

# Clarks Named Livestock Men

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of grain per cow in addition to their hay ration to flush the cows as sheepmen have done for years.

To improve the quality of their cow herd the Clarks decided to try artificial insemination on some of their better cows. Cost of hiring a technician to do the work was one obstacle, and so Ned, who attended college at Linfield and Oregon State University, went to Illinois to take a course so that he could do the technical work himself.

Last year he bred 92 cows artificially. The calves from A.I. bulls are quite impressive.

### Card Index Kept

Each cow has a number branded on her shoulder to identify her, and a card index is kept on each cow and her produce. This enables the Clarks to know exactly what each cow is doing for them.

To further aid in their A. I. program, the Clarks cooperated with the U. S. Department of Agriculture and the OSU Extension Service on an estrous control experiment on 45 cows last year. The hormone was fed to one group and implanted in another to compare both methods. This material is supposed to suppress estrons and then all the cows come in heat upon removal of the hormone. They then could all be bred artificially.

This trial is planned to continue again next spring on a similar number. Gail McCarty, county extension agent in livestock, states that this would be a boon to their A. I. program if perfected in that the biggest problem now is detecting the cows in heat. The Clarks may also breed their replacement heifers with A. I. this year.

### Freeze Branding Favorable

Another new practice tried last year on a few calves was that of freeze branding. Results look favorable with the brands being more visible, and the Clarks plan on freeze branding the identification numbers on their replacements this fall.

In range improvements, a rotation program is followed. The entire range of the Horseshoe Hereford ranch is cross fenced so that different pastures may be used at various times of the year. Since leasing the property, the Clarks have built an additional five miles of division fence and developed 25 stock water ponds. They also seeded down all the logging skid trails to stop erosion as well as increase the forage. The seeding was done on top of the snow, and a wonderful stand was established.

Albert Wright, grandfather of Ray Wright and great grandfather of Mrs. Barton (Beth) Clark, crossed the plains in 1853, first settling in Clackamas county. He came to Morrow and Umatilla counties in 1873 and his first home was above where the Anson Wright Memorial Park is now located, being about 3 1/2 miles east towards Parker's Mill. Walter Wright, brother of Ray, now owns this property.

Anson Wright, father of Ray and Walter, once herded sheep in this area, and in 1874 as a boy of 14 was all alone with his flock at the time of an Indian scare. But fortunately the Indians never bothered him as he stuck to his job.

The place just south of Ruggs, which is now home for the Clarks, was first settled by George Noble in 1872. He and his son, Gene, were once saddle makers in Heppner.

As a young man, Anson Wright in 1881 settled on Hay Creek and in 1900 bought the place at Ruggs from P. Devlin who owned it at the time. It is said that at one time, Anson owned land from Ruggs to Parker's Mill. He ran sheep at the Ruggs place in those days and had some 6,000 head.

Ray Wright had started his ranching experience by renting the Harry French place in the mountains, but came to the spread near Ruggs in 1915 and remained there until he and his wife, Eva, moved into Heppner last spring. Mrs. Wright was formerly Eva Capon of Monument, whose parents came from England. She and Ray were married in 1912.

### 1915 Was Rough Year

The year that the young couple came to the place on McKinney creek is still vivid in Ray's memory.

"The creek was as dry as a bone," he said. "We had a bad grasshopper infestation, and there was very little crop in 1915."

It was all dirt roads to Heppner in 1915 and a long drive by horse team. Ray recalls that he even had to borrow to buy harness for his team.

But the year 1916 made up for it with one of the biggest crops ever harvested. More than 7,000 sacks of grain came off 500 acres. Ray inherited much of the place when his father died on May 12, 1936. His mother had died 11 years earlier, in 1925. Ray also bought part of the place from his sister.

