

Part III: Bob & Mildred Miller Family..by Tara Miller, Feb. 2011



Mildred Mickelson had a secure and charmed childhood, primarily growing up on the ranch with her beloved brother Jim and surrounded by adoring and attentive adults such as her parents, uncle Ras and workers on the ranch. She grew up with a strong liking for people and believing in their goodness. Born on March 20th, 1910, and fulfilling Mrs. Stepps prediction, Mildred came into the world fulfilling the void left in her family's hearts after having a stillborn child and losing another young child, Max, to illness.

Being very domestic, Mildred's Mother, Mildred 'Millie', kept a beautiful home and was a wonderful cook. She played the piano, sang and filled the home with music. Most of their social life was made there on the ranch. At times, Millie would drive a team to visit friends, taking Mildred along, and on occasion spending the night.

Mildred spent a great deal of time outside tagging along with her Father Jim, and brother, Jimmie. Her father wanted her to be a well rounded ranch woman who could work both outside and inside. This suited Mildred, especially the outside work. From early on, Mildred was fascinated with horses and cowboys and the life that cowboys led on the range. Her early memories of playing were with her stick horses made from willows, all with names and being switched out for fresh horses. She had her own roundups. All her life, it was never a chore to Mildred to ride a horse.

When Mildred was ready for first grade, her parents were nervous to have her traveling to and from school with her older brother. They employed two teachers to work on the ranch, Martha Jensen and Cordice Hallett, who tutored Mildred in their spare time. This arrangement turned out to be a bit haphazard, so the next year Mrs. Mickelson moved to Salt Lake with Mildred and Jimmie for the school year. Their home was in the same area as Swan's, Leifer's, and other residents that had come from the Piney/ Labarge area. This did not work out either as Mr. Mickelson missed his family so and they missed him. The next year, both children went to school at Big Piney, and Jimmie was now considered old enough to supervise their 3 mile trips back and forth to school. When the road was good the kids usually took a buggy, they rode horses when it was muddy and rode in a sleigh when there was deep snow.

Mildred loved to drive the buggy and sleigh horses so when it was cold Jimmie would 'let' her and then he could snuggle deeper under the quilts. Mildred did



not mind for she was happy when she was the horseman. In the winter it would be dark before they got home and Mildred remembered the luscious smell of her mother's fresh bread and what a joy it was to sit in front of the stove and eat the warm treat, sometimes it was her favorite, raisin bread.

Feeding the baby lambs was one of Mildred's first favorite jobs. They raised a few sheep for eating. The ranch also had milk cows, pigs and chickens. Mr. and Mrs. Mickelson both helped in the ranch's large garden where they grew cabbage, cauliflower, radishes, onions, carrots, turnips, lettuce and many small potatoes that were kept in the root cellar.



Mildred lost her father in 1921. After his death, his cousin and foreman, Jimmie Jensen ran the Circle ranch along with young Jim's help. Mr. Jensen and Millie were married in 1928. Mildred became very fond of Jimmie Jensen and grew to think of him also as a father.

The year after Mr. Mickelson passed away, Mildred and Mary Pape, whose parents lived in the cookhouse, were tutored on the ranch. Their lovely and charming teacher was young Miss Stewart from Colorado. Miss Stewart soon became the bride of Mildred's brother Jimmie, and they continued a long life together building the Mickelson heritage. Mildred and brother Jimmie were very close friends all of their lives.

From the 9th through 12th grades, Mildred attended a private Episcopal boarding school, Rowland Hall in Salt Lake City. She lived with her mother in her Salt Lake house and they returned to the ranch in the summers. After graduation, she went to the University of Utah for a year and then embarked on a seven month University cruise of the World in which her Mother joined her. Unhappily, due to sea sickness, Millie had to depart the ship at Hawaii. While Mildred finished her cruise, Millie went to California and had a beautiful home built. She then sold her home in Salt Lake and spent winters in California from then on.



Mildred, Friend and Mothers

Growing up during the roaring 20's would have been a fine time to be young. Even in Big Piney the young people caught the contagious and outrageous country's fun spirit. In the Mickelson home there was no shortage of music, besides Millie's, they often played the radio and phonograph with the fun new sound.

In 1930, following the World Cruise, young Mildred Miller returned home to the ranch and Wyoming. She was 20 yrs. old and among trips with her mother and her world cruise, Mildred had seen a good deal of the world and found it very interesting and exciting but knew the ranch was her favorite place to be. She liked to ride and work cattle, take care of animals, help with the haying when needed, she loved the whole ranch life. Mildred also adored her mother, cousins, and friends that lived in the Big Piney area.

School Friends



Mildred's young days were during the time when women were breaking the bonds of Victorian tradition. Being from the first State which allowed women to vote fit her persona. Mildred was in a fortunate situation and felt she could be independent and not stifled by men or society. She enjoyed life and said she never felt stifled by men, though she respected their masculine sensitivity and did not try to out due them.



There were often dances around the area, local musicians would entertain the party goes well into the night. Often they would dance until "the cows came home" and it was time to go home and milk. Mildred and her girl friends had a great time attending the dances and every other social happenings that they could get to. Sometimes her mother, Millie, would be seen driving in her Packard car, often clad in her big coyote fur coat, asking if anyone had seen Mildred. It was a challenging job, but Millie always tried to keep a close eye on the high spirited Mildred.

One of the annual social functions in the county was the Old Timers Picnic. It was a big affair with a dance following. The young and old alike enjoyed this occasion. A cute story was told by Miriam Barlow about the time old Oscar Beck (from Miller's present Beck Place) won the honor of the oldest person attending. He was so touched, that in his enamored speech he was having a hard time keeping in his false teeth, he ended up holding them in his hand and unwittingly waving them at the crowd for emphases.

The Green River Cattle Association hired many cowboys from Spring through the Fall. This cattle association ran the cattle that were turned onto the desert in early Spring and drifted up the Green River. The Green River Drift is the oldest drift in the U.S. and it is still in existence. Mickelsons were one of the ranchers that ran cattle on the association. A very certain cowboy who had become friends with her brother Jim wanted to meet Mildred. This was a handsome cowboy, lean and standing 6' 4 1/2 ", Bob Miller was a big man.



Robert Leo Miller was born in 1899, in Summer County, Kansas, to John C. and Katherine (Nanny) Miller. 'Bob' had a brother that was a year or two older, John Francis.

Bob's father was what they used to call a 'plunger', plunging from one thing to another, looking for a better way. The family had moved from Illinois to Kansas, where they lived in a sod house for a while. They moved onto Colorado when Bob and Francis were young and most of the boy's education was obtained in various public schools there.

J. C. Miller's parents had been nesters in Illinois after the Civil War. They lived in a sod hut and John grew up in a stark environment with a lot of hard work. John was a severe man and

pretty rough on his sons, Bob and Francis. They were expected to work hard and the rod was not spared. Though their mother was a sweet woman and treated them with softness.

Their mother, Nanny, came from an old American family, the Andrews'. Nanny's parents were educated people from Virginia and one of the founding families of Texas. They had a lovely home with a fireplace and chandelier in every room, it had been built by bondsmen (prisoners).

The Andrews' were tall people. And John Miller was about 6' tall himself, quite tall for those days.

At one time, the John Miller family homesteaded around Lamar Colorado. Bob recalled seeing the cattle stringing for miles, like a migration travelling to water.

The Miller family ended up near Kremling Colorado where they started a ranch that eventually they made into a pure bred Hereford ranch and moved it to Hayden. This was a successful venture and developed into a very fine and lovely ranch. John was old fashioned and the oldest son, Francis, would inherit all of his holdings.

Bob Miller had had enough of his father's rule and was glad to set out on his own. He joined the army and missed WW1 but was employed to Mexico to help settle some stirrings left from the Spanish American war. After his service, Bob worked on a couple ranches before setting out for Wyoming where he took up a homestead on Pixley creek near the Rim and landed a cowboy job on the drift.

Bob became good friends with Buck Baker who was homesteading 4 or 5 miles southwest of Pixley Creek on South Beaver. Buck was a bachelor from down south and quite a character. Friends and Oaky relatives often hung around his place. Buck always had a pot of beans on the stove for visitors and passing cowboys. Buck made moonshine during prohibition and sometimes Bob would help him and haul the liquor for distribution. In 1933, the 10 year Volstead Act - the 18th Amendment was lifted by the 21st Amendment and the nation and Wyoming was 'wet' again. Several states or sections of states chose to remain 'dry'.



