat cars
222 - dict imposter before 1950:
254 - Portland loan ran 38,000 yulego a Blackfoot Res in '98
287 - gang at imposter who "really turned - crank" in piling up answers
   - (later went to London patrol)
301 - ran "nailed around all of that." (referring related to sister - sister?)
315 - Stephen Collector ("baud") (369: LC Johnston told tell folks in it)
345 - needed a horse, pulled - travel back! (1937)
372 - "He'd fill you so full you'd sure get known."
left rib.

BUCK & MYERS.  Brand: C2  left rib.

SAM MITCHELL.  Brand: 211  left rib.

LICH TAYLOR  Brand: 999  left rib.

LOUIE ROBARE.  Brand: 9R  right hip.

BEN ENGLISH.  Brand: J  left rib (Spade)

GIESON & FELLERS  Brand: U  left rib (Flying U)

LOUIE MORGAN  Brand: 5  left rib.

FRANK TRUCHOT  Brand: 3T  left rib (crowfoot T)

SAM C. BURD  Brand: SC  left shoulder -- left rib (flying △)

A. B. HAMILTON  Brand: H  left shoulder (horse brand)

JOHN J. GALEMEATH  Brand: J  left rib (pick & shovel)

JOSEPH KIPP  Brand: KIP  left rib

H. A. POWELL  Brand: HP  left rib

JACK MILLER  Brand: JM  left rib horse.

1885-FLOWEREE  Brand: F  left rib △ left hip
1886-FLOWEREE & LOWRY

SAM PEPEIN

SAINT PETERS MISSION

FRANK GOSS

E. J. DEVEREAUX

WILLIAM KIPP

CUT BANK JOHN

JOSEPH CABELL

WOLF TAIL

Brand: 22
1900
left rib.

Brand: PT
left hip.

" +
left hip.

" L G
left hip

" F 1
left rib (TD)

" 7 L
right rib

" =
right rib (hatchet brand)

" JC
left rib

" W T
left rib
The branding of livestock in Custer County was a practice that originated when cattle were trailed in from the west. This occurred in the fall of the year, when the cattle brought in that year and selected by the cowboys of several years earlier were ready to be branded. Kempton and Tuisier brought in cattle branded with the "J" (J lazy J) brand. Cattle were moved in from the west for two or three years, then the great Texas drive started and soon the Custer County livestock range was filled with both western and southern stock. The peculiar difference in the brands was that western brands were usually initials of the owners or letters, while southern brands came within the influence of old Spanish brands and they were usually a copy of some subject, as the early Spaniards used as a brand, a brand patterned from some subject, such as tools, fruit, etc.; thus the brands of Custer County in the early days were varied.

The first brands were originated by the owners themselves, for the purpose of proving their ownership as the vast ranges of the County were not divided by fences or any obstructions to prevent each owners stock from mingling with the others. These brands were selected so that the mark was easily recognizable and would not blemish. Also each brand was designed so that it was possible to put as many markings on one iron as possible. Some brands were contained on a single iron, the fewer the branding irons, the less time required to brand a critter.
The branding of livestock in Custer County dates back to the time when cattle were trailed into the County, from the west. This occurred in the fall of 1879 and 1880. John M. Holt brought in cattle that year and selected as a brand the L O. For several years, other outfits continued to bring in cattle from the west. Kempton and Tusler brought in a herd of branded their stock J (J lazy J) brand. Cattle were moved in from the west for two or three years, then the great Texas drive started and soon the Custer County livestock range was filled with both western and southern stock. The peculiar differences in the brands was that western brands were usually initials of the owners or letters, while southern brands came within the influence of old Spanish brands and they were usually a copy of some subject, as the early Spaniards used as a brand, a brand patterned from some subject, such as tools, fruit, etc., thus the brands of Custer County in the early days were varied.

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There was no record kept of the very first brands and the selection of a brand was done by the owner. Some brands were exact copies of brands used in other parts of the United States, or in old Mexico. After the Montana Stockgrowers was formed, an effort was made to record the brands of all its members which constituted nearly all the livestock operators in Montana. The first brand book was published in 1885. The last brand book was published in 1910. At the present time a record is kept by the Montana Livestock Commission, of all the brands in Montana. Every brand must be renewed at least once each ten years to lawfully remain an active brand. Owners of brands may transfer or sell their brand to another party, by agreement with the two parties involved, or an old brand may become an active brand again, after becoming a dead brand, that is failure to renew a brand, when the commission sees fit to issue it to a party requesting a brand for their stock. The first brands were requested by the livestock men, but now the commission gives a party what ever brand they see fit, and does not follow the request of the one needing a brand.

The following is a list of brands and the characteristics of the brands. These first brands were selected by the owners themselves, in the early history of the livestock industry of Custer County and Montana.:

M. Craig McDowell, Brandenburg, brand C. The oldest active brand in the State of Montana.

Lee Brothers, Birney, brand L & E. The only brand using the owners full name.
Col. H. G. Thompson, Miles City, brand O. (key: O) named from Ft. Keogh.

De Hart Land & Cattle Co., Miles City, brand D from the name De Hart.