Barton Clark first became acquainted with the place at Ruggs in 1932 when he started to work there while attending Linfield college. His parents, Mr. and Mrs. Noah Clark, were born in the midwestern states. His father had obtained work on ranches here just before 1900 and then returned to Illinois, where he was married. The couple came just after the 1903 flood and operated an 800-acre ranch at Eightmile. They stayed until 1918, and then went back to Illinois for three or four years. Again they returned to Morrow county and the Eight-mile country until Barton went to college.

Noah Clark was one of the original directors of Morrow County Grain Growers. In 1934, the Noah Clarks went to Eugene, then later bought a place

at Redmond where he died in 1956 and Mrs. Clark in 1958.

### Graduates from Oregon

Barton attended Linfield from 1932-34, then went to the University of Oregon where he graduated in 1937, after laying out a year. In his senior year (1936), he and Beth Wright, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Ray Wright, were married in Portland. She had attended the University for one year.

The young college graduate taught school at Pine City for 1 1/2 years and then was principal at Monument for three years. The Clarks came back to the ranch in the summer of 1942 and have remained there since.

Their son, Ned, was born in Pendleton in 1941. The Clarks also have a daughter, Nonda, who just last week won the Conservation Speech contest at Heppner High school where she is a senior. An area contest will be Friday at Athena.

Ned graduated from Heppner High school in 1959, and was awarded a State Farmer FFA degree that year. He attended Linfield one year, then stayed out a year before returning for another year. He then went to Oregon State University for a time, before coming back to the ranch to join his dad in the operation. This is the fifth year since they leased the ranch from Ray.

The year 1962 was significant in another way for Ned, too. He married Kathleen Spencer, daughter of Father and Mrs. Bruce Spencer, formerly of Heppner and now of Coquille. They now have two children, Patrick, 3, and Matthew, 2, and are expecting a third.

Of the 4,000 acres on the place on McKinney creek, about 12 acres is irrigated, and some 300 acres has been in grain. Next year the grain will be 328 acres. The Clarks purchase much of their hay each year from the Wattenberger ranch on Butler Creek but also feed some grain hay. They keep their chaff, too, for feeding.

