



Face of Fillmore

By Sherry Shepard
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I am always excited when a reader sends me a story. This doesn't happen often, and I usually rewrite it to fit the format I am accustomed to, but this time it was written so well, I am just using quotation marks. It is rewarding to know that The Face of Fillmore sparks an interest in our community's history.

Not long ago I received this story below from Elyse Workman of Mesa, Arizona. The story about the cattle drive of 1949 was told to her by her grandfather Chad Carling, also of Mesa and formerly of our area.

Chad was born and raised in Flowell. His parents were Claude Merrit Carling and Cleo Cummings. He grew up on the Carling farm there and has countless stories to tell about his life on that farm! His family eventually moved to Fillmore and his brother, Charles Carling, still resides there. His sister, Lois Harris currently lives in Delta and his sister, Sharon Stewart, lives in Tooele. Chad moved to Arizona after serving in the Korean War (Air Force) and met the love of his life, Ludene Dees. They got married and raised their five children in Mesa.

"The fall of 1949 we had a record snowfall on our winter range, out west of Kanosh. Chad Carling was living with his grandfather, Harvey Cummings, working on the ranch. Chad recalls, "my bedroom was upstairs in the old adobe Stagecoach Hotel built by William Cummings." The Forest Ranger on the Fish Lake National Forest used to survey and see how many cattle could survive on the pastures without ruining the land- to allow just enough grazing. They would issue so many tags for so many cattle and each rancher was allotted a certain number of tags. The tag would go in the animal's ear with the owners' name on the tag. Ranchers were required to put the tags in, in order to put the cattle on the forest to graze. Chad's grandfather had several head of cattle and they had to be off the mountain by deer hunting time. Chad says, "I remember the winter of 1949 as a time that there was so much snow in Western Millard County that the cattle could not survive on the winter range.

"The cattle bunched up and died, and the ranchers had to go out and bring in what they could to the feed yards at Kanosh. Chad's grandfather had some cattle in Kanosh and the Cummings had used up all their hay. They got some oil cake pellets for feed (oil cake pellets are a coarse solid residue obtained after oil is removed from various oilseeds). They are rich in protein and minerals and valuable as food for poultry and other animals. This was fed to the steers and cows in order to



Ludene and Chad Carling

save them. Finally, the weather was breaking a little on the south slopes of the hills at Horse Holler, where the Cummings had a ranch. At Horse Holler the sun would shine all the time, melting the snow so there was plenty of grass for the cows.

“The winter of 49 was so severe that the drifts of snow had entirely covered the roads, making it virtually impossible to take feed to the animals. On one occasion Chad remembers that the D8 Caterpillar was required to break a road. The dozer went over fences and crossings where the snow was at its lowest points. The D8 caterpillar operator had a canvas on each side of the engine to flow warm air to the operator. The caterpillar pulled a sheep wagon and a trailer full of diesel fuel; both trailers had rubber tires. At night, the operator had a two-way radio in



Cattle in a snowstorm

his sheep wagon he would use to call in to the US government Range Service and give his location and service. The D8 dozer created a road allowing Chad and his uncle, Orin Cummings, to push the cattle to Horse Holler where they could get grass and eat on the side of the hills, with the hope that “I could still make it back to town for the annual Gold and Green Ball”.

“Chad said that his dance partner, Faye George, was worried because he didn’t go to school that day. She was afraid she would not have a partner for the event. Chad said, “I knew I had to get back.” Russell Black told Faye that Chad had gone on a cattle drive and would make it back in time. Chad did make it back and everyone had a great time at the Gold and Green Ball.

“In the middle of the night the highway patrolman came by and knocked on the door. The patrolman stated, “Sir, your cattle are scattered all over the highway between seven-mile point and town. They are laying on the highway, we need you to get those cattle out of there.” “Oh again!” Chad and the others had thought that the cattle would be comfortable on the slope of the mountain with the grass and so they didn’t build a barricade to keep them from coming back. But the cattle got cold and got on the trail and headed back. Some of them got clear back to the stockyard and wanted their pellets, so Chad and Orin had to turn them around and take them all back a second time, this time they barricaded the road and didn’t have any more trouble.

“One of Chad’s memories of the winter cattle drive of 1949 was Operation Hay Lift. At Nellis Airforce base in Las Vegas, there was an Operation Hay Lift where some Airforce C119 flying boxcars were loaded with bailed hay and flown out to the cattle on the winter range. When the pilot would see cattle bunched up together, he would circle around, and the crew would drop bailed hay out to the cattle. Chad was very proud of their excellent service.”

Thanks to Chad and Elyse for sharing this story.