

Chapter seven

The Butch Cassidy gang

We did just that and soon here came Jack in a terrible rush and told us he had gone towards the house on foot but had seen several horses in the back yard ready saddled and inside he had saw several men playing cards and on a small shelf he had seen a sixshooter and he reconized the bunch as the notorious Butch Cassidy gang so he sneaked back to his wagon as soon as he could and got away from there and he though we better move on and not camp there so close as we did not know what they might want to do to us, Jack knew what he was talking about because he was a pretty rough character himself so we hooked up our horses again and while we were doing so two boys came riding up to us and began asking questions, Linscum told them we had several good rifles in our wagons and we sure knew how to use them and some more talk like that he thought maybe the gang had sent the boys to find out something about us, anyway we started on our way again and traveled more than half the night before we stopped again away up on a high level place we made a dry camp for the night, next we traveled on until we came to Alantic City and South Pass, Jack went around and sold some of our loads while I just sauntered around waiting for him, I happened to enter a blacksmith shop where I saw a man that looked so much like my

Father he could have been a twin brother I looked at him for a while and then heard the blacksmith address him as Mr. Cook then I looked some more and at last I went over to talk to him about his relatives, Oh! he said, "I have them every where" he did not act like he wished to talk about it so I left him but I still think he might have been related to my Father's family.

That night we camped down below town on a small stream and after we had our supper Linscum and I were ready for our beds Jack took his long sharp dagger we used to slice bread and meat with in camp and stuck it in his belt and told us, "I'll be back in a little while" we wondered but said, "nothing" Jensen had given Jack a bill of sale on both teams and wagons as well as the loads of fruit because he kinda expected some trouble of some sort and well he might when we learned a few things later. Linscum left us and Jack and I went on alone from there towards Lander and tried to despos of the balance of our loads, at last we came to a very nice looking ranch house and we stopped to try to sell something the lady there said, "yes we would like very much to get some things but my husband has gone to market with a load of beef and I won't have any money until he comes back, if you wish to leave what I want and will stop on your way back for your pay I will take some. Jack had been warned by Jensen not to let any go withour the money so he hesitated but at last thought it might be alright and let her buy for \$16.00 worth and after unloading that much he decided he could take all our two loads on his wagon and I could return home with my empty wagon

so we did that and I started for home alone, after I had crossed green river I headed streight west I knew I would have to come to HamsFork some place if I kept going west although I must admit I was kinda lost but I came out alright at last and soon got to the ranch again.

A few days later Jack came back with a story like this, "When he returned to collect the sixteen dollars the ladies husband was home and refused to pay the bill because some time before Jensen had called at their place with a sad story about breaking down his wagon wheel and wanted to borrow a wheel off from their wagon to take him to Lander where he could get his wheel repaired and he would return with their wheel."

But Jensen did not come back that way he took another route home with their wagon wheel and they had never seen him since so we will not pay the bill".

Jack had tried to explain to them and showed them the bill of sale but they were sure it was another of Jensen's tricks because they remembered the horses so Jack did not get the sixteen dollars, Jensen told Jack he would hold it from his wages but Jack said, "I still have the bill of sales by you Mr Jensen and in order for you to get it back you better pay me my wages, so Jensen had to pay him.

In the fall I quit working for Jensen and settled up with him for twentyfive dollars per month so I had a little money comming to me and I left on foot to go to the rail road at Kemmerer, when I had walked down about half way to town two Miller boys on horseback caught up with me and told me Jensen wanted me to come because there had been a mistake in settling up with him, but I knew if I had got to little pay he would not want me

to come back and if I had got too much it was his own fault because he did all the figuring so I went on and soon arrived at home again in Afton and stayed with the folks until after Christmas. Kib had bought a new wagon from A.V.Call and had paid part on it but there was still a balance due of \$40.00 and Mother was worried about how they were going to pay it so I took \$40.00 of my money and went and paid for the wagon, later I think Carl got the wagon.

Tom Yeamons told me one day that he had been working out at Cokeville hauling ties and props and that Will Cook my half brother was working there and would like to have me come out there and drive one of his teams, Tom was going out there again and told me I was welcome to ride back with him if I wanted to go so I went with him and met Will, of course Will did not know me for he had not seen me in a long time so when Tom asked him if he knew me he said "No" I spoke up and asked, "don't you know your own brother?" that was a bad mistake on my part because for Will told me later it made him feel pretty bad, the reason was that Will was having some family trouble and although I must admit he acted rather queer at times he definitely was not crazy still his wife and family had placed him in the insane asyleum at Provo, Utah but he had been released and had gone back to work, he was a very religious man and each night before going to bed he would come to the tent (I was staying in a tent with some other boys) and say, "Boys lets sing a hymn before I go to bed". Us young bucks did sing hymns but they were not the kind of hymns he referred to.

