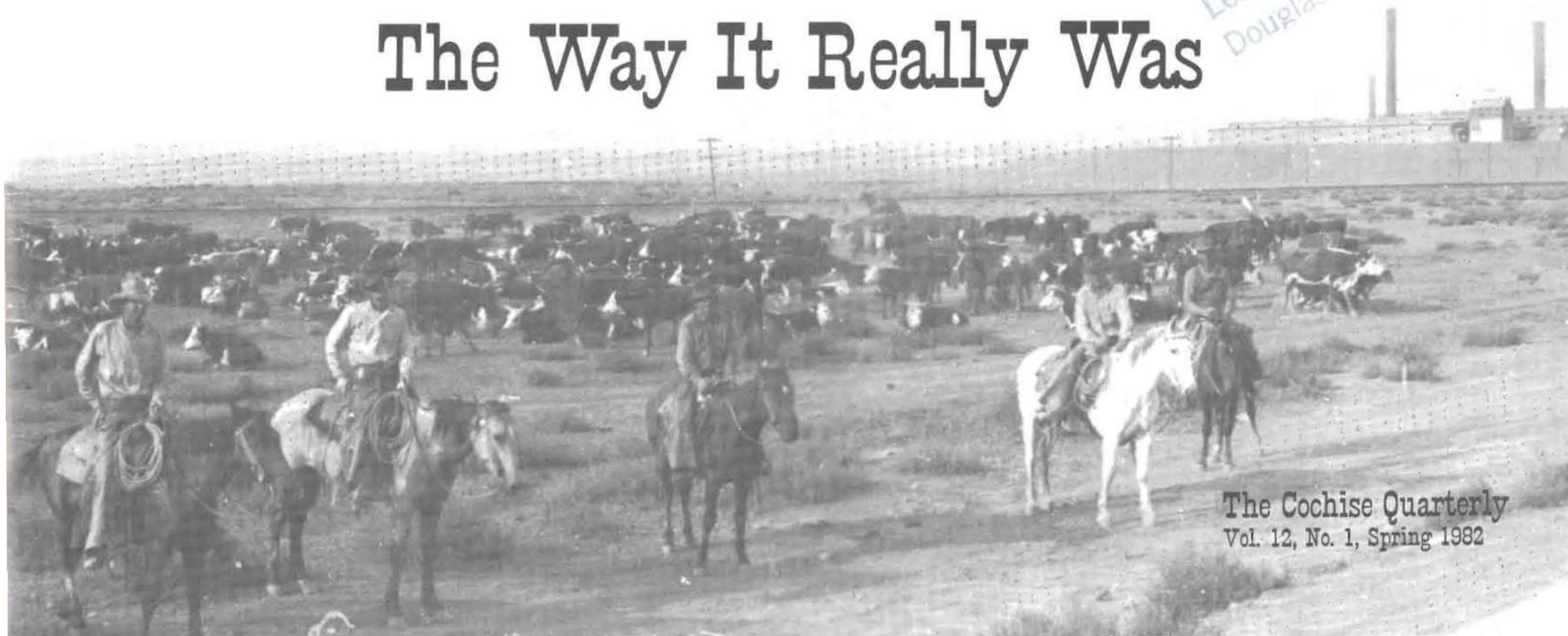


Ranch Life, The Border Country 1880-1940

The Way It Really Was

Cochise College
Learning Resources Center
Douglas, Arizona 85607



The Cochise Quarterly
Vol. 12, No. 1, Spring 1982

Ranch Life, The Border Country 1880-1940

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*A Partial Catalog of The Cowbelles Collection
of Historic Ranch Photographs*

All Photographic Reproductions by
Tom Vaughan, Curator of Photography,
Bisbee Mining and Historical Museum

The Cowbelles' Exhibit
Committee, Diana Hadley,
Chairman, with Eva
Bradshaw, Betty
Choate, Laura Glenn,
Mary Magoffin, Eve
Middleton, Jane Moson,
Allene Taylor and
Lucille Wilbourn, wishes
to thank the many
pioneer ranch families who so
generously lent their
treasured family photo-
graphs; without them, the
exhibit would have been
impossible.

Cover Photo From The Houston Davis Collection.



The Cochise Quarterly

Volume 12 Number 1 Spring 1982

A Publication of the Cochise County Historical and Archaeological Society
P.O. Box 818, Douglas, Arizona 85607

Cochise County Historical and Archaeological Society

P.O. BOX 818, DOUGLAS, ARIZONA 85607

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Membership in the Cochise County Historical and Archaeological Society includes a subscription to *The Cochise Quarterly*, the *Newsletter* and other CCHAS mailings in the year of payment; participation in all meetings, programs and field trips; and after meeting certain requirements, the right to engage in archaeological activities of the Society.

The Cochise Quarterly is a journal of Arizona history and archaeology. Published quarterly, it contains articles by qualified writers on historical and archaeological subjects and reviews of books on Arizona history and archaeology. Contributions are welcome. Manuscripts should be submitted to the CCHAS Editorial Staff, P.O. Box 818, Douglas, Arizona 85607.

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Foreword

The Cowbelles were founded October 17, 1939 at a meeting in the home of Mrs. Ralph Cowan in Douglas. As a result of the informal dinners and dances held in the Ira Glenn Ranch home, Mrs. Will Glenn had the idea of forming a social organization to be called The Cowbelles. Sixteen women elected Mattie Cowan president and Mrs. John Murchison secretary-treasurer at the first meeting.

The second Cowbelles group was organized in Willcox in 1946; the third in Laveen in 1947. Also in 1947, the Arizona State Cowbelles was organized at the annual convention of the American National Cattlemen's Association. The Cowbelles is now a national organization with clubs in thirty states

and a membership of almost seventy thousand. The pioneers who settled as ranch families learned of necessity to stick together. Starting simply as a social group, the outreach of The Cowbelles, by spreading to the state and national levels, shows how closely knit these ranch families have always been; the women-folk are very special.

The photographs in this *Quarterly* have been selected from the 135 photos which comprise The Cowbelles Photo Exhibit, now touring Arizona. We hope this group of photos will whet your appetite to see the complete Exhibit. It has been shown in Douglas, Bisbee, Nogales, Tombstone, and Tucson; plans are underway to show it throughout the West during the next few years. Thus some of the history of Cochise County and of Arizona will be given wide exposure—ranch life will be shown the way it really was.

We are proud to honor The Cowbelles with this issue of *The Cochise Quarterly*; they have always played a vital role in the history of Cochise County.

—Ida T. Power, President, for the Board of Directors,
Cochise County Historical and Archaeological Society

N.B. For information concerning The Cowbelles and the Exhibit,
please address your inquiry to:

The Cowbelles, P.O. Box 1021, Douglas, Arizona 85607.



