

## Written Profile

**Farm:** Day-Annett-Costa Ranch  
**Location:** Smith Valley, NV  
**Date of Origination:** 1905  
**Industry Sector(s):** Alfalfa Hay



What began as a journey by an entrepreneurial teen ultimately established the tradition of a ranch that would span over one-hundred years. Join us as we celebrate the Day-Annett-Costa ranch and their contribution to **Agriculture's Lasting Heritage**.

In 1843, at 16 years old, George Byron "By" Day borrowed \$200 and left his home in Illinois on a wagon train en route to Gold Hill, Nevada, hoping to make his fortune in the silver mines. Leaving there, he made his way to Smith Valley where he stayed with soldiers camping at the hot springs. He eventually settled near Bridgeport, Calif. to raise cattle and sheep.

In 1905, By and his son, Charles, purchased 200 acres for \$500 in Smith Valley to supplement their grazing property. The original Day Ranch is situated at the base of Red Canyon on today's Upper Colony Road near Wellington. In 1906, the Days purchased approximately 680 additional acres for \$3,360 in Lyon and Douglas Counties. Charlie met Fallon native Edna Brown and they were married in March of 1906. Charlie and Edna's daughter, Alpha, was born on May 1, 1907. Alpha attended grammar school in Bodie, Calif.

A shop and "big house" were built at the ranch in 1917. A large barn was moved from Bodie, Calif. to the ranch around 1910. The small brick home that the Days first lived in is still used as a residence. Family stories passed down describe the process of building the structures which still stand today. Charlie had to bring in lumber and supplies from the old town of Hudson in Smith Valley via horse and wagon. Trains delivered supplies from California into Yerington through Wilson Canyon to the town of Hudson.



George Byron "By" Day (standing)

Alpha was working at the Valley Co-op Store in Wellington when she met Norman Annett, a young mining engineer born in Goldfield. They married in 1926. When Charles died, Norman and Alpha took over the Bridgeport and Smith Valley sheep operations. Norman and Alpha had two children, Norma Jeanne, born in 1937 and Alfred, born in 1942. Norma Jeanne married James Costa of Winnemucca in 1960.

Over the years, the Day-Annett-Costa Ranch has raised sheep, cattle, potatoes, onions, and alfalfa. For the past thirty years, the farming operation has been done by the V. F. Bryan, Inc. Ranch under a lease agreement with Jim and his sons, Paul and Peter, who maintain the non-lease elements.