

Ranch Sidelights

In early day, in far away locations, when timber was scarce, the ranche house was usually a dug out, an excavation in the hillside, with front of log pickets. One door, & a glassless window with wooden shutters. And with center ridge poles & smaller poles laid on for roof with 6 inches of dirt dower(?), it made a substantial roof. A fireplace was dug in the rear wall. And a well like hole dug or drilled down for chimney.

Those houses were warm in winter & cool in summer.

A Cow Boys mount was four to 6 horses, and when on trail or holding herd, each rider kept one horse saddled all night, as precaution against stampedes.

2,500 to 3,000 head of cattle were as many as should put in one Trail herd. Requiring 10 to 12 cow hands, one horse rustler, who had charge of horses not in use.

And one cook, who drove chuck wagon, gathered his firewood & provided meals for the outfit.

A cows hide was swung under the wagon, to carry fuel in, against woodless camps.

Each cow boy provided his own personal outfit, consisting of saddle, bridle & blanket, and (bed roll) 2 pairs of blankets, one tarpoleen of 8 Oz. duck, which spread on ground was twice the length of blankets & was doubled back over the blankets - a protection against dampness from the ground or above.

On the trail this was rolled up - a strap buckled around it, & tossed into wagon.

A lasso (lariate) of 5/8 inch hard twisted manilla rope, with loop in one end was indispensable.

On the trail, or working on range roundups, the rustler drove the caveyard(?) (horse herd) to camp, morning, noon, & night, where four men holding ropes formed a corral (inclosure) round the horses. Each rider turned his ridden horse loose & threw his lasso over the head of a fresh horse, mount, & saddled him.

The first watch took charge of the herd when it was rounded onto bed-ground at sunset.

Two men to each watch, were changed every two hours. Other men slept with their night horses saddled.

At sunrise, cattle rose from their beds, stretched, & were permitted to graze off in the course of travel.