Bob became friends with Jimmie Mickelson while on the drift and after seeing his sister Mildred around he asked to be introduced to her. Millie did not exactly approve of the romance since Bob was quite a bit older, a cowboy, and she had hoped Mildred would go back to college. The couple quickly fell for each other and in 1931 they eloped to Manila Utah. They had looked at a map and figured that they would go to Manila to get married and then go to Kremling to see Bob's folks. Mildred's friend, Ruth Kelly, who had been crippled as a child from polio went along as a witness. They were going to keep the marriage a secret until they got back and Mildred thought she was far from where anyone would know her. The Justice of the Peach turned out to be Big Piney George Hereford's son-in-law and when he heard the name ' Mildred Mickelson' he knew who



she was and the news got back to Big Piney before the couple did. The roads were very primitive, it was September and when they got home a blizzard started and it was the beginning of winter. (Bob was 31, Mildred's dad was 30 when he got married.)

Bob fed hay at the Circle that winter. The men would grain their teams while they ate breakfast. At daylight they would hook up to the wagon and head out. The hay was pitched onto the wagon by hand and pitched off. The afternoons were often filled with shoveling off hay stacks and breaking feed-ground trails.

The next fall, the newlyweds moved to Mickelson's Holden Place and set up their home. Mildred's Brother Jim and his wife Mae had been living at the Holden and in 1932 they bought the 67 ranch from Jenkins, who had inherited it from A.W. Smith, and moved over to the 67. (It had first been Budd's and then McKay's.) Jim kept his father's Circle brand and gave Bob and Mildred the 67 brand, that is how the ranches switched brands.

Mildred had never cooked much and Bob helped her with it. Bob would rather that Mildred be out working with him on the ranch and that was more than fine with her. Help was plentiful, so she often had inside help and went with Bob, especially when there was riding to do.

Bob taught Mildred how to hunt. Bob knew how to take care of and cook wild meat and they froze and ate a lot of game. Often the hides were sent to be tanned and things made with them such as Mildred's deer hide jacket with elk teeth buttons. Mildred had a Rendezvous dress made with a elk teeth necklace to go with it. Mae Mickelson once painted a picture on a antelope hide as a wall hanging for Mildred. Mildred enjoyed hunting and especially fishing all of her life.

In the Spring there was calving, branding and moving cattle around. Irrigating was a big job, and some of the hay fields still needed work being converted from sagebrush. After the brush is ploughed and seeded it takes years for the grass to establish, and it takes diligent irrigating with tending to the ditches and head gates where the water flows from the creeks. Haying usually starting at the end of July. The

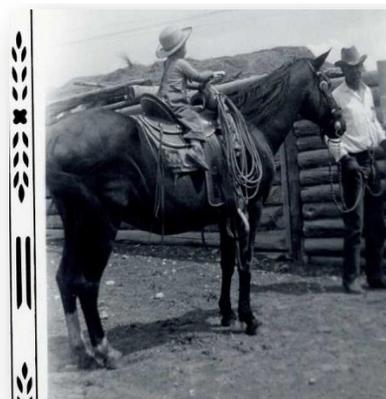
hay was put up with horses (Mildred and Bob had harnessed teams since childhood). In the fall their main activity was riding, gathering cattle, weaning, shipping, dipping, moving the cattle around until the grass was gone or covered with snow and then moving the cattle to feed-grounds. In winter, new teams were broke in with the old teams as teachers as they fed.





On December 7th, 1934, the couple was blessed with a baby boy, Robert Mickelson Miller. 'Bobby' was a joyful baby with a sunny disposition. Bobby grew to be a very active little boy and always game for adventure. He had sparkling blue eyes and a ready smile. Bobby naturally fell into being a little cowboy and was right at home helping and playing on the ranch.

Bob and Bobby



❧ The Depression had crept into Wyoming in the mid 30's and many people were looking for work, at times the ranch had as many as forty men, haying especially could use a big crew. A crew could be fired one day and replaced the next. The ranch gave as many of these unfortunate men a job as they could fit into the bunkhouse and they ate their grub at the cookhouse. Once a man was killed when another man threw a pitch fork over a hay stack, trying to land it on top of the stack, stabbing the man on the other side in back of the neck. His family could never be found, Millers tried for years to discover where he had come from.

Cattle prices were down but the ranch was pretty self dependant and in good financial condition. The Miller ranch continued to increased its holdings. They purchased many small homesteads on and beneath the Rim in the 1930's and 40's. Bob Miller once told Gordon Mickelson that his mother -in-law, Millie, never turned him down when he asked for a loan to buy a ranch. This was particularly interesting as Millie was very fugal when it came to small things, one of her sayings was "watch your pennies and the dollars take care of their selves".

Millie had quickly grown to be very fond of her son-in-law and trusted his business sense. Bob was an ambitious man. Though somewhat of a loner, he was very polite, and his word given with a hand shake was unquestionable.

❧ The Taylor Grazing Act of 1935 ended homesteading except for on reclamation areas or projects. All government vacant land was now to be leased for grazing. Federal Grazing Permits were issued for a fee, and Bob and Mildred obtained some permits such as the BLM permits that filled in the rim sections. Federal Oil and Gas Permits had been in effect since 1920. All government permits have been a substantial source of income for education and highways in Wyoming.

Bobby was outgoing, loved people and made friends easily all of his life. He was a hard worker but he also liked to play and socialize. Bob was intent on making Bobby a good hand and due

to his own harsh upbringing, Bob was rougher on Bobby than Mildred liked. She at times would have to step in and tone down Bob's discipline.

Bob was a quiet man but at times his temper could get the best of him and he would throw a fit at the help. When he got out of hand, Mildred was known to gather the crew and ride home and leave Bob out with the cows, mad as hell.



Bobby with Grandmother Miller, Grandmother Mickelson & Mother, Mildred

 In 1937, Millie had a cabin built in the sections on the Hoback rim, about 50 miles north of the Circle. Oly Pearson camped there with his wife and little boys while he and a Russian by the name of Wottensein built the cabin. Bobby, Mildred and Millie went up and camped with them some. Once complete, the ladies would often take Bobby up to stay during the summers and Bob would join them when working cattle in the sections. By then, Jimmie Jensen was busy with politics but he still cowboied at times. The cabin was always very well taken care of. It had a fireplace and beautiful handmade pine furniture. A well was dug that was 500 feet deep that fed a wooden holding tank and water flowed into the house. A big Majestic cook stove was used in the kitchen that had a fire box and water heater. Every spring a gal would go up and give the cabin a good cleaning and scrub the walls down with kerosene-water. The cabin was a retreat and also became a base for a cow camp. Mildred enjoyed the cabin for the rest of her life, she kept a few of her horses there and enjoyed the hills and isolation, cowboying and escaping the heat .

The Ranch also used to own all of what became the Hoback Ranches below the rim. The Rim sections and Hoback sections were 'summer pasture'. The cowboys and fencers often stayed at the bunkhouse at the cabin, up to 5 or 6 guys, they slept in the attic and barn loft too.



Once Bobby and his good buddy, Phil Skiver, were going down the game trail into the basin and had a terrible accident. The fence wagon rolled off the hill, killing one horse and badly injuring the other. The boys were not hurt too badly. Mildred doctored the injured horse all summer. Years later, Tara found one of the deceased horse's hooves and it sits in the bunkhouse's window sill. Millers traded the Hoback country off in the late 1960's for better ranch land which included the Newcomb Place, the Ball Sections and the Ball Place.



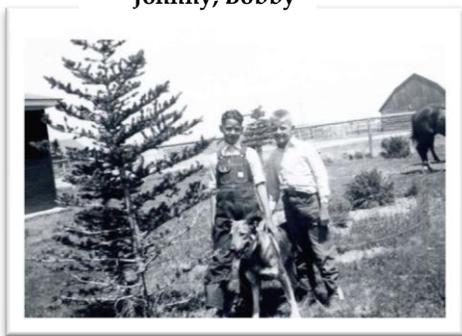
Mildred got in on the ground floor of the American Quarter Horse Association. In the Association's first year, 1941, Mildred had three of her broodmares inspected and inducted into the Association. The ranch had over 200 broodmares at this time, many of them being draft. They already had a 'Steel Dust' horse from Coke Roberts, and in 1940 they purchased a stud from Marshall Peany that went back to Peter McCue, Old Fred and Brown Dick. With the formation of the Quarter Horse Association, Millers bought a registered Quarter Horse Sire, Blue Dog by Pep Up, and were strongly into the Quarter Horse Business from then on. They missed registering Quarter Horses only 2 years since the breeds inception. Ranger Hancock was purchased in 1950, and Little Roan Hancock in 1956. Millers horses with the 67 on their left hip have always been well known and respected by ranchers and rodeo, chariot racing, and horse show enthusiasts.

Mildred managed the horse herd until she turned it over to her Grandson and his wife in 1978. Always buying the stallions, culling the mares, registering the colts, selling colts to ranch visitors, etc. Bob liked the horses but Mildred was their driving force.



Cattle ranching was by far Bob's main interest and full time occupation. He did not rope for sport, though he was a good roper. Once Mae Arnold watched him rope at a branding and said that she counted over 70 calves that he roped before missing one.

