



THE ORIGINAL RANCH PALAVER

FOUNDED BY
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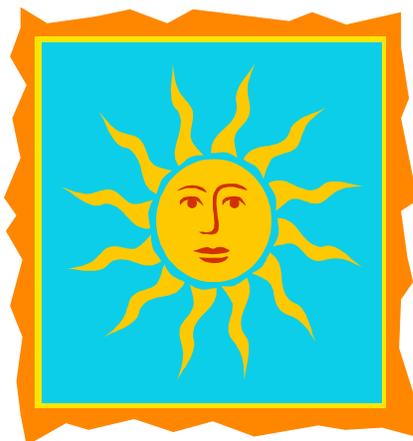
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President's Post



"It's too hot to think!"

Lucy, President
From The Ranch, Lakewood, NM

Holidays

Independence Day



From the Editor

Out of the Past is back with a Fourth of July article from the year 2000 of the Palaver. Thanks again Gene.

The second *I Wish You Had Known* appears with another story of a former lease holder from Marilyn Railey.

Ranch Hands are checking in with updates on building houses, working in flood zones and tornado stricken communities and, of course, traveling.

Finally, a remembrance of Mary Jordon, long time and much loved member of The Ranch.

As you travel this summer, think about what you would like to share and send it in to me.

You can send your articles and suggestions to my Yahoo email address (available from Ranch Ramblings) or to pam.mcmickin@gmail.com

Pam McMickin
Editor



Did You Know??

Our Ranch Boundaries do not stop at the cattle guard at the Park sign but go clear out to the Uncle Sam station and include all the land on and inside the pathway around The Ranch from Uncle Sam to the two wells and back thru Bear's Gate. Well it's true so when walking your pets out there the same rules apply as within the park compound itself.

There will be another orientation for newcomers as lease holders this Fall so if you have never been to one please send your name to me while you are on the road and let me know when you will be back. We will schedule the orientation for the best time for most.



Committees and other working groups:
Help is always needed in some way, shape or form and you can be a part of the fun and work by volunteering to be on a committee. Some committees do heavy work and some do more head work. There are usually sign-up sheets on hand at the semi-annual meeting where you can just add your name and then the chair of that committee will contact you. If you won't be around to serve you can still volunteer when you are in the park. We are a rov-

ing community so there is always at least one committee that needs extra help at any given time. Library, Welcome, Clean-up & Beautification are some areas that don't require training but just the ability to do what needs to be done. Someone always knows what needs to be done—like the chair.



Now is the time to start thinking and planning to be around for **Round-Up**. It is being set up by a group of Ranch Hands and again help is always needed. So far the committees include:

Pre-night Dine out - Wissman
Registration & Light Breakfast- Walthers
Poker Walk - Stuvell
Horse Races - Sharp
Craft Fair - Amari
Friendship Tour - Colomb
Law Enforcement - Raines
Bean Bag Baseball - Thingvall
Silent Auction- Schneider
Star Gaze Party - Tenison

You can volunteer to help with one of them or if you have a great idea you can head-up a new and different committee. One suggestion has been to get a fireman to demonstrate the proper use of a fire extinguisher

but no one has volunteered to arrange it. We haven't done a health fair in a while—who would care to set that up?

Come one-come all. It is fun time at The Ranch. Fiesta time! It is also our yearly fund raiser so if you have ideas or things to donate let us know. Don't know who to contact - Ranch Ramblings will work folks or if you want to help with what is already scheduled send an e-mail to the committee chair listed above. Some already have helpers and some do not. So get going and let's have a whopper of a Fiesta.



Last but not least the section called Central Park West is being worked on and is requiring many folks to plant, seed and water with water from the Black Maria. It is looking good and coming along nicely. When you get back take a good look.

Guess that's it for now.

Welcome Committee
Roxy Colomb, Chair

From Out of the Past

Another past Palaver article sent by Gene Sharp. This one from July/August, 2000.



