HOMESTEAD BECOMES A HERITAGE



Mr. and Mrs. Edgar Crossland and their nine children is still standing on the Arlie Crossland family's present ranch. Arlie, a son of Edgar, grew up on the homestead. The home had a full basement, a 400 square foot living area, and an attic bedroom. "It was crowded at times when all the family were home, but we really had fun together," reminisced Arlie.

Woodrow Wilson, Edgar immediately applied for a loan from the two-year-old Federal Land Bank. On May 4, 1918, a \$700 loan for 33 years was made at 5½% interest.

Although Arlie's father was anxious to enlarge his operation, it was 1928 before he purchased an adjacent 320 acres for \$800. The following year was a devastating one for most Americans, and particularly for Edgar, who had incurred medical wheel. To Arlie R. Crossland, expenses of nearly \$2,000 as a

At that time young Arlie was working for a neighboring rancher. He learned that his born to Mr. and Mrs. Edgar W. employer had purchased a tax Crossland. Arlie was a year old in deed on 320 acres upon which 1914 when his father Edgar had been forced to allow homesteaded 320 acres fifteen unpaid taxes to accumulate. miles northeast of Eckley, Under this continuing financial Colorado. Upon receipt of a U.S. duress the Crosslands applied in patent, signed by President 1935 for and received an

additional Land Bank loan of \$800 and an emergency Land Bank commissioner loan of \$500, enabling them to redeem the tax-default 320 acres. A young man named Bill Olson, who had been appraising for the Land Bank for about two years, made the appraisal for the new loan and determined that Edgar Crossland had assets of approximately \$4,000 and liabilities of almost \$1,000. (Mr. Olson is now the Land Bank regional manager in Eastern Colorado.)

In 1946 Arlie acquired the homestead from his father for \$10 an acre. He had also purchased other properties, heeding the advice of Will Rogers: "Buy land cause they ain't gonna make any more." He then applied for and received a loan on 3,944 acres. Arlie recognized that a farming operation must grow in order to



The Crosslands look through an old family picture album. Pictured from right to left are Arlie; Alice Marie, his wife; and two sons, Raymond and David, who are partners in the farming and ranching operations.

Upper Right:

Raymond feeds cake to the Crossland Hereford herd.

Right:

Harold E. Bennett (left), manager of the Federal Land Bank Association of Yuma, Colorado, and William H. Olson (right), Federal Land Bank regional manager, look on attentively as Arlie discusses one of the Crossland's circular sprinkler systems.

> wheat, corn, rye, alfalfa, and grain sorghum for cattle feed.

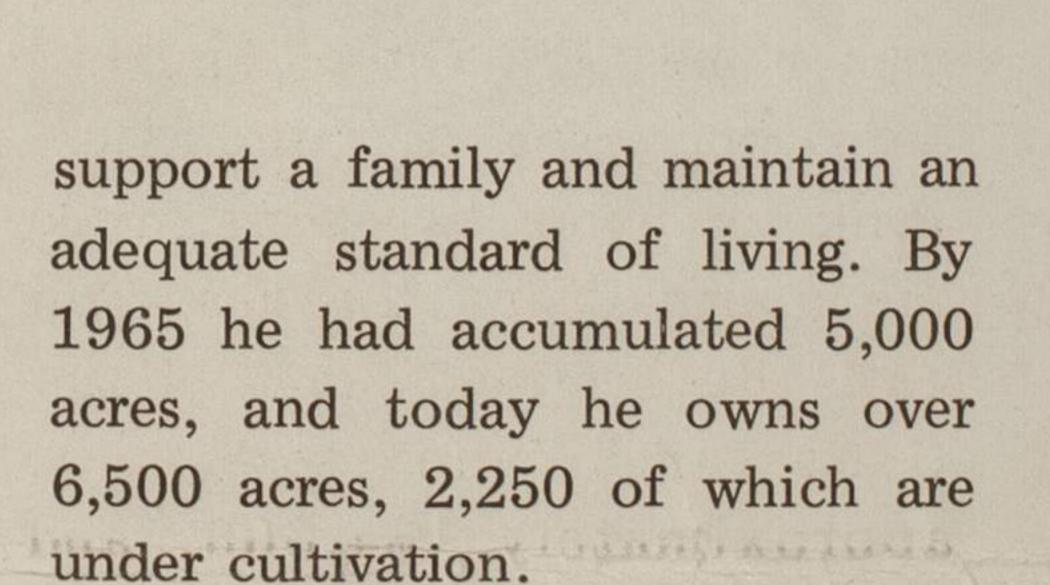
Conditions have changed around the old Crossland homestead. A year's taxes on the 640 acres owned by Edgar and which "We need a \$100 bill to break almost resulted in losing 320 even on a calf today. Increasing acres of his farm amounted to our cow herd and irrigation \$38. Today Arlie pays over operation will require more \$4,500 a year in county taxes. capital. I think we, as well as Paul, was killed in an automobile The appraisal report written in others in the area, will be using accident several years ago. 1935 showed an average yield for more credit in the future. My Raymond, 32, and David, 25, are corn of five bushels per acre. family has used credit as a tool "Last year, in spite of a bad hail, for expansion and farm The diversified farming the irrigated corn yielded 105 development for many years, and operations consist of bushels to the acre," remarked it has proved a good formula." It Arlie. The assets of the farming is no coincidence that the operations have increased over Federal Land Bank and the 120 times since 1935.

Arlie anticipates that the area

will continue to have a strong agricultural economy as long as the water doesn't run out. "We plan to double our cow herd during the next two years based on more irrigation," stated Arlie. Crosslands, as well as many other agricultural families in the U.S., have grown up together.

In a fence row by an Eastern Colorado wheat field stand the weathered remains of a wagon Yuma County farmer and result of family illnesses. rancher, it represents a heritage and a promise of the future.

Arlie is one of the nine children



Arlie and his wife, Alice Marie, have three daughters, Lois, Margie, and Mary, and two sons, Raymond and David. Their son, in partnership with their father. approximately 500 head of livestock, 2,250 acres of dry land and irrigated crops, and about 6,000 acres of owned and leased

grazing land. Principal crops are