Johnny, Bobby



About when Bobby was in the 4th grade, the Millers took in a foster child, Johnny Urbin. Johnny was a couple years older than Bobby and became his companion. Johnny lived with the Millers several years. He joined the army and married Ruth Cougar's daughter, Doris.

Mildred Avery Mickelson (Millie) passed away in 1943. Mildred never stopped missing her mother and all her life she felt that her mother had never really left her. Her mother had always made Mildred feel better. Even after her death, just thinking of her dear mother gave Mildred peace.

Millie left the Sykes Place to her son Jim and the Circle ranch to Mildred. She had already put the rest of her holdings into the ranch and was partnered with Bob and Mildred. At this time, Millers traded Mickelsons for some additional land on the Rim. (The Sykes ranch has a story behind it. Sykes, whose real name was Mike Guard, went with his wife and a couple other guys and robbed the coal mine payroll -train at Kemmerer. Donna Sykes held the horses. Sykes's horse went lame and the others left him and he was caught and sent to prison. Two of the outlaws were arrested in Yellowstone. There was not enough proof against Mrs. Donna Sykes and she sold the ranch and it was believed she ran off with the hired hand. *The Sykes Place is where Tim Thompson lives.*

Upon Millie's death, Jimmie Jensen moved to his Shidler Place which was on Middle Piney. He later bought the Mule Shoe on lower South Piney.



Bob was a member of the Wyoming Stock Growers Association and the American Cattleman's Association but he was never political. His interest and hobby was cattle and ranching. He was a rather quiet and very smart man. Bob had a very strong presence. He was always noticed and would have a drink with his associates now and then but mostly he worked.

Mildred was a member of the Artist Guild, Big Piney Congregational Church, Order of the Eastern Star, and Bridge club. Her social life was not wanting as she also was involved with school functions and activities. Later on, she served on the school board and was a bank director. She took the boys fishing, skiing, skating and whatever else came up. Mildred was known as a gracious host. She could sit with a hired hand or the governor and be as genuinely interested and make them feel comfortable. Mildred had piercing yet kindly blue eyes, and a very direct yet accepting gaze.



 Bobby worked a great deal with his father, and if he was not busy working, he was busy playing and tooting around the ranch.



Wyoming's Oil and Gas production continued to rise. The U.S. was deep into WW2 in 1943, and there were 4 military installations in Wyoming. Gasoline and food rationing had been instituted. The Union Pacific Railroad in Wyoming carried a constant line of trains back and forth. America was carrying troops, tanks, food, supplies, artillery,



coal, gasoline and other vital materials both East and West all day, every day. The war ended in 1945 and out of a population of 250,742, Wyoming listed about 35,000 men and women in uniform during the war. 1,095 Wyoming men paid with their lives during World War 11.



The country used to eat grass fed beef. Then through one of President Roosevelt's stimulus programs, the government purchased a surplus of corn and priced it very low and encouraged the cattle feeders to feed it. At first it was hard to get people used to the new meat, being a brighter red and having more marbling and a different taste. The public was eventually converted and it was not a good health move. On the ranch, they continued to eat their own grass fed beef. And all the help got grass fed beef. They would butcher at the Circle and hang it in the cooler and Bob would haul quarters to the various ranches on his rounds.

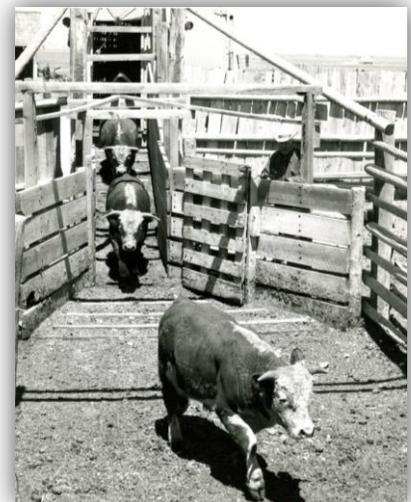
Bob bought the Scott Place and the Turtle in the 1940's. Every time that he bought a ranch, Mildred would be upset with him for she felt they already had enough. Bob was a good manager and businessman, hired good knowledgeable help, treated them well and visited each ranch on a very regular basis. In those days a person could find capable ranch help as so many people had grown up on ranches and farms and had learned the work. (Millers had to quit feeding with teams in the 1980's due to lack of qualified teamsters, many horses would get ruined or hurt.)

In the 1940's, cattle buyers started coming around to the ranches and contracting cattle. They would 'weigh and pay' at Opal. The crew would drive the yearlings to Opal where the buyer would weigh them and haul them off either by rail or truck. Then the cowboys would flip a coin to see who brought the horses back to the ranch while the others drove home. The horse wrangler would leave at 6 a.m. and get to the ranch at 6 p.m.. Until the arrival of the cattle buyers, the ranchers sent the cattle to Omaha to sell. Bob and Mildred went to see their cattle sell a few times and stayed at the Castle Motel just as her father had.

One early cattle buyer, Chris Hansen, fell asleep while driving to the Daniel Junction near the old Sergeants Inn and was killed.

In 1949 the ranch put in its own weigh scale and from then on weighed and sold their yearlings from home. The buyer organized the trucks to go to the feeders. Joe Hay was a well known cattle buyer from Sublette County, his family was from Sweetwater County. During the 50's through the 90's, Millers sold many yearlings to Joe. He liked to say that the only horse he would ride had to be small enough for him to pack.

Most of the cattle in the country were Herefords. They were quite disease free due to the cold weather. The only vaccination given at the time was to for Black Leg. (Mildred's father used to mix his black leg vaccine out of a powder.) Dehorning became popular as the predators such as the wolves got under control, the cattle were gentler when not armed. Bob and Mildred bought a lot of bulls from Bob's brother Francis, who's registered Herefords were well known. Young market



cattle came in demand in the 1950's, before then the ranchers sold mostly 2 and 3 year olds, or however old they happened to be when they got them rounded up.

In 1944, the Millers moved to the Circle and into the big old ranch house that had been built in 1905. First, they had it remodeled. It was greatly altered. The many small rooms were made into fewer big rooms and the wrap-around porch was removed. Mildred inherited a lot of her mother's beautiful furniture and dishes. The dining room Persian rug was bought at the auction of Gov. Mc Bees that Mildred and her niece Tharon went to when the Governor's mansion was remodeled. The upstairs pink lounge came from the luxurious old brothel at Opal. While the work was being done on the house, Mildred spent part of the time at the cabin. One day Bob told her that she had better get down there because they were painting the den brown. She drove down and it was the blue-green that it was suppose to be, Bob Miller was color blind.



On July 15, 1944, the Miller family was joyfully joined by a little brother, Jimmie. Jimmie was a darling round faced baby. He was 12 years younger than his proud big brother Bobby.



Jim went to grade school at Big Piney. Mildred often had friends over for him to play with. Jim was not crazy about riding but had a special affinity for dogs. He had a dog of one type or another most all of his life.

Beginning in the late 1940's, the Millers had a marvelous foreman at the Circle ranch that stayed with them for over 20 years, Norm Perkins. Norm was a good Mormon. He and Francis and their 4 children lived at the Beck Place when it still had a dirt floor and it was worn so hard you could sweep it like any other floor. A very hard worker, Norm earned the respect of the men that he bossed. He took care of the Circle, raised a lot of hay and fed a lot of cows for the Millers. In the 1960's, Norm even grew the oats for the horses. Norm enjoyed driving Miller chariot teams. He and Bobby trained them on the ranch, and would race down the main street of Jackson and Pinedale. Norm had good teams and often won. At one time Bobby drove two studs, Ranger Hancock and Black Twist. They won several championships.



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Norm Perkins - training

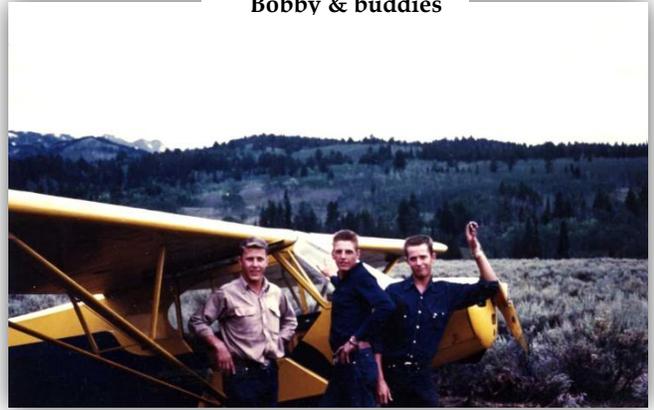


Winning at Pinedale

Bob and Mildred moved Bob's elderly folks to the Holden Place. A couple lived with them to help with their care. Old John was ornery and sullen. Sometimes they would get all ready to go someplace and then he would decide not to go and make Nanny stay home. Mrs. Cathrine 'Nanny' Miller died in 1954, a few years before her husband and then John stayed at the Circle until he passed away.