M. Kircher, Miles City, brand 3X, from the fact that Kircher lived three miles from Miles City, and the K for Kircher.

Hereford Livestock Co., Miles City, brand S L, from the names Sanborn and Loud, the managers.

J. W. Toohey, Birney, brand 2E, this figure and letter pronounces Toohey's name.

Smith & Elliot, Terry, brand B, from Bates, Ill. the town where the company originated.

The following are brands of the type originally found in the South.

Mr. H. Cotant, Miles City, brand (the hat brand)
John Samples, Miles City, brand (garden rake)
Watkins Bros., Terry, brand (rocking chair)
Marston Tebbetts, Miles City, brand (sickle brand)
Continental Land & Cattle Co. brands

Grinnell Livestock Co. brand (wrench)

C. B. Mendenhall, Terry, brands (hatchet)

(leaf)
Superior Cattle Co., Miles City, brand $ (cents mark)
T. H. Flad, Terry, brand % (per centage mark)
J. C. House, Miles City, brand (house brand)
Cross Bros., Miles City, brand + (cross)
Boston Livestock Co., Rosebud, brand O (mules shoe)
Zook and Alderson, Birney, brand $ (sugar bowl)
Loring B. Rea, Miles City, brand 9 (bow and arrow)

Some outfits used numerals for brands as follows:

Gibb Bros, Terry, brand, 8' lft sh, 8' lft side, 8' lft hip, (Seights Outfit)
Bohen, Henry & Hockett, Miles City, brand 19, (nineteen Outfit)
Harmon & Hale, Miles City, Brand 22, (twenty two Outfit)
B. F. Ferriss, Terry, brand 13, (thirteen Outfit)
Comstock Horse & Cattle Co., Miles City, brand, 969
The Illinois & Mont. Cattle Co., Miles City, brand, 51ft sh, 51ft hip & 9 1ft rib, (3 fives outfit)
Chas. B. Strass, Miles City, brand 54 (fifty four Outfit)
The Ill. & Wis. L. S. Co., Miles City, brand 44, (Four, Four Outfit)

An odd brand
Jesse Garland, Miles City, brand ~ (Bar, open A, lazy S, bar)

Peter Geddes, Brandenburg, brand $ (double $)

Most brands were made from initials of name as follows:
Montgomery Bros., Miles City, brand MB
Pontiac Livestock Co., Miles City, brand $S (P. L. S.)
E. P. Elmhirst, Miles City, brand $ (called Epe brand)
campground is invaded soon after daybreak by the cowhands and if you can sleep through that, you'd very likely sleep through a thundering stampede of cattle.

That campground, incidentally, will provide for about 30 units, with room for another 30 at very likely spots closely. Just make sure you don't get too far back into the hills, however, or if you do, be sure to take a compass. This is big country!

If you should not want to rough it while at the Diamond, you may obtain a neat room in a remodeled barn, or you might prefer renting one of several housekeeping cabins. If you don't care to fix your own meals, there are two restaurants on the ranch, on for breakfast and snacks, the other comparable to the plush world of dining in New York, Paris or San Francisco. And that one is for dinner.

"In fact, we have people drive as much as 200 miles to come here for dinner," said Mrs. Braunschweig.

"They come from Cheyenne, Laramie, even up from Denver. And on Saturday nights, we have a barn dance, which really boils down to square-dancing in a barn. That draws a lot of the local people, too," she added.

Although there are many side attractions, this is really cattle country. The rangeland is so vast, the horizons so distant, and a man can feel overpowered by the silence. It's picturesque country, the kind of land where you might see a blazing campfire in the middle of nowhere and, if you stopped to listen, you might hear a cowboy strumming a guitar and singing an old western ballad you'd heard somewhere before—maybe in the movies.

Around Chugwater and other parts of this section of southeastern Wyoming, you'll see a number of genuine cowboys who still roll their own smokes, chew

Montana State Highway Commission thoughtfully places signs like this along highways to enlighten dudes historically.

CATTLE BRANDS

Many a dogie# (not 'doggie,' dudes please note) has been decorated with one of these famous Montana irons.

- CA Running CA 🐐 Bug 🐐 M. Sevin VM 🐐 Square & compass
- 79 Seventy nine 🐐 Circle C 🐐 Shaving mug 🐐 Quarter circle O
- D8 D.H.S. 🐐 Monogram Sh 🐐 Lazy hh 🐐 Reversed E2 bar 🐐 Lazy P swinging S
- # Three circle 🐐 R Bar R 🐐 Umbrella 🐐 Two pole pumpkin
- N-H N bar N 🐐 Flying D 🐐 Spearhead 🐐 Seven bar seven
- Turkey track 🐐 Long X 🐐 Rocking chair 🐐 Monogram FUI
- X Hat X 🐐 Bull head 🐐 Antler 🐐 Monogram PLE
- 777 Three sevens 🐐 Two dot 🐐 W W bar 🐐 Horseshoe bar
- N-N bar 🐐 Two A bar 🐐 Hour glass 🐐 Circle diamond
- Pitchfork 🐐 Rash Knife 🐐 Rafter circle 🐐 Maltese cross
- Fish hook 🐐 Two A bar 🐐 U Lazy J 🐐
- Piece of pie 🐐 Mill Iron 🐐 SL 🐐
- CK 🐐 O Circle 🐐 XII 🐐 WM
- # A dogie is a little calf who has lost its mammy, and whose daddy has run off with another cow.

