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## "Chuck Away"

"CHUCK AWA-A-Y!" is the happiest sound in the cowpunchers' day. It brings them loping into the ranch house or chuck-wagon for meals and often that includes a visit with passing neighbors or strangers. Whoever drops by is always welcome at chuck-time on the range.

That same feeling of Western informality and old-time hospitality is found in the "Ranch" on the Empire Builder. With all due respect to the roundup cooks, we think our food and refreshments are superior. But the atmosphere is true Western.

For instance, the cattle brands in this car are all authentic. They are some of the best known among several hundred thousand which have been registered in Montana since the records were started in 1872. Ranchers put a lot of thought into designing these brands, so they

could not be altered easily. The rustlers put just as much ingenuity into figuring ways of adding a few strokes to change a symbol or letter into something else.

To devise a brand the stockmen combined symbols such as those shown on the following pages. To alter the names rustlers used illegal "running irons" or heated telegraph wire which could be rolled up and hidden in a saddle pocket.

Rustlers, Indians, sheep wars, the homesteaders who began fencing them in . . . all these gave the ranchers anything but a tame life. Their colorful activities, which inspired the "Ranch" car, are described in this booklet.

\* \* \*

If you wish additional copies of this booklet for mailing to friends or to some young cowhand back home, just ask the "Ranch" attendant.

# "What's in a Brand?"



IF YOU ARE a native of the cow country you can read those symbols on the rear panels without any effort. If they look only like decorative doodling to you, here are a few keys to help decipher this white man's picture writing:

A straight line is read as a "bar." Other symbols frequently used in ranch names are triangles, diamonds, squares, the mark ( $\wedge$ ) known as a "rafter," and various combinations of the numbers a rancher may consider lucky. Circles, half circles, and quarter circles are popular, related as they are to the term "circle" which, in cowboy talk, means the area covered in a day's ride to round up cattle.

A letter drawn in flowing lines is "running" . . . if the letter is down on its side it is read as "lazy." Some letters, suspended from another symbol, are "hanging" . . . others with wings attached to them are "flying."

The two brands in the centers of the leather panels at the rear of the car show the use of novel symbols. On the left panel is the first insignia registered in the Montana books . . . the Masonic square and compass, used by Poindexter and Orr, prominent partners in the early ranch period of the Northwest.

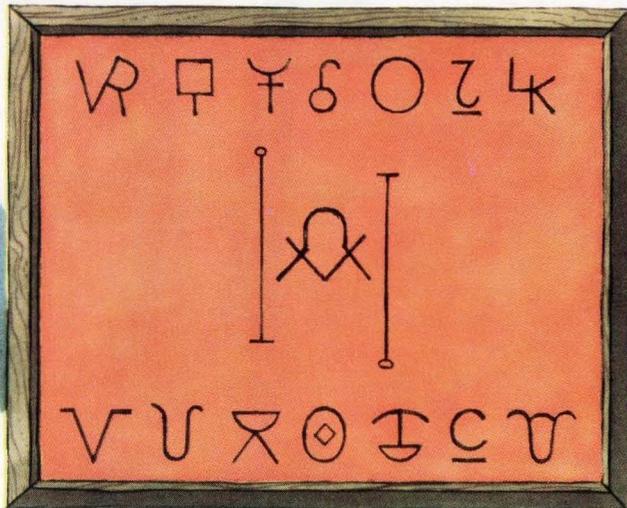
The brand on the right-hand panel represents an ox yoke. This marked the cattle and horses of Nelson Story, the pioneer who drove the first herd of longhorns all the way from Texas to Montana in 1866.

Following that first herd, from 300,000 to 600,000 of the bellowing critters *each year* pounded the northerly trails from Texas. These

great drives began to dwindle as the railroads pushed West . . . cattle cars saved a lot of beef that used to be worn away on the hoof.

Embossed on each side of these two brands are drawings of branding irons . . . the honest kind, with the brand forged to the end. The other type, known as a "running iron" was simply a long poker with which rustlers burned their alterations into the calf's hide. Its use was forbidden by law.