Bobby attended all but one year of school at Big Piney. He went to Wentworth Military Academy one year and was thrilled to learn to fly a small airplane. At 16 yrs. old he got his own plane. It was rationalized that he would use it for ranch work, looking for cattle, checking fence etc.. He loved flying and had wild fun until he buzzed Phil Skiver who was out fixing fence. Phil threw a rock and broke the propeller which necessitated an emergency landing. At this end of his first plane, his mother was relieved. He did get a plane several years later and continued to enjoy flying but was much safer.

Bobby & buddies



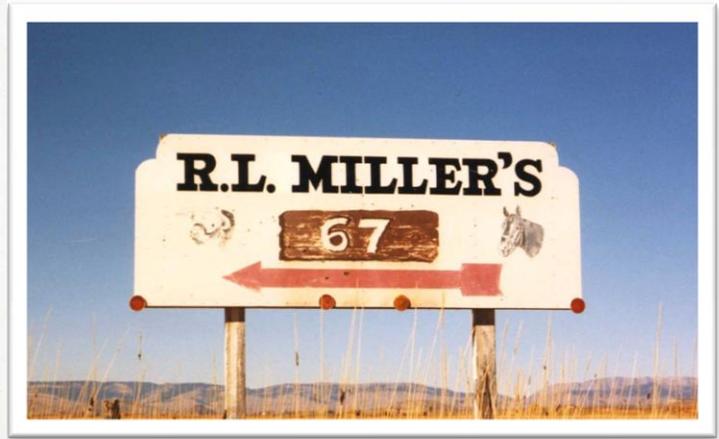
← Bobby took a trip to Hawaii with his Mother and cousin Tharon.

Bobby Miller



Bobby, Jim, Bob





Horse trap on Desert ↓



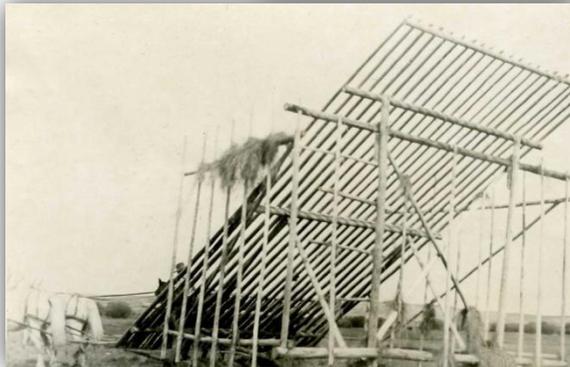
Bob



Old Miller Sweep

Old Miller Slide

Hay Digger - later on



Millers used teams to feed with until 1990. Haying was accomplished entirely with horses until the late 60's. Plunging loose hay into stacks was done with horses until the mid'70's, then plunged with a cat, until switching to baled hay in the late 1970's.

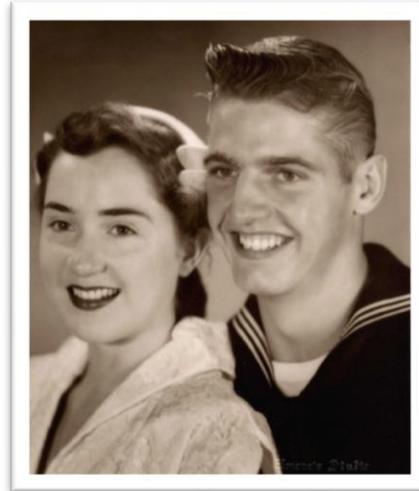


Bobby graduated from High School at Big Piney and went off to College at Laramie. (Judge Crow said that at Laramie he saw a kid dressed just like him. Judge Crow had grown up in Wyoming lumber camps and wore wool pants, wool hat, silk scarf and the regular winter outside work gear. He walked over and introduced himself and it was Bobby Miller, and they ended up becoming good friends.)

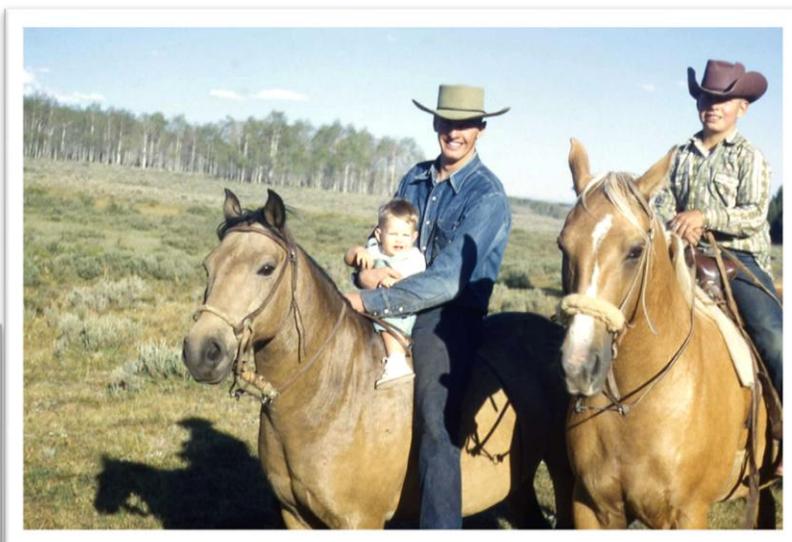
At Laramie, Bobby met his first wife, cute, sweet, little Marilyn Johnson from Cheyenne. She was in the Kappa Kappa Gamma sorority. Bobby was in the Phi Delta fraternity. The couple were married Sept 2, 1952 at Cheyenne where Marilyn's father, Andy, worked on the railroad where he did a lot of carpentering. Marilyn was an only child. Her mother, Winifred, had been adopted by a large Mormon family that owned a big ranch at Bear Lake, Winifred tended to the children.

Soon Bobby joined the navy. He just missed the Korean war. Bobby was stationed and trained in the Naval Air Corps at Kingsville Texas. Marilyn lived on the base with him. At Corpus Christie, On August 15, 1953, Robert Mickelson Miller was born to Bobby and Marilyn.

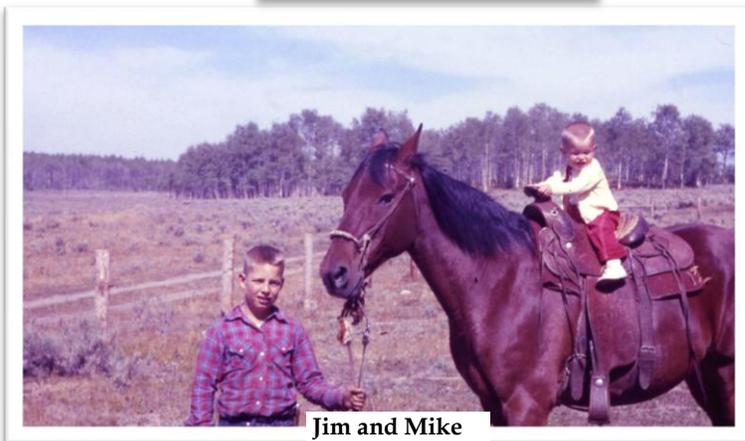
When Bobby's navy enlistment ended, the new family came back to work on the ranch. They lived at the Noble Place, a mile west of the Circle. Once Mike had a narrow escape from drowning in Middle Piney Creek that flows close by the house. (Marilyn took Mike skiing at Pinedale and he may not remember it but he met his future wife there when he was about three. His future mother-in-law remembers Mike shooting down the hill in his little red snow suit and then falling over sideways to stop. Mike and Tara's mothers were friends.)



←Bobby, new little Robert Mickelson 'Mike', and Jim Bobb



Mike, Bobby, Jim



Jim and Mike

Bobby was probably too young and not settled down enough and Marilyn was not crazy about ranch life. They divorced in 1957. Marilyn finished College at Laramie while Mike stayed quite a bit of the time with his Johnson Grandparents. Then Marilyn took Mike to California where she taught school. Bob and Mildred would go out to visit him and take him home to the ranch for visits. He was the apple of their eye. Mike's earliest memories were of knowing that he wanted to be a cowboy and he could hardly wait!

After his divorce in 1957, Bobby headed out on his own for a couple years. He went to Canada where he worked at a lumber camp, and he worked at Boeing Aircraft at Seattle Washington.