TRAVEL, MAY, 1970
SADLER'S KNIFE

WASH KNIFE AS RECORDED
BY CONTINENTAL CATTLE CO
ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI
4 OCT. 1882

444-7715
Marcella

SUGAR BOWL ACCORDING TO LA HUFFMAN
Zook & Albroson

Etc.

PICK
Umbrella

LAZY P STANDING
M and JAKE BAUM,
Stone County
left ribs
left thigh
original
Katherine Baum B-1

Lee Creek, Fergus
right hip
right thigh
original A-9791

KINGSTON, Box 383, Park
right ribs
right shoulder
original A-857

ORDER, Yellowstone
right ribs
right shoulder
original A-3660

ST. IGNATIUS, Lake
right hip
right thigh
original

SANDERS,
left ribs
left shoulder
original OR 3133

HUNTLEY, RFD, Yellowstone
right hip
right shoulder
original

SHER, Dawson
left hip
left thigh
original

SNIPE, Missoula
left shoulder
left shoulder
original
W. SCHAUBUT B-3000

19976
April 4, 1940
FRED BERNHARDT, Absarokee, Stillwater
Brand for cattle on right ribs
Brand for horses on right shoulder
Vent for both below original OR 759

19977
April 4, 1940
JACOB KUYATT, Worden, Yellowstone
Brand for cattle on right hip
Brand for horses on left thigh
Vent for both below original A-4704

19978
April 4, 1940
OTTO and ROY DELMOE, Whitehall, Baker
Brand for cattle on right ribs
Brand for horses on right shoulder
Vent for both below original

19979
April 5, 1940
GEORGE B. GRATTON, Fairfield, Teton
Brand for cattle on right shoulder
Brand for horses on right shoulder
Vent for both below original

19980
April 5, 1940
HUBERT T. SAMSON, Lonepine, Sanders
Brand for cattle on left hip
Brand for horses on left thigh
Vent for both below original A-2059

19981
April 5, 1940
PATRICIA J. LEWIS, Cut Bank, Glacier
Brand for cattle on left hip
Brand for horses on left jaw
Vent for both below original
Transferred from Fred Lewis B-1398

19982
April 5, 1940
ED TOORAY, BILLINGS, 316 N. 25th Street
Brand for cattle on right hip
Vent below original
Transferred from R. C. Battey (1027)

19983
April 5, 1940
CHARLES C. DOIG, Sixteen, Meagher
Brand for cattle on left shoulder
Brand for horses on left thigh
Vent for both below original

19984
April 5, 1940
EARL M. SHAMMEL, Lewistown, Fergus
Brand for cattle on left hip
Brand for horses on right thigh
Vent for both below original A-3289

1931 3-00 70 1752
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Details</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jul 25, 1882</td>
<td>Certificate issued</td>
<td>New M. Dewell, Silver Star, Worthington County. Brand for cattle. These include long ears B. Brand for horses. The same three letters long on the right thigh.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mar 1, 1882</td>
<td>Certificate issued</td>
<td>Joseph P. Roark, Saline, Saline County. Brand for cattle. These include three letters long on the left side. Brand for horses. The same on the left shoulder.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
diamond is a half

Y = lassy
Y = banked Y
Y = drag Y
Y = squaring Y
Y = rocking Y
Y = tumbling Y
Y = walking Y

Grand blotting - S into 48
Y = turkey Brock Y

≡ currycumb
≈ handshake
⊙ hornbrock
:: die 5
D = reading outhouse
for GF Trib brands interview, use bookmarked Mtn Time and Eng Crk
MONTANA STATE ARCHIVES

MONTANA BRANDS ENFORCEMENT DIVISION RECORDS

1887 - 1985

Record Series 209

History:

In February 1865 the first Montana Territorial Legislature passed "An Act concerning marks and brands" which barred two people from using the same brand in any one county and required the registering of all brands with the county clerk. Brand registration was made a territory-wide requirement in 1872, under the Clerk of the Supreme Court. Beginning in 1877, registration was handled by the State Treasurer.

The Board of Stock Commissioners was created in 1885. The Secretary of the Board was, ex officio, the Recorder of Marks and Brands, and had the power to hire stock inspectors for Montana and for selected out-of-state markets such as St. Paul, Minnesota. All stock shipped out of the territory had to carry a brand. In 1915, the inspection law was amended to require inspection whenever livestock was transported across county lines. Proceeds from the sale of cattle branded with other people's brands had to be turned over to the stock inspector for distribution to the brand owners.

In 1917 the Board of Stock Commissioners and the Board of Sheep Commissioners were legally merged to form the new Livestock Commission. For the next 12 years the Commission shared a secretary with the Montana Stockgrowers Association. In 1929 Paul Raftery was appointed as the Commission's first full-time executive officer, acting ex officio as Recorder of Marks and Brands. After Raftery's death in 1946 Ralph Miracle took over the position, to be followed in 1954 by William G. Cheney.

