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CLAY LANA

C. D. WILDY

May 17, 1976

Mr. J. R. Seacrest  
1725 South 33rd Street  
Lincoln, Nebraska

Dear Mr. Seacrest:

I wish to thank you for your letter in which you acknowledged receiving the old State Journal Company letter and signed by your grandfather. I wish to correct a misunderstanding as to how Carrie Wildy and Ruby Petite fit into the picture.

Carrie Wildy was my mother and she was postmaster at Malinda for 11 years. I was born within a mile of the old Malinda post office and my parents moved to the latter place when I was very young. My parents moved to Scottsbluff in 1901 and following their removal from Malinda the post office was moved to a neighboring ranch about three miles away. Ruby Petite was my sister and she has been deceased for some time and she is the one who built the Petite Hotel in 1910. See enclosed clipping from Star Herald of February 5, 1976.

Going back to Malinda I wish to say that it was just a country or ranch home-sod house-sod barn-cow chips for fuel etc. My parents came to Alliance in about 1887 in an immigrant car from Lenzburg, Illinois and took a homestead on the 160 acres on which I was born. Later they acquired the land on which Malinda was located. I do not wish to bore you with a lot of "old stuff" but I will say that Malinda was known as the half way house between Alliance and Gering and for years there was no railroad in Gering. Mail was carried by stage between the two towns and Malinda was about half way between each town. The stages would start out each morning from each town with passengers and mail and meet at Malinda and both mail and passengers would be exchanged. Meals were served by my mother. Calvin Wildy was my uncle (father's brother) and he owned a store in Hemingford which was about 30 miles north of Malinda and that is where my parents got their groceries. So you can easily see that keeping groceries on hand was not an easy task.



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My father took care of the stage horses and of course a change was made before each stage returned. My sister and I used to run the horses in every week day and our pay was \$2.00 per month for each horse.

I can easily remember when there were only three or four houses between Malinda and Gering. The reason my parents moved to Scottsbluff was so my sister and I could attend school.

I might add that the homesteading days were not easy for neither my parents and all other who had taken homesteads in that area. Many loads of bones (from cattle and buffalo) were hauled from the river (as it was called which means this present area) to Alliance. I think this is about enough of old time memories but I do know considerable as to the history of western Nebraska.

Enclosed is a little of everything including a few old stamps. Burbank also was a post office closer to Alliance but it was abandoned about the time that Malinda came into existence.

Naturally there will be no charge for any of the enclosures that are rather old. I am enclosing a history of our local church that I narrated in our church last October. Do not hesitate to let me know if I can be of any service to you at any time.

Sincerely Yours,

C. D. Wildy

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