

Chris;

This is a revised edition of the biography I did for the History of Wyoming class. I had given Fran a copy of the same material I had given you and she found a few discrepancies. She corrected them and returned her copy to me. I have now included these corrections for both your copy and a copy for her. I guess I was in too big a hurry to print get something turned in and wasn't as accurate as I should have been.

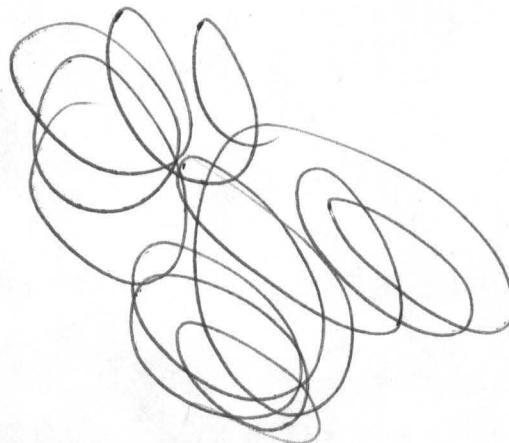
Good luck in the upcoming elections. I am moving to Laramie on the twentieth but will be back occasionally. If you get down that way I'm including my address and phone number so you can look me up for a free beer or something.

Peace Bro'

Karl Gustafson

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Frances Smith Hay

A Biography

By Karl Gustafson

11 May 1988

NAME: Frances S. Hay

PRESENT ADDRESS: 502 B Street

1. Present profession or occupation: Homemaker
2. Occupations followed in the past (give dates): Teacher 1939-1940
Rancher 1941-1948; Utah State Legislature 1946-1947
3. Date of birth: April 15, 1914 Place of birth: New York City, N.Y.
4. Date of moving to Wyoming: December, 1948
5. Full name of parents (give mother's maiden name)
Keith Smith
Helen Garrett Smith
6. Names of brothers and sisters (and to whom married):
Keith Smith, Jr.
Susan Smith Young (Mrs. Harry Young)
Thomas Garrett Smith
7. Schools attended (give dates):
Dongan Hall, Staten Island, N.Y. 1928-1932
Smith College, Northampton, Massachusetts 1933-1937
8. Places of residence in Wyoming (give dates):
Rock Springs, WY 1948-1985
9. Military service (dates, awards, area served, rank, etc.):
10. Political offices held (give dates): Utah State Legislature 1946-1947
11. Political affiliation: Republican
12. Religious affiliation: Episcopal Church
13. Marriage (spouse's name, date and place of marriage):
John Woods Hay, Jr. married Dec. 28, 1948 - Denver, Colorado
14. Children (names, dates of birth, grandchildren, etc.):
Helen Hay Bunning - Oct. 6, 1949 Died Sept. 17, 1980 Children { Emily, Lucy }
John W. Hay III - Oct. 6, 1949 Children { Amy 1968, Leonard 1974 }
Keith N. Hay - March 1, 1951 Children { John 1984, Matthew 1987 }
Joseph Garrett Hay - Aug 13, 1956
15. List of clubs and societies of which you are a member:
YWCA
P.E.O.

Frances S. Hay

Date of Birth: 15 April 1914

Place of Birth: New York City

Father: Keith Smith

Mother: Helen Garrett Smith

Education: BA in English, Smith College, MA

Marriage: 28 December 1948 to John Woods Hay Jr.

Political Offices: Utah State Legislature 1946 and 1947

The basic facts are that Frances Smith Hay was born into a ranching family from Utah. She was raised between that ranch and schools in the East and graduated from Smith College in nineteen thirty-seven. She then spent a couple of years teaching before returning to help on the ranch during the war years. She was finally married and settled in Rock Springs after completing a term in the Utah State Legislature. Since then, she has lived in Rock Springs, raised four children and now has six grandchildren. But that is just the bare outline of a life and doesn't really touch on the variety of life that Fran Hay has lived.