Except for the registration rules, anything goes in ranch names. Some owners use their initials or the monogram of someone near and dear to them. Others use pictures of objects which have meaningful associations, like the "Fish Hook" or "Wineglass" brands. Theodore Roosevelt called his first ranch the "Elk-horn" because he found a pair of locked antlers near his cabin. The famous "Seventy Nine" ranch was named for the year it was founded, 1879. Each of these brands means something to its owner:



LEFT REAR PANEL, TOP ROW

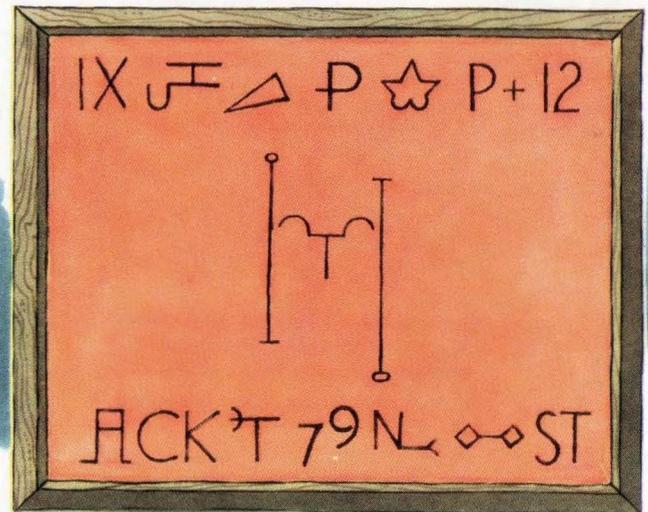
Thomas Couch—V R MONOGRAM  
E. C. Adams—WAGON HAMMER  
Ben Phillips—QUARTER CIRCLE T  
V. F. Stickney—FISH HOOK

John Brinkman—CIRCLE  
T. P. Strode—TWO BAR  
E. T. Broadwater—  
FOUR K MONOGRAM

BOTTOM ROW

T. C. Power—FLYING V  
C. E. Luken—RUNNING V  
David Knapp—RAFTER HALF CIRCLE  
Bloom Cattle Company—CIRCLE DIAMOND

J. S. Galbreath—SPADE  
Frank Cooper—C BAR  
Clem Smart—BULLHEAD



RIGHT REAR PANEL, TOP ROW

McNamara and Marlow—ONE X  
Empire Cattle Company—  
T HANGING U  
Theodore Roosevelt—TRIANGLE

M. E. Milner—BAR P  
S. B. Christian—STAR THREE  
Simon Pepin—P CROSS  
S. B. Hobson—TWELVE

BOTTOM ROW

Tom Clary—BAR A BAR  
Conrad Kohrs—C K  
A. Truchot—QUARTER CIRCLE T  
Murphy and Chipman—  
SEVENTY NINE

Atkinson and Bowden—  
N HANGING Y  
Town Brothers—  
DIAMOND BAR DIAMOND  
Sands and Taylor—S T



## "Shootin'-est Man Alive"

REPLICAS of actual branding irons are seen on the red cedar corral fence which separates the coffee shop from the dining section of the "Ranch." Three of them are honest . . . the fourth has a sort of lurid background.

This large iron with inter-twined initials is the brand of the tough Curry Brothers—Harvey (the Kid), Johnny and Loney—who operated a ranch near Landusky, Montana. They were so quick on the draw that no one challenged them much about using their iron too freely on other ranchers' stock.

Finally, in a saloon fight in 1894, the Kid killed a man and the Curry brothers lit out fast from that part of the country. From that

time on, whenever a Curry showed up folks began running for cover.

In 1901 Kid Curry held up a Great Northern train near Malta, Montana, and got away with \$80,000 from the express safe. He was captured but escaped, and no one knows what finally became of him and his brother Loney. Johnny was shot by a rancher who didn't scare easy.

The other branding irons on the corral fence were used by three of Montana's leading stockmen. The large one is the "21" iron of A. M. Holter; the two smaller ones are the "Slash Bar" of C. H. Austin and the "Horse Shoe Bar" of T. C. Power, who was U.S. Senator from 1890 to 1895.

## "Land of the Rough Rider"

THE WIDE OPEN RANGE drew all sorts of people. In contrast to the outlawed Curry brand, two of the brands in the "Ranch" belonged to a President of the United States.