Under the executive reorganization of 1971, the Department of Livestock became the administrative arm of the Livestock Commission and the Livestock Sanitary Board. The functions of the Recorder of Marks and Brands were taken over by the new Brands Enforcement Division.

Collection:

Records. 1887-1891; 1917-1974. 8.5 linear feet. The bulk of the records consist of general correspondence (1919-1974) arranged at first by correspondent and subject, and after 1960 almost entirely by correspondent. Correspondence primarily concerns cattle shipments, law enforcement, brand registration, legislation, and relations with other states' law enforcement and livestock agencies and local stockgrowers associations. In addition, there are case files (1927-1973) concerning cattle thefts, marketing problems, and fee collection; financial records, including journals of receipts and disbursements (1887-1891) and livestock market shipping ledgers (1929-1966); scattered minutes of annual meetings, district and
inspectors meetings, and meetings of other organizations on which the Livestock Commission held a seat; and reports, including annual reports (1935-1940, 1946-1949), monthly reports (1950-1960), and investigative reports. The reports also include an unpublished brand book (1984-1985) that is organized by geographic region; an index is included for each region. A miscellany series includes lists of brands, brand inspectors, lost and stolen cattle from Canada, North and South Dakota, Oregon, Colorado, Washington, and the Crow and Northern Cheyenne Indian Reservations.

Processing Note:

The general correspondence files prior to 1960 were very roughly arranged by subject, but it was often impossible to determine the exact order as many folders were unlabelled. The correspondence after 1960 was primarily organized alphabetically by correspondent. For this reason the general correspondence series is split into the two time periods.

Transfer:

These records were transferred from Montana Brands Enforcement Division, November 17 and 28, and December 7, 1978; May 2001
DEAR NAM-

TWO MORE PIECES ON BRANDS
FROM THE WPA COLLECTION-
(I MAY HAVE SENT ONE BEFORE,
AS IT LOOKS VERY FAMILIAR).

DATE: November 15, 1939

PAGE 14.

To appear on the upper ranges

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thus disguised. Neither

cow thus disguised. Neither

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by the time the next rustler had made it 10L, and the original IO cow would be

very difficult to recognize under the evolved brand 10B. It should be born

in mind—that the brand mark as it actually shows upon the hide is not so

sharp and clearly defined as it looks upon paper.

here was a brand known upon the range as the wrench brand, thus: 6-C

By the time the rustler was done with it it appeared thus: 6-6. Or it

might assume this form, 6-6, and be called the bridle-bit brand. The 21

was easily made to read 2 6. Without much trouble 999 could appear quite

differently as 888. The hair of the cow would cover up any little'
Thus, we may say, one of the first brands to appear on the upper ranges after the first Southern drives was the old 10 brand. Numbers of cattlemen bought cattle of that brand to stock their ranges, and, of course, needed to rebrand the cattle. It was an easy thing to think of the 101 brand, and this was one of the largest outfits on the range. But let us suppose a rustler wanted to brand one of the 10 cows for his own private purpose. He simply took his little iron or wire, and put a little top to the figure one, making it into a seven. It then appeared thus: 70. Quite a different thing! Still more different was it written with a letter "S" after it thus: 70S. The owner would not recognize his own cow thus disguised. Neither could the owner of the 101 cow very well prove his property when he found it wearing a brand which said 701. The matter would be still more difficult by the time the next rustler had made it 70L, and the original 10 cow would be very difficult to recognize under the evolved brand 708. It should be born in mind that the brand mark as it actually shows upon the hide is not so sharp and clearly defined as it looks upon paper.

Here was a brand known upon the range as the wrench brand, thus: C-C. By the time the rustler was done with it it appeared thus: O-O. Or it might assume this form, H-H, and be called the bridle-bit brand. The 21 was easily made to read 26. Without much trouble 999 could appear quite differently as, 888. The hair of the cow would cover up any little
defects in remittance.

A brand which as a simple ∨ was easily altered as thus: ∨; but the skillful rustler would have been wise enough to put a straight line across it, thus: ∨ covering up the junction mark of the two brands. Of the old brand with a curious name of the wallop, ∨, ther might possibly have been constructed the brand appearing, 8.
Thus, we may say, one of the first brands to appear on the upper ranges after the first Southern drives was the old 10 brand. Numbers of cattlemen bought cattle of that brand to stock their ranges, and, of course, needed to rebrand the cattle. It was an easy thing to think of the 101 brand, and this was one of the largest outfits on the range. But let us suppose a rustler wanted to brand one of the 10 cows for his own private purpose. He simply took his little iron or wire, and put a little top to the figure one, making it into a seven. It then appeared thus: 70 quite a different thing! still more different was it written with a letter "S" after it thus: 70S. The owner would not recognize his own cow thus disguised. Neither could the owner of the 101 cow very well prove his property when he found it wearing a brand which said 701. The matter would be still more difficult by the time the next rustler had made it 70L, and the original 10 cow would be very difficult to recognize under the evolved brand 908. It should be born in mind that the brand mark as it actually shows upon the hide is not so sharp and clearly defined as it looks upon paper.