Honoring Our Cowbelle Charter Members, Active Since October 1939



Clara Barfoot Eades was born on the Barfoot Ranch (B R on the left hip) 35 miles east of Willcox, December 4, 1890. Her father, Reding Malcolm Barfoot, came to Tombstone from Abilene, Texas in 1883. Her maternal grandfather, Henry Lemmons, had been sheriff of Abilene. One of Clara's earliest memories is that of seeing Apaches, en route from Mexico to the San Carlos Reservation, stop at their well. During Apache "scares" the children were made to sleep on pallets on the floor, placed in the corners of the room in order to avoid being in the line of fire of arrows entering the windows. When Clara was five, the Apaches robbed the Barfoot Ranch. Mr. Barfoot was very surprised to receive government compensation for the robbery in the form of a \$500 check eight years later. Clara married J. Chesley Miller in 1908, moving to the Miller Ranch near Apache. Her five children were all born at the ranch without the assistance of a doctor. Clara was later married to Jesse W. Eades and lived at the Hunsaker Ranch in Leslie Canyon for 19 years. Barfoot Park in the Chiricahua Mountains is named for her family.

Mattie Gears Cowan came to Gleeson, Arizona from Paola, Kansas in 1918, driving her father's Dodge, because she had mastered that art better than he. Mr. Gears was engaged in ranching with his son Frank in the Gleeson area. Mattie was also a competent cowboy and assisted her father in the weekly butchering of beeves for the open-air market in Lowell. She had her own homestead, where she spent several days a month working in order to "prove up" on it. While returning on horseback from her homestead to her father's ranch, she met her future husband, Ralph Cowan. Ralph and Mattie were married on Christmas Day 1921 and spent nearly 60 years working actively in the Arizona cattle business as owners of the N I, J O Bar and 4 Bars ranches. Mattie was first president of The Cowbelles, the original founding organization in Cochise County. She worked tirelessly to organize The Cowbelles on the state and later national levels, and became Arizona State President in 1947.



Irene Knott Sproul, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. David William Knott, was born in Tombstone and raised on her parents' ranch on west Turkey Creek in the Chiricahua Mountains. She attended country schools, often located on ranches, wherever her mother was teaching. These included the 4 Bars, Cottonwood and the Hunsaker Ranch in Leslie Canyon. Irene received a teacher's certificate from Tempe Normal School and taught in Douglas for a number of years. After marrying Frank Sproul, she moved to the Barfoot Ranch and later to the Sproul Ranch in the Swisshelm Mountains, where she raised her three children. She is also a charter member of the Cochise County Historical and Archaeological Society.



*Branding at The Old Buckelew Ranch, c. 1929. Tom Noland, Floyd Miller, Cliff Darnell, Clarence Darnell, Bennett Noland, Bert Robards.
(Noland Collection)*

Ranch Life, The Border Country, 1880-1940

The Way It Really Was

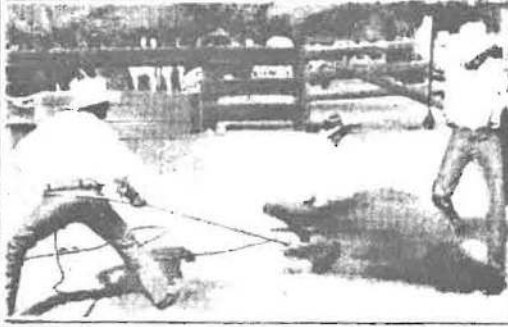
Through The Cowbells' Photographic Exhibit, we are privileged to relive the lives of the pioneer cowboys, ranchers, and homesteaders on one of the last frontiers in America. The area most central to this collection is Cochise County in southern Arizona: traditional homeland of the Apache Indians, birth place of Cochise, bloody fighting ground of Generals Crook and Miles in their struggle to subdue Geronimo. The only "wild" Indians left in America continued to pass through the county on their way to Mexico well after the turn of the century. It was here that Alfred Hand received the dubious honor of being the last white man killed by Indians, March 28, 1896, near his cabin on Cave Creek. Silver and copper strikes brought in hordes of prospectors, turning Tombstone, Bisbee, and Pearce into wild mining towns, and attracting a large outlaw element to the area. The gun battle between the Earps and the Clantons, alone, has made Tombstone famous, although it was only one of many incidents of violence, which included train robberies, murders, and hold-ups. The long international border with Mexico, often threatened by Pancho Villa, passes over inaccessible hill country, making it ideal for a smuggling trade, which was undeterred by the 'line riders.'

The county's virtual seas of grasses and the lush river bottoms were not stocked until long after other areas of the West had a thriving cattle industry. And then, the county, with its high mountains and numerous hidden canyons and arroyos, became a haven to cattle rustlers. As a result of its unique history, rough terrain, and the Apaches' unparalleled reputation for ferocity, the area was settled late. In this setting, a brief history of Cochise County's cattle industry will help to illuminate how the pioneer cattlemen of our exhibit came to be among the first settlers on this last frontier.

The area first known as Gran Chichimeca (land of the Indians of the Lineage of the Dog), later known as Pimería Alta, was an arid and uninviting land with the most consistently hostile Indians in all of New Spain. During all three centuries of Spanish colonial occupation, it remained a frontier of settlement. The first livestock to pass through were the rangy long-horned Andalusian cattle that accompanied Coronado on his exploration in 1540. His expedition was considerably slowed down by the presence of a flock of over 1,000 sheep and 150 head of cattle. The occasional Spanish military presidios (Janos and Fronteras were the closest) all had cattle. The Jesuits, from the early 17th century, grazed a few head at each of their missions. But the first real cattle baron was Father Kino, who introduced extensive herds around 1700. A true cattleman, he traveled the area tirelessly to instruct the Indians in animal husbandry, often averaging 26 miles a day for months. Mission ranching thrived for about 50 years, and then was interrupted by a series of Indian revolts, and finally by the expulsion of the Jesuits from New Spain in 1767. The missions were abandoned and the herds went wild.

The last decades of the 18th century and the first of the 19th were the twilight years of the great Spanish Empire. Centuries of war in Europe and mismanagement and corruption in colonial government had left the Spanish Crown impoverished. Yet this was a period of peace and prosperity for the area by then known as northern Sonora. The Franciscans took over the missions and restored the cattle industry, and the Spanish government pacified the Apaches by putting them on a dole of food, farm implements and money. It was during this period that the Spanish government made large land grants for the purpose of cattle ranching. Grants of crown lands were made to any

Cattle Brands of Some Well Known Ranches and Their Owners, in the Vicinity of Douglas, Ariz.

SLAUGHTER RANCH M. L. Williams	OK CATTLE CO. Shattuck, Meadows & Lutley	SO MULE MOUNTAIN RANCH Stevenson Bros.
LAZY JAY RANCH Geo. D. Stephens	HOUSE TOP X RANCH Moore Bros.	BAR V BAR Frank Bergmann
BAR M RANCH Jno. P. Cull	NI OUTFIT Ralph Cowan	DOUBLE SLASH Frank Sprowl
IVY BAR RANCH Hunt Brothers	CROSS-EYE QUARTER CIRCLE R. L. Kendall	BOX LOOP J. T. (Tuck) Potter
LAZY E RANCH Gus Kimble	THE XC RANCH Len Mobley	47 47 RANCH Bill Davis
FLYING V BAR Ross Sloan		THE S.T.K. RANCH John Stark
RING BONE RANCH F. C. Kimble		L6 BAR Frank Geers
PITCH FORK J. F. Glass		KEY RANCH Ike Price
OLD SPEAR E RANCH Arizona Meat Co (Krentz)		C. L. C. L. OUTFIT C. L. McKinney
HIGH LONESOME RANCH Will Glenn		3 CIRCLE BRAND Wm. Riggs
SEVEN BAR L RANCH R. O. (Dick) Boss		HOLLOW CROSS John C. Riggs
SILVER CREEK RANCH Susan Walters		C- C BAR B. K. Riggs
CROSS RAIL Pete Johnson Estate	HX OUTFIT M. A. Fairchild	SEVEN BOX RANCH W. E. Swaggart
MITTEN BRAND F. O. Mackey	JAY BAR A RANCH Ira D. Glenn	BAR LE OUTFIT Walter Hatley
SEE SLASH RANCH Peter J. Johnson	BARZY BAR Harold Stark	LAZY BW RANCH J. E. Brophy
BAR NOTHING RANCH H. C. Kendall	FORKED LIGHTNING P. G. Beckett	ESSAY RANCH James E. Brophy II
(OLD SEVEN UP) James Hunsaker Ranch	OLD CUSTOM HOUSE RANCH H. L. Christiansen	CORONADO RANCH C. C. Cooper
BAR BOOT RANCH Shattuck & Lutley	TL SLASH BRAND Darnell & Roberds	QUARTER CIRCLE L Ed Leahy
	RANCHO SACATAL Holland & Paul	Y LIGHTNING RANCH Frank Moson
		BAR Y BAR OUTFIT Buford Slover
		WAGON ROD Boquilles Cattle Co.