Mildred & Mike

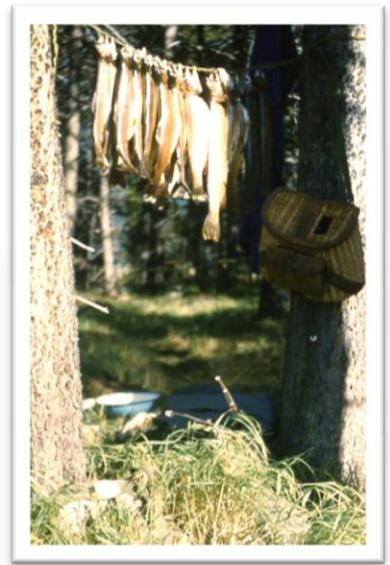


←Jim had steers in 4-H out of his parents

stock. Mildred and Jim went on a couple pack trips in the Yellowstone with Wells and Kay Beck that were wonderful, seeing the most beautiful country and catching oodles of fish. They would also hunt a little every fall and Jim enjoyed shooting, he practiced trap shooting and became a very good shot. Mildred often took Larry Perkins, Norm's son, along with them to the cabin where they would play and get into regular little boy trouble. Once Mildred caught them playing in the reservoir without her permission and in her panic gave them both a little licking. Mildred was an awful strong woman and her little lickings hurt! The boys next went to building a log cabin across the meadow where Mildred could keep an eye on them and the little structure is still recognizable.



Jim & buddies





Jim Miller

Jim went to school at Big Piney until Junior High, and then went to military school at Kemper in MO.. It seems that he was homesick, at first anyway. Reading his letters makes you feel badly for the young boy to be away from his parents and in with mostly older boys at such a young age. He came home for holidays and the summers. One year he attended Judson at Scottsdale, AZ, and graduated from highschool at Whitman Gaylor at Steamboat Springs, CO.

Bob said that Mildred had always thought that he was too hard on Bobby so he left Jim alone.

TV came to Big Piney in 1957, folks had TV parties where friends would come over and have snacks and watch TV together.



The ranch was known as the R.L. Miller Ranch. The 67 brand went on the hip of both cows and horses. The ranch earmarked with a 7 on the bottom of both ears & the left ear cropped. In the 1950's through 70's, the Miller Ranch owned 60,000 acres and ran anywhere from 3000 to 5000 mother cows and kept the calves until yearlings when they were sold in the fall. Large BLM and Forest Permits were utilized for additional grazing, along with several school sections.

The ranch had its own forge where it made and fixed many iron parts but Bob and Mildred always had their branding irons made by Marg Guio's brother, Tony Subic, who had a shop in town. They thought that he did such a nice job. (Later Mike had the irons made by his brother-in-law, Kieth Manning, a cowboy and talented Jack of all Trades).

Starting in his 50's, Bob's arthritis ended up getting quite severe. He cowboied less and mostly drove around, keeping a close eye on things happening on the ranches, the grass and cattle and what needed to be done each season.

Bob always got up early, around 4 a.m.. Because of his back, he sometimes took a nap laying on the floor behind the couch in the south window's sunshine. When opportunities arose, he continued to buy land that fit into the outfit, and the cattle continued to pay for it.



living room, facing west - 1950's

Millers had a couple Cowboys that stayed at the branding sections on the rim until the branding was over and then they would move to the cabin until late fall. Bert Harvey had this job for some time. (Mike helped him quite a bit when young and he and Tara also had this job for 9 years) Extra's would come help when needed.



The ranch would calve at the Scott Place. Each ranch had several nurse cows for the bums. The cows would be moved in steps across to the Branding Sections to brand, and the heifer's calves were branded at the Turtle.

The bulls would be driven to the Sections from the Scott Place outside of Daniel. The crew would leave with them at midnight to arrive by early morning so they could be split and scattered before it got hot out. Bulls travel better and it is easier on them when it is cool. By the time the cowboys were finished it would be after noon and time for a big lunch!

The hands from Miller's various ranches along with a few neighbors would help brand at the Sections. The Circle hands, 'Circle Jerks' some of the men called them, would have to get up at 2 a.m to travel to the branding on time. A big fire was built to heat the irons, usually out of old fence posts, it would get very hot and the branders would have to have a rag to hold to their faces as they traded irons. The ropers roped the heads and drug them in for the wrestles. There would be as many as 20 sets of wrestlers, and 8 to 10 ropers. The ropers changed horses at the break. The calves, being Herefords, would have to be dehorned, and tar was smeared on the wound. The women would bring up the chow and have a picnic. (In the mid-70's, the fire was replaced with gas branding stoves. Once in the 70's, Mike remembers gathering cattle in the morning, branding over 1000 head and being done by 10:30 -he thinks that has got to be a record!)

The commercial heifers and smaller steers went to the desert and then up the Green River Drift. The dry cows went up the drift also. The Steers went to the Hoback Basin permit in the Gros Ventre Mountains. The replacement heifers went to the Duke Place. The small yearlings went up the Green River Drift.

The cows, calves and bulls were drove down from the Sections to the Circle at Big Piney in the fall. The calves were weaned in Nov. and Dec. and then fed at the circle all winter. The calves usually required a great deal of roping and doctoring especially just after being weaned. The cows would stay at the Circle until the grass ran out or it snowed up and then many of them would be moved around to the various ranches to be fed. All the moving was done by driving the cattle, the ranch did not ever truck its cattle unless one was hurt or sick.



Fencing was an endless job. And it took dutiful irrigating and haying to feed all those cows!

Millers moved cows up and down the highway several times a year. The ranch operation was strung out from the Hoback Basin to Big Piney, 60 miles; and out to the Desert, 20 miles; and up the Green River many miles. Sometimes they would buy hay to move the cows to as far away as Jackson Hole, 80 miles, and in the middle of the winter!

Bob would not let the men use dogs on cows and he would not let them push them too hard. He was always conscious of what was best for the cows. (I remember one cold day of moving cows down the highway and old Bob coming along and telling us to slow down and let them graze in the barrow pit since the field they were over-nighting in was short on feed. Oh Boy!, I thought and had to bounce on my toes and slap my hands to stay warm rest of the afternoon - just watching those dang cows eat!)

Every ranch would have crews in the bunkhouse when needed like for calving, haying and feeding. The ranch wife would cook for the crews. Bob usually brought their meat as he came by to check on things.

The Circle ranch was the headquarters. It had a foreman that usually lived at the Noble Place. The Circle always had several men in the bunkhouse and a cook for them in the cookhouse and of course she cooked everything from scratch. The cook's husband was usually the 'chore boy'. The chore boy fed the horses in the corral, fed the pigs and chickens, gathered eggs, milked the cows and separated the milk, fed the many bum calves that would be hauled down to the circle after calving, and various other chores around the Circle. The chore boy would help butcher in the butcher house behind the corrals and clean it. Then cut and hang the quarters and keep the meat house clean. This was a job in itself as they butchered very often, once a week during haying.

Bobby married pretty Pam Meeks in 1959. Pam was related to the Meeks around this country and they met when she came to visit relatives. Ross Meeks, who owned the Silver Spur Bar, was her uncle. Pam was an identical twin to Patricia Meeks. Pam was twelve years younger than Bobby, very good natured, and she loved Big Piney. Besides being a very pleasant person, she was a wonderful cook.

Bobby went back to work on the ranch and he and Pam lived in a new trailer across from his folk's house until their three children were born and then they built the brick house on the highway across the 77 field.

Bobby and his dad ran the ranch together. Bobby liked ranching, working and he loved life and people. The hired help liked Bobby a great deal. He was energetic and interested in many things.

Bobby had a trait of throwing his head back and laughing with a great genuineness. Pam said that Bobby could charm the birds out of the trees and when he talked to you he made you feel like you



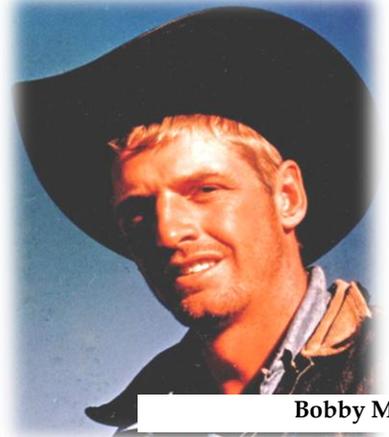
were the only person in the world.

Bobby greatly enjoyed rodeos, he would enter everything that he could. He bulldogged and tried to ride broncs but he was too tall and gangly to be a great success, but he team roped until he died.

An excellent pilot, he would fly out to California to pick up Mike and return him. Mike spent every summer with his Grandparents.



Mike and Buster Brown



Bobby Miller

Mildred was a good rider and did not always ride gentle horses, when one bucked she would hold onto the horn and cantle and stick it with her spurs until it stopped. She was injured a couple times, once when a bull unwound itself from a tree it was snubbed to and ran her over. Another time while out riding with her small son Jimmie, her horse struck her while she was closing a gate a couple miles from home and she was knocked so silly that she did not remember leading little Jimmie back to the house on his pony.



Off and on, Mildred would be plagued with headaches. She got arthritis as she aged, especially in her feet and hands but she still rode some into her seventies. She loved to work cows.



←(Every summer when Mike came out to the ranch, his grandfather would buy him a new cowboy hat and cowboy boots. When he went back to school and told about the big ranch in Wyoming and all that he did there the teacher called his mom in for she thought he had a problem with reality!)

