

# The Original Ranch



# PALAUVER

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The Original Ranch, Lakewood, NM

July/August 2000

## ROUNDUP 2000 UPDATE

by Nettie Haase

Even though we have all gone our separate ways for the summer, the plans and progress for Roundup continues and improves. Lynell and I are in touch with each other frequently, thanks to Pocketmail, so lots of things are moving ahead.

One more definite—we will be offering blood tests at our Health Fair, thanks to the efforts of Cass Davis and Fran Barnes. There will be several options ranging from a 13 panel blood test to the PSA test. The testing will be done by the Artesia Hospital and the cost will range from \$6 to \$20, depending on the test.

I would like to thank everyone who has already taken the time to return the post-cards regarding your Roundup plans and to encourage the rest of you to please return them as soon as possible so that we may have a better idea of who will be there. Also, a reminder that we will need lots of items for our raffle.

I am sure that most of you know that we lost Flo Schmalzl, who has been a driving force behind Roundup for many years. In her memory and in honor of all her efforts, we are hoping to make this a very special Roundup. See you this fall.

**(November 2-6 for sure!)**

### Special points of interest:

- Roundup Update
- Fundays Ranch Representative
- Letters from the Ranch Hands
- Women's winter book club

Articles for the September/October, 2000 Palaver are due September 1. Send to Lynell Arnott, joyfulmd@aol.com or 216 Rainbow Drive #11697, Livingston, TX 77399-2016, (303) 601-3188

## Millennium 4th of July at The Ranch

By Gene Sharp

The skies were covered with beautiful clouds and we were hoping for a little cooler weather for our great "throw-on" at the Ranch House, but that was not to be. The clouds moved on and the heat set in, but guests and leaseholders gathered on the porch, rocked in the rockers, swatted flies, and enjoyed each other's company while the guys cooked the meat on the grill. Our Manager, Roger Kurtz, made a special bar-be-que rub and grilled chickens for those who wanted to bring chicken.

To help us battle the heat, Lou and Barbara Novy set up their "outdoor mist air conditioner." Lou attached this contraption, which looked like a small green cobra rared up, to a water hose and Barbara set up a fan — it worked — if you were close enough to it!!!!

Then we tried to discourage the flies. Someone had heard that if small freezer bags were half filled with water and attached to the door, the flies would not come near. Well, these flies lighted on the bags just to check them out!!! So it was back to the good 'ole tried and true fly swatter.

We moved into the cool sunroom for our meal. Barbara Novy had decorated the desert table with bright red 4th of July decorations, and the Novy's brought the dessert — wonderful watermelon for all 29 guests and leaseholders to enjoy.

### Inside this issue:

Roundup	1
Chili Chapter Rally	1
Announcements	2
A Gift From Flo	4
Food Tools	4
Ranch Hands Report in	5
In the Kitchen with Mary	10

### Chili Chapter Schedules Another SUPER Rally

The Fall Chili Chapter Rally will be October 6, 7, 8, and 9, 2000 at the Apple Tree RV Park on Hwy 70 East in Ruidoso. More details will be upcoming in the *Chili Chatter*.

## Committees and Announcements

### Building and Safety Committee Report

The following information furnished by the Building and Safety Committee is intended to assist the lot owner who is putting his lot up for reassignment.

The correct procedure is to first notify the Office Manager of your intent. The Office Manager will submit an appraisal work sheet to the Building and Safety Committee and they will inspect the lot, gravel, concrete and shed listing any item that needs repair or painting to bring it up to a safe and proper condition.

This appraisal work sheet will become part of the office file. It will be made available as part of the paper work needed at the time of reassignment.

In the event that there are some repairs or painting that need to be made the Seller has the option to:

1. make the necessary repairs himself,
2. hire another Skip to make the repairs,
3. hire a contractor to make the repairs or
4. make a cash allowance to the new Buyer with a (90) day time limit to make the necessary repairs.

The Building and Safety Committee will not set a cost on the repairs or painting needed to bring the property up to a safe and proper condition.

Any agreement made between the Seller of the lot up for reassignment and the SKP member he hires to do the work will be between them. The Manager and the Board of Directors will not be involved in anyway shape or form.