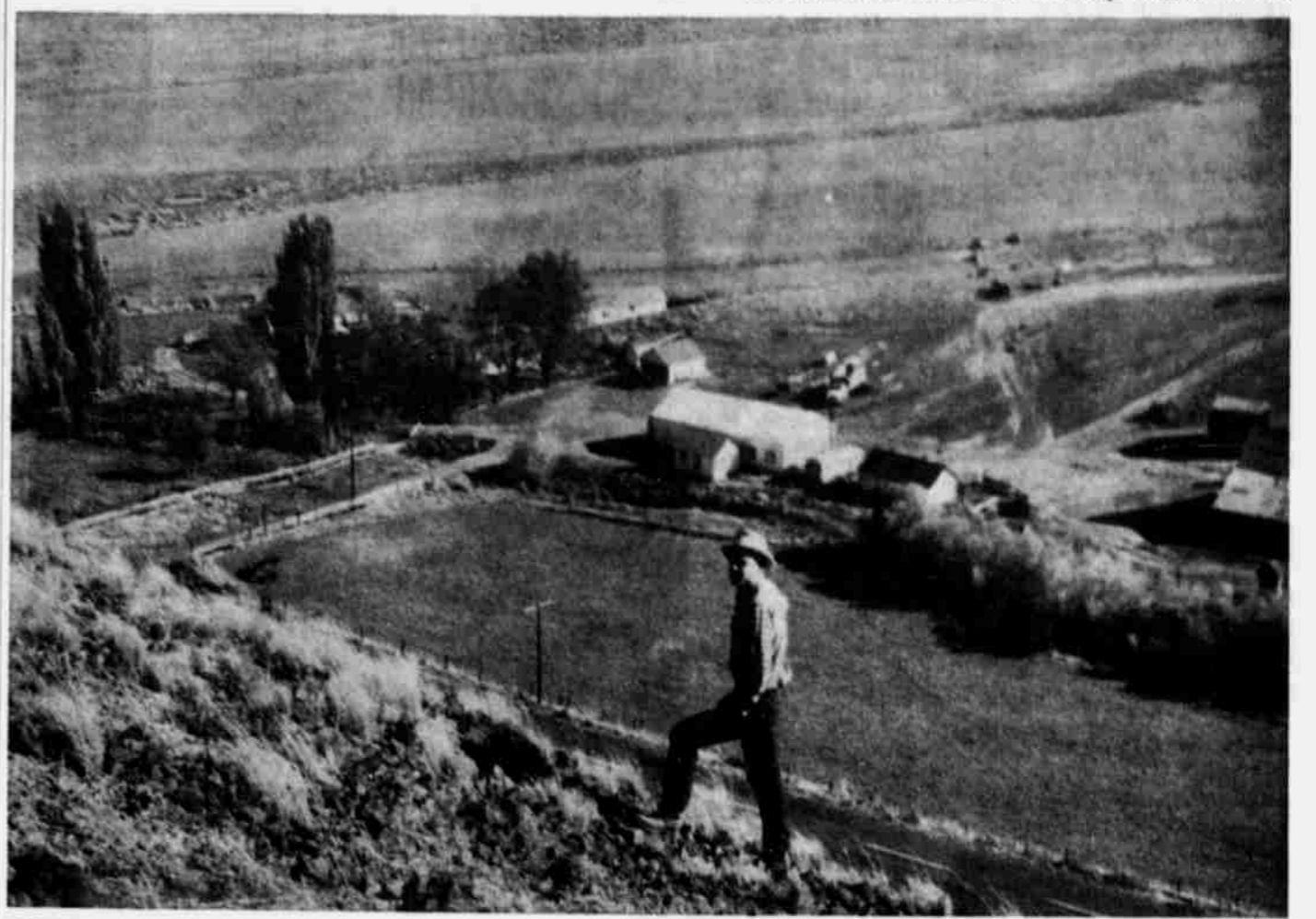
Ray, Barton and Ned have all served as masters of the Rhea Creek Grange at various times and Barton also has been state master's deputy for the grange. He is district manager of the grange insurance program, serving Morrow, Gilliam and parts of Grant and Wheeler counties. Prior to the formation of the administrative district, Barton served on the Heppner school board for part of a term and one full term. He was chairman of the county March of Dimes campaign one year.

Ned is area distributor for the Armour's program of artificial insemination, and he is on the board of directors of the county Livestock Growers association. He also serves on the county extension advisory committee.

The families are active in the Episcopal church in Heppner.

Attacks of poliomyelitis struck both Ned and his mother a number of years ago. The boy recovered with little trace of the ailment but Mrs. Clark has been an invalid since that time. However, she goes about her household and busy ranch wife's life from her wheelchair.

Both father and son are ardent hunters. Trophies of moose, mountain sheep and other con-



HOME RANCH of the Livestock Men of the Year presents a pretty picture from the bluff above just south of Ruggs. The son, Ned

Clark, stands in the foreground. Trees at left hide the homes on the ranch. (G-T Photo).

quests are mounted in various places of their homes. Each of the three families has a home on the Ruggs place, although the Ray Wrights have been in town since spring.

They are going into archery hunting as a hobby, too.

The father and son are obviously enthused about their cattle ranching and it is interesting to listen to their animated conversation about some improvement on the place or in their method of operating.

Their horseshoe brand has a long history and has been with the ranch since Ray bought it from Harry French many years ago.

Of the original five sons and three daughters in the Anson Wright family, two daughters and two sons are living. The sons are Ray and Walter of Heppner, Mrs. Myrtle Clubine of Portland and Mrs. Nellie Kruger of Sherwood. One son, Sam, died at an early age, and Clyde, father of Harold Wright of Ruggs, died several years ago. Another son, Harley, is also deceased, and a sister, Mrs. Maude Rugg, died last year.

