

Chapter 1 - Looking for Work - 00 00 54



DVD capture



Contributed photo

DVD Time Code = 00 00 54

Location: Hwy 22, south of Longview, AB

GPS: 50d 20m 40.32s -114d 12m 10.2s

Map / Satellite Image: [Google Link](#)

Site Name: Hills and Mountains

Travel Directions:

From Longview, take Hwy 22 south 13 km to the Bar U Ranch. Continue south 9.1 km to 786 Ave. Turn east (left) on 786 Ave., and go approximately 2 km to the curve in the road at the hill. Park and walk to the southwest corner of the fenced area near the summit. Face west.

Remarks:

This intricate montage of peaks and hills opens the film. The shot is taken from near Hwy 22, south of Longview, facing westward. It was taken from an elevated site.

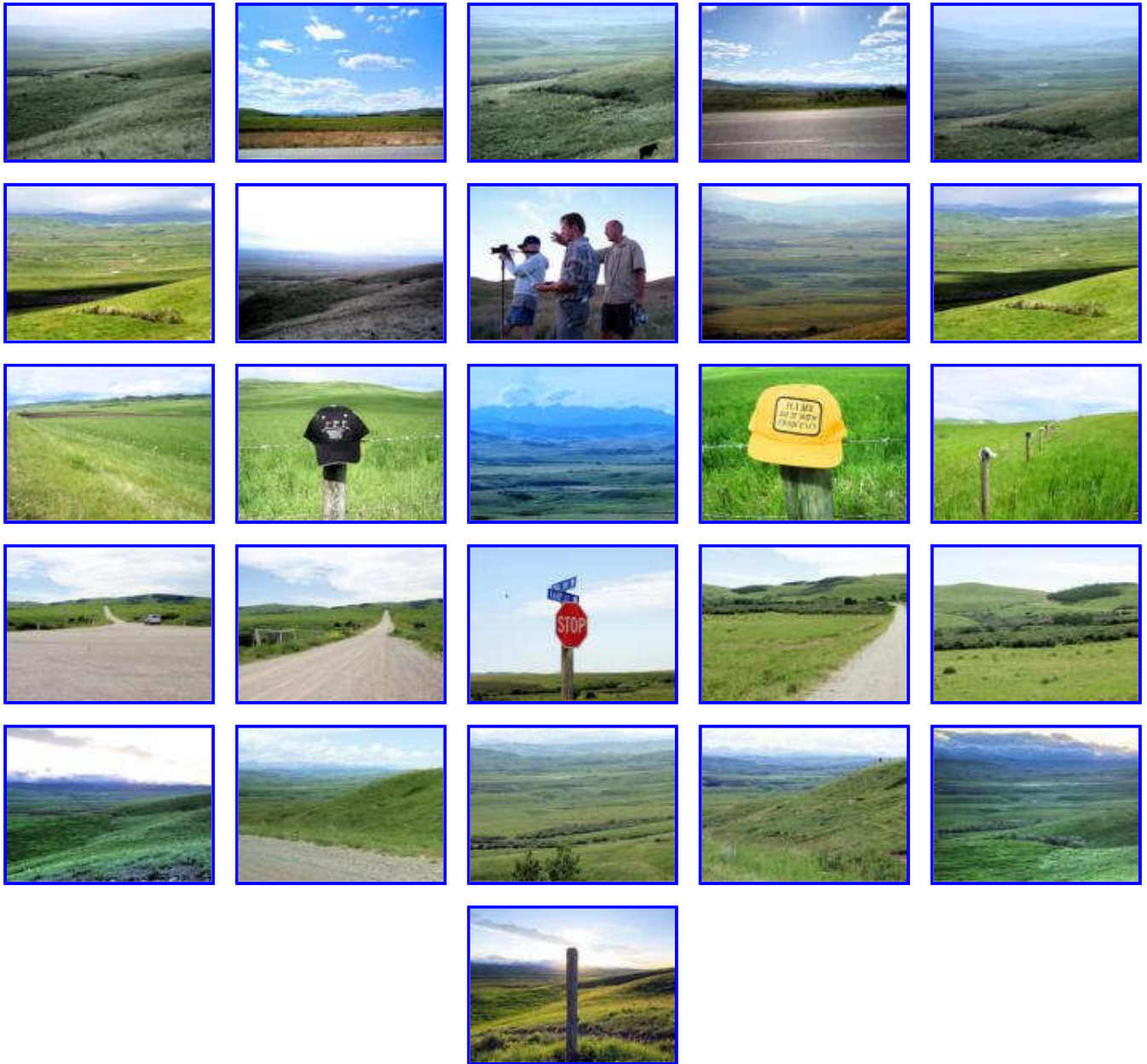
This spot is best photographed at dusk or dawn. The *Brokeback* photography crew filmed a test sunset with an alarm clock in the foreground to select the optimal time for the actual shooting of the scene the following day. Hwy 22 is a busy highway, and tractor-trailer trucks can be seen on it quite often. If you are patient, you may be able to see one pass this scene as we did. The white spot in the middle of the “saddle” landform is caused by sunlight reflecting off water in a stream.