Submitted By:

Ray Bellon - Board of Directors  
 Bob Oetjens - Chairman  
 Beth Norton - Member  
 Ruby Schubert - Member  
 Don Hovis - Member  
 Lou Novi - Member



### On the Injured List

by Lynell Arnott

Once again I ask for forgiveness in advance if I have omitted anyone. Here are the Ranch folks I know about that we need to be remembering. Bev Heeter is scheduled for surgery this first part of July and can use our prayers. Gladys Patzer who is hospitalized in Edmonton is also needing our good thoughts and prayers. CT Hancox continues in his saga of the shoulder. He reports that he has seen numerous doctors (7 or 8) and physical therapists and the summary of their diagnosis is that he's a degenerate with a sore arm. Those were his words, but I think it's probably something about his shoulder that's degenerate! At any rate, keep these folks in mind and certainly Paul Schmalzl as he deals with his great loss.

### Win Some, Lose Some

We offer a great big SKP hug to our new leaseholders. Let's make sure we all meet:

Steve Lightle, Lot 75  
 Arnie & Lori McMullen, Lot 72.  
 Jerry and Barb Pruet, Lot 60  
 Gill and Diane Freeman, Lot 76

At the same time, there are others we have to say Happy Trails to.

We will miss:

Bob and Shirley Foster  
 Mike and Mary Antley  
 Denny McGowan  
 Anthony Petryk

### Notice:

Unfortunately because of Gladys's illness Chuck and Gladys Patzer will not be able to represent The Ranch at Fundays, July 23—27 in Kamloops, B.C. If you happen to be in the area and able to represent The Ranch please contact the office at The Ranch.

## **In Memory, Florence Schmalzl**

by Lynell Arnott and Marilyn Railey

As you all know, Florence (Flo) Schmalzl died Tuesday, May 9, 2000. The Ranch will never be the same, having been touched by one such as Flo. How will we ever fill those shoes? Who will dress up in outrageous costumes to announce upcoming events like she did? Who will ever be able to miraculously combine an assortment of left-overs into a "Must Go" feast like she did for us over and over again?

Flo has been at the heart of life at the Ranch from the very beginning. Over the years she held numerous positions here — Board member and President, President of the Ranch Hands, Trail Boss, Director of any number of Roundups, Chairperson of the Beautification Committee. The list goes on and on.

If any one of us was laid up for some reason, here would come Flo with prepared meals. She was a gold mine of information for new and experienced full timers — after all, she and Paul had been virtually everywhere in their 25 years on the road. If there was need for creativity, Flo would step forward — articles for the Palaver; entertainment for Raunchy night; poetry offered for Happy Hour; flowers planted to beautify the park (she called one Flo's Folly.) She could put together a party, too. Remember our wonderful Millennium Celebration? Or, how about the millennium play we had at last year's Roundup? That was another of her many creations. She shared her enthusiasm and joy with us, touching each of us in her own unique way.

Yes, it will take many of our small feet to fill the large shoes Flo has left behind. We will miss her so much. And as we grieve, our hearts go out to Paul who will miss her most of all.

## **Our good Friends .....**

Sadly, Lynn has lost her fight with cancer. She died last Thursday (June 22) at 7:45 AM. She was here at home all the time, and only became really ill 5 days before. The Friday before, she was up and around doing things around the house. Then Saturday, she was extremely tired, and from then on slept most of the time. There was very little pain and what came through was quickly taken care of with her medication. It was peaceful and she (and I) was blessed that it all happened so quickly.

We had attended an Airstream rally two weeks ago, and other than being weak, she really enjoyed herself.

I want to thank all of you for your kind wishes and the many prayers said in her behalf. She said all the time that she felt each and every prayer, and continually thanked people for them and said, "Keep them going". I think that they worked because although she lost the battle, it was not painful or debilitating. She was much loved and I will miss her terribly.

Thank you all,

Lew Leistikow

*ed. note: Lew's address is 3650 S. Federal Blvd. #113, Englewood, CO 80110*

## A GIFT FROM FLO

This recipe is from Flo Schmalzl in her hand writing. Sheila Miller, Lot 109, has asked that we receive the recipe that way. In case it is difficult to read, we are also printing it below in a typed version.

### Flo's Cream Soup Mix

2 c. dry powdered milk  
 3/4 c. cornstarch  
 1/4 c. chicken bouillon granules  
 2 T. dry onion flakes  
 1 tsp. dry basil (optional)  
 1 tsp. thyme (optional)  
 1/2 tsp. pepper

Mix all ingredients together and store in an airtight jar.  
 Combine 1/3 c. mix with 1 1/4 c. water.  
 Bring to a boil, stirring. Boil until thick.  
 Equals 1 can of purchased soup.