Mildred was in the rendezvous for many years. The Millers would bring teams in to pull the trapper wagons and Mildred was an Indian Squaw that came in with a tribe of horse people. She usually pulled a travois. Mike was in the rendezvous with her



many times. The Mickelsons brought over teams and trappers too to be in the pageant. (Often keeping their horses at Andersons-who were also long time participants.)

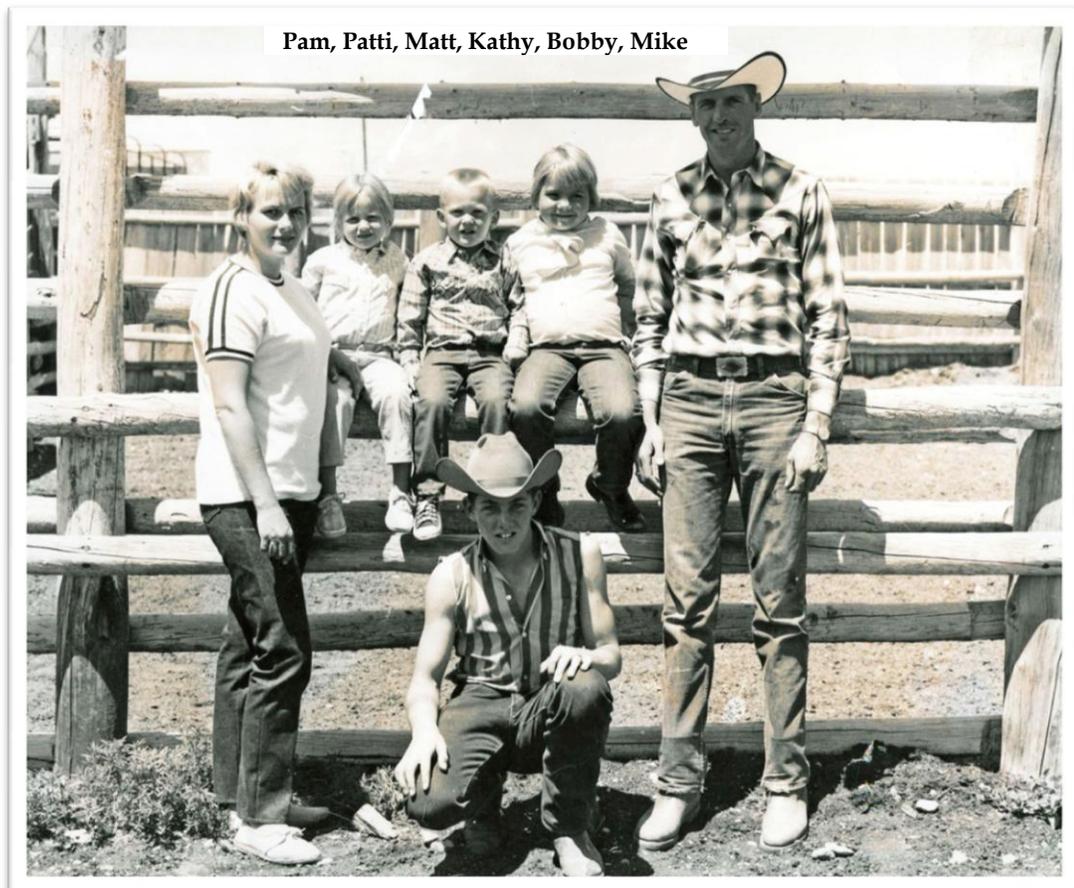
One summer during Mike's stay, Mildred took Mike and Jim on a pack trip with the Luttons. They took a pack string from Jackson to Pinedale. Luttons set up a good camp every night and the campers climbed peaks, fished and saw a large herd of 300 or 400 elk.



The ranch was incorporated in 1962, becoming Miller Land and Livestock Corporation. This was done at the advice of the accountant for at that time, being incorporated had better tax advantages. Once incorporated it was locked into staying in a corporation and the family members were shareholders. (In many ways since, it would have been nice to not have had it in a corporation.)

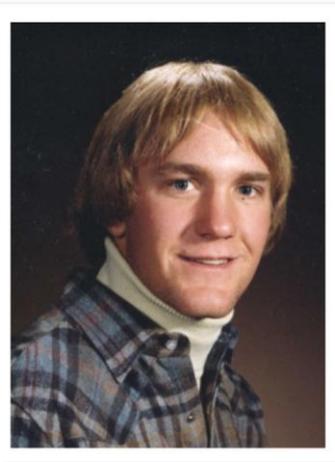
Around the early 1960's, Mildred bought an apartment at Scottsdale that she would drag Bob down to after the first of the year and stay until April. There were other northern friends that they would meet up with there and play a little golf, go to the horse races, eat out, and enjoy the warm weather. She and her Yorkshire terrier got Valley Fever. Mildred had to have part of her lung removed and it weakened her lungs but she recovered and was still very active.

In the early sixties, Bobby and Pam had 3 children. Kathryn Ann Miller, born on June 9th, 1960. Patricia 'Patti', born Feb. 27, 1962, and Matthew Daniel, born June 10th 1963.





Kathy



Matt



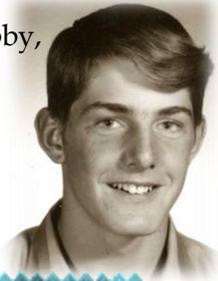
Patti

Kathy never married. Patti married Zac Roberts from the Robert's family up horse creek, west of Daniel. They had two children, Ryan Zachery born Dec. 1, 1985 and Maggie Mildred born March,7, 1987. Matt married Lisa Rene' Ohler and they had two children, Meghan Rene' born Sept 11, 1990 and John Michael born Oct. 22, 1991.

Kathy and the Roberts' continued to ranch at Daniel Wyoming. Matt became very religious as a Baptist, even a preacher at times. He studied Law at U. of WY and became an attorney and moved to Florida.

Mike moved to Big Piney permanently when he finished the 5th grade. He stayed with Bobby, Pam and the kids part of the time and his grandparents more of the time and at various bunkhouses and cow camps, working on the ranch whenever he did not have school.

Mike, before broken nose →



While attending the University of Wyoming at Laramie, Jim married his first wife, Muffin Saltzman, daughter of the Hollywood producer, Harry Saltzman. They had met in high school at Whitman Gaylor in Spring Boat Springs, CO. They were married at Laramie in 1967. Muffin was a free spirit, and she talked a lot and liked to shock people. She told colorful stories. She was also a voracious reader.

After graduating in Agriculture Business, Jim took a good job at a big open-pit copper mine at Salt Lake City Utah. (By the 1960's, Natural Resources surpassed Agriculture as Wyoming's leading industry.)



Mildred

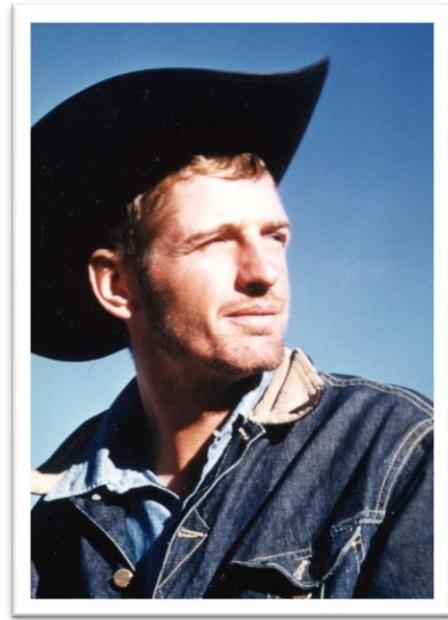


Bobby, Mildred, Jim, Muffin, Bob, Pam

Tragedy struck the Miller family in August of 1970, Bobby Miller was killed on the 24th, in an automobile accident. He had had a couple drinks at the Daniel bar and was heading to Pinedale. While being passed, he swerved into the barrow-pit to keep from having a head-on and his truck hit a culvert. Bobby had internal injuries, he was conscious at first but died upon arrival to the hospital at Rock Springs. Bobby was in his prime, 36 years old.

Mike came upon the wrecked truck while with some hired hands coming down from the cabin. A policeman pried his father's Hamley saddle out of the back of the cab of the truck where it had been forcefully lodged and gave it to Mike. The young men drove onto the Rock Springs hospital where Mike was told that his dad had just passed away.

Bobby Miller had many friends and a very large funeral. He was buried on the hill south of the ranch in the graveyard that his Granddad had started when he buried his stillborn son. Bobby was a hard working, fun loving cowboy and a very appealing person. He left many friends and a big hole with his passing. His family was stunned and devastated.



Jim moved back to the Big Piney to help his Father run the ranch. Besides being very arthritic, Bob was coming down with Parkinson disease. Staying involved, he needed help with such a big outfit.