The Bar U Ranch, originally owned by George Lane (one of the four founders of the Calgary Stampede), can be found 13 km south of Longview. It has been preserved as a National Historic Site and is open to the public during the summer. Also nearby is the ranch of Canadian country music legend Ian Tyson (songwriter and performer of the timeless folk song “Four Strong Winds”). Still very active, Tyson is often spotted in Longview buying groceries or playing impromptu sets in local bars.

Important:

The fence is electrified. Do not touch it.

Pictures of surrounding area:



Revised 17 December 2012

Chapter 1 - Looking for Work - 00 01 21



DVD capture



Contributed photo

DVD Time Code = 00 01 21

Location: Carseland, AB, Hwy 24 and Range Road 260 (NE corner)

GPS: 50d 50m 55.86s -113d 27m 51.96s

Map / Satellite Image: [Google Link](#)

Site Name: Signal Drop Off

Travel Directions:

Hwy 24 at the intersection of Range Road 260, facing east.

Remarks:

A complex story begins simply at this unassuming spot. A telephoto lens was used to bring the much discussed grouping of three utility poles, which are actually quite distant, into the image.

You'll find another familiar image from early in the film on the opposite side of the railroad tracks, immediately to the west. On the way, note the Quonset building at the corner. This building, formerly a service station, was the site of the deleted [Signal Gas Station](#) scene. See:

<http://ca.epodunk.com/profiles/alberta/carseland/2003618.html>

Pictures of surrounding area:





Revised 26 November 2014

Chapter 1 - Looking for Work - 00 01 38



DVD capture



Contributed photo

DVD Time Code = 00 01 38

Location: Cowley, AB, Railway Avenue

GPS: 49d 34m 10.44s -114d 4m 19.98s

Map / Satellite Image: [Google Link](#)

Site Name: Signal Street

Travel Directions:

42 km west of Fort Macleod on Hwy 3 (Crowsnest Hwy). Right (north) onto Hwy 510 / Range Road 1-3, left (west) onto Railway Avenue.

Remarks:

Cowley is a gusty place, as any *Brokeback Mountain* fan can attest. The nearby Crowsnest Pass channels powerful winds through Cowley day and night. The surrounding landscape is, quite understandably, dotted with wind turbines which play a role in protecting the region's pristine environment.

To local Native tribes, the nearby Oldman River is the haunt of Napi (or "Old Man"), a mythical trickster figure who created mankind from mounds of mud. The area's twisted stands of poplar trees, shaped by constant wind action, have been suitably dubbed "the Curly Wood Hills" by Native people.