The father, Anson, had two brothers, Silas and George, and two sisters, Effie and Julia. Effie was married to Frank Gilliam and Julia was married to Tim Bisbee, both of whom were in Gilliam and Bisbee hardware. Children of Silas included Orlan, who is the only one still living, Delbert, Mose and Mrs. Pearl Devine.

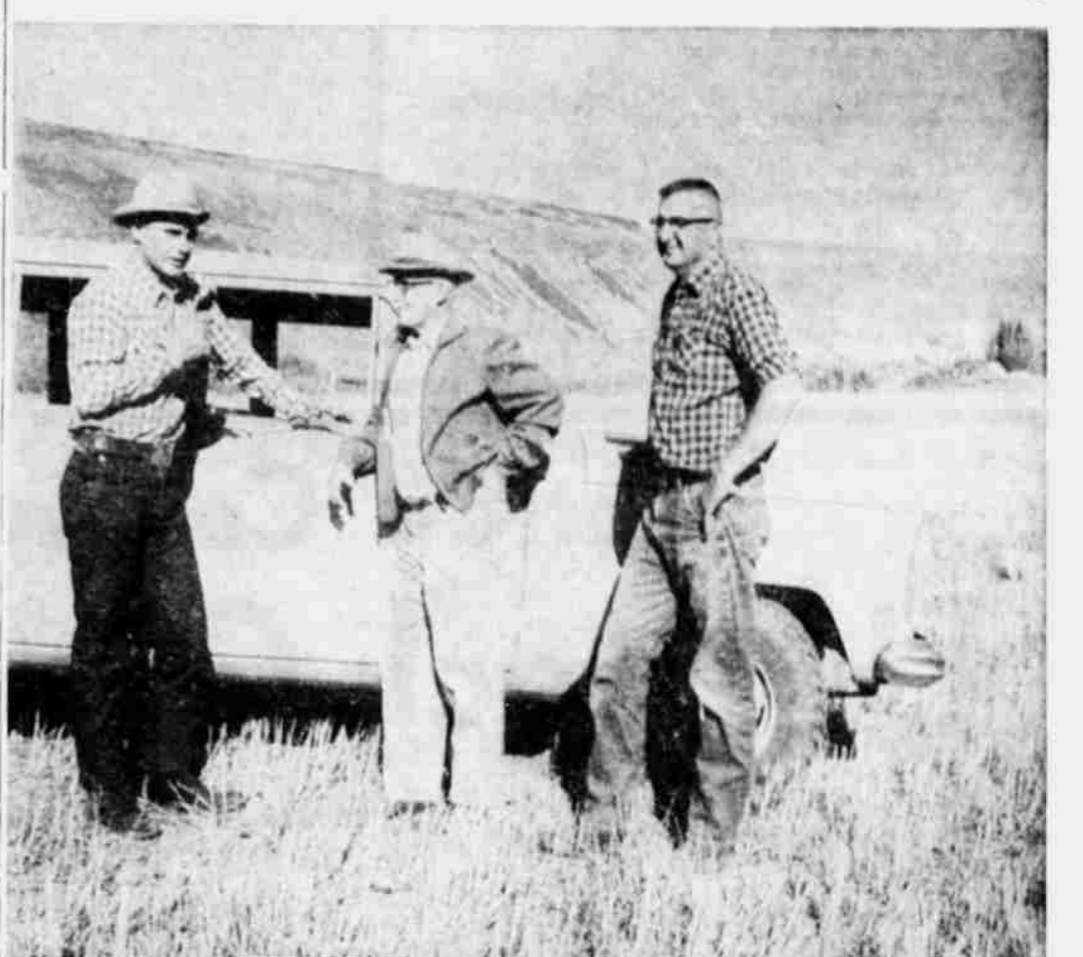
George lived at Lonerock and his children include Harry at Santa Cruz, Calif., and Mabel, living at Medford.

