



PALAUVER

FOUNDED BY
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THE ORIGINAL RANCH
LAKEWOOD, NM

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President – Debra Simmonds-Amari Lucille Billings	Vice-President – Karl Komatz Roxy Colomb	Secretary – Cindy Johnson Carol Fishel	Treasurer – Linda Good Merrilee Mager John Tenison
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LOOKING BACK (A POSADA)

[Hmmm, Notifying office of coming's and going's continues (of all Ranch Hands now), plus an accountant is in].

VOL. I NO. 2 FEBRUARY 1998

Memo From The Managers

A new year and many changes to The Ranch office. We have a new computer system and new software, which will eventually make the workload lighter, yet allow for better record keeping. A lot of data from the old system did not get transferred so Ann is spending a lot of time putting form letters and other things into the new machine.

Our new accountant, a CPA, is making some procedural changes that will let us maintain our non-profit status as well as having a detailed paper trail in case of an outside audit.

Jim, and Fred Cook, installed the new dryers, and they seem to be working well. Let's keep our collective fingers crossed – If you haven't given the office your 50 amp service request, please call and get it turned in quickly.

PLEASE!!! If your site is in the rental pool let the office know when you are leaving the co-op (and returning). This is VERY important with our new electric billing system.

THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH: Wouldn't it be great if we could sell our experience for what it cost us?

Jim & Ann Harrison

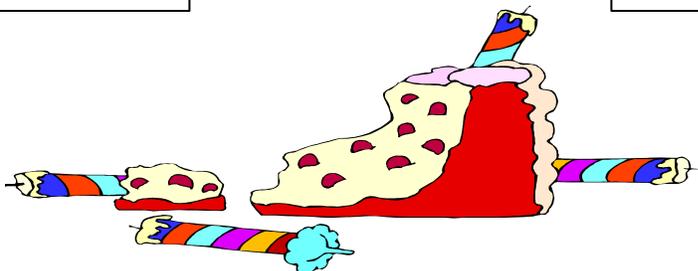
Submitted by
Cindy Johnson
Lot # 92

VAYA CON DIOS

MOVING OUT
BOB STINSON
LOT # 33

BIEN VENIDOS

MOVING IN
JIM & BEVERLY HUGHES
LOT # 33



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

SEPTEMBER

DON RANES	1
TOM COLOMB	5
DOUG WOOD	7
BARRY WEISS	9
ELEANOR LEISTIKOW	18
BOB TROCKELS	21
JOANNE MAUCK	27
JIM WISSMAN	27

OCTOBER

CHICKIE RUNDALL	1
JOE CHERRY	5
CHARLES BUTLER	7
MARY LEE WISSMAN	10
MERRILEE MAGER	13
CASS DAVIS	16
SUE HOFFMEISTER	18
JIM FAGAN	18
DEAN MINARD	19
JIM CUNNINGHAM	19
HARRY FISHEL	25
BOB NYMAN	25
JOHN WHITE	28
JUDY FAGAN	29
BOB HELM	31
GEORGE FREY	31

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

SEPTEMBER

BILL & MARY SMITH	2
JIM & MAY LEE WISSMAN	7
RICH & MELANIE BAKER	18
BILL & LINDA GOOD	31

OCTOBER

BOB & HELEN ABBOTT	12
HENRY & LINDA BUTLER	14

WITH MANY THANKS

IN HONOR OF JACK METCALF

Thank you for your kindness you have shown through Jack's illness and death on May 30th.

The memorial services at The Ranch House were indeed memorable: a "ten-man Marine Honor Guard from El Paso, the flag ceremony, the 21 gun salute, and the taps. I will always treasure the flag given to me during the ceremony, as well as the flag box you purchased. Thank you for that gift and for the additional monies you donated to Vista Care in Jack's name.

It meant a lot to our family that so many of you were able to attend the services. Jake and I miss Jack tremendously. Being in this community of friends helps.

Sincerely,

Sumi Metcalf

Lot # 81

**REMEMBER WHEN
BLUE REFLECTORS**

Go back 20 years or more, before the phone booth was here- and not many had cell phones at that time. We had blue reflectors at the corner of our lots so folks could use our phone.

