

Chapter 9

Those thiveing coyotes

After the herds were prepared for the winter range Al and I got our sheep wagon and started down towards the winter range on the south side of Ham's fork creek below Diamondville where the coyotes were something awful and killed several of our sheep regardless of everything we could do, I carried a rifle everywhere I went but I never did hit a single one of them as they were generally on the far side of the herd, Al used to laugh at me and told me, "you are no good at all" but when ever he got a chance at one he generally got it.

It was getting cold weather and winter was not far off so I decided to quit and go home so Dave got Frank Phippen to take the herd and I left and went home, I don't remember what I did that winter but the next spring I was back again and helped with the lambing, sheering and then Mr. Fenner wanted me to come down and work on the ranch and help to haul the wool to the rail road for he not only had the wool for that year but he still had the wool from the year before which he had not sold before, so I strted to hauling wool with Dave Faddis with one wagon and me with another, we did other things on the ranch too, I remember we took two loads of wool to town on the fourth of July and unloaded at Frontier where we later loaded it on to boxcars on the siding there, after feeding our horses by the wagons Dave and I went over to Kemmerer on foot to see the celebration and get some beer, we made the rounds of the triangle stopping in every saloon we would buy a pair of five cent scho-ners of beer which we could get for a nickle each, then to the next saloon

where we did the same thing and so on to every one of them and there was a lot of saloons on the triangle at that time, then we would start our second round but would hesitate to buy the beer and generally the bartender would say have one on the house that way our second trip around would not cost us anything but by the time we got around the second time we had a plenty and was then ready for most anything.

South of where the County Court now stands was a big flat piece of ground where they had built a race track and a base ball diamond and the crowds were all up there to see the horse races so we went up there too and just as we arrived they were having a race between a large bay horse and a smaller one and the large horse had just beat the smaller one about three lengths, it did not look fair to Dave so he looked the owner of the small horse and told him he would bet ten dollars the small horse could beat the other if he would let him ride it, the fellow said, "alright" so Dave came to me and asked me to lend him ten dollars which he bet and got on the small horse and I did not have much faith in him winning because he was so full of beer but the race started and sure enough he did beat the other horse as much as he had beaten the other so I got my ten dollars back, we spent the rest of the day watching the celebration and as it was getting dark I told Dave we better be getting back to our teams and go home but he was in no hurry to go so at last I went alone and got my team and went to the ranch and some time in the middle of the night Dave came in and the next morning he had been betting and won a watch and about twenty dollars in cash.

After we hauled and loaded the wool on the rail road cars or rather as we were loading Walt went over to the Frontier saloon and bought a keg of beer which was a mistake on his part for after we got that beer each a good load of beer the loading went considerable slower.

After the wool was desposed of we all started haying, Walt had hired a fellow by the name of Billy Bouch and Frank Phippen one of the sheep herders had come down to help put up the hay but every chance we got during haying we would go to town and drink beer and have a time and I could see Walt was getting disgusted with us all me included although when we were through haying I was very much surprised when he called me together with the rest into the house and paid us off and said, "he did'nt need us any more. As soon as we got our pay which was not very much we went to town and drank beer again until they were all nearly broke, I had thirtyfive dollars left but they did not know it, we all went down to the depot and climbed into a boxcar not careing much which way it wastgoing, that Billy Bouch was a real hobow, that car pulled out and we rode it down as far as Pegrahm below Cpkeville and there a brakeman put us off, it was in the evening and we staydd around there for a while when we caught another freight train to Montpelier where we found a small house near the tracks that we rented a couple of beds for the night, early the next morning we went down to the tracks again a climbed into a boxcar and rode for a while, when we were affraid we would be seen so we got into a boxcar loaded with coal and rode that for a while then we found another empty boxcar with the side door wide open and on a sideing a brakeman came