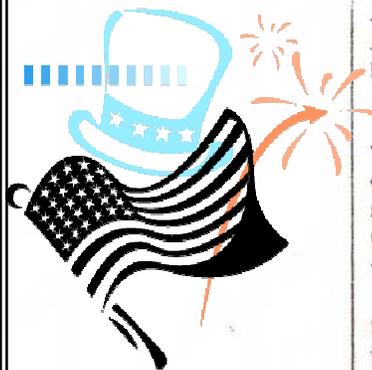
The Original Ranch

PALAVAR

Volume III, Number 3

The Original Ranch, Lakewood, NM

July/August 2000



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 reared 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.



Thoughts from Needra

TRAIN RIDE

We had driven to Williams, Arizona before and stayed in the same park. It is above the main part of the town, called "Canyon Gateway R.V. Park", so we returned to stay. Cliff had previously checked on the internet about the train schedule and got all the information on the trip; then we discussed it together. Should we spend the money? Should we reserve "dome" seats or just regular seats? We decided if we were going to go, then we were going to do it up all the way. So we bought 2 "dome" seats before leaving "THE RANCH". The price of the seats included lunch so we ate a light breakfast. The schedule was we were to leave Williams on Sunday at 9:30 am on the train which will take us to the canyon and from there we catch a bus to one of the lodges where we will have lunch. Then we get back on the bus and tour the canyon then return to the train to go home. There will be snacks on the train going back to Williams.

On Saturday, the day before the ride, we went down to the depot to pick up the tickets and in the information with the tickets, it stated that if you wanted to see the western shoot-out, be at the depot 1/2 hour early, so we did. The shoot-out was to take place about 2 blocks away from the

depot, but the workers had golf carts ready to take people over to the bleachers. Then the show started.

One of the cowboys was shot. BANG! He fell into some horse "do-do" and quickly rolled away. Oh, MY Gosh, another (a robber) was shot and was very careful as to where he landed. Then it was over and time to pass the hat before we boarded the train. Even though it was a little on the cold side it was all great fun.

The train people brought up a portable wheel chair lift for some of us handicapped people to get into the train. Cliff and I were on the train in the first level and then we had to go up some stairs to get to the dome. Once there, we had to find our seats (they were marked like the airplane seats are). Our seats were to the left and about 1 1/2 feet higher up from the floor where I was standing. Cliff gave me a boost so I could get up into the window seat. (If you are wheel chair bound, the dome seats are not for you.)

After I sat down, I learned that the bathrooms were downstairs under the steps, on the first floor. I was stuck and very grateful that I had not taken my "water pill". Shortly after we had started, "Rosie" with her accordion came upstairs to sing and play for us. The seats were

very narrow and close together. I took several pictures and soon we were at the bus stop. I was slow getting to the bus stop so the only bus left was a small one and it took all of us slow-pokes. (About 10 of us). Off we went around to the canyon. First stop, there were lots of people and no bathrooms. The second stop had two toilets, but a long line. I asked the bus driver if we had other stops where there were toilets, and he said, "NO".

There was a middle-aged lady with her mother (her daughter told us that she had M.S.) A college aged girl traveling with her parents, 2 other couples and us. By now it was apparent that when we were finished touring we would have lunch. The bus driver pointed out a very gnarly barked tree. He said the Indians used the bark for many things from Band-Aids to baskets. Of course, the canyon was breath taking. When you looked straight down at the Colorado Rover, the driver said it was one mile down. We talked to most of the bus people and saw a lot of the Grand Canyon, but still no lunch. Someone yelled, "I'M STARVING, WHEN DO WE EAT." Oh, my -----That was me!

Remembering Mary

From Barbara Walther: The Ranch held a nice memorial service for Mary Jordon. Nearly everyone still at The Ranch attended. It was nearly a full house. Merrilee Mager gave a very moving eulogy and several folks spoke of Mary's sweet smile and wonderful disposition. Her two sons were with Mary and Joe for her last day. We will all miss Mary.

Mary Jordan Eulogy by Marilee Mager

Good afternoon. On behalf of the family; Joe Cherry and her sons David and Steven Sutcliffe, we thank you for joining us today to celebrate the life of Mary Jordan.

Mary was born on May 29, 1936 in East Longmeadow, Mass., to Amos and Margaret Mulchay.