When we left the SKP park for any length of time, the reflector would be taken to the office, on our return we would pick up the reflector from the office and put it back on the lot.

Russell G Loomis

SKP # 2536 Lot # 20



AROUND THE RANCH

Well summer is coming to an end and I am out for a walk to burn off some calories from “The First Annual Ladies Appreciation Luncheon”. A hearty meal of Hamburgers, Brats, Bean Salad, Potato Salad and ice cream with berries desert was served to the ladies by the men. Jack Koontz was the food taster and was not rushed off to the hospital so everyone had a hearty lunch with no side effects. As I rounded the corner I spotted the “Black Mariah” off loading water into our water tanks. Ah the joys of pioneer life on The Ranch. Rich Baker and his merry band of water committee workers are busily trying to get the RO system up and running once again.

Leaseholders are returning to The Ranch looking for gas money. Welcome back to the Queens-Lot #61; the Maucks-Lot #57; the Stuvals- Lot #47; the Novys-Lot #95; Cowboy and Joyce now on Lot #25; and the Woods- Lot #41. Chris Giffen is giving her shed a remodel and it looks great. The Helms-Lot #70 have added a concrete pad and patio cover and rumor has it that they are throwing a party allowing guests no taller than 5ft 9 in. Congratulations to Bob and Martha Nyman on the repair of their Honda after completing a tour on the “demolition Derby” circuit. Congratulations to Larry Neitz on his new motorcycle and he is now eligible to join The Ranch’s motorcycle gang,”The Geriatric Bunch”.

See you all in November as Rosemary and I are heading out on our cruise thru the Panama Canal.

Frank Lieberman

Lot # 54



DID YOU KNOW ?

GHOSTS AT THE RANCH???

There might very well be some ghosts at The Ranch at Round-Up this year but for the purposes of this article, the ones referred to are in the book “Ghosts of the Guadalupe” by Jerry A Cox. The author spoke to the Ranch hands at a Happy Hour and the book was purchased for The Ranch. However, it will be found in the office rather than in the library. This is an expensive book that needs to be checked out so that all Ranch Hands have a fair chance to read it (and which keeps it from sprouting legs or wheels). The book is an interesting history of the area, especially about some of the colorful characters who once lived here.

SPEAKING OF THE LIBRARY ...

There is a fine collection of books in the Ranch House library. Paperbacks are on a take a book –leave a book basis. New arrivals are on a shelf so marked; otherwise the books are categorized. There are also magazines in the library. Feel free to contribute current magazines. The library committee works hard to keep everything in order and always welcomes new members.

VIDEOS and DVDs ...

In the sun room there are shelves of videos and DVD’s for your viewing pleasure. These are categorized. Books on tape are also available in this area.

Canon Fire!!!

If you should hear the sound of canon fire, don’t panic; Lakewood is NOT under siege, (you might want to reassure visitors). It is probably coming from the pecan groves. Propane fired canons are set off when there is danger of hail. Somehow the disturbance seems to break up the hail, (don’t ask me for a scientific explanation!) The canon fire may go on for some time.

Enjoy the books and videos and hope you don’t hear the canons.

Shirley Partch

Welcome Committee Chair

ANDERSON'S ADVENTURES

We have been here at The Ranch since the middle of April. I love it here! The desert is really a beautiful place to live. You do have to be careful though, living here there are a lot of different things that we never saw back in New York. Like rattlesnakes, scorpions, vinegaroons, tarantula's and many other unidentified flying insects to name a few. But if you respect them, they will do the same.

We also got to see a lot of cactus in bloom and our desert willow tree has really taken off and has bloomed several times with real pretty pink flowers. Now it has 'string bean' like pods all over, very interesting. This tree, which started out as a stick only about two years ago now stands a good eight feet tall.

We also had a tarantula living under our RV steps for a while. She was very interesting to watch, we would see her long legs when she was nestled in her nest. So far we haven't seen any babies. There was an onslaught of little tiny ants invading her nest for a while, so who knows if we will ever see the babies emerge.