There was a brand known upon the range as the wrench brand, thus: C. By the time the rustler was done with it it appeared thus: O. Or it might assume this form: D, and be called the bridle-bit brand. The 21 was easily made to read 26. Without much trouble 999 could appear quite differently as 898. The hair of the cow would cover up any little
defects in penmanship.

A brand which as a simple \( \checkmark \) was easily altered as thus: \( \checkmark \Delta \), but the skillful rustler would have been wise enough to put a straight line across it, thus: \( \checkmark \Delta \) covering up the junction mark of the two brands. Of the old brand with a curious name of the "wallop," \( \checkmark \), there might possibly have been constructed the brand appearing, \( \checkmark \)
Livestock brand like artist’s signature

Missoula Sun

REZELA - A livestock brand can be as personalized as an artist’s signature, but registration is required every 10 years to maintain ownership of the mark that identifies a rancher’s cattle, horses or sheep. 

About 72,800 new brands or transfers have been put on record with the Brand Enforcement Division of the Montana Department of Livestock since the last recording. The number of actual brands may vary from 10,000 because some brands may have been transferred several times during the past decade.

Brand recording started in 1921 and has been required every 10 years since. Next recording will be required in 1981. Algert said every brand owner must be notified in the year prior to the address on the brand file. Correct addresses are essential, said, since there are many rural mail routes now that have been renamed.

Rounding out will be $25 for each. Any brand recorded or transferred this year must be recorded in 1981, and the full fee will be charged each year.

After the 1981 recording, all registered brands will be compensated for more efficient filing.

For a $25 fee, an individual may record a brand for use on cattle, horses or sheep. Algert said the application must specify the combination of letters or figures with meaning on the animal and the area where the livestock will be ranged.

Cattle brands may be placed on rump, hip or shoulder, and horses may be branded on thigh, shoulder, jaw or neck. Brands may be located on either left or right sides of the animal. Sheep may be branded on left or right or both sides of the animal.

Stock auction

On May 1, the Missoula Livestock Auction Co. sold 171 head of cattle, compared to 113 the week before and had a combined total of 67 hogs and sheep.

Cattle

Fed cattle were 95 cents to $1 lower. Better-type cows were $1 to $2 lower, and fat cattle were $1 to $2 lower. Good-to-fair cows, heifers and bulls were 20 cents to 75 cents lower. Good to choice fed steers were 10 cents to 25 cents lower; medium to good fed steers were 50 cents to $1.75 lower. Good to choice fed steer heifers were 50 cents lower. Good to choice fed heifers were $1.50 to $2 lower. Good to choice fed hogs were 25 cents to $1 lower. Good to choice fed hogs were 50 cents lower. Goods to fair were 50 cents lower. Good to choice hogs were 50 cents lower.

BONK of the WEEK

Montana law requires inspection of brands before moving cattle from one county to another. Unbranded livestock, when inspected, are marked with “MB,” or “no brand.” Montanans of livestock are recorded against the owner’s brand and name, and the Brand Enforcement Division in each county issues an official market in the state of every new livestock market in the state of every new livestock market and each brand. Any livestock that fails to pay the $25 fee will be charged each year.

Missoula Sun Times

Federal disaster farm loans available

HELENA (AP) - Federal disaster loans were made available Tuesday to virtually all agricultural producers in Montana that suffered financial losses from last summer’s drought, Sen. John McKinley, D-Mont., said.

The farm-related loans will be of two types: loans that require a 5% down payment for a 5% interest rate, and non-competitive loans that require a 5% down payment for a 5% interest rate. The latter type, also available in amounts up to $10,000, will be available when there has been a substantial hardship caused by the drought and credit cannot be found elsewhere, McKinley said.

He said small businesses that depend on farming and ranching customers also can apply for non-competitive loans. These loans will be for a 5-year period at 5% interest, with no interest on the amount.

The federal government will be reimbursed by the SBA Montana district office in Helena. McKinley said.

DO YOU HAVE THE VACCINES YOU NEED?

FARHANM

DO YOU HAVE THE VACCINES YOU NEED?

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FARHANM

DO YOU HAVE THE VACCINES YOU NEED?
Brands: like vanity plates?
Ear Marks, Impressions and Brands, Signifying Ownership

All brands and marks, signifying ownership of stock, on the North American continent, are of Spanish origin, dating back to Hernán Cortés, and the Conquistadors. It was Cortés who first branded cattle, the first marking being three Christian crosses, professing the faith of the Conquistadors, and the ownership of stock. The brand comprised two small crosses on each side of a larger and longer one. Ear and other markings followed, this form being especially adaptable in southern and warmer climes, but offering some obstacle in the cold of the north, where parts of the frozen ear rotted and fell off, leaving only a portion for identification.