She married William Sutcliffe in 1954 and raised two sons, David and Steven. She married Donald Jordan in 1976 and moved to Cheyenne, WY in 1979. She and Don were married for 16 years at the time of his passing.

She worked for the State of Wyoming as a Fiscal Control Officer until her retirement in 1995. She was a traveler at heart and spent several years exploring the Southwest when she ended up at the SKP Co-op, The Ranch where she resided with her long time companion Joe Cherry of 10 years.

Mary was a leaseholder at The Ranch for 14 years. She first purchased lot 57 at in May of 1997 and then moved to lot 80 in January of 2000. She loved her home here at The Ranch and in the earlier years participated in the audit committee— she loved anything to do with accounting.

When she was diagnosed with



Mary Jordan on her birthday in 2010

ovarian cancer 7 years ago she was given 3 months to live. Clearly the Doctors didn't know Mary....she was having none of that! She researched her cancer and her options and actively participated in all the decisions regarding her treatment and twice went into remission.

As a result of her cancer, Mary frequently found herself housebound. During those times she enjoyed hours of reading, designing houses on the computer, she had a passion for digital painting and did some marvelous paintings. One in particular of her dog Joey was remarkable. She loved genealogy, knitting machines (she had several) but most of all she loved visiting with her friends and neighbors. She acquired a Nook a while back and was so proud to let you know how many books she had read on it.

Mary always looked for the good in life.

I only had the pleasure of knowing Mary for 4 years, but they are years I will treasure the rest of my life. I so enjoyed sitting in the rig or on the screen porch with her, knowing she would have lots of great stories to share with me. Often she would tell me about the call she had just received from one of her sons, David or Steven. She was so proud of you two.

When I would ask her if I could do anything for her or if she needed anything she would always say "No, my Joe takes wonderful care of me". She loved you so much Joe.

Mary was truly all about family. Those of us who were her Facebook friends knew that by the many pictures she would post of her beloved family.

She smiled brightly, greeted everyone warmly and was just plain cheerful. What a great role model she was. This picture was taken at her birthday in 2010.

I took a few pictures of Mary at various parties and celebrations we had, join me now for a look at the wonderful women who touched so many of our lives.

(Editor's note: This was followed by a video.)

I Wish You Had Known

I thought that many of the newer members at the Ranch might like to know about some of the former members, especially the original or early members. We had some very interesting people who lived here. Marilyn Railey

I WISH YOU HAD KNOWN -

Harry Schuessler

Harry and Berniece Schuessler were members from 1983 to 2003, on Lot # 7. Harry was gruff, rough, combative and sometimes just plain mean. He delighted in talking to newcomers and telling them all the arguments, faults, and problems that occurred at the Ranch. Many times these were things that hap-

pened years before, but Harry could make it sound as if these were yesterday's news.

HOWEVER, Harry had a soft side that was evident when it came to Berniece. She was diagnosed with cancer about 1995. She had surgery and therapy, and seemed to be doing well. Unfortunately, the cancer recurred and Berniece slowly went downhill. Harry did

everything that was needed, cooking and caring for her. Eventually it became apparent that Berniece needed even more care. Hospice was suggested, but Harry absolutely refused, and home health care came in to assist him. Harry cared for her in their motorhome until she died. In 2003 Harry was found dead in the motorhome, both passing away in the place they loved.

Ranch Hands Checking In

Report from Phyllis Frey

Alabama Tornadoes

Saturday, June 04, 2011 9:09 PM

Tonight is Saturday and tomorrow is the first day I have had off since I got here on April 29. We have been working 13 hours a day, 7 days a week since we landed in Birmingham. My team of 3 have been traveling all over Alabama for about 4 weeks, moving about every 3 days. I cannot begin to describe the destruction and loss the people of Alabama have endured. They have an amazing spirit that keeps them going. I imagine it is the same spirit that brought them through the terrible times of the Civil War.