At the age of 25, Theodore Roosevelt headed for a life of "retirement" in the old Dakota Territory. The sudden deaths of his mother and young wife had deeply depressed him . . . but the years in the West restored his physical and mental health.

As an active rancher Roosevelt soon be-

came a leader in establishing law and civilization in the West. During this period he organized the "Rough Riders" and many of his companions from the Western range later figured in the Spanish-American War exploits of that group.

The great measures for the conservation of our natural resources, which Roosevelt launched when he became President, were inspired by the experiences of his ranch years. In the cabin of his Elkhorn ranch he wrote "The Winning of the West" and other books.

Roosevelt's "Elkhorn" brand is shown on

the second pier panel from the entrance, opposite the coffee counter; his "Triangle" brand is among those on the rear right-hand panel.

Other historic ranch brands are seen on the wall flanking the "Elkhorn." The first panel from the entrance bears the "Wineglass" brand of Henry Sieben; the third is the "Matador" brand of Murdo McKenzie. Last is J. K. LaPorte's "Piece of Pie" brand . . . you can see those early designers weren't exactly skilled artists, but that *is* a pie, with a wedge cut-out of it.



# "Roll up the Herd"



AS THE EMPIRE BUILDER speeds across Montana you get a good idea of the extent of the range where the dogies wandered, and where cowhands still "roll up the herds" at roundup time.

One famous range stretches North of Shelby towards the Sweetgrass Hills. This section is now better known for oil than for cattle, but you still see many wheat farms and cattle ranches.

The beautiful Sun River Valley, which rolls from the Southern border of Glacier National Park in the Montana Rockies towards Great Falls, is fine

ranch country today just as it was in 1853 when Conrad Kohrs' first herd was driven in here from the Oregon Trail.

Many of the cities and "cow towns" along the Great Northern route began as ranch centers. There's Matador, named for the Murdo McKenzie brand; Survant, originally the headquarters of the big Survant ranch; and Malta, once the capital of the Phillips range.

The city of Havre was founded by ranchers. The section where E. T. Broadwater began ranch operations from a tent in 1891 is now the site of the Great Northern yards in Havre.

Great Falls was developed by a group from the McNamara and Marlow spread, and James J. Hill, "Empire Builder" and first president of Great Northern Railway.

## Cowboy Painter

AN OLD-TIME spring roundup, like those described by Roosevelt in his "Ranch Life in the Far West," is pictured in the mural above the coffee shop counter. You may wonder why these cowpunchers have irons with so many different brands lying around.

In the days of the open range this was quite customary, as cowhands from many ranches worked in one big roundup. Calves were identified by the mark on their mother's hips and branded accordingly while a neutral checker kept a tally of each ranch's property.

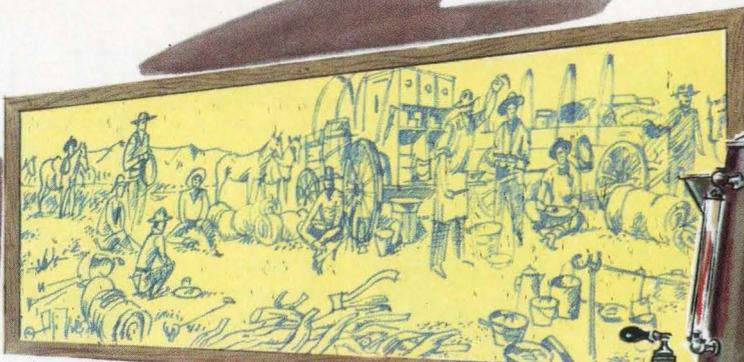
One of the irons shown in the mural is that of the "Bar R" of Stadler and Kaufman, where Charles M. Russell worked when he painted "Waiting for a Chinook." This famous picture



of a lone cow in a blizzard, with a coyote waiting to close in, recalls the bitter winter of 1886-87 when cattle died by the thousands. One ranch lost its entire herd.

Many of Russell's most noted works were painted in bunkhouses and barns, for he was a genuine working cowboy. He portrayed the life of the range so accurately that his bunkhouse friends, even if they were not art connoisseurs, respected his devotion to the palette. Russell also found time to write and illustrate his famous books on the early West.