along and closed and fastened the door without knowing we were in there, in the evening as it was getting dark we wondering how we were going to get out as our car was pushed onto a side track for another train to pass, we could push the door open a little and look through the crack up along the train and as we did so we saw a Japanese coming down by the side of the train putting out switch lights so when he got directly opposite our car we all shouted to him and asked him to unfasten the door which he did and begged to open it, but we told him "No No" only unfasten" and we rode on to Pocatello, it was about one in the morning when we got down from that car and we were very careful that no one saw us for fear we might be arrested as vagrants, we stayed around until morning and then hunted up a traveling agency who were hiring men to work on the rail road at construction work and we were told it would cost us each one dollar to be shipped by passenger train up to a place called Market Lake several miles to the north so I paid the four dollars for the four of us and we were soon riding in style to the job, however when we got there Billy Boush the foreman insisted we have something to eat before we went to work but the foreman on the job said "No you work first and eat later" so we just walked on up the tracks and did not go to work there and soon caught another freight train and rode a short distance until we saw what we thought was a farming community so we decided to take a walk out there and try to get a job for we were down to our last ninety cents for as we all smoked cigarettes we had to have our bull Durham tobacco made them with regardless of anything else.

The last of my thirtyfive dollars had now been used up and we did not find any work at the farms although we walk- for miles it seem before we got back to the rail road again and caught another freight train that we rode until we arrived at Spencer, Idaho where the train stopped and while it was stopped I was down on the ground and the others were up on a car, so I was supposed to watch out for the brakeman who might put us off again, I saw the brakeman coming down along side of the train but I did not tell the boys because I was so disgusted with eveything that I did'nt care what happened and was tired of running so the brakeman put us off again. We went over to a small building that was built on posts about three feet off the ground with sheets of tin wrapped around each post, we learned later that the building was a place where grain was stored and the posts and tin was to keep mice from getting into the grain and as we lay under this building in the shade feeling very sorry for ourselves and feeling also very hungry wondering where we were going to get something to eat I suggested trying to sell a cheap watch I had if one of the other would try to sell it at a small saloon we could see not far off so Billy Boush volenteered to try and took the watch to the saloon but no one wanted it but there was a drunken sheepherder in there who said, "You don't need to sell it here is a dollar to eat on, Billy did not come back until he went into the Company store and bought bread, a can of beans and some other articles of food and came running back with my watch and we went down by a small stream and made a fire, but he had

forgotten to get any coffee so he said here is a nickle, go over and get a nickle worth of coffee" but to buy coffee by the nickle worth was to much for me and I told him if I never get coffee in my life again I will not try to buy it by the nickle worth," Alright then I'll go he said" and he soon came back with coffee. When we had eaten our fill we went back to the small building and the shade again and wondering what next?

We saw two men comming down the wagon road that ran parallel with the rail road tracks so I determined to ask them if they knew where we could get work? one of these men proved to be the head foreman for the Wood Live Stock Co. and when I asked him he pointed to about the largest building in the place and said "go over there and ask for Mr Hagenbarth maybe he will give you a job, I rushed back to the others and we all went to find Mr. Hagenbarth and when we did he was a very kind and asked us all kinds of queastion about where we come from and such things and when he learned we were from Wyoming he said, "I Used to know a man down there on Fontenell who had sheep, do you know him? we named every sheep man we knew of on Fontenell when some one of mentioned Al Steed, that is the man he said, I spoke up and said, Yes but Al Steed is on Green river not on Fontenell, he heard me I think but did'nt say anything.

He consulted with his clerk at a desk then he turned to Frank Phippen and said "I will send you out to Mr Pierce one of our foremen and he will tell you what to do. Mr Pierce was away off to the north east, then he turned to Dave Fadd and told him you can go up to our other foreman, John Lock who had sheep in the north west.

Now if you boys will go over to the store with me we will get your bedding which will be charged to your account as all our men furnish their own bedding, so we all went over to the store which belonged to the company and Frank and Dave got two pair of blankts, a quilt and a tarpolin for each of them and that same evening they set out for their respective jobs with some of the companies men

Billy and I stood around for a while then Mr Hagenbarth came to us and said, I will fix you up for the night and tomorrow I want you to take a team of horses and wagon and go down to Dubious about a dozen miles away and get some bucks that were left there all his remarks were addressed to Billy so I was kinda left out. In the morning we still had some of the food left we had got at the store so we ate that and then took the team and as I had nothing elseto do I helped him hook up to the wagon and as we were doing it Mr Hagenbarth came out and handed Billy two meal tickets and turned to me and said, I guess you can go down with your friend and help get those bucks" He explained that a few days before he had hired a man to take those bucks out to the buck herd but the fellow had go lost and went the wrong way and had left the bucks at the livery stable at Duboise.

