

OLD TIMERS OF MADISON COUNTY

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Source: Dave Hansen

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The Old Timers of Madison County had a hard and exciting life.

About seventy-five years ago my great grandfather, Lewis Buller-dick, came to Sheridan by stagecoach. He lived in a log cabin on Wisconsin Creek. My great grandmother was a young woman at that time. She told of the Indians that would break from the Reservation and come to the settlers houses begging for food. The Indians would cause her to be nervous, but relieved that they did not harm her.

My great grandfather worked on different ranches around Sheridan, then later bought a ranch of his own. At that time there were no trucks to haul livestock to market. He has told my dad stories of the time when he hauled fresh pork to Butte. It was a long hard trip; sometimes it would take three to four days with a six horse team and wagon. In the fall of the year, they would butcher twenty or thirty hogs; then they would get ready for their long trip over rough dirt roads, through creeks and gullies. It would take two days to butcher the hogs; they would take hay and grain for the horses and food for themselves. They would leave early in the morning, going as far as they could till night fell. When they finally reached Butte, there was no steady market for meat; they would go from restaurant to restaurant selling their dressed pork. At that time twenty or thirty head of dressed hogs would only bring around one-hundred and seventy-five dollars; today they would bring about eight times as much. Their trip for home would take only two days because they were loaded light.

One time, coming home from Butte, they decided to start home just at dusk; it became dark sooner that they thought; and they got off on

the wrong road. That time it took them more than two days to get home; it took them four days. While on this strange road, they broke the wheel on the wagon. Lucky for them, they had a spare. After they got it on, they were on their way. Finally, they came to an overhanging cliff and stayed over night. The next day they found the main road and continued their trip. The men and the horses were glad to be home to rest after a long hard trip.

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