A modern art gallery in Great Falls, Montana, sponsored by the Trigg-Russell Foundation and dedicated to the memory of Charlie Russell, houses many of the artist's finest oils, watercolors, sketches and sculptures. The gallery is adjacent to the painter-sculptor's former home.



## "When It's Roundup Time"

FOLLOWING Russell's example, Nick Eggenhoffer's mural in the "Ranch" is a faithful representation of an early roundup in Northern Montana. Eggenhoffer is considered the finest of present-day interpreters of the historic West.

Among the irons in these two paintings

you see the "Circle L" of Rancher Tom Clary, the Sheriff of Chouteau County who arrested Kid Curry. The "Circle C" of the Coburn Cattle Company is ready to mark cattle rounded up from one of the greatest cattle empires of the West.

Coburn, Phillips and Murdo McKenzie

herds roamed over a range almost 250 miles long, the area now crossed by the Empire Builder between Glasgow and Havre. Neighbors on this range were the Survants, whose "E B Monogram" iron is also shown in the mural.

Other well-known brands in the two scenes are the "Bar Z" of Joe Baker... the "Ely" brand of Ely McCuistion... the "railroad" brand of Oscar Stevens... the "Diamond F" of Robert S. Ford.

Maybe because ranch life was so strenuous the "Lazy" theme had an ironic appeal. In the murals we find the "S Lazy S" of J. S. Day... the "Lazy U Lazy V" of Matt McAdam... the "Lazy SS" of J. L. Largent... the "H Lazy H" of Henry Miller... the "T Lazy S" of Stephen Scott.

But they're lazy in name only. During roundup time a cowboy eats in about ten minutes flat. Then he may have a brief wrangle with a "spooky" horse (as in the right hand picture) before he is off to long hours of circle riding or branding at the corral.

# G N

## The "G Bar N"

ONE BRAND in the "Ranch" hasn't been seen on livestock around the plains. But it's a genuine Montana brand, recorded in Helena on June 8, 1951.

The owners of this brand don't exactly run cattle, horses, or sheep. But the officials of the Montana Livestock Commission figured that the outfit has played such a big part in the development of the West it can be allowed a brand of its own.

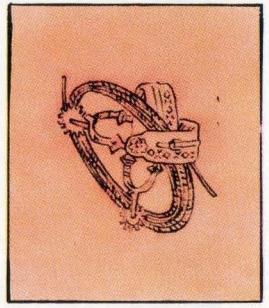
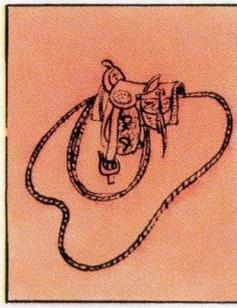
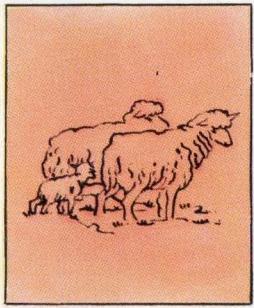
So Great Northern's "G Bar N" was duly listed as the brand for the five streamlined trains which make up the Empire Builder "herd."

"Now that's okay," said the state recorder of marks

and brands. "But did you know that a brand has to be registered for a specified position on the critter—right or left hip, shoulders, or somewhere like that? That's what the law says: Does your railway car have any hips?"

After considerable pondering, six certificates were issued, allowing us to apply the brand on right or left hips, thighs, jaws, shoulders or ribs. The "G Bar N" now takes its place among the official brands... on the shoulders and hips (we think) of the "Ranch."

Recording the range for this herd was easier. The old cattle kingdoms were large but this is the biggest yet seen on the Montana books... 2,210 miles long, from Chicago to Seattle!



## "I'll Saddle Old Paint"

EVERYTHING in the "Ranch" is as Western as its brands. The tan and white covering of the chair covers is a "Pinto" color . . . the same as those "painted ponies" the cowboys ride. The red lounge chairs take their hue from another favorite of the horse wranglers, the handsome "blood bays."

Rawhide . . . that versatile material which was used to hobble horses, tie up captured rustlers, make lariats and quirts . . . is the lacing on chair cushions and legs.

A bucking horse, a Western saddle, spurs, and a looped lariat . . . all part of the cowhand's life . . . are used for decorations on three of the pier panels in the lounge section. A lonely sheep herder with his dog and wagon, a ewe and her lamb, a sheep dog, are embossed on the other three panels.

