

Sheep Trailing

J. Paul Brown trails Eight Thousand sheep in June with his helpers and a big white dog to mountain summer pastures. The Great Pyrenees dog that guards the sheep is called Pinkie. A bear attacked him and you can see the indentation in his flank, but J. Paul says he can still run and chase off predators.

They do this in three separate trips. It's about 35 miles from his ranch Southwest of Ignacio to where he enters his Forest grazing allotments. They spend the 1ST night at Ludwig's corral south of Bayfield.

On the 2nd day they get an early start to get across Highway 160 before the traffic gets busy and head to the fire station by Forest Lakes on CR 501. They rest and have lunch and water the sheep before over-nighting somewhere in the Texas Creek or Spring Gulch area.

On the 3rd day they start when it is barely getting light and proceed north on CR 240 to Helen's Store and then up along Lemon Dam where they rest the sheep about noon. They then proceed to just east of the Florida Campground to spend the night.

At daylight on the 4th day they move the sheep on up the Burnt Timber Trail to their first camp. On that day they also transfer the camp items from the rolling camp to a tent moved by the packstring (horses and mules). The tent camp is moved weekly for new grazing. Other sheep grazing allotments are further up the mountain; Virginia Creek, Tank Creek and East Silver Mesa.