Also we have spotted several rattlesnakes. Early one evening we were walking to our casita and I happened to look down as we approached the steps and YIKES!! A snake. Yes, a big old rattler was very comfortably sleeping under the steps. We promptly called Ron Frey, our resident snake handler and he bravely captured the critter and hauled him away. There have been several more sightings of snakes since then and Ron has come to our rescue each time. Thank you, Ron!

We have had families of Quail scooting around the park and lots of baby rabbits too.

This summer has been HOT<HOT< HOT. We have been told this is very unusual, (haven't we heard that before). It has been 90 to 100 degrees for as long as I can remember. We've had one hail storm, small hail so no damage to anything. At night as we walk the dog there is usually lightning in the distance. It has cooled down in the evening to the 80's and by dawn the temps are in the low 70's to upper 60's. So yes, our air conditioner has been getting a good workout. The rains have finally started so things are cooling down nicely. Mostly, life in the desert is good.

Safe travels to everyone, hope to see you at Round-up.

Hugs,

Craig, Gale, and desert dog Samson

Lot # 78

ANOTHER SET OF FIRSTS

Our first summer in NM has been very interesting. "HOT for an Alaskan hovers around 70 degrees so the many days with triple digit temps in May and June were "firsts" for us. We survived despite the AC in the motorhome giving up the ghost! Good thing we had installed AC in the casita just before the motorhome AC died. We have seen animals roaming the park that previously we have only seen in a zoo: tarantulas, rattlesnakes, corn snakes, vinagaroons, HUGH beetles, toads, as well as checked and striped lizards. We have also been amazed at the plants that have bloomed off and on all summer: desert willows, ocotillo, various cactus, and bird-of-paradise. We always thought they bloomed once a year like fruit trees. We're still waiting to see a monsoon rain. The rain has been all around us but very little here. Think it is about time to do a Rain Dance. It has been a wonderful summer for us, full of all kinds of new experiences. Plans for the fall include heading north for the Chili Chapter Rally. We are enjoying our time here so much we aren't sure when we will leave.

Dave & Sally Stribling

Lot # 86

(Please Sally; don't make that Rain Dance too good, I remember one monsoon where half our people couldn't get out of the park for the Chili Rally.

(One of the Wagon Masters)

My apologies to Bill and Pat on Lot #106. I never received their article.

Also to Bev and Bill on Lot #76, I lost theirs when I forgot to save.

WANTED

There are many jobs available at The Ranch.
This is an equal opportunity employer and the gratitude pay cannot be matched anywhere.

- New blood on the Board of Directors.
- A few more bi-monthly reporters for the Palaver.
- Ranch Hands to sign up to help and/or chair the various committees.
- Sturdy souls and hearts to perform the impossible

COMING EVENTS

CHILI CHAPTER RALLY

October 6 - 10

ROUND-UP

October 27 - 30

**DON'T FORGET YOUR
COSTUME**

SEMI-ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING & ELECTIONS November 5

**“AN OPINION BASED ON RUMOR
HAS NO VALIDITY**

**AN OPINION BASED ON HEARSAY
HAS LITTLE WORTH**

**AN OPINION BASED ON
KNOWLEDGE HAS SOME
VARACITY**

**AN OPINION BASED ON FACT HAS
A PORTION OF POWER**

**AN OPINION BASED ON
DISCUSSION HAS PEACE IN ITS
GRASP”**

THOUGHTS TO LIVE BY





MEANWHILE FROM THE

RAMBLING RANCH HANDS

The WALTHERS

Soren and I have been spending the summer in the Black Hills of South Dakota since Escapade. We hosted the Elk BOF Pre-Rally before Escapade. It turned out fine in spite of the problems that kept getting in the way of the plans.

The Black Hills have been absolutely beautiful this year. They have had lots of rain, keeping the grasses green and the wild animals are fat and sleek.

I went to Tampa for a week to help my daughter with John. It is a lot of work, even though he is in the hospital and has full time care. She is an active participant in his recovery. His recovery is very slow and he gets terribly discouraged, but with time, he should get some use of his body. They don't give Chris much hope that he will ever see again. She doesn't want him to know that, because she is afraid he will just give up. It amazes me that a bacterial infection can do so much damage to ones body. I will probably go again in November.

