



PALAVER

FOUNDED BY
C.T.HANCOX
SKP#16549
1998

THE ORIGINAL RANCH LAKEWOOD, NM

VOLUME XI NUMBER 6
Web Site: www.skpranch.com
Phone: 575/457-2303

Office: skpranch@pvtnetworks.net

November -December 2008
ranch_ramblings@yahoo.com
FAX: 575/457-2100

President – Karl Komatz **Vice-President – Jim Ward** **Secretary – Laura Melvin** **Treasurer – Doug Hubbard**
Bob Abbott **Lucille Billings** **Roxy Colomb** **Carol Fishel** **Merrilee Mager**

COMMITTEE CONTACTS

AS EACH COMMITTEE AT THE RANCH SELCTS ITS MEMBERS, CHAIRMAN, AND IS ASSIGNED A LIASON, PLEASE LET ROXY KNOW THE NAMES OF THE CHAIRPERSON AND THE LIASON SO THAT INFORMATION MAY BE POSTED HERE. . NAMES ARE ALL THAT IS NEEDED SINCE ALL MEMBERS OF THE RANCH HAVE A LISTING OF ADDRESSES, PHONE NUMBERS AND E-MAIL ADDRESSES.



DEL POSADO (From The Past)

Little known facts culled from various past 'Palaver' issues)

IN 1978 ,Richard Gruenwald met Joe and Kay Peterson while visiting an RV park in Deming,NM. The Peterson's showed Richard plans at that time for a new co-op in New Mexico. Richard re-drew the plans so that lots would be at a 60 degree angle rather than a perpendicular angle to a narrow road.

September 1982 – SKP newsletter reports that another co-op will be built in Lakewood.

Joe Peterson's friend Wayne Gregory offered 15 acres of Joe's choice (where the most trees were, and next to the arroyo).

Wayne allowed the co-op to dig calcite from nearby plus he helped in procuring good prices for pipes, etc.

1983 – Roni Foster's daily diary revealed: Snow fell every month early 83 thru April – as much as 10" a month.

Flo Schmalz's article reminisced, "Beginning April 25th well casings and sewage pipes were delivered, trenching began, the poles were up and power was provided".

Some 'Firsts' in 1983:

First rattlesnake was killed on April 9, 83; the second on April 11.

First president was Ted Lee.

First shed, ranch bunkhouse style, was built on Ogilvie's #t 96. Dozen or so more sheds were in-park by first fall 1983.

First Bell – Bill & Sarah Webb located a dinner bell circa 1890 used to call Tennessee plantation workers to dinner. Two Webb families donated the bell.

Entrance road and first cattle guard off NM 381 completed by September 29

October: three designs for Ranch House submitted to members ("long, low building with walls of slump block, an imitative adobe."

1984 - Ranch House Cornerstone: Early 1984. "1984 coins set in windowsills

Road Building Equipment: dump truck, backhoe, and trailer bought for \$17,000.00 (equipment moved on to Livingston for use in building other SKP parks.)

March/April – Lot rental increased from \$2.00 to \$3.00 a day.

Adjacent land with a 130 ft well dug and owned by Wayne Gregory purchased.

A few article titles from the past (March 1998)

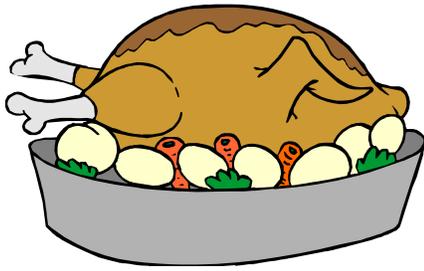
"Palaver Scribe says VEEP Has Hand In Blouses" (take a guess on Ranch Ramblings as to whose article this was.)

"Is Doo-Doo Missing In Your Life"

"I Dream of Geology"

By

Cindy Johnson Lot # 92



HAPPY HOLIDAYS



AROUND THE RANCH

What a wonderful place to come back to and what a great family. It is amazing how much is going on and the number of “Ranch Hands” who are coming home. We are slowly getting back to an almost full house and Happy Hour fills the Ranch House using all fifteen of the round tables.

Lago Vista is a lot less lonely and Pecos Pass is slowly getting more occupants. Coyote Run is called by a few new names instead of ‘The Street Of The Elite’, and Quiet, Quaint Quail Trail is starting to make as much noise as windy wild Windmill Vista, well almost. Sunset Lane is still Sunset Lane

The water situation is still stable but well # 2 is acting real ornery and Rich and Arnie and other water weenies are having a time. Do you suppose it is suffering from “Those Terrible Two’s” ?