Of Effie Gilliam's five children, four are living, including Earl Gilliam, Mrs. Charley Vaughn, Ona Gilliam and Clinton Gilliam in California. Only Leonard, who died earlier this year, is gone.

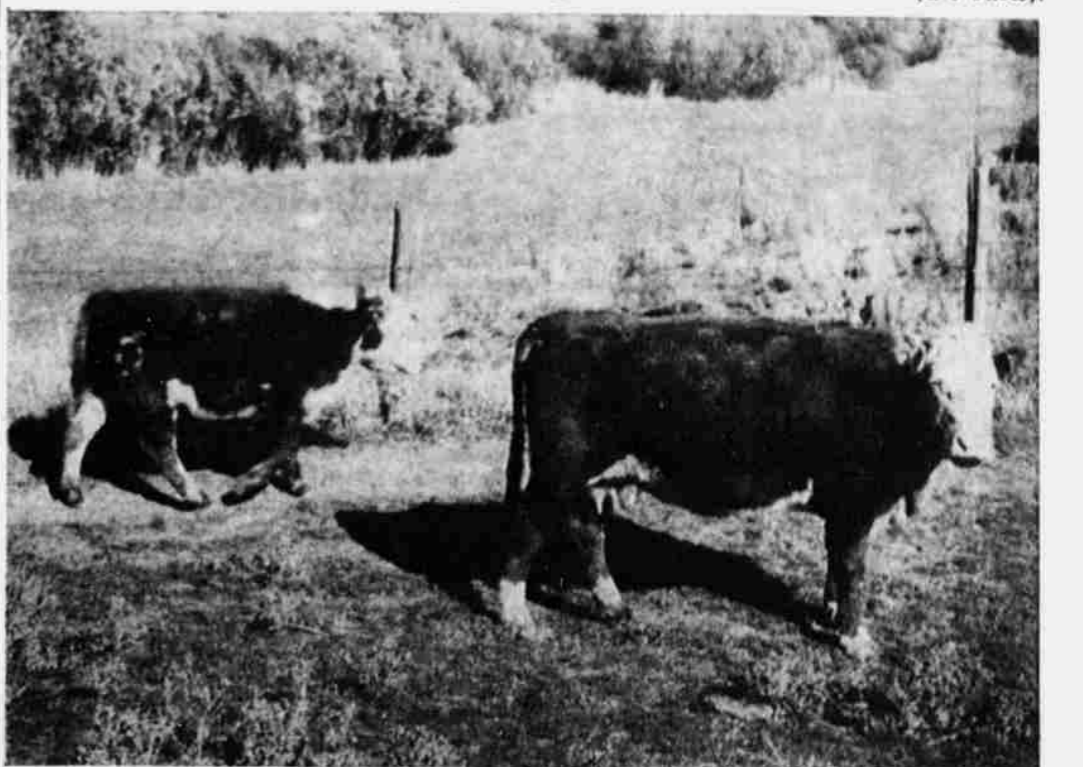
Julia Bisbee's family included three children, Lou Bisbee of Heppner, Mrs. Lillian Wentworth, now deceased, and Bert, also deceased.

Harold's ranch is where his father formerly lived. Mrs. Rugg was married to Ed Rugg, and they lived at one time where the store at Ruggs is located.

Orlan now lives on the place where his grandfather, Albert, originally settled, and Orlan's son, Albert, great grandson, also lives on the place.



VEHICLES on the Clark ranch are radio-equipped to save time in communication between the three separate places and forest range. Ned Clark (left) is at the microphone of the radio in this 4-wheel drive rig. Barton Clark is at right and Ray Wright is in the center. MCGG grain elevator at Ruggs is visible in the background, right. (G-T Photo).



RESULTS OF FREEZE BRANDING are evident in this picture of cow and calf on the ranch of Barton and Ned Clark, Livestock Men of the Year. The calf is freeze branded and the white mark on its rear is clearly visible. The cow is also branded on the rear but by the conventional method. The brand is not nearly as visible. (G-T Photo).

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