



Community Within a Barn

By Phil Patterson

ON A certain Middle Park, Colorado, ranch was a barn landmark that was not missed by many visitors to this famous cattle country—and that was the spacious, green-roofed cattle barn bearing the name "Taussig Brothers" in large white letters. (Unfortunately this structure burned to the ground in November, 1947.) From generation to generation, the Taussigs of Parshall have learned and retained the secrets of making successful lives and being successful in the business world.

Symbolic of the famous name Taussig was this cattle barn, but symbolic of gracious living and things a little less related to whiteface cattle is a recent addition to the Taussig headquarters layout—another barn. This latter barn represents an example of how good ranching and good living go together and how deep rooted the hearts of 45 people are imbedded in the Taussig institution.

This is a story about a barn that "Taussig and company" built. It is really the story, too, of how an enterprising ranch foreman named Allyn Wood wouldn't take "no" for an answer. Taussig Brothers had long felt the need of the services and pleasures now provided the eight families (45 people) by the new barn. Real action started a year ago this past September. Taussigs and Allyn began making inquiries for materials and listened grimly to sad tales of contractors. However, the picture of discouragement drew only a "—well that's that, we'll build our own barn," from the brothers.

Completed In Short Time

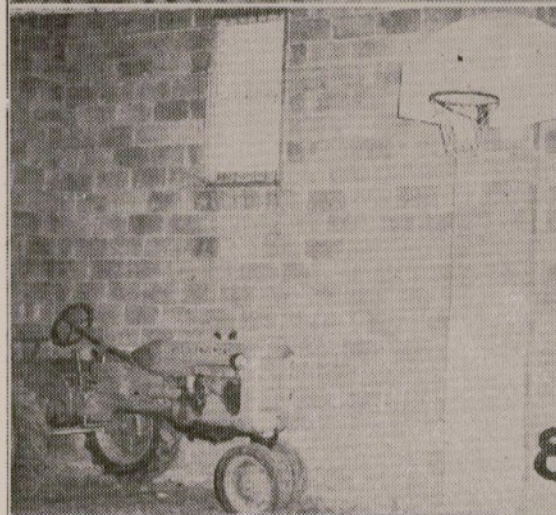
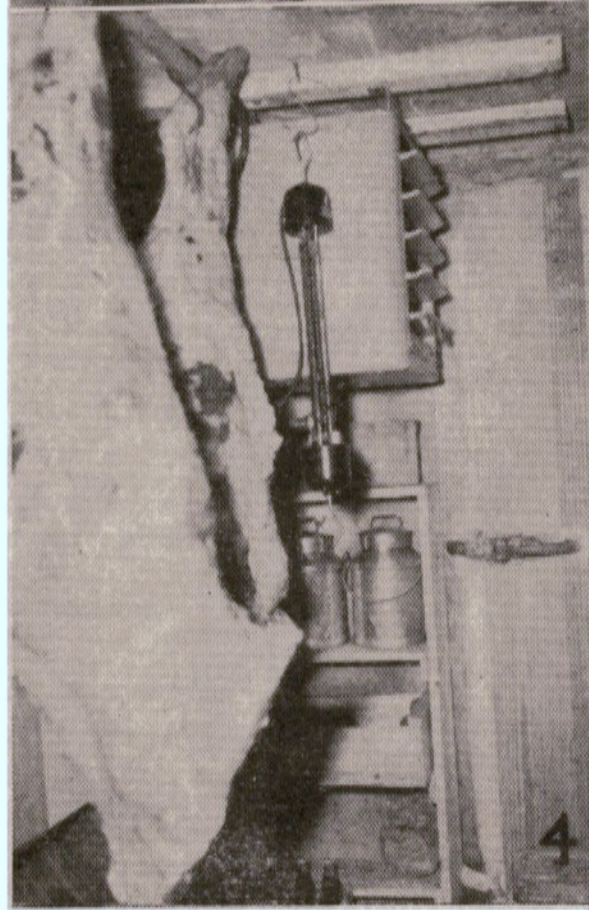
Exactly 1 year later, the new barn was complete except for plastering inside and the finishing of bleacher type seats for the sale ring. It took long hours of hard work, and none of the ranch help are trained plumbers, carpenters or brick layers.

The area chosen for the barn was a 50 by 75 foot plot due east of the now past cattle barn with its green roof bearing the name "Taussig Brothers." The new barn itself is that measurement. Yet it has a commissary, dairy, cooler room, cold storage plant, veterinary supply closet, and boiler and compressor room. Besides this, other features are a tie rack 10 by 17 feet, hot and cold running water, tennis court, basketball floor which is alternately used for truck and tractor storage—especially during the winter when minus 20-degree temperatures are not uncommon. This adds up to no mean accomplishment.