Take this note and these meal tickets the note will let the stable man know who you are and you may get hungry so here the meal tickets.

We went and got the bucks alright I think there weer seven in the wagon and on the way back it began to rain and as we were in an open wagon we got vey wet but we got back and then Mr Hagenbarth told us there was one

other foreman by the name of Anderson who had trouble because two of his herds got mixed and there had been some difficulty between the two herders and one of them had quit so he told Billy he could go out there and help the other herder until they can get them separate again. I felt awful blue, I was the one who had asked for the jobs and still I did not have any yet, anyway.

I think Mr Hagenbarth knew what I was thinking for at last he said to me, "We have a couple of dutchmen (Germans) out at Mr. Lambs camp who are trying to make a fence around a horse pasture and I guess I will let you go out there and help them" I was greatly relieved for it seemed at last I had a job. Billy and I got our bedding about the same as the others and were sent to our work and that was the last time I ever saw any of them again except I saw Dave Faddis several years later at a fair in Afton but he acted like he did not want to talk to me, I guess he thought I was going to ask him to pay back some of the money I had spent on that trip, But I didn't.

These two German boys referred to were some relatives of Mr Hagenbarth, he was German too and they took all kinds of advantage of the fact, by not doing any more than they had to especially the older and bigger one of the two named Carl and when I started to help them they had only about one half of one side of a forty acre tract set with posts, there was plenty of timber suitable for fence posts very near by and all we had to do was to chop it down and put them in the ground the youngest and much the smallest man and I would go out to work as soon as we had eaten our breakfast and start to work while Carl would say, "I must wash the dishes and clean the house, (they did have a house)

About eleven o'clock he would come strowling out there very slowly and help us for a short while and say, "I must go and cook dinner and in the afternoon it was about the same way, the little man was by far the best worker and he and I went along pretty well. Mr. Lamb for whom we were working and some of the other foremen were gathered together in the house one day and I found out he did not like Carl very much for I happened to hear him say, "those dutchmen have been here all summer and the two weeks that Cook has been here they have made more fence than all the rest put together, I of-course was not supposed to hear that.

One day when we had started on the third side of the field Mr Lamb came to me and said, " I would like you to take your bed and go with me over to a herd where a fellow has just quit and take over the herd there". I left the two dutchmen and spread my bed on the ground in the tent where the other fellow had been sleeping who had been herding.

After a few days I began to itch some thing awful I would scratch and scratch and one day out in the open I took my shirt off to examine it and then and there I was introduced to for the first time in my life to agenuine hord of body lice apparently the fellow who had the herd before had left them from his bed and gave them to me gratis, so now I had a real job, each evening I would boil my clothes and shake my bedding and do everything I could think of to get rid of them and after many days I was free of them and a little later that fall Mr Lamb turned over the thorbred herd of black face Shropshire to care for which I considered a sort of permotion but while I was herding them

I got a terrible tooth ache and one of the camp movers told me about a Dr Shoemaker down in Idaho Falls who was very good at pulling teeth and as he was going down to Duboise I could ride that far with him, I told Mr. Lamb and he got someone else to take the herd and I went down to Duboise with the campmover and from there I bought a return ticket on the rail road down to Idaho Falls, the campmover had told me the Dr. was very fond of the bottle so before I went up to see him in his office I had taken a couple of drinks just to kinda brace myself and the Dr. noticed it on my breath I guess and when he had pulled my tooth he asked me, "did it hurt?" I said "No, I have a good notion to go down and get drunk to celebrate the occassion. He said, come in here to the back room, I have a lady customer comming in and when I get through with her we will go down and have a smile" and with that he handed me a part full glass of whisky, drink that while we are waiting" he said "I have a lady customer comming in and when I get trough with her we will go down and have a smile" When he got ready he came in took down a gold headed cane and a tall silk hat and said, "Now my boys we are ready" I felt rather silly for I was not dressed for such company but we went down and he led the way to an apparently deserted empty room and followed through it to a back door where we entered into a very elegant bar room and a very expensive looking place, we went over to the bar and the Dr. ordered the drinks first and then I did likewise and after several more I remember the Dr. was leaning on the bar preaching to the bartender and told him, "This young man has teeth like a horse", I was pretty well intoxicated but I did know enough to