Subject to Revision Due to Occasional Changes in Ranch Ownership

UB R1021

Post Card, published by Mr. F. O. Mackey, owner of The Gadsden Hotel, Douglas, during the 1930s.

Although the practice of branding goes back to antiquity and was performed by the ancient Egyptians, Greeks and Romans, the first branding in the Americas was done by Hernando Cortés after the fall of the Aztec capital, Tenochtitlan, when the Indian prisoners of war were branded with a G on the cheek for guerra. Brand registration for cattle was mandatory in New Spain from 1529. The practice followed by the Spanish was to place their brand on a piece of rawhide and hang it in a prominent place at the rancho; a copy was then sent to the provincial capital. Spanish brands were complicated and elaborate. That of Cortes was Las Tres Cruces †††. When Arizona became a territory of the United States, brand registration was haphazard, each county registering separately. This system led to duplication and many opportunities for cattle rustling. The first Territorial Brand Book was published in 1898 and included 17,000 brands.

enterprise which might be beneficial to the royal government; of course mining was the preferred activity. The usual grant for a ranch was four *sitios*, consisting of approximately 27 square miles, and costing the grantee a nominal sum. Most of the vast land grant ranches, including The Babocomari, Arivaca, Calabasas, Saporí, and San Rafael de la Zanja, were situated near the well-watered valleys of the San Pedro and the Santa Cruz Rivers. The pacification of the Apaches, however, was brief. Zebulon Pike recorded in his diary that in 1807 the Apaches of the area were dissipated, arrogant, and independent, hanging around the presidios drinking and shooting. Pike's expedition found it necessary to send advance guards to drive away the herds of wild horses. When the beset Imperial government could no longer afford the dole, the reservation system disintegrated. The Apaches terrorized the area and the haciendas were again abandoned.

Mexico, independent in 1821, lost little time in issuing more land grants. The Elías Gonzales family, having given proof that they had enough cattle to stock the *sitios*, were granted the San Juan de las Boquillas y Nogales, the Agua Prieta, Los Nogales, and the San Ignacio de Babocomari ranches. Lieutenant Ignacio Perez received the San Bernardino, originally a Jesuit mission, in 1822. He intended to develop the ranch into a buffer state against the Apaches. Evidently, he was unsuccessful, since by the 1830s the rancho was again abandoned, along with an estimated 100,000 head of wild cattle. The confusion and disorder of the Santa Anna period had made it impossible to garrison the frontier. The familiar pattern again repeats itself: the settlers retreat and during the last years of Mexican rule, the Apaches were again rulers of their homeland.

During the early 19th century, the Mexican vaquero had created efficient and unique methods of working the enormous, and frequently wild, herds of cattle. The vaquero originated much of the style and many of the traditions of "the typical American cowboy." We are indebted to him for the horned saddle, the branding methods, the roping techniques, and most

of the equipment and clothing used in cattle work. Chaps, high-heeled riding boots, spurs, and wide-brimmed hats are all Spanish or Mexican in origin. The very language of cattle work is Spanish: chaps from *chapareras*, taps from *tapaderas* (stirrup covers), the ten gallon hat from *el sombrero galoneado* (fancy braided hat), lasso from *lazar* (to rope), lariat from *la reata* (braided rawhide rope), stampede from *estampida*, to dally the rope around the saddle horn from *dale vuelta* (to make a turn), and many accepted words like *remuda* (herd of saddle horses), bronco, rodeo, and corral.

After the onset of the Mexican War, there was increased activity in the area. According to The Guadalupe Hidalgo (1848) and Gadsden Purchase (1854) agreements, by which the United States acquired the region, all Spanish or Mexican land grants were considered inviolable, as long as legally recorded in the archives. General Kearney's Army of the West passed through the Gila River valley in 1846, the first large group of Americans to come that way. Their cattle were driven off by bands of marauding Indians, only to be recovered by their guide, Kit Carson. The wild cattle had thrived to such an extent that the Mormon Battalion was actually attacked by wild bulls along the San Pedro River in December of 1846. The bulls, excessive in number because the Apaches found it easier to kill the more docile cows, attacked unprovoked, wounding several soldiers and killing some horses and mules. In 1851, the U.S. Boundary Commissioner John R. Bartlett recorded that the Mexican government paid cattle hunters to shoot the wild cattle. The animals were also roped, tied to domestic cows and driven into corrals. Gold had been discovered in California in 1849 and the first really large herds of American cattle began to pass through the area. Beeves were bringing the incredible price of \$300 to \$500 a head in California mining camps, and the business of delivering cattle should have been profitable. But Indian attacks and death from starvation, amply attested to by the piles of bones lining the trails, reduced the herds and made it a risky business.

During the Civil War, Arizona Territory was separated from



At The Huachuca Siding, September 1897: 1. Jim Wolf, 2. Bill Parker, 6. Bill Von, 7. Don Russ, 8. Bill Kelly, 9. Henry Aston, 10. Clay Aston, 11. Bob Fenter, 13. John Dowdell, 14. Jim Kane, Sr., 15. Ben Kelly, 16. Will Roath, 17. Bill Stevenson, 19. Jim Kane, Jr., 21. Charlie Landes.

This meeting led to the founding of the Babocomari Stock Association and The San Pedro Stock Association. Both organizations of cattlemen urged the founding of the Arizona Rangers in 1901 as a method to control the rampant cattle rustling of the time. The original copy of the photograph was 'lifted' by William Stevenson (#17 above) from The Lone Star Saloon in Tombstone about the year 1901. He placed it in his bed roll on his horse and returned to his work as a cowboy. From this comes the prominent crack in the photograph. Being the only item that Mr. Stevenson ever 'lifted' in his life, he was extremely chagrined by the act. It was twenty years before he ever removed the photo from his store box.

(Cowan Collection)

New Mexico by the Organic Act. For the first time, the large herds of cattle driven into the territory were intended to stay. Texas, California, and Oregon beef arrived to supply the military forts and Indian reservations. The few American settlers who remained in the territory during the unprotected years of the Civil War resorted to the previous Mexican solution of paying bounties (up to \$100) for Indian scalps, a solution which only aggravated the situation. Although generally quiet, the Indians were still involved in minor depredations. They had a habit, particularly annoying to ranchers, of killing stock, taking the small portion they needed, and leaving the rest of the carcass to spoil. They had a marked preference for horse flesh.