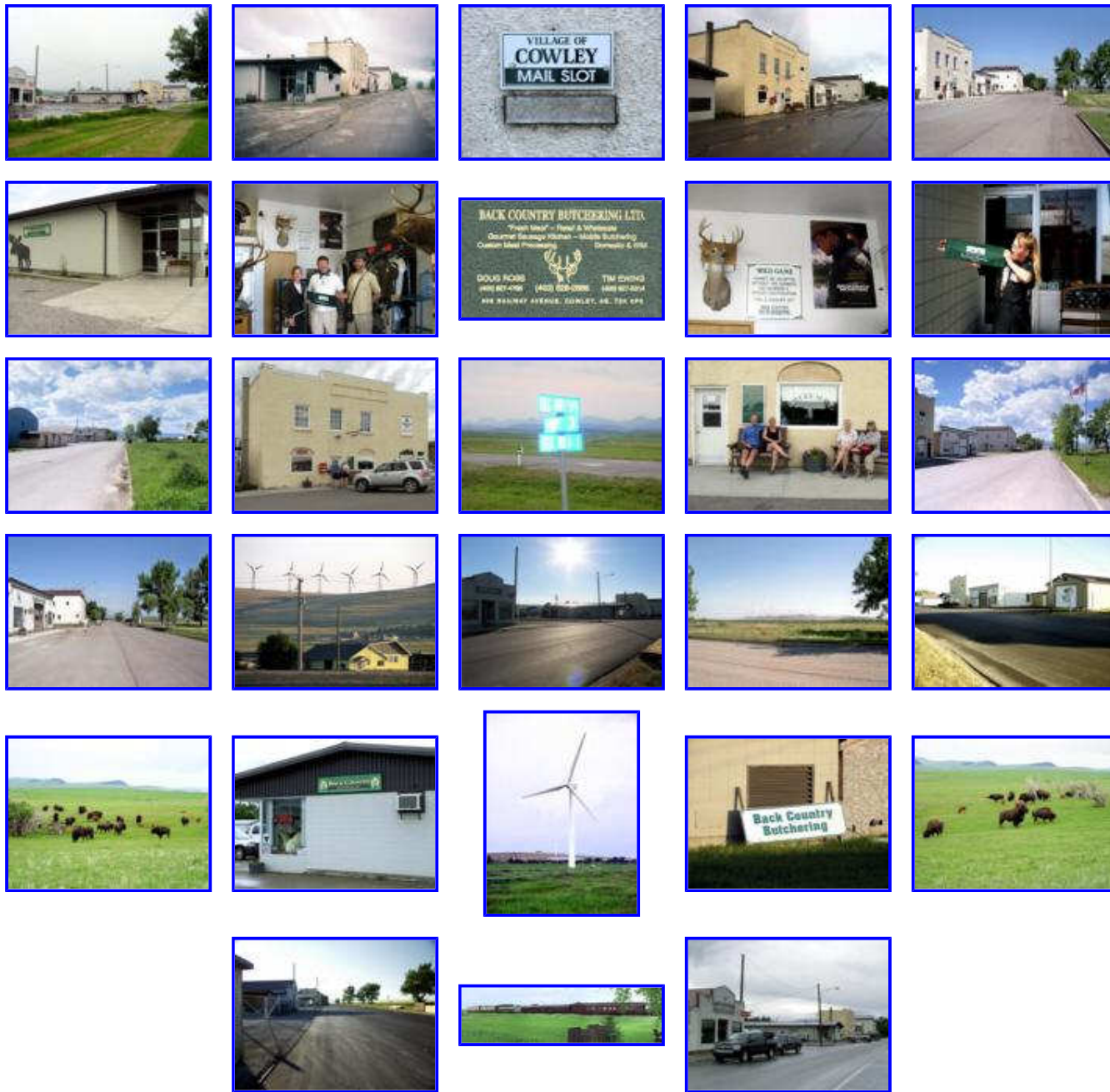
Cowley has a proud history, peppered with a string of achievements and setbacks that typify the drama of frontier life. See:

<http://www.crowsnest-highway.ca/cgi-bin/citypage.pl?city=COWLEY#4>

As you walk down its Railway Avenue (almost every Alberta town with a rail line has a "Railway Avenue"), you may feel a bit of the joy of encounter, as well as the pain of separation, that brought the filmmakers, and now you, here. See:

<http://ca.epodunk.com/profiles/alberta/cowley/2000546.html>

Pictures of surrounding area:



Revised 17 December 2012

Chapter 1 - Looking for Work - 00 01 51



DVD capture



Contributed photo

DVD Time Code = 00 01 51

Location: Cowley, AB, Railway Avenue and Osler Street

GPS: 49d 34m 10.02s -114d 4m 20.16s

Map / Satellite Image: [Google Link](#)

Site Name: Aguirre's Trailer

Travel Directions:

42 km west of Fort Macleod on Hwy 3 (Crowsnest Hwy). Right (north) onto Hwy 510 / Range Road 1-3, left (west) onto Railway Avenue. Osler is the second street.

Remarks:

The trailer and fake fence are gone, but the footings, steeple, and the parking area are quite visible. Locals recall that the crew spent more than six weeks in Cowley.

Some believe that the passing train in the opening scene was not originally contemplated until a moving Cowley train inspired Lee to create his now famous metaphor for dark lives separated by brief, brilliant, *Brokeback* moments. See:

<http://ca.epodunk.com/profiles/alberta/cowley/2000546.html>

Quotation:

“Up on Brokeback ...”

Pictures of surrounding area:





Revised 07 September 2009

Chapter 1 - Looking for Work - 00 02 07



DVD capture



Contributed photo

DVD Time Code = 00 02 07

Location: Cowley, AB, Railway Avenue

GPS: 49d 34m 10.44s -114d 4m 19.98s

Map / Satellite Image: [Google Link](#)

Site Name: Signal Street

Travel Directions:

42 km west of Fort Macleod on Hwy 3 (Crowsnest Hwy). Right (north) onto Hwy 510 / Range Road 1-3, left (west) onto Railway Avenue.

Remarks:

We first see (and hear) Jack's 1950 GMC truck in this shot facing southeast on Cowley's Railway Avenue. Just as the actors had doubles, so did Jack's truck! The stunt truck cruised down Railway Avenue, coughing and sputtering, while the beauty truck arrived at Aguirre's trailer. Of course, the real cruising began once the vehicle was parked.

Ang Lee asked Jake Gyllenhaal to "kick the truck hard." The stunt truck was to have been the one he actually kicked, but, being more than half a century old, it would not start on the day this shot was filmed so the beauty truck ended up with approximately ten heel marks on its fender.

Passionate about such things, Canadian philanthropist Rob Freeman has acquired both trucks, which he uses for charitable purposes. He has the original fender, heel marks and all. Truck aficionados will appreciate Rob's fascinating website. See:

<http://www.thebrokebacktruck.ca>

Pictures of surrounding area:





Revised 17 December 2012

Chapter 1 - Looking for Work - 00 02 20



DVD capture



Contributed photo

DVD Time Code = 00 02 20

Location: Cowley, AB, Railway Avenue and Osler Street

GPS: 49d 34m 10.44s -114d 4m 19.98s

Map / Satellite Image: [Google Link](#)

Site Name: Signal Street

Travel Directions:

42 km west of Fort Macleod on Hwy 3 (Crowsnest Hwy). Right (north) onto Hwy 510 / Range Road 1-3, left (west) onto Railway Avenue. Osler is the second street.

Remarks:

Cowley is a small town of about 200 people. First settled around 1880, it was once home to the Doukhobors, a Russian sect that escaped the persecution of Alexander III around 1915. Their progressive farming methods brought much-needed modern irrigation practices and mechanized agricultural equipment to the region. But it was the Doukhobors' communal lifestyle that engendered resentment and widespread discrimination among their neighbors. Assassinations and predatory farm lending practices brought an end to Cowley's communes during the Depression.

The *Brokeback* producers sought towns which had an authentic 1960s look to them. Cowley fit that bill perfectly. Frozen in time, it has no new buildings or modern signs to mar its vintage appearance.

Pictures of surrounding area:





Revised 17 December 2012