We had our first stay at Hart Ranch. It's a nice place but we still prefer Rushmore Shadows. Being in the hills and surrounded by the trees is so peaceful. Right now, it is Sturgis week. WOW! Is it noisy. Most of the people are here for the Rally and most sites have multiple motorcycles. This morning when they all revved-up to go for the day, I thought we were caught in a race track. Next week will be much quieter and we will try to go out and see some things we haven't seen before.

Missy is doing better. She actually will let many people pet her without bribing her with treats. She had lots of fun playing in the play yard at Hart Ranch. One evening there must have been a dozen or so dogs there and they all got along and romped and chased until their tongues hung out. After that I took a bowl and some water when we went to play. It was fun to see her really having fun! We leave Rapid City later in August and go to Colorado to attend to doctor stuff and renew our prescriptions before returning to New Mexico. We will hang around the state parks until time for the Chili Rally, then go to Farmington for the FMCA rally before returning to the Ranch. We are looking forward

We are looking forward to seeing you Ranch Hands as we all return from our summer travels

Barbara & Soren Walthers

Lot # 1

Home Away From Home

We've gotten used to the heat here in Desert Hot Springs CA and are rather enjoying our summer here. Orv is steadily recovering from his back surgery. Still has a long way to go before we can travel, but we do notice progress. He just wants to be so careful so nothing goes wrong. His next surgeon's appointment is Sept 17. We've now reached the 6th month since surgery point.

We walk around Catalina Spa (our RV park) everyday and I always carry my camera because you never know when I'll have an opportunity for a good photo. I may get an opportunity to use some of them in a slideshow for the park so I also take pictures of the maintenance guys doing their job. When the cacti were blooming I got lots of beautiful pictures shots of flowering cacti. Also have learned something about palm trees. I didn't even notice that they bloom. Right after they bloom the maintenance guys use a cherry picker to hoist themselves up and trim off the lower branches that will soon die. They say they trim the trees twice a year, but this is the first time we've ever seen them do this and it sure is a lot of work. If they didn't do it themselves, it would cost \$50.00 a tree to have someone come in to do it. The trees are all trimmed now except for a few they couldn't get to with the cherry picker truck and they can't figure out how to do to them. They say that when you don't trim them, they stop growing.

We have both gotten quite a tan since we've been here. I've never been this Brown! We don't lay out. We just walk in the morning and to the pool to exercise in the afternoon. We expect to be here at Catalina Spa until next April or May so if anyone passes through this area please stop in or give us a call so we can have coffee or lunch with you. Cell # is 319-360-6509.

Blessings on you all,

Marge & Orv Schinke Lot 83

As we head down the road to home we want to share our moment of glory as this appeared on the front page of the neighbor section of the Erie Times News and how good we felt.

"Believe it or not, travel alone gets boring."

— Roxy Colomb, traveler



VALERIE MYERS/Erie Times-News

Roxy and Tom Colomb, whose last permanent address was in New Mexico, now call Erie National Wildlife Refuge home.

Camping out

Couple plans to travel country, aid refuge staff

By VALERIE MYERS
valerie.myers@erietimesnews.com

GUYS MILLS — Tom and Roxy Colomb plan to travel the country as long as their motor home and Tom's health hold out.

Tom Colomb, 84, and Roxy Colomb, 72, this summer call the Erie National Wildlife Refuge in Guys Mills home. They volunteer there for 24 hours each week in return for a hook-up and permission to camp out where all of the other guests are wild.

In recent weeks, they've been helping refuge staff prepare for Saturday's Heritage Fest. The Erie National Wildlife Refuge is a major sponsor of the second annual event in and around Guys Mills.

"We've made and distributed brochures, filled cones with sand for the signs, and cut and painted parts for kids to put together to make snakes," Roxy Colomb said. "We do just about anything that needs done."