I am now in a fixed location in Tuscaloosa, home to the Crimson Tide of the University of Alabama. I am guessing we will be here about another 3 weeks or so and then the focus will turn to long term recovery for the people and the communities that have been affected. There are still people who are camped out because

there is just no place for them to go. They spend all day sitting on what used to be the porch of their destroyed home. The home itself is completely gone, of course. I think many are just coming out of the shock of it all. There are just not enough resources available. This is truly the worst disaster I have been involved in...worse than Hurricane Ike because most people are still here and have not evacuated like hurricane victims do.

The smell that hovers around the city of Tuscaloosa is horrible. It has been 5 weeks since the tornado and there is still debris everywhere. There is just no place to take it. Crews have been working 24/7 to clean it up but there is just too much, especially in the poor sections (which happens to be most of this town). So it sits and rots. With the temperature over 100 degrees every day, it is truly indescribable. There are still people missing and recovery

teams with their dogs still comb the piles of rubble daily. This area will take a very long time to recover.

All of us out here do what we can to help the individuals who have suffered losses. We are finally starting to see some results of our work, one survivor at a time. We are making a difference and that is what the FEMA Reservists are all about.

So my thoughts for the day are: Take nothing for granted. Never underestimate the power of natural forces. Count your blessings.

I hope this finds you well and happy.

Phyllis Frey,
Lot 112

Update —Phyllis arrived in Bismarck, ND on June 30th to work with the flood survivors in North Dakota

Ranch Hands Checking In

From The Andersons

Hi Ranch Hands, We are still in Converse Texas at our son Craig's house.

Our house is nearing completion, and we can't wait to move in. I have been posting pictures on Facebook with the progress of our home. Every time we visit the house something new has been done. It is hard to believe that less than three months ago we had a empty lot, and now there sits our home almost complete. From what I can see we are waiting for the carpets to be laid and the appliances to be installed. The fireplace is still waiting for its mantle. For those of you who haven't heard of our problems with the fireplace, here's what happened. We went to check on the house and was surprised to see the fireplace was installed. We have white stone around it, the same as the front of our house. But the mantle they installed looked like Fred Flintstone installed it. It was three tiers of white stone that was so slanted that we couldn't even put anything on it. The same visit we checked out the bathrooms and we thought we were having white marble sinks and shower/tub surrounds. We found that they installed this ugly gray marble. We thought it looked awful!! So we went to the office and spoke to our sales person

Judy. Craig was explaining the fireplace to Judy and told her if they didn't correct it, the deal was off. We only spoke shortly about the gray marble. The area manager was on his way over so we waited for him and showed him the fireplace and bathrooms, The fireplace was settled by them taking off the Flintstone mantle and installing a wood mantle to match the floor in the living room. He told us that we ordered that awful gray marble and said we could pay for half the cost of replacing it. We have been hemorrhaging money and could not pay any more, so we settled for the gray, being that is what we supposedly ordered. The next week we were visiting the house once more, pretty happy with what we saw done, So I said to Craig, that I wanted to check out the spec home next door. When I went up to the master bath there and looked at the shower/tub surround and there I saw the white marble I ordered. I went crazy!! I told Craig to take me to the office I needed to talk to Judy. I explained to her that the house next door has "my white marble" in the bathrooms. And I did not order the ugly gray marble like they were trying to convince me I did. Again the area manager was called and I showed him the marble we ordered was in the house next door. And the

mistake was not ours it was in the deco department in Austin. They had to have written down the wrong thing. I was very sure we were correct, and he knew it so now we have the correct marble in the bathrooms and we are happy again. Phew, was that a stressful time, glad it is over. Building a house from ground up is not easy. So now we are still on target for our closing date of July 8th and looking forward to living in our own home. Staying with our son has been an experience. We are very grateful to him for letting us stay with them, but really looking forward to moving out of their house and into our own place.

We still haven't sold our motor home. It is still on consignment at Camping World. So guess we are still RVers for awhile till it is sold. We really think we will like it here in New Braunfels, Texas and hope anyone passing through will stop in and visit. The house is easy access from I-35 right off of exit 193. Hope to see ya'll.

Hugs, Craig, Gale and Samson too Lot 78

Ranch Hands Checking In

Mary Ann Obst

Greetings Ranch Hands!