CREAM SOUP MIX (Flo)

2 C. dry powdered milk  
 3/4 C. cornstarch  
 1/4 C. Chicken bouillon granules  
 2 T. dry onion flakes  
 1 Tsp. dry basil (opt)  
 1 Tsp. Thyme (opt)  
 1/2 Tsp. pepper

Mix all together + store in airtight jar  
 Combine 1/3 C mix with 1 1/4 C. water  
 Bring to a boil stirring. Boil until thick. Equals  
 1 Can of purchased soup.

## TOOLS TO FIGHT THE BATTLE OF THE BULGE

by Nettie Haase

As we travel around the country, one of our greatest pleasures comes from eating out. Some of us stick with the national chains like Golden Corral, while others of us tend to like the Mom and Pop cafes. Still others have to check out all the Mexican or Chinese restaurants. With the help of a few tricks, we can indulge and still not seriously bulge. Remember that what works for me may not necessarily work for you, so you might have to create your own bag of tips and tricks. With that in mind:

1. When you know that you will be eating out, make an effort to keep the other two meals of the day extra light.
2. Eat something light before you go out so you will not be so extremely hungry that you completely lose control. Some veggies or a piece of fruit are good choices.
3. In the restaurant don't hesitate to ask for what you want, such as dry toast or cooked without butter.
4. To find the lower fat choices, look for words like grilled, boiled, steamed, poached, or roasted.
5. Drink a glass of water before or with your meal to help fill you up.
6. Start your meal with a salad, but order the dressing on the side.
7. A small glass of wine will go much further by mixing it with sparkling water and adding ice and a slice of lemon too.
8. Slow down and taste every bite. Put your fork down between bites, enjoy the conversations.
9. Listen to your body. The goal is to enjoy the food and get enough to eat. When you are no longer hungry it is time to stop eating.
10. Eat half a portion and take the rest home for another meal or share a meal.

Notice everything I have said is a "do" instead of a "don't." I want eating to be a positive experience. Happy travels and happy dining experiences.

## HOW MANY TIMES HAVE YOU HEARD THIS?

by Marilyn and Bob Railey

It's summertime, and most of us are traveling. It's the time to visit friends and relatives. And how many times have you heard this?

- 1) Are you STILL traveling? I thought you would have gotten it out of your system before this.
- 2) Don't you get tired of not having a place to call home?
- 3) Now that you are here, why don't you stay in our house so you can sleep in a REAL bed?
- 4) Why do you want to go (insert any place)? I went there and there is nothing to see or do.
- 5) I would have written to you, but I never know where you are. (You have used the same mailing address for 10 years.)
- 6) But, what do you DO?
- 7) Why don't you come to our house, you must be hungry for a home cooked meal by now.

## Winter Book Club for Women

by Pat Armstrong

Have you read a good book lately? Several ladies at the Ranch have suggested a monthly book luncheon over the winter. We would like to make a list of several books and read them in the summer and fall and then gather, share and eat!

Two books have been suggested so far. *Memoirs of a Geisha* by Arthur Golden (\$7 at a secondhand paperback store) and *Daughter of Fortune* by Isabella Allende (waiting for it to come out in paperback, \$26 for hardback - could check nearest library).

Do you have a book that you would like to recommend for sharing at our book luncheons? If you contact me by mail, I will get back to you with a suggested Ranch Reading List. E-mail: PatCA364@aol.com or by Snail Mail : Pat Armstrong, c/o Santee Lakes Regional Park PO Box 713187 Santee, CA 92072-3187

## Letters from Ranch Hands

Greetings from Buffalo, WY.

The Trockels & McKinzie's enjoyed the Newmar Rally in Gillette, WY. Bob & Ede arrived June 22 to be on the parking crew while Jim & Carolyn arrived on the 20th and took a couple of bus tours.

There were 890 rigs and 1900 people. The vendor areas, seminars and chapter meetings brought us together with many other SKP's. The evening entertainment was outstanding: The Carpenter Family Singers, Johnny Counterfeit, Rodeo, Local Ranch Demonstrations of horsemanship and sheep herding with dogs and a German Band for foot-tapping and dancing.

Saturday July, 1 we said Goodbye as Jim & Carolyn head to Alaska, while Bob & Ede continue to explore Wyoming.