During the next few years most of the old Spanish grant ranches were re-established. These were stocked with the rangy long-horned Mexican cattle. A few small American ranches began to appear. Colonel Henry Hooker's was the first and the largest of these early outfits. His Sierra Bonita Ranch, established in 1872, ran 5,000 head within a few years, later increasing to 20,000. Initially he ran Texas Longhorns, later importing Hereford bulls. The emphasis of these early ranches was on numbers, not quality. Steers were often grass-fattened for three or four years. By the late 1870s, the demand for beef from Indian reservations and soldiers could be locally met. The Tombstone silver strike in 1877 and the discovery of copper in Bisbee created a new demand for beef. Thousands of hungry prospectors and miners flooded into the area. New breeding stock was again imported from out of state.

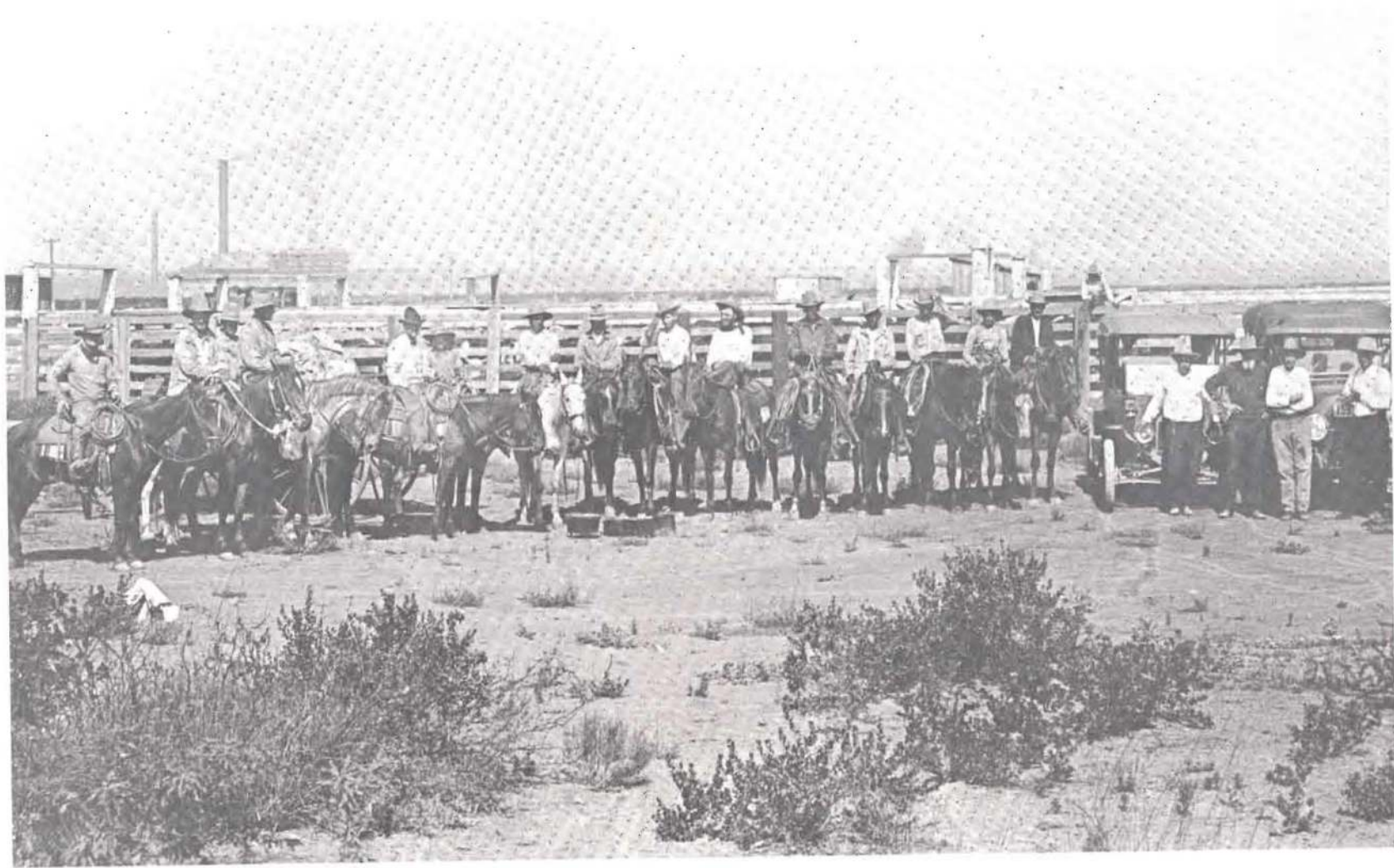
Drought, depression, and transportation were the three main factors which changed the cattle business during the 1880s. The Southern Pacific road bed was completed in 1881, and thousands of head were brought into the territory by rail. For a time, Willcox was the largest cattle shipping station in the United States. By 1885, the southern Arizona ranges were fully stocked, business was steady, and supply met demand. Then, disaster hit in the form of drought, accompanied by a two-thirds drop in market prices (a pattern which has become uncomfortably

familiar to succeeding generations of ranchers). Cattlegrowers battled the high price of transportation in 'new-fangled' stock cars, to sell their starving cattle at a loss.

After 1885, the emphasis shifted from numbers to breeding quality herds. Ranchers began to develop supplemental waters, and small ranches began to consolidate or sell out to larger outfits. Several very large companies, with out of state investors, started operating in the area.

The Chiricahua Cattle Company was a typical large cattle company of the 1880s, running 30,000 head of cattle, and five to six hundred stock horses on open range in the Sulphur Springs Valley. The original owners, White, Vickers, and Pursley, registered the CCC brand, burning a C on the jaw, a C on the shoulder, and a C on the hip. As with all ranches of the period, custom determined the use of the open range. Prior use and improvements indicated possession. The public domain was open to 'him who got there first and stayed the fastest.' Eventually, the CCC Ranch was homesteaded by employees and paid homesteaders, who then sold their parcels to the initial owners by prior agreement.

Each part of the huge ranch had a separate range foreman and was run independently of the others. As there were no fences, all the cattlemen in the area cooperated in enormous round-ups. The round-ups lasted two to three months and were held twice a year, in the spring for 'branding' and in the fall for 'gathering to ship.' Each ranch in the vicinity sent a "rep" to help with the work and to see that the calves belonging to his outfit were branded with their mothers' brand. Each cowboy had four to eight saddle horses in his string, poorly broken by today's standards. It was not uncommon for many of the horses to come out bucking in the morning. The largest ranch provided a wrangler to look after the remuda of saddle horses, and provided the chuck wagon and cook. The cowboys lived with the chuck wagon for the duration of the round-up, sleeping on the ground in a bed roll of home-made quilts wrapped in a tarp, a saddle for a pillow. They ate a steady



Cowboys at the McDonald Ranch shipping, in front of the stock pens, west of Douglas, 1913.

