RAVEL

O&E MONDAY, AUGUST 12, 1991

PAGE 7A * *(S,F-8B)(L-1C,P,C,R,W,G-8B)

Giddyap, city slickers, dude the ranch thing

Area residents saddle up in Wyoming

Julie Candler of Birmingham and the Sundance Kid if you visit the joined other local travelers recently in Laramie, Wyoming.

By Julie Candler Wyoming.

By Julie Candler Special writer

and the Sundance Kid if you visit the Wyoming dude ranch known as the Vee Bar. The sturdy pair of Belgiand Policy and Sundance William (See Julie 1988) and the Sundance Kid if you visit the Young to Belgiand Wyoming dude ranch known as the Vee Bar. The sturdy pair of Belgiand Western-style welcome by bauling a wagen to meet the Iralia result of the Wyoming dude ranch known as the Vee Bar. The sturdy pair of Belgiand Wyoming dude ranch known as the Vee Bar. The sturdy pair of Belgiand Wyoming dude ranch known as the Vee Bar. The sturdy pair of Belgiand Wyoming dude ranch known as the Vee Bar. The sturdy pair of Belgiand Wyoming dude ranch known as the Vee Bar. The sturdy pair of Belgiand Wyoming dude ranch known as the Vee Bar. The sturdy pair of Belgiand Wyoming dude ranch known as the Vee Bar. The sturdy pair of Belgiand Wyoming dude ranch known as the Vee Bar. The sturdy pair of Belgiand Wyoming dude ranch known as the Vee Bar. The sturdy pair of Belgiand Wyoming dude ranch known as the Vee Bar. The sturdy pair of Belgiand Wyoming dude ranch known as the Vee Bar. The sturdy pair of Belgiand Wyoming dude ranch known as the Vee Bar. The sturdy pair of Belgiand Wyoming dude ranch known as the Vee Bar. The sturdy pair of Belgiand while the Wyoming dude ranch known as the Vee Bar. The sturdy pair of Belgiand while the Wyoming dude ranch known as the Vee Bar. The sturdy pair of Belgiand while the Wyoming dude ranch known as the Vee Bar. The sturdy pair of Belgiand while the Wyoming dude ranch known as the Vee Bar. The sturdy pair of Belgiand while the Wyoming dude ranch known as the Vee Bar. The Sturdy pair of Belgiand while the Wyoming dude ranch known as the Vee Bar. The Wyoming dude ranch known as the Vee Bar. The Wyoming dude ranch known as the Vee Bar. The Wyoming dude ranch known as the Vee Bar. The Wyoming dude ranch known as

3 Michigan travelers reach mountain top

Three Michigan travelers climbed the three miles from Lake Marie, at 10,000 feet clevation, to the highest peak in the Medicine Bow National Forest, at 12,013 feet, for a great mountain-top view of Laramie. In the group with writer Julie Candler of Birmingham was Vicki Lange of Birmingham and Dutton Morchouse of Bingham Farms.

of Bingham Farms.

About two miles up, the trail turned into piles of huge boulders to sermile up. Leading the group on was Shirley Nielsen, an experienced climber. Another seasoned mountain person, Sander Bardin, was assigned to the rear, to help the stragglers.

"I setdom saw Shirley. Candler said. "I nearly caught up to her when the stoped for a breather once, but then she moved ahead. But I saw a tot of Sandra. I kept asking her, 'Are we almost there?"

"With lungs that goulded's adduct."

we almost there?"

"With lungs that wouldn't adjust to the altitude, I was the last of the group to huff and puff to the top. Without the helping hands of Sandra and another veteran climber named Dick Reddeck who carried my pack, I never would have made it. The

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Birmingham writer Julie Can-dier catches her breath on the mountain top looking down on Mirror Lake.



just a couple of miles beyond une ver Bar.