Bob and Ede Trockels

## Letters from Ranch Hands ( Continued )

Dear Friends —

Here in Avon much activity is going on — I have a working crew consisting of Fred Cook, master welder, Chuck Cowles, welder's assistant and also head of security. Now Milo Marquardt is also here, and he's in charge of painting, and grounds maintenance.

The Cowles had to leave last Sat, but Rusty Irons has joined us and is taking on Chuck's duties. THE PROJECT— a 14' high, 24' wide entrance gate to "The Ratz Nest", including painted signs done by our on staff painter, Milo.

Now you may ask what Bev, Lillian, Joyce, Bettie, and Mary are doing.

They being their cheerful selves, provide meals, do the laundry, clean the house, (if time permits) play cards (always seem to find time for that!)

I have allowed some time off to play, with trips to Yankton, steak dinner out, tour of Elk Farm and Pheasant Farm and parade in Verdigre, NE.

Tomorrow Marquardt's leave and we'll send them off with a Omelet in a Bag breakfast.

Hugs, Lenny & Bev

Greetings from Yellowstone:

We were thrilled when we heard that there was to be a summer issue of the Palaver. We really miss all our Ranch Hand friends and we are looking forward to hearing about everyone's adventures.

Chuck and I are spending the summer working here in Yellowstone National Park. It is a fun job. Our bosses are great and the people we work with are really nice. There are even several SKP couples working here.

The best thing about our jobs are our days off. This is a huge park and there is so much to see and do in the park as well as the surrounding areas. I doubt if we will have time to see and do it all. We have seen grizzly bears and their cubs, elk, moose, and many bison. They have a good crop of calves this year. We have watched a mother coyote playing with her twin cubs, and two bison bulls swimming the Yellowstone River. One of the neatest things was to watch the cutthroat trout fighting their way upstream over rapids on their way to the spawning grounds. The other day we went over Beartooth Pass. The elevation is 11,000 feet. The panoramic view from up there is breathtaking. People are still skiing at the top.

If any of you make it out this way this summer, stop by the Hamilton Store at Fishing Bridge. We would love to see you. Otherwise we will be back to the Ranch the first part of October. Till then, Happy Trails and lots of hugs. Chuck and Nettie Haase

Lou's Journal

Well, Barb and I are finally free of family commitments and can again enjoy the good life. We headed to Corpus to visit a retired friend. Did some salt water fishing. Why is it that when the minimum legal size for a speckle trout is 15 inches that all mine are 14 1/2 inches long? Finally caught two keepers.

Now where is that cooler weather? Heading north, we swing by the Ranch to drop off more stuff and perform repairs and maintenance to the rig. On the way, Barb hears a strange noise and says "stop now". We discover that the spare tire holder has broken and we are dragging the tire on the ground. Another repair to do while at the Ranch.

Have you noticed, as you're traveling down the road, how the vegetation looks so much better where the livestock cannot get to it? I wonder if we fenced off the area in front of the Ranch if that would improve the landscape?

Arrived at the Ranch on June 23. It is really quiet. Roger and T are doing battle with the weeds. Happy hour has moved to the sun room and we have two new lease holders - Gill & Diane on lot 76 and Jerry & Barb on lot 60.

While here we have seen some new critters and actually felt rain. LOTS OF RAIN. One critter looks like a miniature from the movie "Alien". It's a black scorpion. Also black tarantulas about 4 inches in diameter seem quite active. Roger said he saw 10 at one time. It's mating season. Birds peck all the legs off then eat the body.

Some days the temp shoots over 100 degrees and other days thunderstorms soak the area. One day we witnessed marble size hail. The rain keeps us cool, the critters keep us entertained and the booming of the loud sonic cannons from the pecan tree orchards keep us alert.

We will leave here after the 4th of July and head to Colorado's cool country. Hope to see you down the road and HAPPY TRAILS. Lou Novy

PS: Would have e-mailed this last night but a skunk in front of our lot was blocking the path to the pay phone.



Hi Everyone,

Well, finally made it to Mackinac Island! We treated ourselves to a high speed catamaran round trip and it was really neat. The weather finally cooperated as well, we had a lovely day exploring the island and even treated ourselves to a huge fresh made turtle candy. Hard on our food management plan but really good. Have had much rain, which they needed badly, even the Great Lakes are suffering from a lack of rain. But the rain has helped put a dent in our plans.