Originally from upstate New York, the Colombos retired to Arizona, planning to use it as home base for long-anticipated travels. Instead, they got involved in their new community and stayed home. So they sold the house, bought a motor home, and have had no permanent address since.

They've been traveling for the past 13 years, to wildlife refuges, national forests and state parks in all 50 states. And at each, they have worked for the privilege of setting up camp.



VALERIE MYERS/Erie Times-News

Ashley Hodges, of Antioch, Calif., is helping to prepare Heritage Fest activities at the Erie National Wildlife Refuge. A political science student at Howard University, she is learning more about public land laws at the refuge.

"Believe it or not, travel alone gets boring," Roxy Colomb said. "So we stay places long enough to get to know people and help out."

Any less than four or five months, she said, and people and places become blurred.

They plan to attend family reunions in New York State this summer, pull up

stakes in Guys Mills at the end of August, and be in New Mexico for an RV reunion by fall.

They have no plans to retire.

"You have to do things," Tom Colomb said. "If you retire and do nothing, pretty soon you're dead."

► Please see TRAVEL, 6N

RAILEYS ON THE ROAD

Visits with family in Washington DC. Saw the 200 year old quilt made by Bob's g,g,g,grandmother that is in the Smithsonian. WOW! Dinner with the Fagans and an awesome view of the Capitol at night. Geneology in Richmond VA. Found the exact location of the land where the Raileys lived 250 years ago. There is still a geographical location called Raileys Hill. Toured the Civil War battlefields, Jamestown and Yorktown.

On to NC, to the Outer Banks, saw 'The Lost Colony' an outdoor pageant. We got to a U.S. Life Saving Service Museum, and saw a demonstration of a breeches bouy rescue from a sinking ship. Visited Marilyn's brother and made a pilgrimage to Mt. Airey (home of Andy Griffith). Saw family and friends in the Ashville area. A visit to the Lake Toxaway Community Center for an evening of country music by the best amateurs I've ever heard. There was a young woman who was crippled, and every so often one of the gentlemen in the crowd would 'dance' with her, swinging her wheelchair round and round.

SC, visited friends in Lexington, toured Charleston, and tried to see where Hurricane Fay would travel. We thought we had waited her out and went to Savannah, GA. Made a decision to head to Atlanta rather than go along the Gulf Coast. Fay made the same decision, and we spent two rainy days waiting for her to move on. Today (8/27) we are in Chattanooga TN for more Civil War sites before eventually heading to Kansas City, Santa Fe, and the sunny treeless southwest.

It has been a wonderful trip. The flowering crepe myrtle is so beautiful. We are seeing few RVs and nearly empty campgrounds.

Hugs,

Bob & Marilyn

Lot # 30

GLORY TO PAIN

We shared our moment of glory so I guess it's only fair to share a not so glorious time. We left the refuge on 8/22 to drive to upstate NY to visit and attend Roxy's family reunion. The drive along the PA-NY border was beautiful, peaceful and lovelier than usual as the leaves were beginning to turn. Arrived on time at our cousins where we were going to stay, had dinner, and started to unpack. GOOF #1 – Tom forgot the mouthpiece for his nebulizer. Well just a small goof- no big deal. We'd go over to Walmart in the morning to get a new one. GOOOF #2 – Walmart was not in the mall where it had been the last time we visited and no one thought to tell us about it. Oh well still not too bad. There was a Sam's Club in the same mall so we'd go down there and ask. GOOOOF #3 – Tom turned the car around to head for Sam's Club and kept watching the Sam's Club as he did a perfect pull into a handicap parking spot and was stopped dead by a stanchion at the head of the parking spot. Result – Tom is fine, Roxy has two great shiners and a bump or two on the head from hitting the side windows, and the car has a smashed front, the driver's side headlight is pushed out to the left and the radiator is cracked, broken, or split. No the airbags never deployed. This happened on Sat 8/23 so although the county cops got the vehicle towed, it didn't get to a repair shop until late Monday afternoon by which time we had a rental car and were driving the six hour drive back to the refuge. Tom missed a blood draw for his cumadin, and we were both supposed to be to work on Monday, and our insurance carrier is great. They arranged the repair shop, got our rental car, and made all the arrangements for pix and reports to be sent. One extra bad part is that we had made all our plans for leaving here on Sept 1 and traveling home in two weeks with stops along the way to visit and to finalize plans for the Chili Rally. Now we will be lucky to make it across country to the rally before we get home. Oh well never a dull moment for the COLOMB'S