Round-up is getting into gear and things, as well as people, are looking spooking, scary, and sometimes foolish but so far nothing to scream about. At Happy Hour one night a sweet little old lady from the days of yon dropped in saying she had gotten lost and the Post Mistress set her on the right path and she wanted to know if she could come to the horse races since she thought that would be fun. All said she was welcome but I wonder if she really knows what she is in for.

There are some really great raffles going on for Round-up with three different raffles. One is the regular raffle with some very different prizes including a bottle of wine with two hand painted glasses; another is for the Anniversary Quilt which our quilters have been working on for the past year, the third is for an expensive GPS system donated by the Carlsbad RV Repair. Want to win one? Well if you are not now in the park it is too late because by the time you read this it will all be over.

As most of you know I am absent from The Ranch at this time and on the high sea, well aboard ship in any event. So this article is being written by my ghostly spirit and I hope it knows what it is talking about.

See you all in mid-November and until then Safe Sailing – oh no that is for me!

Frank Leiberman



ESCAPADE 2008



GILLETTE, WYOMING

It was Escapees' 30th Birthday and it was quite a celebration. It was a different experience for us who have worked "The Row" before. "The Row" was inside which kept us out of the wind and rain but there were a couple of days that it was so hot we wished we were outside in the breeze. It seems the air conditioning was not quite up to par. I missed being able to run in my rig for a drink or snack or anything else we might need and forgot to bring with us. "The Row" was not parked together. We were spread all over the place and we missed the closeness. We had to drive home every so often to let our dog out also.

Saturday, the day that we went in to the Cam-Plex was very hectic. After getting our rig all set up, we had to drive to the building, unload our stuff and get set up. At noon we had parade practice. At 1:00 pm we had to be at a conference for co-ops. This was headed up by Angie Carr and was very interesting. It is surprising how all co-ops seem to have many of the same problems that we do. This lasted until 3:00 at which time we were to open our booths for 2 hours so the people that were already at Escapade working could come visit us before the official on Sunday.

We met lots of folks who had never been to The Ranch before and hopefully we enticed them into visiting us the next time they are in the area. Folks that had already visited The Ranch said that they will be definitely be back. Many people asked about our water problem. It was so great to tell them that all has been taken care of and that we now have the best water in the Escapee system.

Susie and Denny Orr will hold a two day rally at Quartzite again in January. Any Escapee can join them for Happy Hour on the 15th and 16th from 1:00 to 3:00 PM. Just bring a chair, drink and a snack to pass. Same location as last year.

Next year the Escapade will be May 24 –29 in Sedalia MO.

We had a nice dine-out at a Chinese Restaurant with several Ranch Hands on July 4th. It was so good to see the Gleasons, Jones, Vederoffs, Stuvels, Braums, Walthers, Lugers and former leaseholder Chuck Cowles with his guest Ketty. That evening they put on a quite a fireworks show right there at the Cam-Plex.

We would like to give a special thanks to Lynell and Greg and Casey and Spike for watching our booth while we grabbed a bite to eat. All other Ranch Hands offered also and we thank them. We sure have a great family here.

Trudie & John Tenison

#67553

The Ranch "Row" Representatives.

UPDATE

Hello from Lot # 10. Well Round-Up is over, everyone is tired but we had a great time. Soren and I got back to The Ranch mid-October. It sure does feel good to be “home”! We had a nice summer which we spent mostly at Rushmore Shadows in the Black Hills. Lovely area with lots to do, but over the years we’ve been there, done that” so now we can relax when we are there.

Many have asked about my Grandson., John. He continues to make slow progress although he remains totally paralyzed and blind. My daughter thinks he has a little control over one of his legs. We have never given up hope that he will continue to recover. He now owns a home in Tampa and Chris has accessible for him. He has had wonderful care at the Tampa VA Hospital, but I’m sure they will both be glad to get into a home.

Bar & Soren Walther
Lot # 10



WITH MANY THANKS

We can only say thank you, to everyone at The Ranch who is and has been so helpful to us during this time since we came ‘home’.

You have all been so wonderful and have certainly proved, if it ever needed proving, that when it counts we are one great family.

We have certainly enjoyed being back and this year it looks as though we will not be leaving except for possible dental and or medical reasons. We’re thankful that 10 years ago we made the decision to have The Ranch be our “bolt hole” when we needed to have a place to come back to and mayhap to spend our days.

**So once again
Thanks
Roxy & Tom
Lot # 1**



DID YOU KNOW !