Will Hilburn, Wes Barnett, Walter Swaggart, Henry Eicks, Ben Black, two Mexican cowboys from John Slaughter's ranch, Ernest Renner, Lawrence McDonald, Oswald Renner, Lee Ramsey, Vane Lacy, Franz Eicks, round-up cook on fence—Newt Burcham. In front of the 1913 Ford and 1913 Overland: Solomon Levine McDonald, Granddad (Martin) McDonald, Bill McDonald and Davis McDonald. (Rex McDonald Collection)

diet of beef, beans, and biscuits, with an occasional dessert of dried apples. The cowboys worked from dawn til dusk, and then often had to stand herd guard for half the night, rain, sleet, or snow disregarded. Thirty dollars a month and "found", meaning room and board, such as it was, was their pay, which they drew only when all the work was completed. During the 1880s, the company cow hands still had to be on the look-out for Indians, and before Geronimo finally surrendered in 1886, the CCC had organized its own military force, which included Billy Riggs, Jim Brophy, Judge Tom Blake, and Sam McCoy, the Chinese cook.

Leonard Alverson, a CCC cowboy for a time, has recorded in his hand-written memoirs a colorful description of doing night guard on a wild herd of 300 of John Slaughter's "brush popping" Mexican steers, which his company had purchased. He was riding *Rough Stuff*, a good 1,000 pound horse, but quick to buck:

"It was raining and blowing a cold wind, and the steers wouldn't bed down at all. Stand with their tails to the wind, heads down, backs humped up and Shivering... I think it was the darkest Blackest night I ever saw. We hadn't been out there more than a couple of hours when there came a flash of Lightning and a crash of Thunder which sounded like it ripped the Earth wide open and away went our steers. Of course we started with them. [The idea was to make them circle and slow down.] I couldn't see a thing and was leaving everything to my horse. I happened to be on the windward side and could hear their hoofs rattling, Horns Knocking and the Brush Popping and by the sound I judged I was holding my own... [At this point Leonard ran into a soap weed stump, accidentally spurred his horse, and after trying hard to ride him, ended up on the ground.] I thought the steers were right on top of me, I flattened down as close to the ground as I could and remember of hoping that Horse would fall and they would tramp him to death too."

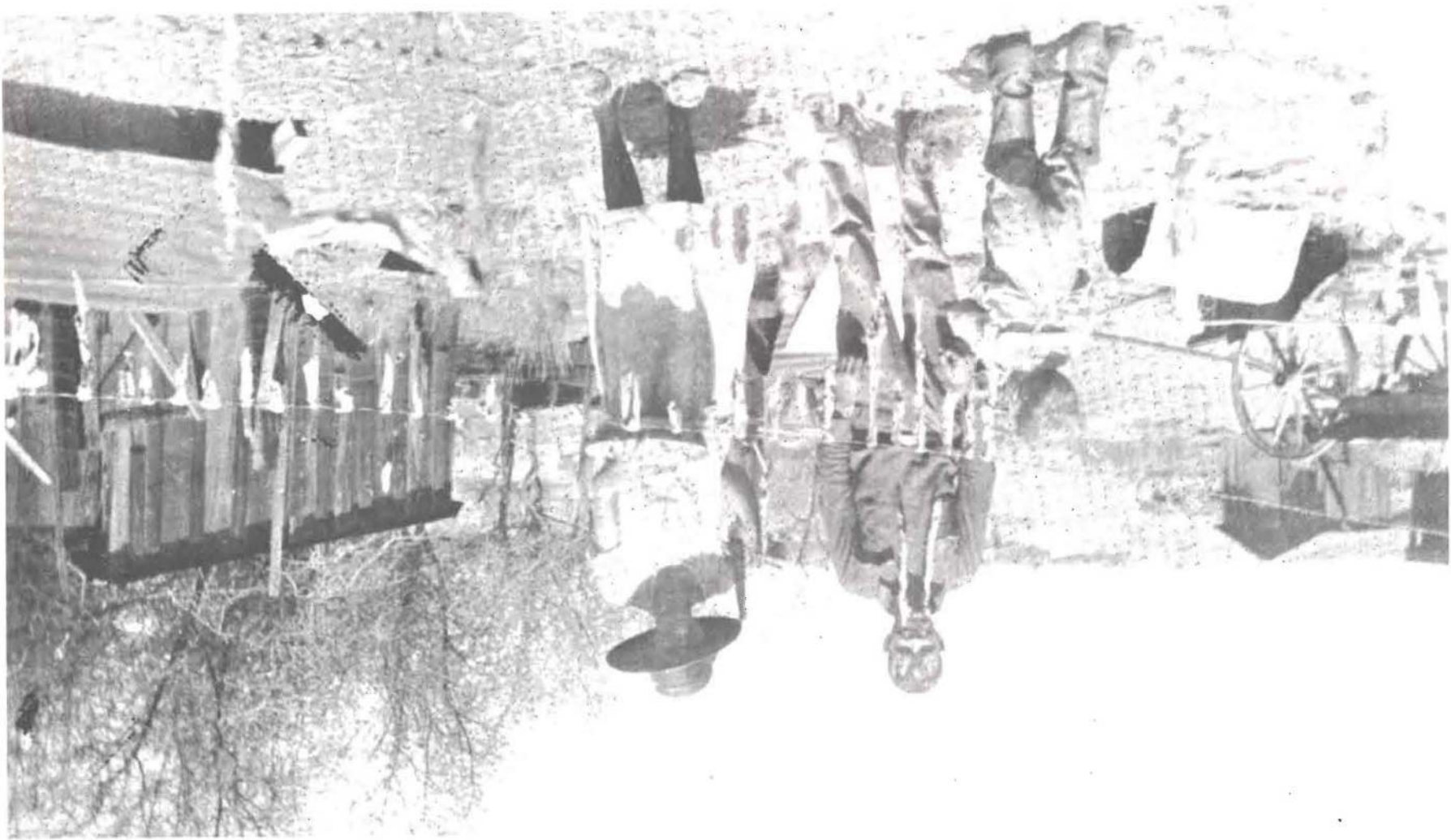
The upshot was that Leonard, having lost his hat, his horse, and

all sense of direction, to say nothing of the steers — long gone — spent a cold night, wet to the skin, finally at dawn hopping toward the dim light of the chuck wagon fire. No questions were asked. All the other cowboys knew exactly what had happened. It was all part of the job.

The most severe setback suffered by both the small ranches and the big companies alike came in the drought of 1892-93. Only three years before, in 1889, the San Simon Cattle and Canal Company held its first big round-up. Dozens of cowboys started gathering at the north end of the valley, others working up from the south, until a herd of 12,000 to 15,000 head had been gathered, and 1,000 head of heifers and steers separated and shipped out from the San Simon station on the Southern Pacific. The valley was full of lush tall grass. But the drought completely destroyed the range; springs which had been considered permanent went dry; many ranchers experienced a mortality rate as high as fifty to seventy percent. Judge Hancock, of Galeyville, who had been present at the company's first big round-up, describes the drought. He tells of going to the creek on the Triangle Range and finding it full of dead cows, many fallen in the water. The thirsty cowboys rode several miles back to the chuck wagon, where the Mexican cook told them that he had some drinkable water, which he had strained through a barley sack to remove the "cresas." Only after taking a long drink did the cowboys find out that "cresas" meant maggots.