As our group leaves the train and climbs aboard the wagon where baled hay perfumes the air, we are greeted by a handsome man in a cowboy hat. He is Duane Harm, formerly seen in Michigan doing commentaries on WART-TV in Filint, which be managed in the mild-60s.

After Harm signals a giddyap to Butch and Sundance, the two horses bounce us through tall yellow prairie grass. We domp across lands where the Stoux and Cheyenne once rode. near a marker that says, "Overland Trail, 1862-186s."

A CAREFUL observer sees ruts left by ploneer wagon wheels. Everywhere we look, the horizon is lined with mountain ranges. If we watch closely, we can see antelope, deer and elk on nearby hills.

and elk on nearby hills.

Butch and Sundance slow to cross a narrow wooden bridge. The rippling, rock-bottomed river below is to the Little Laramie, well-known to local trout fishermen, Just beyond, a more of the laramie, well-known to local trout fishermen, Just beyond, a more of the laramie with the local trout fishermen, Just beyond to local trout fishermen, Just beyond the local trout with laramie to the laramie with laramie to the l

After a turn, we see the lodge, built 114 years ago and once a guest house for weary overland travelers. Inside, the walls seem to emit the ghostly figures of hardy homestead-ers and settlers who once stayed here.

Harm retired last year from a ca-reer in TV management and bought the 870-acre Vee Bar. He and his

Mel

Duane and Susan Harm turned the Vee Bar in Laramie, Wyo., into a dude ranch.

pardner, wife Susan, turned it into a dude ranch because "we wanted to be with people, as well as horses." Now people come to ride horse-back over 28,000 acres of platns and mountain trails. They also fish, hike, eat good food, aboot trap, go tubing on the river, play horseshoes and volleyball.

volleyball.

THE HARMS have renovated the lodge and added a roomy area where people can relax, around a big stone lireplace. Sixan used her talent as a professional decorator to add color and coziness to the three cabins and 10 guest rooms, each with a bath. Among recent guests in these rooms were sportscaster: Curt Gowdy, his wife and daugher. Wyoming Governor Michael Sullivan stopped by the Vee Ear recently for a quiet getaway. Vieti Lange of Bingham Farms are here for a tour and outdoor barbecue with our group.

In winter, skiers using the nearby

In winter, skiers using the nearby Snowy Range's 23 runs stay at the Vee Bar. Corporations and groups

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move in for secluded seminars and conferences.

But the Vee Bar's biggest attrac-tion is 30 beautiful riding horses.
"We work hard to pick the right horses," says Harm. "We look for gentle, well-trained horses that know how to be ridden."

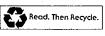
Horseback riding and all other ranch activities, plus three meals a day, are included in the Vee Bar's daily rates ranging from \$55 a day for one person to \$432 for five peo-nle.

IF YOU come to the Vee Bar for a week, your riding skills will be as-sessed and a horse that suits you (with Western saddle) will be yours for your entire stay. You and your horse can go on breakfast, lunch or dinner rides, where guides stop along the trail and prepare food flavored by delicious mountain air. Or you can choose to ride to a picturesque spot in the hills for tenting over-night. Guests say they prefer the down-to-carth atmosphere at the Vee Bar

Guests say they prefer the down-to-earth almosphere at the Vee Bar-to-what they call "yupple Tanches" with condos and golf courses. Other dude ranches in the area are also ae-rious about horseback riding and outdoor living.

Contact Vee Bar Guest Ranch, on lighway 287, 27 miles south of Laramie, by calling (307) 742-6072. Contact Laramie Area Chamber of Commerce, 800 S. Third. St., Ste 200, Laramie, Wyo. 82070 or telephone toll-free (800) 445-5305.





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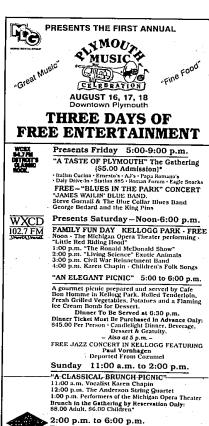
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