Winter is coming – yes, you already knew that but – Did you Know how winter affects life at The Ranch ?

Wrap those pipes

Nighttime temperatures in the winter can dip below freezing, so unless you really like to have your water connections turn to ice, it is wise to wrap your hose and water connections. Many leaseholders keep a light bulb on inside their “water houses” during cold winter nights.

Wind loves awnings

Wind is a way of life in New Mexico. Never, ever, leave your awnings out when you go away from The Ranch even for a little while. Strong gusts can come up suddenly and no one enjoys finding their awning on the roof.

Winter Holidays

Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Years can be lots of fun at The Ranch. Besides the usual feasts, the Ranch House and most of the lots are decorated for Christmas giving The Ranch a very festive appearance.

Ranch Hands usually provide Grammy’s House (a shelter in Artesia for victims of domestic abuse) with some type of Christmas gifts. These gifts depend on what is needed most. Grammy’s House has a Thrift Shop on West Main in Artesia and accepts gifts of clothing and small household items all year.

Winter Is Not The only Time

...to save labels, box tops for education, pull tabs and aluminum cans. There is a container in The Ranch House for Campbell’s Soup labels as well as box tops for education coupons. These are sent to the Hopi Indian Mission School at Kykotsmovi, AZ to be redeemed for supplies for their schools. Pull tabs from Aluminum cans can be deposited in a container next to the coffee pot in the Ranch House Kitchen. The Escapees Elks BOF collects these for Ronald McDonald House nearest the Escapade. Put all aluminum cans in the container by The Ranch House door. Proceeds go to The Ranch.

Have a Happy Holiday season!

Shirley Partch

Welcome Committee Chair

Once upon a time a very special badger was living in Lakewood NM. He was a very special badger, not just your normal badger. Mr. Todd Badger lived in a small travel trailer, and in his travels he came upon The Ranch here in Lakewood, NM. When he saw all those RVs parked out in the desert, he said to himself, "This is where I belong. I finally found a home." So he found a hole just the right size to park his travel trailer and to stay for the winter.

Now he was very cozy in this small trailer, his possessions all had special places and he kept them in their places, so his trailer was always neat and he knew where everything was. He had a nice view of The Ranch but was far enough away to be by himself. He was by a mesquite patch that gave him plenty of beans for coffee, and plenty of grasshoppers all over the place for a snack and plenty of food here in the desert.



He was very comfortable – and **then it happened!**

One cold morning, he had his little wood stove lit for warmth, was eating his breakfast, and with his glasses on his nose he was reading his newspaper when disaster struck.

First he heard the cow walking by, but that was ok, cows are good neighbors.

Then he heard the voices. "Oh my goodness" he says to himself, "I HAVE BEEN DISCOVERED".

The grasses over his hole parted and two very gray haired women were looking down his hole. They had seen his smoke on this cold morning and had found his hidey-hole. Who would believe that the little smoke that his stove was making would lead these women to his home. They looked and then they left - thank goodness! But he said to himself, "I can't stay here now, I have been discovered".

He quickly packed up his trailer for travel but that didn't take long because everything was already in place as he is so neat. So he quickly moved out of the hole and headed for another campsite. But since he is a very good RVer, he very carefully cleaned around his camp so no sign was left that he was there. He found another very nice site a little further out in the desert but still in sight of The Ranch, after all he is an RVer and wants to stay with other RVer's.

The old gray haired women went looking for Mr. Todd Badger's campsite hole, and he had done such a good job of cleaning up his old site that these two women could not find where he had been parked. They trampled all over the area where they thought Mr. Todd Badger had been parked but they couldn't find any sign of his old campsite.

Thus the legend of Mr. Todd Badger has been born.

There was also a report that a small trailer pulled by a badger had boarded the ghostly steamboat. Pecos Belle, and thus Mr. Todd Badger has continued his exploration of New Mexico.

Love from The Ranch
In Beautiful New Mexico

WHO WERE THESE TWO GRAY HAIRD LADIES?
WHY DID THEY LET MR. TODD BADGER GO WHEN THEY FOUND HIM?
WILL MR. TODD BADGER EVER RETURN TO OUR DESERT,
OR DID HE TRULY EVER LEAVE?