Cattle rustling was a popular pursuit in the early days, and the high mountains, hidden canyons, and long Mexican border made Cochise County the ideal place for it. The "line" was not only unfenced, but was often unestablished. Initially ranchers on the American side did not object too strenuously, since most of the traffic was in their direction, and 'wet' Mexican cattle were an inexpensive way to stock a ranch. Geronimo himself was active in this business, taking stolen Mexican steers to the San Carlos Reservation for sale. When army scouts were apprised of the situation, instead of returning the stolen property, they informed the U.S. Customs officers, who arrived and collected the proper

Tex and Bess Mulkey and son making jerky. (Busenbark Collection)



duty! In 1881 the Curly Bill gang from Tombstone killed a number of Mexican smugglers in Skeleton Canyon. They then proceeded on to Mexico where they stole a herd of 300 head. The herd was recovered by Mexican vaqueros, along with an additional 200 head of American cattle; the entire group then returned to Mexico. Not to be outdone by the Mexicans, the rustlers restole the cattle, again! The Mexican vaqueros retaliated, killing the current 'owner' of the cattle, "Old Man" Clanton and several of his henchmen in Guadalupe Canyon. After this complicated incident, Mexican ranchers and officials began to take more precautions. Rustlers were forced to prey more upon fellow American ranchers. After John Slaughter, owner of the San Bernardino Ranch, was made sheriff in 1887, incidents of organized gang rustling lessened considerably.

Leonard Alverson describes the attitude of many of the local ranchers towards the outlaw gangs. Mrs. Hunsaker, who had a ranch in Leslie Canyon, told him that she would rather feed an outlaw gang than a posse, because the outlaws always left their guns outside and helped with the chores, while the "bar room rounders," who formed the posses, would stomp into the house with their spurs on and spit tobacco on the floor. Black Jack Christian, leader of the most active gang of rustlers, would even help on round-ups and shoe horses. Alverson tells an amusing story about Black Jack's visit to the Jacob Scheerer ranch. When Jacob told the posse he didn't know Black Jack's whereabouts, the morning after he had spent the night at the Scheerer ranch, young George piped up, "Why, Daddy, wasn't that Black Jack that slept here last night and helped mama wash the dishes and put my shoes on me this morning and gave me two bits for being a good boy?" Jake still denied having seen him.

Small scale cattle thieving was practiced as well. Landless cowboys and small operators did not feel too guilty about appropriating an occasional calf from one of the absentee landlords of the huge companies, since after all, those rich eastern investors couldn't be financially dependent on a few calves. The actual rebranding of cattle was to be avoided, so the

more common practice was to dogey the unbranded calves, separating them from their mothers, burn on the rustler's brand, and hold them in some natural mountain corral until healed over. The Arizona Rangers, founded in 1901, were finally effective in slowing down this type of rustling, making 1,800 arrests during their first two years in operation.

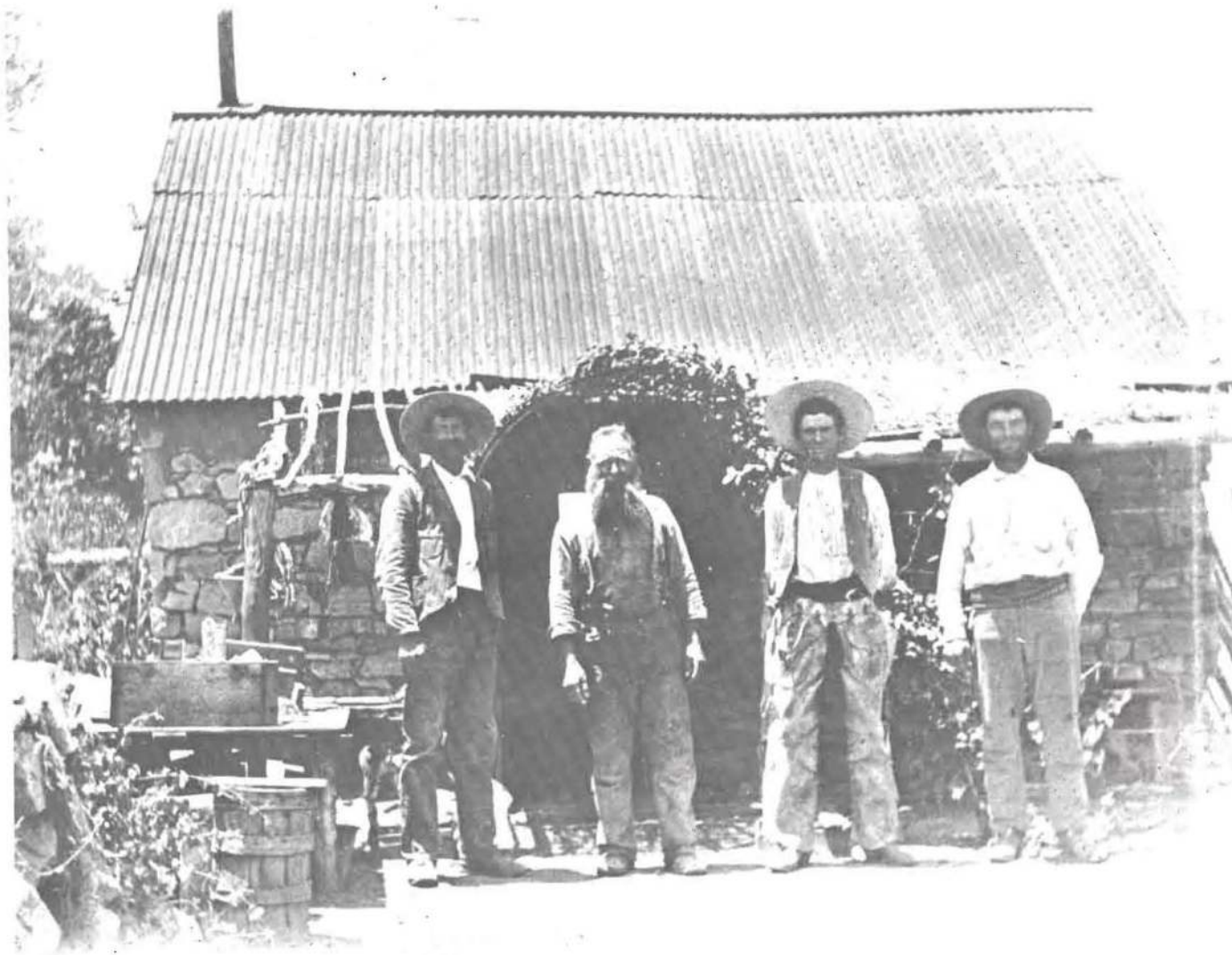
With the Indians on reservations, the rustlers in jail or intimidated, and much of the vast grassland being fenced by "nesters" (homesteaders entered the area in force after 1905), the romantic era of open range ranching was gradually being transformed into the modern, capitalized, and technical cattle business we know today. As hard a life as it obviously was, many a pioneer still laments the settling of the frontier and the passing of the "old-time cowboy."

The eminent American historian, Frederick Jackson Turner, on reading the census-taker's statement that as of 1880 there no longer existed a frontier of settlement in America, observed that the presence of the frontier in American history has profoundly affected the development of our collective American character. It is to the frontier that Americans are indebted for that: "coarseness and strength...that practical inventive turn of mind...that masterful grasp of material things...that restless, nervous energy; that dominant individualism...and withal that buoyancy and exuberance which comes with freedom...."