Today is June 21st the first day of summer. I had left The Ranch for parts East on March 21st Monday. The trip was great, my first night was in LeMesa, Tx where I had pulled into a vacant shopping parking lot to walk Jasmine. I saw two ladies coming out of a building and asked if they know of a safe place I could stay for the night, it was about 6:30. They said we have one better, a city park with hookups for folks like you to stay safe FOR FREE, my favorite word. One lady said follow me I'm headed that way. Wow! really nice. Lots of room for Jasmine to walk and just take in the park atmosphere.

The next four nights were rest stops, Wal-Mart and Friday night in Miss welcome center. Really nice there. Sat. I got to my brothers' in Arab, Al about 2:00 to rain and cold. The weather all week traveling had been great. The week in AL was rain and cold never getting above 40deg.

I left there Sat. April 2 to sun and great weather.

I got to SC and a friends house in Darlington, across from the

track, on Sun and immediately upon lowering my jacks found I blew my drivers side rear jack. I took it to a dealer in Hartsville who said my insurance/warranty wouldn't pay for it as it had been hit and bent. I spent the next week looking for someone local [in Florence] that might be able to replace it. I finally found a guy in Timmonsville, where I had lived for 13 years.

On April 9th I had moved from Darlington to Florence next to my best friends house. Saw my Dad, he is well, my son, and my sister. Went to a birthday party at my sisters for her daughters oldest on the 10th and on the 17th my grand niece drowned in the tub. Long bad story there.

Had a great birthday at my girlfriends on the 27th, with presents and all.

I saw a lot of friends, and had a great time. Spent a lot of time with my Dad.

The week after I left my brothers' they had the tornado, the entire county was nearly demolished, Cullman, Al.

I left SC on Sat the 14th of May arriving in Cherokee about 5:00. The trip up the mountain was

super, beautiful, great weather, and easy going. Indian Creek Campground. RV park and cabins, beautiful, tons of flowers, on the edge of the Great Smokey Mountains and the Blue Ridge Parkway and a creek on either side of the park. The CG is 10 miles up the mountain from Cherokee Village but seems like 30 when you drive it as it is switchbacks, curves and lots of fun to drive. I've been to Gatlinburg, friends from SC had come up in their new MH for 3 days. I've been to Waynsville, and Sylva. Have gone to Cherokee Voices and a big classic car show.

It truly is beautiful up here. The job is non demanding and the owners are super.

Any friends or family that come and stay will get a discount. The weather is great, cool mostly as it is " the woods".

If you're heading east and need a cool break, come on to Cherokee. Look at the website, Indian Creek Campground. Great rates and a discount. Lots to do up here or just kickback and relax.

Hugs to all Ranch Hands.

See you in the Fall.

Mary Ann

Pat Gorsuch and Bill Kukes

Hello again from Reno,

Yep, we're still here working away and planning for our retirement, but still have a bit longer to go before that time arrives... In the meantime, we've tried to find some fun things to do since we can't really travel much in the RV while locked into this job contract.

Finally took a 4-day trip over to San Francisco the last weekend of April and enjoyed some beautiful warm sunny weather there. We stayed in the Cow Hollow district and took advantage of public transportation most of the time and tried to do some of the top tourist activities in the area... riding the cable cars, walking

across and back over the Golden Gate Bridge, doing the open air double-decker sightseeing buses around town, eating in Chinatown and other yummy restaurants, exploring the Fisherman's Wharf area, and taking an evening cruise over to Alcatraz Island where we got beautiful pictures of the city skyline, although we were really glad to have some heavier

Ranch Hands Checking In (Bill and Pat Cont.)

clothing with to ward off the cold nighttime winds. We basically walked until our feet finally gave out, so we're looking forward to another trip another time to continue exploring the sights and sounds of the city.