MOVING IN
 Gary & Jennifer Roessler Lot 56
 Jay & Ellen Mc Connell Lot 91
 Les & Elaine Simms Lot 42

MOVING AROUND
 Laura Melvin
 From Lot 42 to lot 118

MOVING OUT
 Lew & Eleanor Leistikow Lot 56
 Jack & Ruby Tubbs Lot 91



BIRTHDAYS

NOVEMBER

- 1 Bob Railey
- 4 Gene Sharp
- 4 Helen Farnsworth
- 15 Don Gage
- 17 Jan Boman
- 17 Wally Mauck
- 17 Norm Partch
- 19 Barb Lucas
- 23 Carl Johnson
- 29 Bill Heeter

DECEMBER

- 1 Carol Fishel
- 9 Barb Heaver
- 11 Vern Miller
- 12 Sue Arnold

ANNIVERSARIES

NOVEMBER

- 1 Weiss
- 5 Carey
- 10 Johnson
- 14 Nyman
- 15 Heeter
- 22 Novy

DECEMBER

- 7 Lucas
- 11 Tarvin
- 13 Fishel
- 22 Rundall
- 24 Komatz
- 28 Railey
- 29 Koontz
- 31 Brunton

STILL ENJOYING

After being at The Ranch all summer, we left in Mid-Sept to travel. On our way to Las Vegas, NV we stopped to tour the VLA in western NM. We had stopped there once before but this time we went through the museum and the walking tour. It was interesting and we recommend it to others.

The next day we were finally able to see Meteor Crater in AZ. It was the third time we had made plans to stop and finally nothing interfered. The next evening found us in Bullhead City, AZ at 111 degrees! We had thought we left the triple digits behind in late September, wrong of course, we had not packed a fan and our AC barely held its own with those temps

After a wonderful weekend with the kids /grandkids in Las Vegas, NV we turned around and headed east toward Monument Valley. 2 days is not enough time to see everything there.

Reunions are always fun and the Chili Chapter Rally was no exception. We had not seen most of the attendees since spring so there was lots of catching up as well as all the new learning's and experiences planned by Roxy. Thanks Roxy, for all the work you did to make this rally so enjoyable. The San Juan River reminded us of how much we had missed camping along the rivers in Alaska this past summer.

We returned to The Ranch to find that the population had doubled in the 3 weeks we had been gone. We aren't sure of our plans for the winter.

Dave & Sally Stribling
Lot # 86

NEWBIES

We became lease holders in late January and were only here for a short time in March in preparation for our Alaskan trip this summer. We returned just 4 days before the beginning of the Round-Up. This was our first official Round-Up as leaseholders (# 9) and we had an absolutely great time.

We enjoyed being introduced to the local desert via the Pecos Diamond outing and are now the proud owners of many "diamonds and a rainbow cactus.

The geo-caching trip was great fun (but do watch out for those tripping barbed wires, they'll bring you down every time). This was a lot of fun for us as we had a lot about geo-caching, but had never had an opportunity to partake in such a pastime. When we were out on the Pecos Diamond trip we found another geo-cache and added our name to that list.

One of our favorite activities was the horse racing. Those dang dice weren't our friends but the wine helped soothe our spirits and the camaraderie made for a very fun evening.

Another great event that we specially enjoyed was the garage sale as it gave a chance to meet some of our neighbors that we hadn't had an opportunity to meet prior to this. We were able to visit with others without any time restrictions or other events interfering. As we are very slow learners we are hoping that this type of event (Garage sales etc.) will continue as a monthly or bi-monthly activity so we can get to know you all better.

We have thoroughly enjoyed ourselves and hope to get more involved next year.

Russ & Gretchen Berquam
Lot #9

SOMEONE IS STILL ON THE ROAD



DOUBLE HEADER

PART ONE (Roxy never got this one while she was in PA so it's included here)

Greetings from Coho Park in Washington! So far we've put on over 4000 miles' enjoyed hiking, kayaking, wildlife watching, sightseeing, and have taken lots of pictures in the process. After our 2 week stay at the cattle ranch in Idaho, we spent a week in Lewiston at the Life On Wheels Conference before heading over to Coeur d'Alene area to enjoy some good kayaking time and a day-long cruise on the lake. Our next major stop was 9 days at Glacier National Park, where a good friend from CA flew in to join us as a houseguest. We did a lot of hiking and sightseeing, including one challenging hike in the snow that almost did me in. After she left we spent some downtime boondocking at a COE fisherman's access point along the Columbia River. Had fun watching ALL THE WINDSURFERS AND WENT TO THE Stonehenge Memorial in Maryhill, bought produce from the orchards, kayaked a nice quiet creek and enjoyed bird watching, and we picked lots and lots of fresh blackberries. YUM_YUM

We headed over to a Passport America park and spent several days enjoying Mt Rainier NP and saw some of our best wild flower displays of the whole trip in that area. We did some shorter hikes there but opted to avoid the trails that were still snow-covered. A day trip to Mt St Helens found many of the roads closed from previous slide/storm damage and overcast skies moved in to prevent any good picture taking, but we enjoyed the lava tubes and Bill crawled through the tree molds left from the lava flows long ago, which were really neat.