Time was when the cattleman and sheep herder fought some bloody wars. The ranchers claimed that the woolly flocks killed the grass and ruined the range. Now it has been found that sheep eat weeds which cattle and horses won't touch; and modern agricultural science, together with National Forest management, conserves good ranges for everybody. Many ranchers today are raising cattle, horses, and sheep . . . enough to make their grandfathers rear out of the grave.



## "Welcome Stranger"

In the "Ranch" the car designers decided there must be no jarring modernistic touches. The equipment for present-day luxury is all here but changed to traditional styling. Even the coffee dispenser assumes the shape of a big chuckwagon coffee pot, though the brew is the finest that modern methods can produce.

Instead of shining aluminum and stainless steel we have reverted to forged iron, Montana copper and bronze for the distinctive ash stands. Counter equipment and other metal parts are modern monel metal to assure spotless cleanliness . . . but this, too, is forged to give the appearance of ranch iron.

Real Western red cedar makes the

corral posts and ceiling beams. Oak planks of random width . . . just as in the old hand-carpentered ranch houses . . . is used for the wall paneling and table tops.

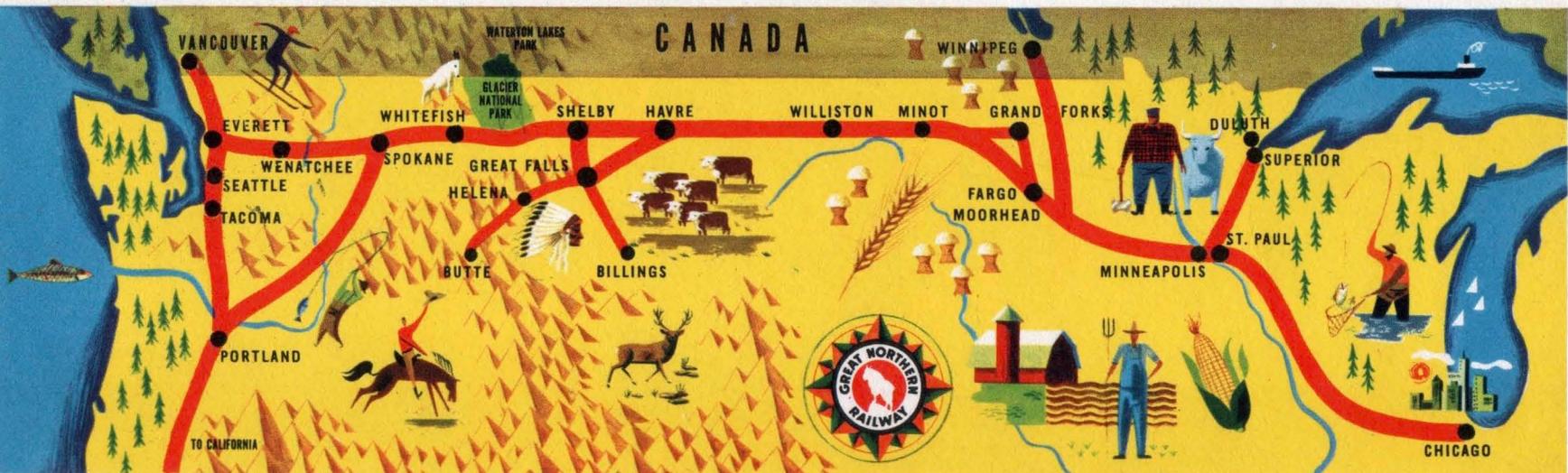
Since Indians have always been an integral part of the Northwest some of their designs and colors are introduced. The floor covering and drapes use motifs adapted from those of the Blackfeet, whose reservation borders the Empire Builder route near Browning, just East of Glacier Park.

Crossed arrows on the wall lanterns are the Indian symbol for friendship . . . and that's the keynote of the "Ranch." We hope that this car and the Empire Builder may continue to make ever more friends for that Northwest the cowboy sings about . . . the wonderful land "where the wind blows free . . . and the mountains kiss the sky."

Great Northern Railway



## EMPIRE BUILDER



## WESTERN STAR