The bedroom slide gears lost some teeth a couple of days out of Omaha, where the landing gear had been replaced. Since it was several hundred miles back, we had to live with manually putting out the slide at each stop. Not a lot of fun so cut back on the number of stops. The new gearbox is being drop shipped to Beth's sister in lower Michigan and we are really looking forward to getting it.

We did have a lovely visit with some of Dave's relatives while staying at Van Riper State Park in the central UP. The park is one of our favorites, located right on a beautiful lake and the sunsets are just breathtaking there. Our site there this year was like living in a cave of trees just on the edge of the lake. Amber loved it and almost caught a chipmunk while

I was walking her on her leash! Needless to say, she didn't want to leave when it was time to pack up and move on.

Our phone has worked well this year with the Internet except for a couple of areas. So this has been a major improvement. Our signal did get captured in one area of Wyoming by another service and we were forced to use their customer service rep to get calls out. Also, according to our son, they weren't able to get through to us at all. FCC may need to look into the practice of call capture.

At Straits State Park, just before you cross the bridge into lower Michigan, the gulls flying overhead made it seem like we were back home in Aransas Pass and Amber spent most of her time in the windows. But they were so huge, she was afraid to be outside with them! After driving up to see the Soo Locks, we headed across "the bridge" today to spend some time in lower Michigan, where we both grew up. Hope you are enjoying a lovely summer too.

Take care & Love,  
Beth, Dave & Amber

Dear Ranch Friends:

Dave, Bear and I are enjoying the summer at Santee Lakes Campground in Santee, California (East of San Diego). We oversee 62 campsites. So far Dave has had to kill only 3 rattlesnakes.

I am an official foster duck mother of seven Mallard ducklings. Project Wildlife has trained volunteers and provided warming lamps, bins and pens. I provide their feed, clean the bins and keep them safe and happy. There are many predators here from fish, to hawks, squirrels, raccoons and coyotes. After four weeks, I take them to a reserve which keeps them till they can fly and then they are released on nearby lakes.

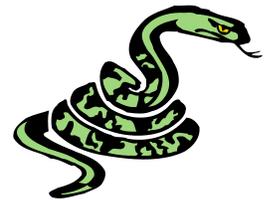
Dave goes deep sea fishing once a week on his days off. He is catching yellowtail, sand bass, sculpin, and barracuda. They fish the kelp beds on the half day boat and out to Coronado Islands on the 3/4 day boat but he really enjoys the full day boat that goes down into Mexican waters. He caught a King Salmon on one trip. One of only a half dozen ever caught in the San Diego area over a year.

Dave visits his dad in a nursing home regularly and his dad loves to hear his fishing tales. We helped his mom move from the family home of 45 years into a lovely apartment.

Bear is enjoying the marine layer coolness in the morning when he goes for his walk. The afternoons are very warm and evenings cool. He loves to ride in the cart.

We are looking forward to Bev and Bill Heeter joining us here soon, and to being back at the Ranch this fall and seeing everybody. A special welcome to the new leaseholders, Jerry and Barb Pruett. We volunteered with them at Santee Lakes last summer and again this year. They will be a welcome addition to our Ranch family.

Pat and Dave Armstrong



Dear Ranch Friends:

Summer in Cheyenne is a busy one, on the go here and there every week to rallies, rambles, campouts, etc. As if there wasn't enough to do I joined FMCA. Several gals from the Singles also are active there, so now the chapter here has one more member! Next week to the WY State Good Sam Samboree for about 1 week. Then I'm invited to travel to N. Dakota for a few weeks with a gal from here. Etc. Etc. Etc!

Hugs, Helen Farnsworth

Hello fellow Escapees!

We left The Original Ranch, went to Round Lake Park, IL to see our son John Bowman & Fiancé Deanna Ramos and spent a month helping them and had a good visit. Then we left and they moved to FT. Worth, TX.

Then we went to Amana Colonies and ate some good food! Chuck couldn't believe I didn't shop till I dropped!

Next stop, Spirit Lake and Okojobi, IA. Went to Jeffers MN to see Petroglyphs. Then to Avon, South Dakota to see Bev & Lenny Ratzlaff. Don't blink, though, you might miss Avon! But that town is big! compared to Olivet! 74 people!

We had a awesome! time at The Ratzlaff's and Fred & Joyce Cook, & Milo & Bettie Marquardt's came too! So we had a little Mini Rally, just missed Rusty & Mary Irons as they came after we left.