I. Family Roots

Keith Smith first came West on a hunting trip in nineteen hundred and one. Along with some friends he packed into the Uinta Mountains from Vernal and fell in love with the area. The seeds for his future were planted on this trip and when he returned to Yale he decided he really didn't want to go into business. He decided instead to try the romantic life and try his hand at ranching.

After graduation the next year, he came west looking for land to homestead. The original site he had in mind was along Sheep Creek in the Uintas but that turned out to be reserved to become part of Ashley National Forest. Since he couldn't homestead there, he continued looking until he located an old ranch for sale on Henry's Fork. He decided

that this would be the place and made arrangements to purchase the ranch.

Although the ranch was probably for sale at a fairly low price, he needed to return east to finance his venture. Once there he not only convinced a bank to loan him the necessary capital, but also induced some friends to come west with him to try their hands at ranching. His friends probably considered it an adventure. It was something to do before they had to settle down to respectable work and raising families in the East. Within ten years everyone but Smith had returned, and he was probably to far in debt to quit. He did enjoy ranching. He could be his own boss and live where he wanted. So, he was in for life.

By this time he had also met his wife and settled down. Helen Garrett had gone to school with Smith's sister and visited the ranch during the summer. She fell in love with the ranch, the lifestyle and Keith Smith. This was quite a problem for her parents. They felt it was a total waste of her perfectly good college education to get stuck out at the end of the earth on a ranch. She convinced her parents that she was serious, though, and came west.

II. Early Life

These transplanted New Yorkers (She was from Staten Island and he was from Long Island) did realize the primitive conditions would create problems having and raising a family. To begin with, the nearest doctor was sixty-five miles away in Rock Springs, and then there were few schools in the area. So, Helen returned to her parents in New York to have her children and they were all sent there to school. She did try taking the family to California for three years. She had heard they had good public schools there and it was a little closer. So, she moved both her parents as well as his to California and took the children there for school.

In the end though, roots took over and the children, Fran included, were sent East to live with relatives and attend school there. The school selected was a private country day school in New York. One of Fran's uncles had an interest in it and served as a trustee. He also helped with the tuition when times were rough on the ranch.

The summers, though, were spent on the ranch. As the children got older, they began to bring their friends and relatives with them as a holiday. It was a working holiday. The girls would help with the gardening while the boys helped with the irrigation and hay. Fran's father insured there was plenty of time though for fun. They were always given plenty of opportunities to go camping and fishing. It

must have been a pretty good time, because one summer there were a total of eighteen cousins and friends on the ranch for the summer.

So, it was the best of two worlds. They went to the best schools in the East and were able to visit with their relatives and friends. At the same time they would take a three night and two day train trip and be on the ranch for the summer.

III. Independence

Fran graduated from Smith College in nineteen thirty-six. Her initial goal was to go into writing, and so she applied at some periodicals including Newsweek. Eventually, she landed a job with Encyclopedia Britannica doing research. Her job was to look up the answers to questions sent to the company. It required little skill other than knowledge of how to use a library. This was to be short lived employment, though. Britannica moved their headquarters to Chicago, and Fran remained in New York.

During this same time Fran developed a keen interest in Modern Dance. While looking for a job, she spent her evenings at the YWCA and began enjoying dance. Having been in a dance group while at college she decided that she would like to give dance a try. With her parents support, they "were wonderful, they let us follow any crazy ideas we might have," she danced while her sister studied at the Grand Central Art School in New York.

The next year she followed her sister, who had a teaching position in Cambridge, Massachusetts, and began studying with Mary Starks and dancing in her group. It was an amateur group made up of a wide variety of people. One girl even worked part time at a spaghetti factory. Although there was no money in it, Fran continued dancing and eventually taught dance at a couple of junior colleges, Pine Manor in Wellesly, Massachusetts and another in Virginia.

By 1941, however, both Fran and her sister had returned to the ranch with the intent to remain in the West. The outbreak of the war made this more possible. With most the men of working age heading off to fight there was a labor shortage and the Smith girls helped take up the slack on their father's ranch.