These then are uniquely American traits which should be readily apparent in the faces and attitudes of the pioneer ranchers in The Cowbelles' exhibit. Since the pioneer period in Arizona lasted only a brief generation or two, we are fortunate indeed that the settling of our small part of the frontier took place so recently that it has been recorded here in the photographs of this Exhibit.

— Diana Hadley

I wish to give a special word of thanks to Rex McDonald, Alvin Taylor, Walter Ramsey and Ishmael Fairchild, old-time cowboys who have given me many hours of pleasure with their tales of ranch life in the early days. A special thanks as well to Ervin Bond for his help in reading the manuscript, and to The Arizona Historical Society for the help and cooperation of the staff.



George Parker, Fred Horn, Lee Parker, Duke Parker at the Fred Horn Ranch (formerly Sutherland Ranch) in the Huachuca Mountains, c. 1908.

This photograph was taken by Mr. Updegraff, a "lunger," or tubercular visitor from Pittsburgh.

(Elizabeth Parker Brown Collection)



Mr. and Mrs. Adolph Hampe, feeding a dogie calf, Camp Rucker Ranch, early 1900s.

The former site of Camp Rucker in the Chiricahua Mountains, the ranch had been used as a supply camp for cavalry troops pursuing Geronimo. (Krentz Collection)



The Chiricahua Cattle Company Home Ranch, Sulphur Springs Valley, 1894.

*Sam McCoy the Chinese cook, John Commings, Ted Moore—killed by outlaws in 1898, Joe Smith—a Mormon who lived near Turkey Creek, unknown man.
(Schilling Collection)*



The Allaire Family at the X^Y_X Ranch, Sulphur Springs Valley, mid 1880s.

The Allaires were French homesteaders who engaged in ranching and operated the store at Klondike, a mining camp on the west end of Aravaipa Canyon.

Giff and Mila Allaire on horses (note side saddle), Frances Allaire, Mrs. Thomas Allaire, Johnny McGill, Thomas Allaire.

(Browning Collection)



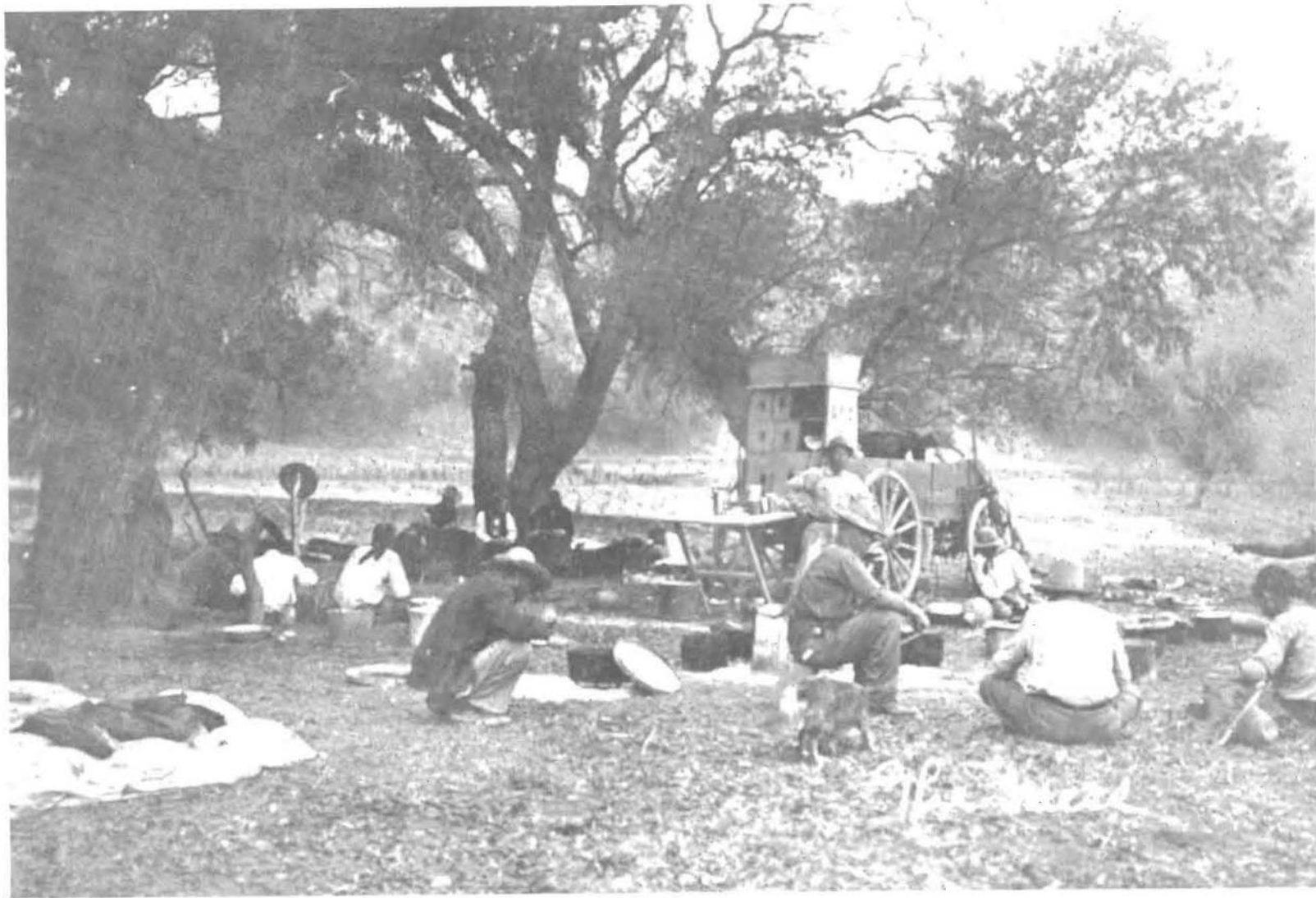
Virginia Axford, Eva Moson, May Rose Axford riding Blackie, the O R Headquarters, Hereford, c. 1920.

The Axford girls are the daughters of Mack Axford, author of Around Western Campfires. Eva Moson is the daughter of Frank Moson, Sr., prominent southern Arizona rancher and step-son of Colonel Greene, organizer of the Cananea Copper Company and the Greene and Cananea Cattle Companies. (Bradshaw Collection)



Ben F. Smith's Livery Stable, Pearce, c. 1886.

After operating the sole livery stable in Pearce for a number of years, Mr. Smith was found murdered in his office, "weltering in his own gore," according to the Tombstone Epitaph. He had been shot in the back of the head and then beaten with a hammer. The motive was never determined, nor the killer apprehended. (Sproul Collection)



Chuck Wagon of the Frank Proctor Ranch, San Rafael Valley, 1909.

Archie Smith, who was later foreman of The Boquillas Land and Cattle Company, is on the far right. The photograph was made by Erwin Smith, famous southwestern photographer who traveled extensively in southern Arizona photographing ranches.

(Elizabeth Parker Brown Collection)



At the Bebedero, horse pasture, O R Ranch, near Hereford, 1909.

Erwin Smith, photographer. (Bradshaw Collection)



Mr. J. J. Wheeler at the Wheeler Ranch, by the Natural Tank, west of Apache, c. 1905.