Then we came to see my nephew Bill & Lori Pahl in Castle Rock, CO and Don & Mary Hovis are working in a Park in Monument. Got to spend a day with them, a good time, we saw the Rodeo Hall of Fame in Colorado Springs. We will leave Monument and go to Montana, then maybe WY and on to WA then OR.

That's all Folk's.

Hope all your travels are Safe & Happy.

God Bless You All.

PS We want to thank Everybody for The Prayers and Sympathy Cards for Chuck's Brother. It was appreciated.

HUGS LILLIAN & CHUCK COWLES

Dear SKP Friends:

Bob and I left the Ranch in May, traveling east. I did my annual genealogy research in Marshall, MO and then met up with Lynell and Greg in Hermann, MO to enjoy the German food and wine.

We spent 3 weeks in IL with my Mom. While there, our kids flew in for a week of reunions, sightseeing, and fun. We saw "Sue," the T. Rex, at the Field Museum in Chicago.

Mississippi Palisades State Park in IL is a great place to stay, and the Effigy Mounds National Park in IA was very interesting. On to Hutchinson, MN to meet Lynell and Greg again and "Shafter" Mike and Margie. More sightseeing, fun and food.

We will visit Bismark and Medora (Theodore Roosevelt National Park) in ND with Mike and Margie before going north to Canada. Greg and Lynell will head east. See you sometime in October or November at the Ranch.

Hugs,  
Bob and Marilyn Railey

Dear Friends:

We're having a Texas summer at Canyon Lake between Austin and San Antonio. If you are a member of Coast to Coast and have missed Lake Pointe Resort where we are staying, you've

missed a real treat. It features typical Texas Hill Country charm, complete with beautiful oak trees, the rock buildings so characteristic of this area, and wonderful hill and lake views. The site we are on overlooks the lake and we watch the sun set behind the hills each evening. We water ski weekday mornings between nine and eleven in order to beat the heat and the boat traffic. Most of the time we have a cove to ourselves. On the weekends we stay off the lake!

We've had four of our six grand kids here for swimming, boating, and trips to San Antonio to learn some Texas history by visiting the Alamo and other sites.

We'll return to the Ranch at the end of July to drop the trailer and pack for a trip to Greece, Turkey, Israel and Egypt.

Hugs, Jennie and Rudy Shubert

Hello!

Just wishing to say "howdy." We had a swift and safe trip east and ended up spending a month in Atlanta with our daughter and her family. She is still having medical problems and as usual we are on call official baby-sitters for the next round of treatments.

In mid-June, we headed up to Illinois to spend a few weeks with our son and his family. Believe us, there is

no drought in Illinois.

We are now in Hutchinson, Minnesota having fun with Marilyn and Bob Railey and Lynell Arnott and Greg Vederoff. Next we will be heading north to the Dakotas and Canada so Mike can expand his search for "bad food" at the international level.

The friendship, food and sightseeing here in Minnesota has been great but every now and then Mike gets a longing to return home to Shafter, Texas to reflect on his childhood memories. He misses his fellow Shaftites.

Wishing you all "Happy Trails" and look forward to seeing you at the Ranch.

Shafter Mike & Margie Klick



## TROCKELS TIPS

by Ede Trockels

Things to make living with hard water a little easier.

- Use ZEST soap in shower or tub, less soap scum.
- Rub glass shower doors with a white vinegar dampened sponge to remove soap residue.
- Need a place to store the catalytic heater when not in use? We found that it fits on top of the furnace under the refrigerator. Out of the way, but easy to get to.

Hi Friends,

The travel plans of the Bryant's have often changed, sometimes for the better and sometimes not so good — like the gas prices going out of sight. This trip seems to have gone along with my philosophy of “buy high and sell low.” Ya gotta love it.

In December we headed to Hondo to spend the holidays with the grand kids. As we expected all went well. After things settled down I ventured into San Antonio and purchased some new hearing aids so I could hear Gloria give me better directions.

I had made plans to attend an Airborne Reunion being held in El Paso in July. So in the meantime we decided to go to the Escapade in Lancaster, CA.

On the way west we stop in Phoenix to visit with No. 1 son who is stationed at Luke Air Base in Glendale, over to Yuma where I added two new golf cart batteries, two solar panels and an inverter, plus a ceramic heater to the motor home — all the while setting not too far from Dick and Betty Hardy and Ken and Maxine White out at Senator Wash in the Imperial Valley. Stayed 17 days and liked it very much.