Ear markings included the following:

- Upper slope—over the left and under the right ear.
- Under bit—under the left and over the right.
- Swallow fork—on each ear.
- Square crop—on each ear.
- Swallow fork and square crop—swallow fork on left and square crop on the right ear.
- Hole—hole in center of each ear.
- Hole in left ear and under slope under left ear.
- Hole in left ear and upper bit in right.
- Under slope on each ear. (Lower portion of both ears.)
- The Jingle Bob—Slit from outer edge of ear, to the skull.

Other variations may be used.
Other Markings.

Wattles are not uncommon. The hide and flesh of the animal, pulling the hide at the same time is pinched and a downward slit, with a sharp knife, made. The wound heals and dries, leaving a wattle. It is a scar, and hair may grow over it, but the indentation is permanent and may be located by moving the hand over the marked portion of the hide. It may be placed on the jaw, the rump, the flank, or the nose.

A dewlap, single, or double, is made in the same manner, on the brisket. Most dewlaps are placed on the throat, but in cases where two owners are using this system, they may put the marking on the left or right of the throat, on the neck, left or right, or on the flank.

The turkey tassel is made on the throat, in much the same manner, with a pull downward during the operation. It hangs in the same manner as as that on a turkey gobbler.

The toggle starts right under the lobe of the ear, with downward motion, during operation and hangs from each side. It is similar to the wattle.

Hot Brand Beast.

Use of the painless, acid system, has proved unreliable. Acid will burn so long as the fluid runs and contacts fatty tissue, into which it burns. The brand may easily be distorted, or disfigured from the original. Hair growth makes it indistinguishable, and it cannot be identified by the sense of touch.

Next most reliable, is the tattoo, place on calves, and registered in an association's records, with the brand and breed. This applies particularly to purebreds.

The hot brand is the most reliable. The animal is thrown and bound and the iron applied quickly. The stench may be offensive, but stockmen declare the system is not as painful as it appears.
FEBRUARY 26, 1881

James Bradburn, of New Chicago, Deer Lodge County
Brand for cattle—Monogram thus—AD—size of 6 inches on
the left ribs, and same 3 inches on the left hip.

MARCH 1, 1881

Thomas Hall, of Boulder, Jefferson County
Brand for cattle and horses—Monogram thus—TH—on the
left thigh.

MARCH 1, 1881

Mrs. Rose Potts, of Boulder, Jefferson County
Brand for cattle and horses—Monogram—thus—RP—on
the left thigh.

MARCH 1, 1881

Mrs. E.R. Gage, of Gage's Station, Gallatin County.
Brand for horses thus—U—on the left shoulder.
Brand for cattle—The letter thus—EG—on the right side.
Mark for cattle—Underbit in left ear and upper bit in same.

MARCH 4, 1881

Thos. C. Richards, of Helena, Lewis & Clark County
Brand for cattle—the letters thus—TR—on the left ribs.
Brand for horses—the same on the left shoulder.
Mark for cattle—Wattle on the nose.

MARCH 4, 1881

James Saunders, of Madison Valley, Madison County
Brand for cattle thus—O—on the left ribs.
Brand for horses—the same on the right shoulder.
Mark for calves—Wattle on the nose.

MARCH 5, 1881

J.W. Wilson, of Custer County.
Brand for cattle—the letter thus—U—Just behind
left shoulder.

MARCH 6, 1881

John Wren, of Regan, Lewis & Clarke County
Brand for cattle—the letter—W—on the left shoulder
and left hip.

MARCH 7, 1881

Thomas H. Ellis, of Beaverhead County.
Brand for cattle thus—OT—on the right hip.
Mark—Crop off each ear.
Dear Ivan & Carl,

Enclosed—a clipping re the release of the Brand Books, with a good quote I think.

Of course, this tiny piece has resulted in over 20 calls & visits in just one week!!! So we're busier than ever.

Thank you again for your generous donation. And look for a short piece from me in the next issue (July) of Montana The Magazine of Western History, I'm sure.

Best, Charlene
Indians Discovering Lewis and Clark
by Charles M. Russell (1864-1926)
Mackay Collection, Montana Historical Society, Helena

Commemorating the Lewis and Clark Expedition, 1804-1806
To follow along
Phil and Drew's Pencil News
Web site is msnbc.com/local/pencilnews/
To follow the adventures of the Santa Barbara Middle School students, who call themselves the Corps of RedDiscovery, visit www.americanredcovery.com.

Passing in formation under the 15th Street Bridge, a group of middle-school bikers head for their motel after visiting the Lewis and Clark Interpretive Center Thursday. The cyclists, from Santa Barbara, Calif., are on a 5,000-mile, 13-state trek, following the route of Lewis and Clark. In front are Bret Suding and Cameron Casey; second row, Roxy Kurta and Isaac Seigel-Boettner; third row, Jacob Seigel-Boettner and Lincoln Pitcher; and back, Hanna Waldman and adult leader John Seigel-Boettner.

Across the Big Sky

Firefighters shore up lines on wildfires
BILLINGS — Bracing for thunderstorms and gusty winds, hundreds of firefighters worked Thursday to shore up lines on two large wildfires burning on drought-stricken rangeland and timber in southern Montana. Fire officials considered Thursday a critical day in fighting the blazes, which were burning about 30 miles southeast of Ekalaka and six miles southeast of Joliet. The forecast called for shifting winds and thunderstorms, but the hot weather was expected to become more favorable for firefighting in the next few days.

