

Theodore Nierenberg
From Scrap book of Mrs. C. W. Michaelson

Theodore Nierenberg came to this community in 1883, and has numerous interesting stories to tell of his pioneer days in Griggs County.

----- It was a common sight to see men and children out picking and piling buffalo bones to sell as a means of earning some money.

Very few people had horses. Mr. Nierenberg drove mules and oxen. ~~Since~~

Since the closest place to buy coal was at Sanborn, about 40 miles away Mr. Nierenberg and others hauled wood for fuel from the river.

----- Work was scarce, but the Cooper Ranch offered work for quite a few men, and that is where Theodore obtained work.

One of the incidents he well remembers is during the winter while he was doing the chores on the Cooper Ranch. After finishing the morning chores he started for home with a load of wood and a cow tied behind. When he was half way home a blinding blizzard struck, which caused him to lose his way. His only hope was to turn the cow loose, she had a calf at home, and would probably strike for home. This she did, and Theodore followed, with the oxen after unhooking from the sleigh. After what seemed a long time

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they were home. He could not return to the Cooper Ranch until the next day, and then not until he had located the sleigh he had left.

The wages were low - only \$15⁰⁰ a month in the winter time and from \$18⁰⁰ to \$20⁰⁰ in the summer. Of course the clothing was also low in price. A buffalo cap could be bought for 75 cents and a coat for \$8⁰⁰ or \$9⁰⁰.

Mr. Nierenberg also relates an incident which shows that people made their own laws as there were no sheriffs. One of the workers on the Ranch had made plans to escort his lady friend to a dance. The men at the Ranch decided that he was to treat them with a box of cigars before leaving. This he refused to do, which landed him in a root cellar to spend the night.

(Note - by Mrs. Posterville. There was a sheriff in Cooperstown but Cooper's men ruled themselves, by themselves, with a sort of "Kangaroo" court.)

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