Jim and Muffin lived at the Todd Place. Jim was a very helpful manager and conservative in his decision making. Jim kept track of and organized things well. He enjoyed innovation and trying out new things on the ranch. He was one of the first around to try implanting and using Loomix. Jim marketed the cattle well. Not caring to have much to do with horses or cowboying, Jim still proved to be a good ranch manager. And the ranch already had an excellent crew and wonderful foremans on the ranches.

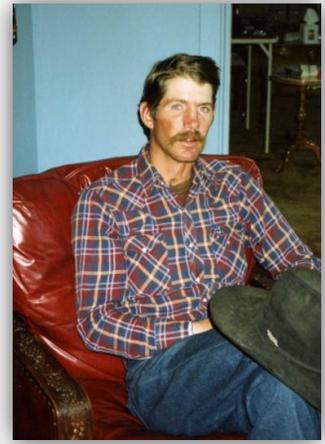
Many of the foreman on the ranches had their own herds and eventually were able to buy their own small place and lease a ranch and go out on their own.

Jim and Muffin divorced in 1972. Jim continued to live at the Todd Place.

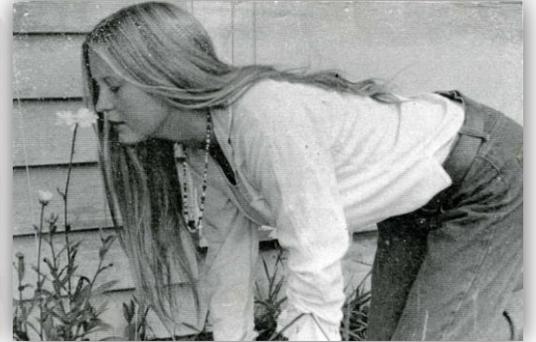
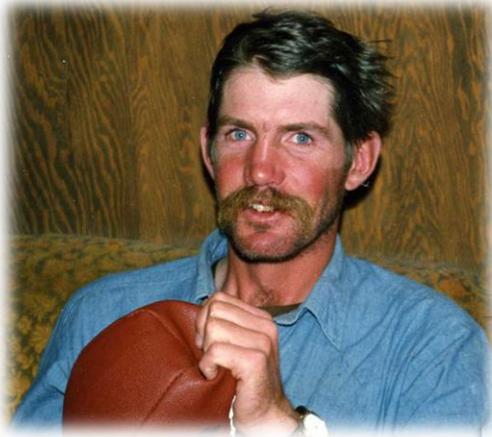
Mildred allowed that her father and Bobby both were allergic to alcohol. She believed that Mike was also. Alcohol hit all of them strongly and they did not hold it too well when they drank.

Jim held his alcohol well but he suffered from depression. When he took his medicine, Prozac, he would be much better off. It is not certain when he discovered that he had a chemical imbalance. He also had a bad temper.

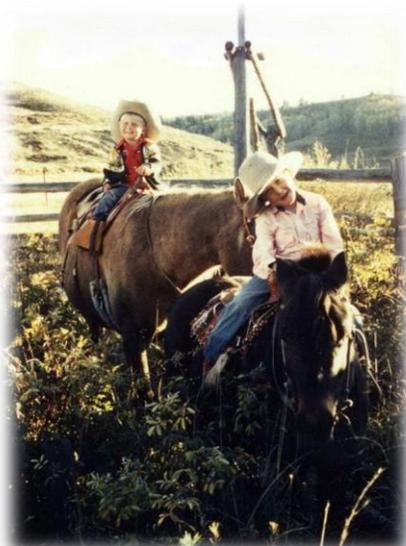
Mike married Tara Leslie Anderson on June 9th, 1974. They had a son William Robert, born on March 8th, 1979. Their second son, Wesley Wayland, was born on January 24th, 24th, 1981.



The intention in this section of history is to cover the Bob and Mildred Miller era and their children, Bobby and Jim. Though Mildred said she and Bob thought of Mike as a son, his life and family belong in the next section where he is manager of Miller L & L.. Chronologically, Tara enters the ranch in 1974. She is sneaking a few pictures in here that she already has on her computer since she has so many, and fears she may not get around to the next section.



Mike. Will. Wes. Tara



Wes, Bobcat, Will, Zelma



34 yrs. later -2008



Brothers - & cute !



In 1975 the Vietnam war was over. No one had ever liked it. America's problems now were energy shortage, inflation, unemployment, crime & drugs. All this seemed small next to the no-win war that we had been ~~34 yrs. later~~ 2008 so long we had been sending our young men to waller around in jungles and rice paddies in the war-torn distant small nation while the politicians messed around trying to find a way to get out of there with honor. Meanwhile, too many lives were lost. Wyoming alone lost 130 men in Vietnam, had 699 wounded or service -related disabilities, and 3 POW's. Many more lives got messed up and many men came home with drug habits and problems. The whole war was a very sad shame.

Wyoming was now predominately a mineral economy, no longer was agriculture its main resource. There were many different minerals being mined in Wyoming. Tourism was also still a big resource.



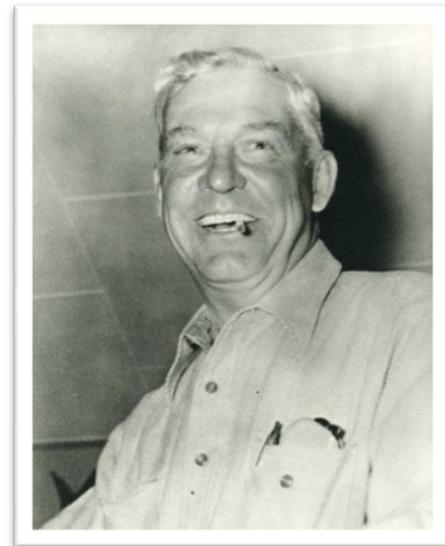
Bob Miller died in the fall of 1975.

In 1972 he had fallen from slipping on ice at the dipping vat and broke a hip. He had been able to walk with a walker a bit but as his Parkinson disease worsened, he became wheel chair bound by 1974.

From then on, a fellow often stayed with Bob and Mildred to help with Bob. An old friend, Ted Cantrell, drove him around quite a bit and then they hired a young man named Tony to stay on the ranch. Bob had his helper drive him around looking at the ranches and delivering meat and supplies. And he would drive out to look at the cows and cow drives. He liked for his grandson Mike to drive him whenever he was around.

Bob read quite a bit all his life. He read the newspaper, stock paper, and he liked mystery novels and other books. He went through many Agatha Christies. He never took to TV much and he never quit getting up early.

In the fall of 1975 he had his helper, Tony, drive him to the Webster and asked him to walk out and see if a gate was closed. While alone in his El Cameno, Bob took a rifle out from under the seat and was shot in the stomach, he was dead by the time Tony returned. Perhaps he saw a coyote or something he wanted to shoot or perhaps he intentionally put an end to his depleting physical state, no one knows. Mildred said he did not kill himself, she knew he would not do that to her. She and the ranch missed Bob dearly.



Bob Miller had been a big man in Wyoming. He had devoted his life to ranching and was looked upon as one of the most successful ranchers of the State. He was a grand old gentleman, referred to by the hands as 'the old Gent'. He treated ladies with courtesy and respect which did not go unnoticed. His friends and acquaintances always enjoyed having a word or drink with the well respected man and something about him made people try to watch their behavior. Bob did not talk a lot and when he did it was worth listening to. Bob was a very successful man.

The ranch sold the Newcomb Ranch to pay Bob's inheritance taxes. The other ranches that Miller Land & Livestock owned at the time of Bob's death were: Ball Sections - 1750 acres, Duke(bought in 1968)-3072 acres, all the Rim Sections(much bought in the 1940's)-24,480 acres, Scott Place(bought in 1940's)- 2367 acres, Kelly Place- 1902 acres, Flying V- 1585 acres, Todd Place(bought in 1968)- 3240 acres, Dunham Place- 2163 acres, Beck/Noble- 2442 acres, Webster - 399 acres, Holden- 1878 acres, Circle- 2746 acres. The ranch's deeded land spread apart from Big Piney to the top of the Rim on the way to Jackson, around 60 miles.

The outfit's cattle had gone through a transition from some Shorthorn to mostly all Herefords in Bobs era. In the 1960's they started breeding Angus bulls to their heifers for calving ease. In the 1970's you started seeing Angus cattle in many of the herds in Sublette County but Millers kept only red Herefords for replacements. Buyers started wanting black hided cattle in the 1980's and they became worth a bit more. The Angus finished better, had stronger feet and less hoof rot and less pink eye. And also for the ranchers sake, the Angus had tighter bags. Mildred loved the Herefords and all they had done for the ranch, they were gentler cattle and good rustlers. Miller L & L stuck mostly with the Herefords while Mildred was still alive. By the early 1990's there were many Angus herds in the County, Miller's were predominately black by around 1997.