Luvya

Matched Set

Lot #1

SHARPS SUMMER TRAVEL

We've had a great summer of interesting travel and fun visits. We left the Ranch on May 9. We helped our youngest granddaughter celebrate her eighth grade graduation in Leawood, KS. The Klicks were in the area and joined our family for dinner one evening. Klicks headed east to have some work done on their trailer in Missouri and we went north to Minnesota with plans to meet up again later.

While in Rochester, MN we had dinner with one of our past ministers who retired out of El Paso and moved back to his childhood stomping grounds. We had not seen them for 30 years so we had lots of catching up to do. We took a day trip to Wabasha to go to the National Eagle Preserve where injured birds are cared for until they can be returned to their natural habitat. The ones we saw inside this remarkable building were unable to be rehabilitated so they lived at the preserve permanently. The Rangers presented a most interesting program which included feeding one of the eagles.

We moved up to Bloomington and stayed at Lebanon Hills Regional Campground which was very nice. We had a tornado watch at Lebanon Hills and we all kept a close watch on the sky and listened for the warning siren, which never sounded and we were glad as the restroom with only high positioned windows was the only place to take refuge.

We went to the Mall of America—o.k. now we've done that once!

Klicks had met up with us but had refrigerator problems and had to wait for parts to come in. Since we had ordered our mail to go to International Falls, we journeyed on northward through Brainerd and Bemidji. We were fairly close to where the headwaters of the Mississippi start but we did not see it as we traveled on to International Falls. At Bemidji we saw the giant statues of Paul Bunyan and Babe the Blue Ox. At International Falls we toured the paper mill plant and drove through part of the Voyageurs National Park.

At Orr, MN we watched bears who live in the wild being fed. We viewed this from a platform built high above ground level. The story goes that a man lived in the area and fed the bears for years but he became elderly and could no longer feed them so he asked that someone care for his wild bears. A private concern now feeds the bears and charges a fee to take people by bus back into the wilderness where the viewing stand is built. The bears come into the feeding area around sunset each day. Gene got five black fly bites on her ankles and that was miserable for a couple of weeks but she would go back to see the bears again!

Klicks and we met again in Duluth, MN then continued across northern Wisconsin and down to St. Ignace MI a delightful day was spent at on Mackinac Island. When we returned that evening to St Ignace, we walked through part of a very large car show which is a big annual event there. General Motors representatives and their fancy 18 wheeler had a display that was very interesting.

Once again the Klicks went one route and we chose another. We drove down the east side of Michigan along Lake Huron to Alpena. We were there for Fourth of July and what a celebration Alpena did have. There were two tall ships and a Coast Guard Trainer ship. We went to the NOAA Museum on Thunder Bay and learned more about the War of 1812 and the sinking of many ships.

We continued down to Ann Arbor MI to visit Phil's cousin and her family. We stayed at the Fairgrounds in Belleville where Klicks met up with us. Nine Clydesdale horses and their trainers were there. It was great fun watching them being exercised and groomed just outside our window each morning. Of course they were in a parade one day. From Ann Arbor we took a day trip to Monroe to see an 1812 battlefield and we went to a museum featuring General Custer.

Then it was on to Jackson Center, OH and Bremen, IN to the great Amish area. We ate shoo fly pie, went to Shipshewana and visited Notre Dame. What a beautiful Campus! Klicks have headed to New Jersey and we are at Fort Wayne IN where Gene is enjoying the geneology library.

Gene & Phil Sharp

Lot # 98

LAKEWOOD, N.M. 88254
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PALAVER
THE RANCH



**THESE CRABAPPLE BLOSSOMS WERE GROWING WITHIN THE PINE TREES OR
MAYBE THE PINE TREES WERE GROWING IN A CRABAPPLE ORCHARD**