Back on the way we go through Quartzite and Bullhead City where we met up with Frank and Peggy Ptacnik and spend an enjoyable day visiting the donkeys at Oatman, AZ.

I must mention that we stopped at a little campground in the Mojave National Preserve about 50 miles west of Needles named the Hole in the Wall. Five bucks a day with water available and great views. Stayed a week.

Stopped in Santa Paula, CA, during Strawberry Harvest. A week of berry eating, then over to Ventura and the Emma Woods State Park right on the ocean. If you go try for spot no. 39. It was a good one, long and wide. We enjoyed walking the beach and a few good bonfires with some of the neighbors. Gypsy loved it, she could run and play for hours.

So now to the Escapade for a great week of fun stuff with lots of SKP friends. Unfortunately for us it rained and the infield we were parked in turned into eight inches of soup. The park people did a great job drying it out as best they could.

We had not been very far into California for almost 34 years and at that time we were with four young children, so we don't remember a lot except all that racket from the rear of the station wagon — yuck. So let's go see a few things we somehow missed the last time. Coursegold is having their annual “Sierra Days.” We head for the park. During our stay we go for a few day trips to Yosemite Park (Oh yeah, Dad, the place with the waterfall.) We bought post cards and pointed out some of the great places the kids had fights in. Park Sierra is a very nice park.

We are also Good Sam members and we had never been to a Samboree. We see that one will be in Lodi CA during the Lodi Wine Festival, soooo, what luck say I, so here we come. Very similar to an Escapade without all the hugging — very sterile.

Now moving on to San Francisco. Ah yes, San Francisco was, as always, a fantastic place. The Bay Bridge itself is a real trip. We settled into Candlestick Park, hopped into the car and went to Fisherman's Wharf and signed up for a whole bunch of tourist stuff. Spent the next few days doing Cable Car rides, China Town, Alcatraz, the Presidio, and the Golden Gate Bridge.

Let's move along the coast now while stopping often to let Gloria and Gypsy explore the beaches and enjoy the beautiful coastline. We had come this far so we decide to continue on to the SKP park in Sutherlin, OR — another very nice park where we meet new Ranch leaseholders Denny and Nora LaBeau. She now knows how to play Hand & Foot so watch it!

After a weeks stay we once more move north to the city of Newport, OR. This small port town is the site of the Aquarium that Willie the Whale of Free Willie fame was. Now that the whale has been set free, they have reworked the aquarium with a large glass tunnel that you walk through with all the marine life swimming all about you. Very impressive.

But now it's time to start back to the Ranch for a short while to empty out an accumulation of stuff to make room for some different stuff. The trip back was uneventful except for the price of gas that would make your eyes water.

After the El Paso thing we will be going to FL and visit with no. 3 son who is in the Air Force as well, and will be assigned to a base in Cypress for a year. Disney called and told Gloria to bring Dan, his wife and two children plus lots of money and stop in for a visit. Why not.

We will be seeing you all in the fall.

SKP Hugs,

The Bryants — Jim, Gloria and Gypsy

**The Original Ranch PALAVER**

P.O. Box 109  
Lakewood, NM 88254-0109

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# In The Kitchen with Mary

by Mary Irons, Food Editor

## Sauerkraut Salad

by Mary Irons

- 1 can drained Sauerkraut (Bavarian)
- 1 small jar pimento pieces
- 1/4 cup diced bell pepper
- 1 small onion diced
- 1 cup sugar
- 1 t. vinegar
- 2 t. celery seed
- Diced celery (optional)

Mix together and chill. Keeps well.

## Frozen Fruit Salad/ Dessert

Submitted by Bettie Marquardt  
Served at the St. Patrick's Day Dinner

- 1-8 oz. + 1-3 oz. lite cream cheese (total 11 oz.)
- 1/2 cup sugar
- 1-20 oz can crushed pineapple (own syrup) drained
- 3 sliced bananas
- 1-16 oz. or 20 oz. cool whip, lite or nonfat

Mix cream cheese and sugar.  
Mix fruits and then mix in cream cheese mixture.  
Fold in cool whip and put in 9x13 pan.  
Freeze at least over night.  
Cut into squares. Makes approximately 20-24 servings  
1 to 2.5 diet points (credits) per serving.