know I had a train to catch to get back to my job and that the train was nearly due so I excused myself and bid the Dr. goodbye but stopped in at a small eating place and went up to the counter and climbed on one of the stools and a nice looking young man came over and asked me what I would have? I blurted out, "give a dozen raw boiled eggs" he gave me one disgusted look and walked away, after a while I shouted at him, "arent you going to give me something to eat?" Yes when you get sence enough to tell me what you want" Well I will have you know I have just had some teeth pulled and want some thing soft, then he did bring me something and I ate and paid for it and left and got to the depot in time to catch my train and got aboard I gave the conductor my ticket and sank down in one of the seats and went fast to sleep. Allat once I felt the train give a little jerk and as a brakeman was passing I asked "is this Duboise" No this is Pleasant Valley he replied, we had gone past Duboise and on pasted Spencer too and on up the canion to Pleasant valley and when he told me that I jumped to my feet and ran for the door and although the train was going pretty fast I jumped off and took a roll down and embankment several feet high but I was not hurt but got up and looked and all I could see was the tail lights of the train in one direction and a small light in the small station we had just passed, I walked back to the station and asked the depot clerk if he knew where I could stay for the night? He poined to a farmhouse somewhere out there in the darkness but I knew I was in no condition to find any farm house so I started walking back down the canion

I had bought my ticket from Duboise and it was good to return me to Duboise but we had gone past there and past Spence where I wanted to go and up this grade in a sort of canion near where I had herded my sheep before and I had got acquainted with an old man who was hired by the rail road to walk the tracks up this canion every night and watch for large boulders that might roll down on the tracks and cause accidents. After I had walked three or four miles down this grade I came to small rock cabin that had one of those large railroad stoves in it which was still red hot because the old man had been there and ate his mid-night meal and left the hot stove and in one corner was a pile of bedding during my walk in the cold fall air I had partly sober myself but I curled up on this bedding and went to sleep again. In the morning a heavy freight train came pounding up this grade which awoke me and after a good stretch I started back down the rest of the way to Spencer and arrived there just as the morning passenger train came down the same direction and I was told later if I had stayed with the train that night instead of jumping of the rail road would have to bring me back again free.

I had been so awfully ashamed of my conduct that I had not written home to tell them where I was, it was in 1900 and I was coming to my ~~twentieth~~ birthday that fall when at last I got a letter from home telling me my Father had died in July and was buried with out me knowing about it so I never got to his funeral and now My dear Mother was a widow.

When I got back to Spencer Mr Hagenbarth informed me that my three friends had left the company long before, Frank Phippen had tried to herd sheep like he did

in the wide open country in Wyoming and allowed his herd to scatter so far into the territory claimed by another herder and had got himself fired less than a month after he started, Billy Boush had got into a fight with the other herder he was supposed to help with the mixed herd and he too left, Dave Faddis had lasted a little longer and after telling all he came in contact with some of his big stories, some about me, one was like this: When you meet that man Cook you better look our for he is a real fighter, he can whip a dozen men, he has been in the ring" then another was, That man Cook can make a violin really talk" ofcoarse such talk did not harm me but that was all his own make up I did have an old violin on the Fenner ranch but never got so I could play anything. Well Dave Faddis left too so I was the only one of the four left who had stayed with the job. Mr Hagenbarth sent me out next with a young foremen who had recently got married by the name of Wakefield he had two herds to look after the one I had and another one was given to a man by the name of Billy Nelson who was of scandinavian decent and we started out for the winter range west of Duboise towards little lost river country and ofcoarse we had sheep wagons for the winter time. Mr Wakefield would move our wagons when he thought it necessary and then left us for as much sometimes as two weeks at a time, he had a trailer house that he placed in some nice sheltered place where he and his wife lived Billy and I ofcoarse were alone in each of our wagons and our herds and at times we were miles apart and did our own cooking with the only company was with our faithful dog so we made up signs

by waveing our hat in a certain way we
meant turn your herd that was and I will
turn mine the other way and we will get
together for a visit so we did get to-
gether once in a while.