In May, we went to see a performance of Cirque du Soleil over at UNR (only 10 minutes from the campground so we couldn't pass up the opportunity) and then headed out on May 20 for our National Geographic/Lindblad Cruise expedition to southeast Alaska. We flew from Seattle into Juneau and went to a buffet lunch at the Baranof Hotel and spent time at the Alaska State Museum and Mendenhall Glacier before boarding our ship. The Sea Lion only carries 64 passengers, which not only is a great way to meet your fellow travelers but also allows you to travel to many areas the big cruise ships simply don't go to because of their size. The emphasis on this trip was obviously on wildlife and photography with daily presentations by the naturalists and photographers, and it was a first class operation from beginning to end. We saw everything from black bears, grizzlies, Sitka deer, seals, Steller sea lions, otters, harbor porpoises, humpbacks and Orcas, and more eagles and waterfowl than you can imagine, and even a porcupine and a mink on one of our hikes. We took thousands of pictures and videos and are still sorting through them. One of the highlights of the trip was probably a wild chase in a Zodiac boat to catch up to a pod of Orcas and Bill got a great shot of one of them breaching.

Meals were fantastic but moderate sized portions to avoid the guilt factor, and we always opted for the seafood choice. Most sailing was at night and every day we usually had opportunities for different hikes, Zodiac raft trips/and or kayaking. We spent much of one day in the fishing town of Petersburg where we did a flight-seeing trip over a glacier -- which gives you a totally different perspective than viewing the face of them while on the water -- and that night devoured an all-you-can-eat fresh Dungeness crab feast. Another day was spent cruising Glacier Bay National Park with a park ranger and a Tlingit native explaining the cultures and traditions, and we had the fantastic experience of hearing and seeing a glacier calving. The weather was more than cooperative and the crew said it was one of the best weeks weather-wise they could remember. Dressing in layers was the order of the day, although it really only rained one morning and we had lots of days with sun and blue skies to avoid temperature extremes. The only real negative on the trip was that some people -- Bill included -- were hit by an episode of the Noro virus, just like the stories you hear about in the news. He was as sick as a dog (a dead dog!) for at least 24 hours and was definitely in low gear the next day or two.

After disembarking the ship in Sitka, we toured the town and visited the Alaska Raptor Center and were given a private tour of St. Michael's Russian Orthodox Church before the bus took us to

the airport for our flight back to Seattle. The week went by so quickly and we got to meet so many interesting people, many of them world-wide travelers, and everyone raved about the trip, so we're hoping to plan a future voyage with National Geographic to the Galapagos Islands and Machu Picchu in Peru once we manage to save enough pennies!

In June, we spent a day at the Carson City Rendezvous listening to music, sampling food, and wandering through different camps representing the Civil War, mountain men, Native Americans, etc. We also went to the finals of the Reno Rodeo, the fourth richest event on the PRCA rodeo tour, and enjoyed all the traditional events including mutton busting, which was a hoot. Seeing we've had fairly cool weather lately and summer took forever to arrive this year, the spring photography wildflower field trip in the Dog Valley area we had signed up for was postponed until this weekend. We drove over some of the bumpiest, dustiest NFS roads we could recall but got some nice shots of flowers, birds, and even one lone deer and enjoyed a nice picnic lunch out in the middle of nowhere. Definitely time to wash the car inside and out after this little jaunt!

If anyone is passing through Reno on their way to anywhere, feel free to contact us. We're staying at the Bonanza Terrace CG and are way overdue for an Escapees fix!

Hope everyone has a great summer!

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

Ranch Hands Checking In

Note from the Editor: With permission I put together two separate reports from the Fagans.

Greetings from Medora



June 11, 2011 :
We are fine, even though parked in the parking lot of a motel, having been displaced from the campground. The river flood stage is 15 feet and it was nearly 20 feet. The town was saved due to the building of dikes, but the campground was

totally flooded. Propane tanks floated away, picnic tables with driftwood center pieces are stacked against fences. The place is covered with silt that will take a small army to move.

Jim says we have water and electric, but no sewer. He is currently monitoring the pumps morning and night to make sure they keep running. This is in the lagoon. So needless to say, the campground remains closed.

June 30, 2011 Update:

We are finally back in the campground as of last Thursday.

It is good to be back with full hookups again after five weeks of being displaced. Only about half of the campground is open to the public. How long that will remain the case is anyone's guess.

Due to the fact that we got out before the campground flooded, we were only inconvenienced, not personally affected so to speak. If not for the telltale signs and photos that I took, it is hard to believe that river could spread as far as it did. Forces of nature can be quite amazing.

