



Goin' to the Wagon at the Moorhouse



By Tom Johnson

Around a cow camp you may hear the words, "cowboy romance." The definition of this phrase is rather hard to pinpoint. More than anything else it's a lifestyle and a love for the feeling of achievement that only being a cowboy can give. There's a certain appeal for the cowboy way of doing things that can grow on anyone, but to the few who live it, it seems to have a mystic power that can't be bought, sold or traded.

It might have something to do with sleeping under the stars and rising to the smell of fresh bacon and eggs in the crisp morning air and a hot pot of coffee made the old-fashioned way. Possibly it's the scent of burning hair around the branding pen or spending some time with the feel of a good horse under you while dragging yearlings to the fire.

Pulling a chuckwagon and camping out may sound like a tale from a wild west story to some. To the Moorhouse crew it's a tradition — just part of getting the job done the

way they've been doing it for years. Every cowboy pulls his own weight and orders are seldom given. It's a team effort that comes from being a student of the cowboy profession.

Few things have remained unchanged in this jet age we live in today, but the methods of cow work used by J. C. "Togo" Moorhouse and family are part of their ranching heritage. For them, spring is a time of long, hot, dusty days and short, cool nights. It's also a time of fellowship with one another and reminiscing over old stories about goin' to the wagon.

It isn't often the Moorhouse Ranch crew gathers in one spot for very long, but lunch is one of those times. Shown right to left are, standing, J. C. "Togo" Moorhouse and Lonnie Vincent; middle row, Tim Jones, Lloyd Daniels, Mike Moorhouse, Buster McLaury, Louis Spinks, Mark Whitman and Bob Warner; front row, Ronnie Patterson, Tom Moorhouse, Johnny Kimmel and Sport Pitcock. Inset: Tom Moorhouse takes after a stray cow headed for the brush.
