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HOME PLACE of the 1968 Morrow county Livestockmen of the Year, George Currin and Sons, nestles in the valley of Little Butter Creek. Son Ron Currin is in the foreground. (G-T Photo).

Currins Chosen 1968 Livestockmen

(Continued from page 1)
smiles to the faces of George, Tom and Ron.
They have 6700 acres under lease in Wallowa county, but the land lies in a snow belt. They bring the stock back about

the first of November. When they were visited October 18 for this story, there wasn't a cow to behold on their place. Since then, however, they have been brought back from Wallowa.

Bought Finch Ranch

When the cows return home, the calves are weaned and wintered on the old Marion Finch ranch, which the Currin Brothers bought in December, 1962. Ron and his wife, Judy, and their four sons live on the 3660-acre Finch ranch, which is eight miles down the creek from the home ranch.
In the spring the yearling steers and heifers are separated. The steers spend the spring and early summer on the old Frank Turner ranch and are sold or placed in a feed lot by early August. The heifers summer on the place on East Birch Creek, southeast of Pilot Rock, and are sold in the fall as bred heifers.

The Currins total ranch operation embraces 22,400 acres of which 15,700 is in deeded lands and 6700 leased in Wallowa county. The home place, with the ranch buildings nestling in the valley of Little Butter Creek, has a total of 10,240 acres. All places are operated as one unit.
About 177 acres in the creek valley are hay lands. The Currins have leveled 94 acres, 58 on the home place and 36 on the Finch place, and have made about 8000 feet of creek channel changes.

Develop Ponds
They have developed 12 water ponds, plus another four on Birch Creek, and have developed three springs in the past few years. They were unable to immediately calculate the many miles of fences that they have erected.

At one time the family held a large forest permit in Tollgate, near the head of the Umatilla River, and once also had a permit for two bands of sheep at Starkey. The Umatilla permit worked well for the sheep operation but was unsuitable for cattle because of the rough country, and they gave up the permit about 1957.

The Currins reseeded 100 acres as an experiment on the East Birch Creek place in February, 1967, doing it by airplane in the snow. This was over logged off land and among varieties seeded were pubescent wheat, timothy and orchard grass.

George F. Currin became acquainted with Helen Knotts of Pilot Rock, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Alonzo Knotts, during the time he lived in that community as a youth. They attended school together, and were married in Pendleton in 1935. The

couple has lived on the Little Butter Creek ranch since that time.

George's grandfather, George J. Currin, lived in the Willamette Valley before coming to Morrow county in 1876. He farmed at lone before buying the Little Butter Creek ranch from Hugh Fields and moved back to Gresham in 1944. He had two sons, Ed and Hugh, and seven daughters. All the daughters went to the Willamette Valley to live.

The elder George Currin was among the early students at Oregon State University (then Oregon Agricultural College). He was in college at the time the first class graduated, and thus the present 100th anniversary at the college would have had significance for him, if he were still alive to enjoy it.

Some years after Hugh Currin took over the Little Butter Creek ranch, the family sold it but returned about 20 years later. The Hugh Currins had four sons, George F., who remains with the ranch; Hugh, who is a rancher in the Pendleton area; Ralph, a Pendleton attorney; and Bob, in the real estate business in Pendleton.

Judy Was Round-up Queen
Ron's wife is the former Judy Lazinka of Ukiah, a former Pendleton Round-Up Queen. Their four sons are Ron, who attends school at Heppner Elementary, and three lively pre-schoolers, Tony, Mike and Steve.

Tom is unmarried and lives with his mother and father. The Currins are as perhaps as well known for their horsemanship and for rodeo. Round-up and Wrangler activities as they are for being cattlemen.

George Currin has worked with horses for many years, and with his skill it was no wonder that his sons took to it. In fact, George says that much of his activity in the past was handling horses. He has stuck close to the ranch and practically devoted seven days a week to the operation. The family is always well represented at the annual county horse show.

Mrs. Currin has been active in the Pine City extension unit, is a substitute teacher in Heppner and a member of the Cow-Belles. The family is active in St. Patrick's Catholic church.

Both Ron and Tom are graduates of Heppner High school, Ron with the class of 1954 and Tom with the class of 1958. Like his great grandfather and grandfather, Hugh, Ron went to Oregon State University (by this time no longer OAC). But after two terms Ron found that interests back home beckoned and he went back to the ranch.

Tom attended Oregon Technical Institute at Klamath Falls after finishing high school.

Active in Rodeo
Both Ron and Tom are involved in Pendleton Round-Up and Morrow county Fair and Rodeo activities. Ron, competing under permit with the RCA won the wild horse racing at the Pendleton Round-Up in 1959 and 1960, and he has been active in competition at the rodeo. He won the Morrow County Amateur Calf Roping saddle at the rodeo in 1960 and this year won Morrow county all-around.

Tom has a busy role in staging the rodeo here as one of the directors on the rodeo committee. He is in charge of publicity. Both Tom and Ron take part in the Happy Canyon at the Round-up and have for eight or nine years. Tom is a director in the Morrow County Livestock Growers.

Ron is chairman of the county fair committee and is a past president of the Morrow county Livestock Growers. His activities cover a wide range, including schools. He is a member of the long range planning committee for the Morrow county schools.

Both Ron and Tom are members of the Elks lodge. The Currin family is active in the Wrangler club and in the Oregon Cattlemen's association.
Judy has won renown as a horsewoman, a highlight being her selection as queen of the Round-Up. Now, besides being the queen of the household at the Ron Currins' ranch home, she is busy with St. Patrick's Altar Society, the Cowbells, a 4-H knitting club, and helping

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on the ranch.

The Currins enjoy the pleasant and peaceful life in Little Butter Creek. They find the neighbors to be like one big happy family. At branding time or other times of need, they all pitch in to work together, going from ranch to ranch to help each other. This includes the Bill Healy's, whose place adjoins the Finch ranch just down the creek. Mrs. Healy — Kite — is Judy's sister.
George Currin, coming in from a hard day's work seeding, his face covered with dust, for an interview with County Agent Gail McCarty and the writer, said he had never seen it so dry since the '30's. There hasn't been a trickle in Little Butter Creek for some time. But the ranch has weathered such dry times before, and under the management of such efficient operators, it undoubtedly will be going many years more, through good times and bad.

Visitors at the Dick Borman home from Saturday afternoon through Monday morning of the past week were her brother and sister-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Howard Patton, and their daughter, Elizabeth, of Auburn, Wn. They left Monday morning for a tour through Central Oregon, where they planned to do some rock collecting. He is on a short vacation from his job as tool designer with the Boeing Co. While in Heppner they also visited with Mrs. Jessie Griffin and Stanley Minor at Pioneer Memorial hospital. Other guests at the Borman home earlier in the week was his nephew, Edward Haddix, and two friends from Portland, who were here for some hunting.

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NOTICE

ALL WATER USERS Of Willow and Rhea Creeks and Tributaries

With extended dry season, we have an extreme stock water shortage on all reaches of the streams. Many users cannot utilize their fall pastures without water in the creek. As these are stock water decreed streams and irrigation season ended on the majority on September 1, and October 1 on most of the balance, this should remove all questions as to the preference for stock water.

We would like users' cooperation on discontinuance of all irrigation for the season, so that the small amount of water in the creeks can make its way down stream. Much stock is coming in early off fall ranges, and presents a drastic need for the limited water supply.

If any questions arise, Jay Huson, assistant water master, may be contacted at 676-5511, Heppner. Cooperation of all is appreciated.

**JERRY F. HAINES
WATER MASTER
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