We arrived here at the SKP park on August 8th and a week later, that same friend from CA rented an RV and drove up here to join us. We took her smaller rig over to Olympic NP for several days and went hiking in the rain forest (where it didn't rain) and over to the coast along the beach (where it did rain!) We also explored Pt Townsend with its Victorian homes, took a whale watching cruise, and saw several pods of orcas, and enjoyed eating lots and lots of fresh seafood. Another thing I've loved here is the abundance of farmers markets and great produce available and all the beautiful flower gardens everywhere... We also took a long day trip back over to St Helens yesterday seeing the weather looked like it wasn't going to be cooperating by the time we were going to head out and were rewarded with a beautiful day and great pictures. So it was a good decision for our final outing.

Our extended play period is drawing to a close and we're getting ready to head home to The Ranch unless Bill lines up a new job enroute and we have to change directions. We've paid anywhere from \$4.79 to a recent low of \$4.29 for diesel on this trip and hopefully those prices will keep dropping as we head for NM. Hope to arrive by Labor Day weekend and are looking forward to at least a short visit.

PART TWO (Here's the rest of the story)

Spent most of the month of September at The Ranch recuperating from our trip after logging in just shy of 6000 miles, and enjoyed some downtime while Bill put his job search into high gear. I went back to work right away seeing my boss was getting ready to hire more people and I didn't want to lose my

place in the pecking order after already being off for four months. We did make time to take the camper van and spend the night in Roswell so we could attend the Dragon Fly festival at Bitter Lake NWR and-despite ferocious mosquitos- enjoyed the early morning bird watching tour and the behind the scenes guided tour, and learned more about dragon flies than I ever thought possible.

Although Bill was contracting on finding a job in the warmer climates like Memphis, Texas and Florida, he was contacted by for a 5 month position in Akron, OH at a company he had worked for back in the spring of 2005. He got the call on Wednesday, did a phone interview on Friday morning and was offered the job one hour later. So on Monday we left for Ohio. With the job market so uncertain, guess we couldn't afford to pass up a sure thing for in hopes something better would turn up later. Unfortunately, most campgrounds were getting ready to close up for the season except for one about 40 miles out in the middle of nowhere, and the thought of being stranded out there in the middle of winter of winter didn't hold much appeal for me. Working on the old statement, "If mamma ain't happy ain't nobody happy", Bill took pity on me and we decided to look for an apartment instead. Couldn't find anything furnished(except for those corporate type suites that cost way too much money) so we ended up in an unfurnished 2 bedroom upstairs apartment of an older home (over 100 years old) that's only five miles from Bill's job. Luckily it has good energy efficient windows and a totally remodeled kitchen, including a dishwasher and it's close to shopping, restaurants etc. I never realized how much stuff we'd accumulated in the coach until we started lugging everything up a flight of stairs, but we finally got almost everything unloaded and have settled in for the time being. Had to go out and buy a few things (a small dresser, floorlamps, microwave and a computer desk for me seeing as the one in the coach is built in) but overall, think this was the way to go rather than trying to struggle thru the winter in the coach. Our landlord had us park the rig on another property he owns 2 doors down, so its nice and handy in case we need to access it.

Its been quite a few years since we've been somewhere to enjoy the leaves changing colors and we even went to nearby Cuyahoga NP and took a day long tour on the C.V. Scenic Railroad to appreciate the scenery. Saw an eagle, great blue heron, and even a small herd of deer running alongside the tracks, but didn't get to see any beavers that might inhabit one of the marsh areas. We're also planning a weekend trip up to Buffalo, NY area where one of Bill's coworkers from Las Vegas is currently employed, although we're to late to take a cruise on the "Maid of the Mist" at Niagara Falls. Depending on the weather, we may try to get in some more cross country skiing or snowshoeing while we're here.

We don't know if this job will end in February or perhaps go a little longer, but we hope to end up back in NM afterwards. Hopefully the fuel prices will continue their downward trend for those of you still on the road, and we wish everybody safe travels...

Pat, Bill and Samantha the Kamper Kitty
#106 Windmill Vista

PALMVIEW
THE RANCH
P.O. BOX 109
LAKEWOOD, N.M. 88254



LOCAL PARK IN ST. MARY, GA