



Val Haynes and Bill Lowe, sons of the original Haynes and Lowe who started the H L Ranch at Osoyoos. The dogs, Tim and Spike, were brought in to kill the coyotes which were killing the calves.

Thompson Family photo.

Valentine Carmichael Haynes

Born in 1875, young Val Haynes had an early grounding in ranching, as his father, Judge J.C. Haynes of Osoyoos, had built up a herd of cattle in partnership with Mr. H.W. Lowe, who was the Chief Constable in the district. Haynes and Lowe got their start in the business of cattle by buying from drovers trailing cattle to the goldfields.

Although Val was, with his brothers and sisters, sent to school in Victoria, he nevertheless received adequate training and knowledge in the business of cattle ranching. And, as a youth, he accompanied ranch cowboys on the long drives from Osoyoos to the mining towns of Greenwood and Rossland. However, it was on a trip home from Victoria in 1880, that he learned of his father's death from a ruptured appendix while staying at the Allison Ranch in the Similkameen. The body of Judge Haynes was transported down the Similkameen River by canoe, then moved by horse and wagon to Osoyoos, where he was interred at a spot on the Haynes ranch beside a grave of an infant daughter.

The death of John Carmichael Haynes was a loss to the province, in his official capacity as Customs Collector and Magistrate, as well as a great loss to his family. His vast estate was put under a manager, and the family moved to England to further the childrens' education. Mrs. Haynes and her six children returned to Canada when a mortgage was foreclosed against the estate, and found herself without support. Tom Ellis, who had acquired the estate, then asked Val to work for him. It is reported that Val suggested the "69" brand to Mr. Ellis. While in London, the family had been housed at 69 Alexander Street, and Val realized the advantages of a brand that could not be applied upside down, would not blot, and could not be altered in any way. The "69" brand is still used by the descendants of the Haynes family.

During that first season on the Ellis Ranch, Val met Mr. Pat Burns, a cattle buyer who had married the eldest Ellis daughter. Mr. Burns ran a herd of cattle in the Kettle Valley, and



Val Haynes and his daughter Alice, now Mrs. Thompson, and the dog Tag, 1913, at the Okanagan Cattle Co. ranch headquarters at Road 22 between Oliver and Osoyoos. The barn in the background burned that year with the loss of 14 head of horses, a milk cow and a prize bull. The barn presently standing at this location was rebuilt in 1916.

Thompson Family photo.



A mustang losing his masculinity, the horse has been thrown in the round corral and secured with a rope system known as a Scotch hobble. The Men are Manuel Louis, later Inkameep Chief, Will Haynes holding the horse's head, Val Haynes with the knife and Fred Phelps standing.

Thompson Family photo.



Doug Cox Photo.

This ranch house built by Frances Xavier Richter was over a century old when it burned in 1986. The building, which was the center of the over 2000 acre Boundary Ranch, was built with square nails and boasted gingerbread trim, which was popular when the house was built in the 1880's.



The former Richter Ranch on the Richter Pass road between Osoyoos and Keremeos. The Ranch is presently owned by Ace Elkink.

Tweddle Photo.

The Richters were producers of hay and grain, primarily oats, with threshing operations on the ranch. Early threshing was done by hand with the use of horses for treading the grain, until a threshing machine was introduced on the ranch. For use in their home, oats were ground into oatmeal and wheat was hand-ground into flour.

In 1906 F.X. Richter became a Justice of the Peace. Accepted by the Indians of the Similkameen, Mr. Richter dealt as fairly with them as he did all others, gaining confidence and respect of both races.

Mr. Richter's second marriage took place in 1894 to Miss Florence Loudon of Loomis, Washington. Their five daughters were educated at St. Ann's Academy in Victoria, later transferring to St. Ann's in Kamloops. Their only son, Francis Xavier Richter, attended public school in Keremeos, then on to Vancouver College and Gonzaga University. Frank Richter, Jr. went on to become M.L.A. for Similkameen in 1953 in the Provincial Legislature, serving for a time as Minister of Agriculture.

The original homestead of 320 acres and 42 head of cattle developed extensively, eventually comprising more than 10,000 acres of rangeland, property of the home ranch, an orchard, and included nearly 1,400 head of Aberdeen Angus, Shorthorn and Hereford. His draft horses were of Percheron breeding, and his ranch included a large band of good saddle horses.

Richter's cattle were moved over the historic Hope trail with other Similkameen herds to coastal markets, as well as lengthy trips through the Boundary country to the Kootenay Valley. With the building of the stockyards at Okanagan Falls, the wearisome drives over great distances ended for the Richters, and their cattle were then shipped by rail.

The first orchard on the Richter Ranch was planted in 1880 and bore fruit of many varieties. The second orchard of two acres, planted six years later, included Italian prunes, which were dried to perfection in a home built drying shed. One year later, Mr. Richter planted his third orchard, this time a cultivation of thirty-five acres. Fruit from these trees brought 23 prizes for the Richter family at the 1906 Provincial Exhibition at New Westminster. The "Richter's Banana" apple, made famous by its winning of a bronze medal in 1910, originated on this ranch.

Francis Xavier Richter, a miner of gold and silver, cavalry scout, freight packer, cattleman, orchardist, and a man with deep community interests, passed away suddenly of heart seizure in December 1910 while visiting Victoria.



Richter Family photo. Part of the herd started by F.X. Richter in 1865 at Cawston, British Columbia. The fence in the back-ground separated winter range from summer range.