"If we can get through this, we feel we can get this fire buttomed up or get a pretty good handle on it," said Pat Cross, a fire information officer for the 52,000-acre Kraft Springs blaze in southeast Montana. Firefighters and equipment continued to arrive at the fire Thursday, with more than 600 fire personnel on the scene. Meanwhile, a special management team arrived to spearhead efforts against a 2,600-acre fire near Joliet. That blaze, also believed to have started by lightning, destroyed some abandoned buildings and threatened some scattered houses, said Melvin Hofer, a local fire chief involved in the effort. He estimated a dozen houses were within three miles of the fire.

Doigs donate funds to record brands
HELENA — Author Ivan Doig and his wife Carol have contributed funds allowing Montana livestock brands dating back to 1872 to be placed on microfilm by the Montana Historical Society.

Brands are the classical language of the American West, just as Latin and Greek are the languages of old Mediterranean civilizations," Doig said.

Arnold Olsen, MHS director, said the project is ongoing and brands through the 1930s have been placed on microfilm.

The first Montana Territorial Legislature in 1865 passed laws providing for the registration of brands on livestock at the county level. The earliest available record is for a brand recorded in Beaverhead County in 1872.

Across the Big Sky is compiled from staff and wire reports and regional newspapers. If you have a tip, call (406) 791-1491 or (800) 438-6600; fax (406) 791-1431; e-mail tribcity@sofast.net

Reavley

said if the library committee doesn't approve his request at its Sept. 12 meeting, issue will be brought before school board. Promotes phone sex, drug promiscuity, and heavy video," Jundt said. "I object to majority of the content. The classified section is for sex. The 'Letters to the editor' use an extreme amount of nudity."

Businessman pleads guilty to bribery
LINGS — A Hardin businessman pleaded guilty to bribing Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearm agents to hire company for maintenance in Crow Agency. Duane Bauman, 51, was paid more than $300,000 in credit card transactions between January 1997 and August 2001. Bauman's business wrote checks totaling more than $8,000 to two BIA employees in that period. Bauman is co-owner and vice president of Pro Tech Mechanical, a Billings business.

The BIA employees, Charles Christopher Dillon, 35, and Emmett Old Bull, 57, have pleaded innocent to charges in the same indictment.

In a separate indictment, Bauman pleaded guilty to being an accessory for helping Dillon cover his alleged criminal activity. Prosecutors said Bauman lent Dillon tools and equipment when Dillon's supervisors began asking him about items purchased with his government credit card.

More state news on 2-6M

approximately 100 miles

Approximately 100 miles
September 4, 2002

Mr. & Mrs. Ivan Doig
17277 15th Avenue, N.W.
Seattle, WA 98177

Dear Mr. & Mrs. Doig:

I am enclosing a copy of the news release that is being distributed throughout Montana today. It has taken a little longer than we first anticipated for the microfilm project, but we are well underway.

Please accept the thanks from all those at the Montana Department of Livestock for the generous donation that helped get this project started.

This year was also the first time books of available livestock brands have been placed in the brands offices at the 15 markets across the state. After the rerecord cycle of 2001, approximately 7,000 brands are available.

We hope you are able to come by the Department of Livestock whenever you are in the Helena area.

Sincerely,

Karen R. Cooper, APR
Public Information Officer
406-444-9431  kcooper@state.mt.us
September 4, 2002

Montana Brands History Documented

HELENA -- "Brands are the classical language of the American West, just as Latin and Greek are the languages of old Mediterranean civilizations," said Montana author Ivan Doig. Doig and his wife, Carol, recently contributed funds allowing Montana brands dating back to 1872 to be placed on microfilm by the Montana Historical Society.

"We assist many Montanans in researching their genealogy, and of course brands owned in past generations is a great part of that heritage," said MHS Director Arnold Olsen. The project is currently in the process of being microfilmed with brands through the 1930s completed.

"Ranchers and livestock producers have molded much of the history of our State, and the brands dating back to the late 1800s are important pieces of that history," said Marc Bridges, executive officer of the Montana Department of Livestock and the Board of Livestock. "Livestock brands on animals serve as a permanent identification for livestock and help deter cattle theft."

Throughout history, brands have been used to identify property and livestock. The first Montana Territorial Legislature in 1865 passed laws providing for the registration of marks and brands to take place on a county level. It soon became apparent that the same brand could be recorded in different counties, and the 1872 Legislature made the recording of brands part of the duties of the Clerk of the Supreme Court.

The earliest available record is for a brand recorded in Beaverhead County in 1872.

In 1877, the Territorial Legislature moved the responsibility of recording brands to the Territorial Treasurer. In 1885, the Board of Stock Commissioners was formed, and in 1887, that Board was given the responsibility of recording brands. Eventually, under reorganization of state government in 1971, the organization became the Montana Department of Livestock and was named the general recorder of marks and brands.

In 1889, there were approximately 8,000 brands on record. By 1910, there were 30,000. In 1911, legislation was passed which required the rerecording of brands and marks every ten years. During 2001, the latest rerecord year, there were approximately 68,000 brands on record.