Will and I went to work and when we were alone he asked me, "do you think I am crazy?" No ofcourse not, why? well when we met the other day you asked me if I did not know my own brother? and it made me think you thought under the circumstances that I was as some think I am crazy. As stated above he was a little quear as when we would go out in the mornings and load our sheighs to where I thought we had plenty load for the teams he would insist that we put on a little more then we would start to have trouble, we would get stuck in the loose snow, one day we broke the tongue out of a pair of new bob sleds and several times we tipped over and had to reload and all such trouble while the other haulers would take a small load and make two trips to the top of the hill while we seldom made more than one. After a while I left the boys tent and went and stay with Will until the snow got so deep I told him we better stop and go home, he said, "well supposing you take the small team and go down to Boarder to Wolcott's place until I decide to come down and I will try it for a while longer" I went and knew very well he would compelled to follow very soon. I got to Wolcott's after dark one night so I put the horses in the stable and went into the bunk house and lit a candle a fellow by the name of Evens who was staying there and slept in the house saw the light and came running out to see who had taken over the bunk house and when he found out he went back in and told Wolcott's wife and she told him to ask me to come in the house to sleep, Wolcott was not at home but I told them I was fine where I was and I went to sleep

Next morning after they gave me some breakfast I hooked up my team again and left thinking I could go up through Thomas fork to the trail that led over to the Montpelier-StarValley road and follow that down to Montpelier and then on to his place in Garden City to his home there but when I got up there late in the evening I found it was impossible to break through the deep snow so I was compelled to give up the idea so I turned around and drove back down to the Tusher ranch and asked them if I could stay with them over night and also told them I did not have any money to pay them with, I think they were Swish people and had a severl cows that they obtained milk from and made butter and cheese, they welcomed me to stay and gave me w arm stable for my team with plenty of hay and gave me a supper of hot milk bread and plenty of good cheese. I had a nice clean warm bed to sleep in. Next morning after another meal of about the same kind I thanked them very much and started back to Wolcott's place and on the way I stopped at a place where Wolcott was helping baleing hay and he advised me to go back to his place and stay there until the roads were opened again so I went back to his house again and the bunk house and in the middle of the night here came Will, he woke me and then went in the house and awoke every one in the house and told them he wanted something to eat. He and Wolcott married two sisters (the Bryson girls) so he thought he was right at home there. Will was more familiar with the roads around there than I was so he advised that we would take a different road and go west to Pegrahm and streight across bear lake on the ice to Garden City, we did that and when we arrived at Garden

city and his house there that was his home, there was no one at home the house was deserted and he found papers stating his wife was seeking a divorce, poor man he was very blue and I sure felt sorry for him too because he was a good man and tried hard to take care of his family, I do not know if they had more than two sons Lewis and Newel the later is living here in Ogden now, Lewis died after making a large fortune in the Safeway stores business. I stayed with Will for a few days and managed to get a ride back to Afton with a newly married couple. I stayed home for a couple of months and then bought a poney from Con Yeamons and finding two other fellows Lon Kennington and Will Hale who wanted to go with me we set out for the sheep camps on Fontenell, the poney I bought from Con was a very scrawney looking beast and could buck something awful when he felt like it but the night before I got him Con had riden him to a dance at Auburn about seven miles away and when he got back he had simply turned the poor thing loose at a straw stack so when I got him he did not feel so good.

The three of us started out Lon had a saddle but Will and I had only a blanket to ride on other wise bare back, we made it over into Thomas Fork and about five or six miles from Cokeville when my poney could go no farther he was intirely give out so I told the other boys to go ahead to Cokeville and I would try to get there in the morning, then I went down to a ranch nerby and told a fellow there my perdiciment and asked to stay over night, he said, "sure but how would you like to trade your horse for a fresh animal, I will give you that mare in the corral for your horse and two dollars to boot

I have'nt got two dollars but I promise to send it to you when I have earned it. Alright he said that mare will take you where ever you want to go so inless than a half hour I was raceing up the road and soon overtook the other boys, we stayed at Cokeville that night, how we paid for our keep I don't remember but the next day rode over to the Jensen ranch and stayed over night and put our horses in their pasture. When we were about to leave the next morning we were not exactly sure whether we wanted to go on to the sheep camp or if we should try to get some other emplayment, at last we decided to try to get a job on the rail road section at old hams fork station when we reached the station we were given a job alright and Lon and Will were to go to work that day and I was going to take the horses back to Jensens pasture and walk back and go to work with them, when I returned however they were not satisfied with that kind of work or job so we all quit before we got started and all the pay we got for that day was a few sandwiches in a paper bag, we went back to our horses and the next day we headed for the sheep camps and found them and the foreman Dave Martin working for Miles and Rathburn and he said, "follow me" and we tried to do that but he went up and down hills so fast we could hardly keep up with him but he stopped at last at another camp and made arrangements to place us with different camps for it was nearing lambing time, I was placed with two other fellows by the names of George Winn and Fred Hill, George was the main boss of that camp and Fred was the campmover and cook I was given the job of herding the drop herd that is the herd before

they dropped their lambs, those that did drop a lamb some time two were separated from the rest of the herd and was left there together with the other that did the same then these small herds were after a while gathered together with others when they had become accustomed to their lambs and the lambs with their mothers and gradually mixed with others until the whole lambing was over.

While I was with these two fellows I told them I was going to let my hair grow just to see how long it would get, it was pretty long even then so they kept kidding me about it until at last they told me I better let them cut it I said, "No" so one day they got their heads together and concocted a plan, they would get me unawares and hold me down and cut my hair but they only cut one side and left the other long so I looked very one sided so I begged them to cut the other side but they let me go that way for several days before they took pity on me and gave me a real hair cut.