Mr. Wheeler was the foreman of The San Simon Cattle and Canal Company for a number of years. He purchased their brand and part of the original ranch after homesteaders started to move into the area and the company sold out.

(Franklin Collection)



Betty Knipe (Choate) pumping water with burro power, Rincon Mountain Ranch, 1912.

Fred Knipe is at the pump dumping the water into troughs. The burro on this type of pump walked in a straight line away from the pump instead of treading in the more usual circle.

(Choate Collection)



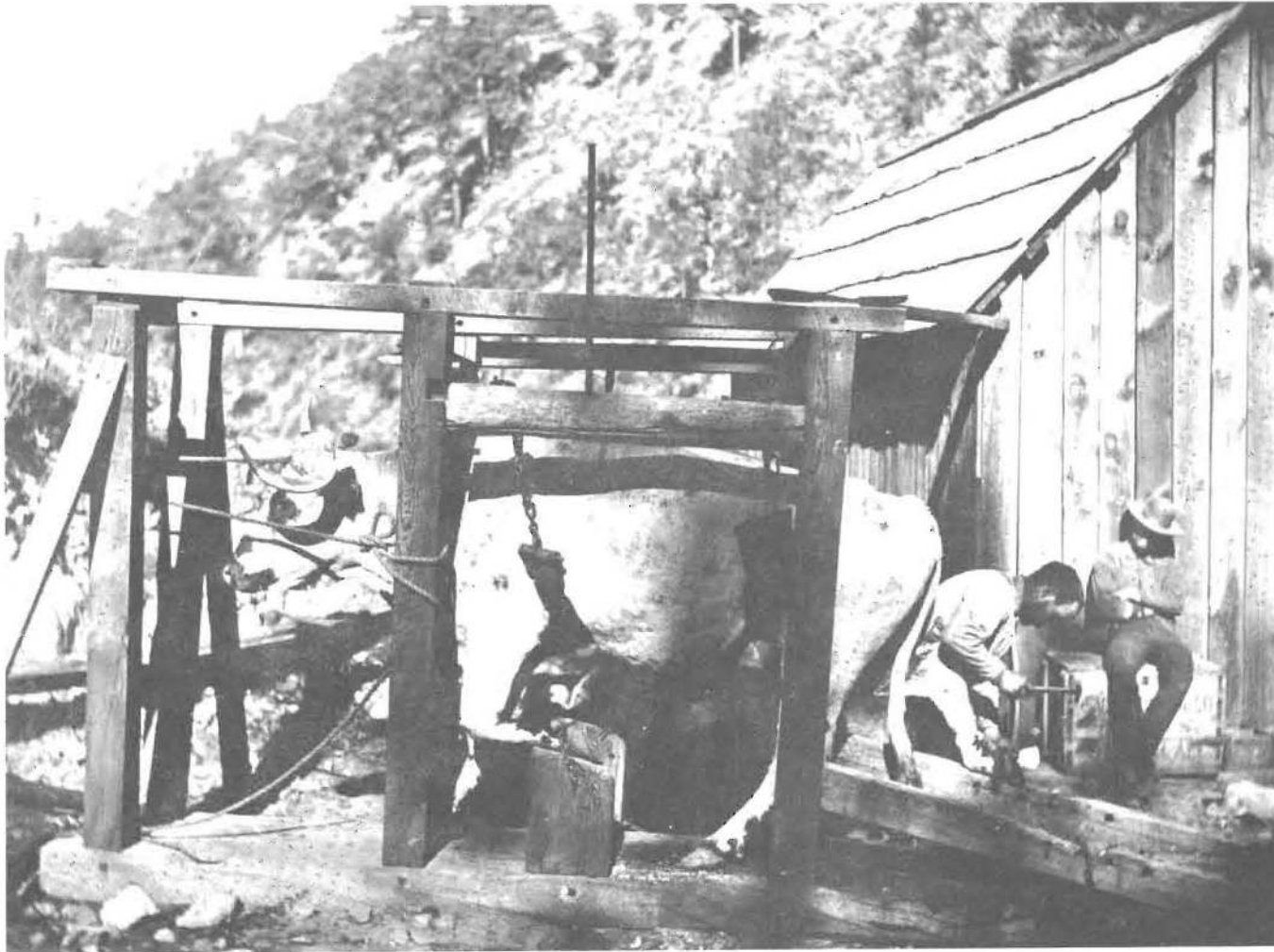
The bed roll wagon getting out of Carr Canyon Wash, on the Y Lightning Ranch, Hereford, 1909. Erwin Smith, photographer. (Bradshaw Collection)



Crossing Skeleton Canyon the hard way, Wheeler Ranch, near Apache, 1915.

Skeleton Canyon received its name from the remains of an unburied party of Mexican smugglers who were ambushed by Curley Bill's gang in 1881. Could this car be an Overland, so famous for axle breaking problems that many an owner carried an extra in his trunk?

(Franklin Collection)



Shoeing oxen at Daniel David Ross' lumber mill in Morse's Canyon, near Turkey Creek, Chiricahua Mountains, late 1890s. (Brophy Collection)



Chasing a brush jumper, Greene Cattle Company, 1920s. (Bradshaw Collection)



Dipping cattle for ticks and lice at the border crossing, Agua Prieta, Sonora, 1924.

During the severe drought of the early 1920s many southern Arizona ranchers leased rangeland in northern Sonora and moved their entire herds. When the cattle were returned to Arizona as drought conditions ended, government inspectors required dipping. (Note the poor condition of the cow at rear of corral.) (Cowan Collection)



Molly McDonald Price at her homestead on Turkey Creek, during the 1940s.

Molly Price, known fondly as Grandma Price, came from Texas by wagon, settling in the Turkey Creek area about 1903. She received a homestead deed for 160 acres in 1913, later acquiring additional patented land and leased state and federal range land, creating a substantial ranch. Her husband, Jim, left the ranch when her youngest child was three. She raised her eleven children and one nephew and ran the ranch without the assistance of a husband. When the older children were of an age to take care of the younger ones, she supplemented the family income by cooking in the railroad boarding house in Douglas, making the fifty-four mile round trip by wagon and returning to the ranch on week-ends. In later years, her father lived with her at the ranch, where he died at the age of 103. (Hudspath Collection)

The Riggs Settlement, main ranch house, before 1885. (Chatfield Collection)





Ben Snure at the Snure Ranch, San Bernardino Valley with his burro Jas, and his dogs Bear and Bauser, c. 1930.



Ralph Cowan and Frank Crane in front of the hay wagon, N I Headquarters, McNeal, 1920. (Cowan Collection)



The Apache Store, 1911.

Neva Marken Hopkins, John Marken, Minnie Marken, Nina Marken Harris and two unidentified persons. (Franklin Collection)



Eating chuck at The Riggs Settlement Ranch, during the big round-up held after the soldiers returned from World War I, 1919.

William M. Riggs, Helen Beyer (Thompson), Ellen Maker, Pat Hunter (Stephens), Eileen Heffron. (Stephens Collection)



The Krentz Family at The Upper Ranch in Tex Canyon, 1907.

Bertha and Stuart Krentz on horse, Sarah and Jules Krentz in the wagon. (Note the side saddle.) (Krentz Collection)