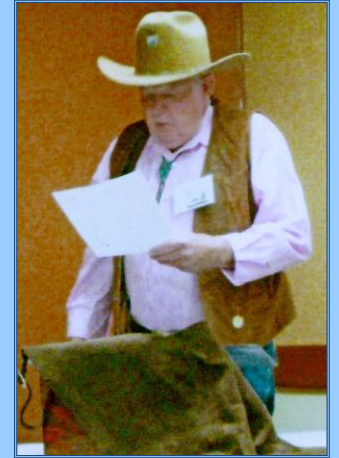


J.R. “BARNEY” OLESEN

I was born in March of 1935 to Ole and Dorothy Olesen in Malta, Montana. My father was a Danish immigrant and my mother came from Sweden to homestead with her parents. I was raised along with two sisters on a small cattle and wheat ranch on Beaver Creek situated between Saco and Malta, Montana. It was on that ranch that I learned what I know about being a cowhand. I never call myself a “cowboy” except in the context of the cowboy poetry genre.



My early years were no different than the rest of the kids that I grew up with in that we all drove teams of horses and learned to ride before we were ten and drove tractors in the fields by the time we were eleven or twelve. I attended school in Saco, the heart of the worst mosquito country that can be imagined.

Two weeks after my nineteenth birthday, my father passed away from a heart attack. His death turned me into the operator of the ranch until my younger sister was raised. I assumed that my career would be in ranching. In 1959, at my mother’s insistence, we sold our cattle, the grazing land and equipment, and I was left to pursue other interests. Eventually, I found a new career as a furniture salesman.

After I retired, I began to write cowboy style poetry and short stories about some of the old-time cowhands I grew up around. Most of what I write about is based on true happenings from my youth, along with a sprinkling of pure fiction.

Life is fun
Smile
Give away hugs
Say I love you to your partner
Don’t forget to laugh
Help someone who needs it
Enjoy

Family Ranch Cattle Brands:

“Ole” bar is father Ole Olesen’s
brand inherited by J.R. Olesen
Left ribs of cattle



“D” for Dorothy (J.R. Olesen’s mother)
“7” for 1957 (date of filing)
Right hip of cattle

