

Mrs. W. D. Roadifer  
Sundance  
Wyo.

#### PIONEER PROFILE

My friend and neighbor, Mrs. W. D. Roadifer, came to see me recently. She came "cross-lots" over the hill, so used her cane as it was slippery. Mr. Roadifer says she rarely can find her cane, as she uses one so seldom and often forgets to bring it home.

Mrs. Roadifer, mother of twelve, and grand-mother and great-grandmother of many more, was 88 this past November. She is fortunate in having two sons and one daughter in Sundance. One son and a daughter live in Spearfish. There are daughters in Newcastle, Osage, Sheridan, and Buffalo. Grand-children and great-grands are widely scattered, as are some of her children. A daughter came from Washington state for a visit and so did a son from Idaho. A son from St. Louis comes home every year.

Those living within driving distance come home often. They bring food for a picnic lunch and have grand family reunions. Sometimes all go hunting, fishing or berrying. Generally the meal is served cafeteria style in the Roadifer home.

Mrs. Roadifer has seen 88 Christmases, but says the last holiday season was one of the best. So many of the family came

R. C. Daily Jr. 1-26-51

home during the week and on New Years Day. Mr. and Mrs. Roadifer ate Christmas dinner at the home of a daughter in Sundance.

The Roadifers have farmed and ranched in Wyoming most of the time since they came from Indiana in 1887. They have seen their share of hail, drought, 'hoppers, hard winters, sickness and sorrow, but Mrs. Roadifer has never "enjoyed" these trials in anticipation. A confirmed optimist, she has expected the best and been prepared for the worst.

Her philosophy of life is quite well expressed in what she calls "Just Jots." I quote:

"Pitch the gloom over the cliff; catch a sunbeam."

"It's cold and cloudy outside. Watch the pretty flickering flames in the wood fire."

"What's more enjoyable on a cold wintry night than finding 'castles in the air' in a snapping wood fire?"

"Those darned old socks! We darn every hole, but they're still just 'darned old socks'."

"I believe Christ within one is real Christianity, whether at church, at home, or among strangers."

"Patience - about the hardest virtue for man to acquire."

"Too many people think the sunny side of life is only for very special occasions - like Sunday-go-to-meeting clothes;

too nice for every day."

Mrs. Roadifer has many hobbies. She keeps in touch with family and friends by writing many letters. She often enclosed clippings in her letters. She clips poems, funnies, cartoons, and inspirational articles and makes scrapbooks as well as putting them in letters. She is a rock-hound and has a cabinet full of interesting specimens. She is interested in antiques and near-antiques and has quite a collection of really old books, letters, photographs, etc. Mrs. Roadifer has made many patchwork quilts, but her fingers are a bit stiff for that work now.

Just what does it take to build a character like Mrs. Roadifer's? Well, for one thing she has Faith. (Yes, I intended to capitalize it.) As to ancestry she calls herself "Hodge-podge" -- "a pinch of Irish, a bit of N. Y. state, a whole lot of sunny Italy, and solid English." Then she failed to mention the influence of nearly sixty-four years in Wyoming.