

The Memoirs of

Bernard Elden Knapp

Sam South

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Sam South-

A quiet small man. I never remembered him without white hair. He often wore a brown felt hat. He attended church in winter regularly. He sometimes read scriptures on Sundays in I.P.

He worked throughout the area between Tom's Creek and Split Creek. He carried his ax and dug his saw. He carried a measuring pole. He often invited kids to help him. But his boys were a little careful about letting the boys go along to help. They worried he'd put too much weight on the kids. He'd have them shouldering poles and small house logs. Sometimes he'd get help to get on end on his shoulder then have the kids carry the other end. Dan, Burton, I and Berdett once went with him at least once but one time in his all 2 seated car (maybe a Pontiac)

When he fuel the engine for them when they were occasionally short hauled - they were always a little apprehensive because they feared he'd let the water get too low in the boiler. He'd put in some wood and go off somewhere else and forget to make back. He cut dry stuff that he'd find anyplace in the area of the 3 crossroads. Occasionally he'd need help to load and haul and someone would go out with him and the team and wagon. You'd drive along a road and he'd have to hunt for his trees. He'd cut a wind fall or fall a dead tree in the middle of jack pines and couldn't remember where it was and often from the road they couldn't be seen. No doubt he left some lying around that were never hauled.

For a season or so he used Nig & Bally as his until after he got lost 3 days. Then the boys kept him in I. P. Charlie took over Nig & Bally -

Ken told of how Dad teaching school in Randolph and once grabbed a smart-aleck unruly kid and threw him ^{1/2 way} across the gym.

They talked about basketball in Randolph. Elmer had been a good shot and with small size darted between players legs or passed between their legs, etc. They had had a very small gym.

Elmer talked about the U of Wyo teams being so good and their states schools well funded than big ranches and maybe oil revenues.

He told of meeting Gary Cooper at a ranch near Mackay, Idaho while stealing sheep there. Gary visited there to show shoot with the owner. He came there for several years. He said the regular hands at the ranch said he always remembered them and called them by their first names. Elmer said his eyes were just as blue in real life as they were in the movies.

Bamey once pushed a brother off the wagon - he nearly had a wheel run over him. His Dad liked him for it. Charley used to say something to you and then just stare at you to watch your reaction. This annoyed Bamey and that's why he had pushed either Charley or ~~Charley~~ Alan off the wagon. Bamey used to talk quite affectionately about his deceased brother.

Bamey always intended to get May a saddle horse from Randolph. He told about a guy coming there on an American saddle horse that had ridden from Calif. He averaged 75 miles a day. Bamey never thought Warren's horse Tarzan was sound because he settled down so low on his hind pasterns when he travelled.

Mrs. South used to cook for boarders, crew members. She'd like to catch someone in bed in the bunkhouse after the 1st call in the morning with a cold dipper of water.

Mrs. South had once had a garden between the house and the ditch and the sawmill. She kept it fenced but there were so many bugs in the weeds they were real hard on a garden.

She said once that Ben came home after going out to party. She prayed he'd get sick. He did so sick he felt as if he would die, that ended his drinking and maybe a similar story about chewing or smoking tobacco.

Barney & Charles built an apartment house for their uncle Will not far from Ada & Highland Park. Charles mentioned here when you build a house you leave a monument of sorts or something visible to show for your accomplishments for years to come.

Barney & Charles used to make friends with kids passing by. Dan South at times as a 6 year old would call out to kids passing their place calling them "Dutton killers." I guess he got it from other neighborhood kids. There were lots of shanties in Duttonville.

Barney & Charles showed real interest in kids. They'd play marbles with kids passing by of a school. Their favorite games were to lag or potts, a sort of lag.

I think Barney had the ability to deliberately do a lot of things that he thought about. For me I often think of things I should do or that would be nice and they are just honorable intentions soon forgotten.

But for example - if Barney figured kids from poor homes in Duttonville needed someone to speak to them and show some attention he'd do it. When the circumstance arose he'd be friendly to them or make a compliment to them to show recognition. He often made comments of his observations -

Sam
Barney

He might say how kids tell of a movie they have seen in great detail.

He might comment when a kid in a group of people spots a coyote or something the others didn't notice. He'd say kids sometimes see things lots of people don't or at least he'd call attention to it in such a way that the kid real felt complimented.

Also at times he might say something critical of someone's actions - not being demeaning but it could be helpful by preventing the person from feeling too proud - yet drawing attention to a fault worthy of considering change. A criticism once - Bernie always got the wrong end of a slab up - I don't know it was true. I didn't want to believe it, I was conscientious about doing things right. Yet it left a little room for doubt in my mind - It at least stuck with me and I had to consider it. I still remember it in an indelible manner.

The same about my driving, not paying attention enough when I drove. Well one can get into the habit of driving with a fixed stare, as used to do it in the Ford truck - for long periods and I guess I did too as well as notice all the houses etc along the road.

I had places memorized between I 7 + I D according to houses in pasture along the highway - If Barney was direct he was tactful and fun. Again maybe not an idle thought - but deliberately said in such a way as to make the desired impact.

Some people were offended by his directness. He told how one's mood could be affected by the tempo of music. He'd experimented with it with his violin in the

Broken nose - got into a brawl by a cove in Elmer
he talked big and got something started but
his back up had to take the brunt of it.

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