Author Ivan Doig has his own history with brands, growing up through generations of ranch hands in Montana. "Brands are historically artistic and expressive," said Doig. "It is important that we understand and pass on the classical language of brands." His interest in ranching is evident in his books highlighting his younger years as a ranch hand in the Rocky Mountain Front.
Doig and his wife appreciated being able to contribute to a project that will continue to make pieces of history available for the people of Montana. “Hopefully, this will encourage others to also contribute financially for projects that preserve our history and benefit so many,” Doig said.

The Montana Historical Society is located at 225 N. Roberts in Helena, across from the State Capitol and the Department of Livestock. Library and archive hours at MHS are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday, and 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturday.

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Contacts:
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Public Information Officer
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406-444-9431

Tom Cook
Public Information Officer
Montana Historical Society
406-444-1645
The Tools of the Trade

Of Course, You Wouldn't Want All That Grilling Firepower Without Some Essential Utensils

While some cooks claim that real men don't use mitts and spatulas, grillers can be pushovers when it comes to meat-searing gear. They are drawn to brass skewers and miniature meat hooks, and they weigh the merits of scissor tongs against the manly wood-handled steak stabbers that come with every set of grill tools.

How to distinguish the right stuff from the dross? Most pros believe that the simpler and less specialized the tool, the better: While it can be fun to scan catalogs full of catchy accessories, the smartest buys are the basics. Steven Raichlen, author of "The Barbecue Bible," insists on natural-bristle basting brushes that won't shed on pork chops, crook-blade spatulas for turning delicate items like salmon, and nonstick fish and vegetable baskets. For cleaning crusty grill gratings, he depends on a wire brush.

Charcoal fans who want to minimize the time they spend waiting for coals to heat have discovered metal chimneys, which cost about $10 in hardware stores, as well as natural-lump charcoal, which lights easily and burns hotter than the familiar (and cheaper) briquettes.

If there is one item that savvy cooks swear by, it's a pair of spring-loaded tongs. Forget the oversized grippers made from a single strip of metal: "Everybody I know uses the spring-loaded" version, says John Willoughby, co-author of "The Thrill of the Grill." Scalloped-edge steel tongs, including the 12-inch and 16-inch duo that the Chef's Catalogue sells as a set for $9.99, are like mechanical hands," Mr. Raichlen says. "I have eight pairs, and I use them for everything, including tossing salads."

Another handy item is a halogen light that fastens onto the grill. Mr. Raichlen's wife recently bought a clip-on like the $79 version from Frontgate.

Williams-Sonoma's monogrammed steak-brand, priced at $34.95.

"It's fabulous," he says. "Anything you can use to shed light on your grill is really important, because most grilling takes place at night, and it's hard to tell when the stuff is done."

Plastic cutting boards treated with bacteria-fighters are increasingly popular among salmonella-phobes, who tend to be skittish about poultry. (The Chef's Catalogue offers a 20-by 16-inch version for $29.99.) While you'll still want to be fastidious about washing anything that touches raw meat, a plastic board will certainly offer more protection than a cracked wooden model.

Not that you should get too serious about equipment. Outdoor grilling is also about fun—and what better way to show your esprit than with Williams-Sonoma's monogrammed steak-brand? Priced at $34.95, it's the sort of tool that says, "This isn't your everyday sirloin."

A retired aircraft mechanic and frequent griller who lives in Arlington, Texas, Richard Sprott received one of the monogrammed brands as a gift from his wife. "It's a good little conversation piece," he reports. "People look at the steak and say, 'Oh, that's wonderful. That's neat.' And then they eat it."

—Michelle Green

PRIVATE PROPERTIES
By Felicia Paik

and The Dow Jones Real Estate Index appear on Page W11C this week.
Mel Fisher found the Atocha and became both famous and rich. Tommy Thompson found the Central America and just became rich.

"Ship of Gold in the Deep Blue Sea" is the interesting, albeit worshipful, account of how Mr. Thompson, a compulsive inventor and engineer, set out to find the Central America, a side-wheel steamer that sank in a hurricane some 200 miles off the North Carolina coast in 1857. The author casts a critical eye on the many claims that Mr. Thompson used to determine the approximate location of the ship’s wreckage. Once the logic of locating the wreck has been laid out, though, the narrative sags as Mr. Thompson follows the usual treasure hunter’s ritual of raising money, finding the right equipment and conducting the tedious search. Indeed, the most exciting part of the book’s lengthy midsection deserves some credit for systematizing the search process that ultimately found the Central America in 1888. But his achievement is overshadowed by Bob Ballard’s discovery a year earlier of the Titanic’s wreckage in deeper, more hostile waters. And the author’s agreement to keep secret some of Mr. Thompson’s ideas about salvaging at great depths makes for far less compelling reading than accounts of Mel Fisher’s bumbling, almost farcical 16-year search off the Florida Keys for the fabulous Spanish galleon Nuestra Señora de Atocha in water less than 100 feet deep. In the end the reader discovers that science and tech...

Best Selling Books

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