It was an opportunity to work on all the jobs that always had been considered part of the men's domain. They learned to operate the machinery, driving the bull rake and plowing. One drawback was a lack of mechanical skill on the girls part. So, whenever one of th machines broke down, such as when all the teeth were broken on the bull rake, they had to get someone out to the ranch to fix it. In addition to the opportunity to learn all the ranch work, it was also a time for the girls to grow close to their parents.

At the end of the war Fran ran for and served a term in the Utah State legeslature. Actually, it was her father's idea, and if not for all the responsibilities on the ranch he probably would have run instead. As it was, he took Fran

around and ran her campaign until she was elected. Fran feels that she won because no one else really wanted to run against her. The young men were just returning from the war, and everyone else was too busy working their ranches.

The couple of months the legislature met in Salt Lake City were exciting. Over fifty bills were introduced, but the one that stands out most was the one establishing a two year medical school at the University of Utah. This has now grown into a full medical school, including the University Hospital. The only other event that stands out in Fran's memory was the trip to visit all the state institutions, such as the reform school and penitentiary.

IV. Rock Springs

Fran's political career was cut short after only one term. By the end of that time she had become involved with John Hay of Rock Springs and decided marriage to him was what she wanted for the remainder of her life. Fran and John were married on the twenty-eighth of December in nineteen forty-eight, and moved to Rock Springs shortly after that.

Initially, they lived in a small one bedroom apartment in the Bertagnoli apartments down near the railroad tracks. The railroad and the mines played an integral part of their lives during this time. With the fear of the tracks subsiding, the railroad was busy blowing sand in the void under the tracks day and night. Additionally, the mine whistles were also a daily feature in their lives. Blowing whenever there was a shift change, they became part of the day to day life until the mines shut down in nineteen fifty.

The predictions of the town dying when the mine closed down turned out to be wrong. With the Trona mines opening up there were still job opportunities and then came the oil and more coal mining in the area surrounding town. The livestock industry also contributed to the continuing existence of the town. So, the town didn't die after all.

There have been changes. Fran believes shopping was better in the past. All the shops were in the downtown area and you could walk to all the stores. Additionally, the grocery stores delivered, making shopping easier in that way too.

Education has changed in the town, also. When Fran's children were growing up they were able to walk to school, and since there was no school lunch program, everyone would go home for lunch. Another addition to the educational system in town has been the college. Originally, classes were held in the evenings, using the classrooms in the high school, but after the mine closed in Reliance, they were able to use the old high school building there. The college eventually moved to college hill and has been expanding ever since.

V. Conclusion

The old ranch is gone now. It lies under Linwood Bay on Flaming Gorge Reservoir. Part of the old ranch house were a pair of cabins built by one of Jim Bridger's trappers Jack Robertson. The state of Utah wanted to preserve these buildings, so when Fran's brother built a new place in Greendale, they were moved and a plaque placed on them designating them as historical treasures. Her father and later her brother both retired to this site and it is still family property.

Prior to retiring to that location Fran's eldest brother, Keith, Jr., was the only member of the family not to settle in the area. He tried ranching but after one extremely bad winter, he decided it was too easy to go broke no matter what one put into ranching. He got a job during the depression with the J.M. Ney Company making gold alloys

and stayed with that firm until he retired after serving as Chairman of the Board. Her sister returned west with Fran during the war and remained, eventually marrying a mining engineer in Green River. Her youngest brother settled in Salt Lake after he returned from serving with the Armed Forces during World War Two.

Fran raised a family of four children in Rock Springs and now has six grandchildren, the eldest of whom entered college this Fall. She's seen the West grow and in the last forty years has seen Rock Springs grow with it. She misses the small town ambience and knowing everyone on the street. She says that is part of progress, but at least they have planted grass and trees.

And so, the gaps that make Fran's life interesting are filled.