Jim married Cami Demarco Hay around 1976. Cami was cattle buyer Joe Hay's step daughter. She and her mother, Dorothy, were from Arizona and Cami went to high school in Pinedale. Cami was a very sweet and gentle natured girl. She was not inclined to work on a ranch. The marriage was short lived, less than a year. Cami continued with nursing school and remarried. She believes that Jim was having trouble with depression during their married time as he would go for days without speaking to her.

In 1979, Jim decided that he wanted to move to Seattle Washington, leave with this girl friend Jenny who was originally from there. He had always liked the sea. The management of the ranch was turned over to his nephew Mike. Mike was thrilled to have this opportunity.

Mike and Tara had been living at the Scott or Todd Place in the springs for calving, then moving to the sections to cowboy all summer and fall and then moving to the small house at the circle for the winters; cowboying, breaking colts, and feeding. They continued to go to the sections to cowboy in the summers and take along the little boys, but now Tara and the boys would stay at the Circle more in the spring and fall as Mike was always on the move from ranch to ranch. The ranch had a forest permit in the Hoback Basin. Tara and the boys would move to its roundup camp with Mike for 9 days each summer to push the steers into the high country.

In the Fall, Mike was on the run between the ranches, sections, and getting steers out of the Hoback.

The ranch had quit moving the pairs to Big Piney from the sections and



to come out fishing, and it had a great all wild cutt-throat trout stream. In 1993, the doctor married a lady who did not like spending time at the ranch so he sold the very attractive place to Mike and Tara. It is 4559.5 acres total, 2778 acres in the upper sections and 1781.5 on the lower ranch. He wanted them to have it and made them a very good deal. Tara liked to call it the 'Eagles Nest' after it's nearby eagles it looked like a nest from the Circle before the drought took the Aspens it was nestled in front of. The house is a beautiful old Sears and Roebuck house.

Mildred passed away on April 7th, 1993. For quite some time it seemed like the ranch stood still. Mildred had been quite ill for the last 2 years of her life. Besides having arthritis she had bad lungs from Valley Fever and her heart was congesting. She was on oxygen and there were a couple scares that she was not going to make it and then she would rebound and struggle on. Mildred had a strong will to live.

She was able to stay at home and for about the last year and a half had a companion hired to live with her and help her out. A lady by the name of Melody from down south was with her the longest and to the end. Mike and Tara and the boys lived close by in the house to the east and looked in on her almost daily and Mike spent many evenings with her. At Mildred's request, Melody had taken her to Arizona in February and Mildred passed away there in her apartment.

Mildred had lived the life she wanted, on the ranch. She had been chosen the Cattle Woman of the Year the first year that the Cowbelles gave such an honor and was wrote up in Cow Country as typical of the best of Wyoming Womanhood. Mildred was a compassionate person who was at ease with everybody and always had time for anyone. She was never pretentious or prudish. She had very strong moral values and was a loyal and trusting friend to all that she knew. She had strong beliefs in right and wrong and felt all people knew the difference if they were honest with their selves and she had a way of bringing that recognition of right out in a person. Mildred was deadly honest and a loving and noble woman.

Cattle ranching had been very profitable during Mildred and Bob's time. They built and cared for a very impressive ranch and were notable people as good, upright and well respected individuals.

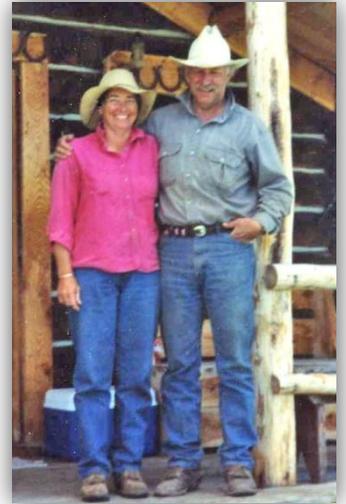
They were from the old school and have left a lasting impression on Miller Land & Livestock, they are still thought of often.



The end of Miller Land & Livestock Part III

Prologue- A brief recap of events on Miller L & L from Mildred's death to 2010

After Mildred's death, the remaining sections on the Rim were split up among the four grandchildren and they each received additional cows according to their shares. Jim was given the Scottsdale apartment, he already had the rest of his shares in assets.



Jim Married Magurite Marie Hermanson, 'Maggie' in December of 1994. Maggie had an adopted daughter, Josephine Marie, who was born May 4th, 1984. Maggie grew up in Beaver Dam, Wisconsin and had worked for Millers for a couple years in the late 1970's. Maggie was a good worker, a good cook and loved ranching.

Jim sold the Scottsdale apartment and purchased a small ranch near the Mexican border in Arizona. Jim and Maggie spent most of their winters there and summers on his ranch.

In 1999, Jim was thrown from a horse and broke ribs which punctured his lung. It ended up a terrible mess, with infection getting into his lungs. He died on August 24, 1999. His wife Maggie continued with the ranch, and spending part of the winter on their place in Arizona.

Wes Miller married Tisa Lee Kraft on Nov. 4th, 2006. On 5th, 2008, they had a son, Weston Blu Miller.

Will Miller married Tawnya Kay Druery on Aug. 28th, 2007. On Oct. 29, 2006 they had a son, Kaleb Robert Miller.

In 2007, the Mike Miller family bought the beautiful 3 Bar ranch on the Green River, it contains 1435 acres. in 2009, they bought 640 acres on the Blue Rim desert where the original Rex Miller cow camp was at and many young cowboys cut their teeth. Most of the ranch was in a conservation easement, limiting the ability to ever sub- divide but not limiting any ranching activities or structures.

Kathy Miller got mouth and throat cancer and died on July 17, 2010, she was 50 years old. Kathy had lead a clean life but had taken gold shots for her arthritis which may have weakened her resistance to cancer. She was amazingly brave while facing her death. Kathy had spent her life doing what she loved, ranching and also timbering quite a bit with her friend Jerry for her last several years. She was involved in the nuts and bolts of ranching and timbering and worked like a man.



The family roots on Miller Land & Livestock grow pretty deep as it has nourished 6 generations of the Miller Family. Its many accomplishments could not have been attained if it was not for the hard work that its many hired men put into the ranch. Millers have been very fortunate to have had such great help through the years.



I will wrap up here for now. Later, I might write in greater depth about my remarkable husband, Mike, and our darling family & Mike's long stint as the main man on Miller L & L. It is the first day of Spring, 3/20/11 and I need to spend time on my good horses and getting caught up before calving hits and it becomes time to get the mares bred to our great stallion, 'Playboys Buck Fever' who stands at the 6666 Ranch in Texas.

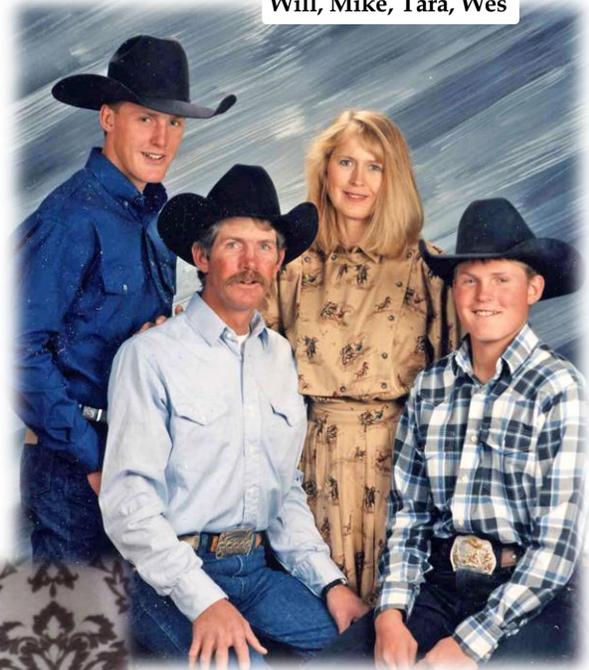
Will, Mike, Tara, Wes



Playboys Buck Fever



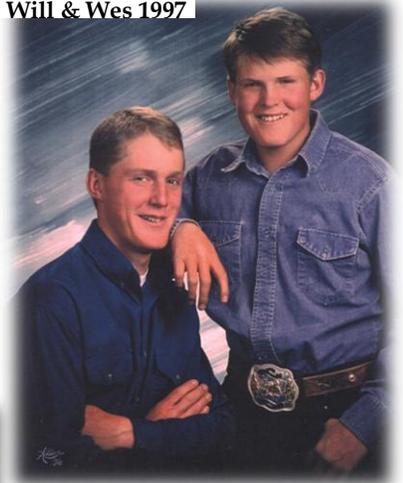
Mike & Tara 1997



Tawnya, Kaleb, Will- Dec. 2008



Will & Wes 1997



Blu ,Wes, Tisa -Dec.2010