When Carl Taussig was queried as to who designed the barn, sketched ideas, made elemental plans and so forth he remarked, "nobody, it just grew like 'Topsy'." "Taussigs' Topsy" has been growing ever since for now its debut sale of those famous Mischief Mixer Herefords is planned to take place in the barn in the fall of 1948.

(Continued on Page 23)

(1) Cinder block garage on Taussig ranch constructed entirely with ranch help that is fast growing into the heart and hub of the ranch layout. In background is huge green-roofed barn that recently burned down. (2) Knotty pine finished office with pictures and ribbons of grand champions. (3) View of the veterinary room where medical supplies and instruments are kept. (4) View of cooler room, with freezer door in background. Tubular gadget hanging in front of hind quarter carcass is special ultra-violet lamp which keeps down mold bacteria while meat is aging. (5) O. B. Briggs, left, office manager, going over some records with Carl Taussig. (6) Mrs. Harold (Norma) Taussig makes purchase at commissary from Briggs. (7) Harold Taussig giving Anxiety Mixer 24th by Bright Anxiety M. a going over at the tie rack. (8) Basketball court becomes storage space for tractors and other equipment during cold weather.



Community Within The Taussig Barn

(Continued from Page 7)

Cement mixers, plumbing, tile, cinder blocks and circular steel beams were all trucked to the ranch 6 miles south of Parshall from Denver, with some coming from Kremmling. Everyone on the ranch worked and marked the days until "Topsy" would be put to use. For unlike a large proportion of Colorado ranches, the Middle Park country is more or less isolated from metropolitan areas during the winter. The grocer and baker don't deliver to the door in minus 20-degree temperatures, and the early completion of "Topsy" meant that eight families could shop at the commissary at wholesale prices. Five per cent is added to the cost to cover transportation and handling charges. It also meant getting their free allotment of dairy products at a centralized point handled by modern methods and equipment, utilizing their space in the cold storage plant, taking advantage of the cooler room where large supplies of vegetables can be stored almost indefinitely.

Upon visiting the non-profit community barn, one will usually be greeted first by O. B. Briggs, bookkeeper, with his office and quarters in the second-story of the barn over the commissary, dairy, freezer and boiler room. From him it was learned that "Topsy" will keep on growing, and picture shows, dances and other indoor entertainments might be inaugurated. A library and fireplace might be installed—who knows? "This multi-purpose structure is entirely for the benefit of the 2 score people on the ranch, their better living, and it is hoped that some day they won't have to leave the ranch at all to keep their lives full," Briggs explains.

Many Commercial Uses

Besides the incalculable service to Taussig employes, the vast building houses tractors and other vehicles that are needed for use in winter and thus facilitates and expedites ranch work. Through the use of an oil burning hot air furnace, the barn is kept at a 40 degree temperature during the winter

months—quite a contrast to zero and below outside.

Other commercial uses involve the tie rack where showers are installed, not only for the use of those who have just finished a snappy game of basketball, but a curly faced Mischief Mixer youngster gets his bath here via a 500-gallon hot water supply tank.

The versatile structure has another use—a commercial sales ring. With a seating capacity of 500, basketball court and garage will be transformed to auction block and ring, and become the scene of bawling sale cattle, buying throngs of cattlemen and an auctioneer singing his chant for sales.

Key Is Electricity

When "Topsy" was having her hardest growing pains, Allyn Wood kept a weather eye on the unplanned walls that were slowly climbing to completion. For he had some steel beams he couldn't stretch, that had to set on top of these walls to support the roof. Fit they did! Wood is a pretty good "cow poke" and has what it takes to run a ranch and for not being an engineer did an excellent job of constructing the barn as well as ram-rodding when things had to be done.

Electricity is the key to the whole success of the Taussig community barn. This too, has a story behind it—how Taussigs built their own power line to the ranch and later sold it to a commercial company. Over this line comes power to run the cold storage compressor, other electrical equipment and supply power for lighting the layout.

Everything is big on the ranch—big because whatever it is has to keep pace with the Taussig reputation. For example hay operations. In 20 days time over 2,000 tons of hay were cut and stacked this past season. With the use of power equipment 8 to 10 benches are put in a stack making them larger than the conventional size dotting the landscape along the Colorado river valley. It would take reams to write about the show herd of Herefords and the grand individuals of past and present show strings. In the past decade championships including grand and reserve number 29, first place ribbons 113, seconds 114, thirds 110, fourths 67 and 339 others to make a grand total of 772.

The munificence of it all is bound to increase the activities in the new barn as well as the morale, spirit and well-being of 45 people upon the ranch and others in the community. So when you hear Carl say, "Come on, Ma, let's go to the store," dance, show or what have you—you will know their visit will be within the four walls of "Topsy."