Jim and Judy Fagan
Lot 71

Hello From the Raileys

Wouldn't mind the heat so much if the wind would stop blowing so hard. But hey, those of us at the Ranch are tough. The grass is coming up, and despite the weather, will survive. It is now in the capable hands of Charlene, Yvonne, and Chris.

Bob and I left the Ranch on June 18, for a Father's Day weekend at our daughter's home in Odessa.

We left Dallas on June 22 for a flight to Prague, a pre-trip extension before going to Vienna and boarding a river boat for a cruise down the Danube River from Vienna to the Black Sea. We are also taking the post-trip extension to the Transylvanian Mountains in



Romania. We will be back at the Ranch about June 18. (*Editor's note: Marilyn probably meant July 18.*)

After that, we will be in Santa Fe visiting our son and family before going somewhere in Northern New Mexico.

Hope there are no more fires in the state. We are about burned out and many members are waiting for the fires and smoke to clear before leaving the Ranch.

We hope all of you out there are having a wonderful summer of

travels and adventures.

Bob and Marilyn
Lot 30

Ranch Hands Checking In

Sally Stribling—Working in a devastated area*May 30th—*

I am currently working in Pocahontas, AR with FEMA. This is a small town in NE Arkansas that was flooded recently. This Disaster Recovery Center will be open at least through Saturday, June 4. Not sure where I will be after that date.

Lots of flooding in the eastern counties of AR and recent tornadoes in both the NW and the eastern parts. So much damage just in this one state.

Many, many acres of farmland were also under water. Most were rice fields and they are still not planted. One man told me that he has 7500 acres of farmland under about 4' of water.

The photo is of the local Kentucky Fried Chicken restaurant. I found it an interesting photo. Parts of this town had 4' of water in homes and businesses, but not KFC.

I have been asked numerous times what I do with FEMA. I thought maybe explaining the

above issues would give everyone some idea of what DAEs (Disaster Assistance Employees) in my position do.



I spent 7 weeks working in AR with both tornado and flood survivors in 4 different communities. Most people don't realize how FEMA works because they have never been in a disaster. Those of us that work directly with survivors consider education an important part of our jobs with FEMA. We listen to their stories; guide them toward resources to provide the kind of help each survivor needs; help them know what kind of paperwork is needed to support their various requests for help, and do lots of faxing of paperwork for individu-

als. It is an opportunity to feel like you are making a difference in someone's life.

June 30th—

I came home last Friday. It takes a bit to get back into the "Non-FEMA" lifestyle.

It is not only the time away from home that is hard but also the long hours. I had 6 weeks of 11 hour days plus usually 40-60 min travel time each way.

The last week I was at the JFO (the main office) and worked

straight 8 hour days and it felt like I was working half time.

My body is back on this time zone now and for the most part I'm caught up on all the loose ends. I've never been gone for 7 weeks before and Dave has a list of things I need to teach him before I leave next time. I chuckled when he commented that he didn't even know how to take care of the mail! I guess I have to teach that as well as email and phone again.

Sally Stribling
Lot 86

Ranch Hands Checking In

BRAUM's JOPLIN TORNADO RELIEF EFFORT

Memorial Day, 2011

This is the first disaster we have ever been a part of and one we'll never forget.

On Tues. as we were driving through KS and listening to the news about the Tornado in Joplin, MO, we realized we didn't have a definite itinerary - we only need to be in Pittsburgh, PA by June 8 for Tom's class reunion. So, we decided to go to Joplin to help in whatever way we could. We have our Habitat for Humanity work clothes & tools on board, so we could do something.

We arrived on Thurs, 5/26, with these thoughts after finding the Catholic Churches in town - St. Mary's was destroyed, St. Peter's has a permanent Outreach Center. We had contacted them and they told us they needed water, diapers and baby food which we stopped and bought. When we got here, we met Kevin in the Knights of Columbus Hall where some donations had come in and who needed some helping hands.

We started sorting & boxing donations @ 8 am on Fri. Sorting, organizing & re-organizing continued until 9 that night. Fortunately, people are volunteering to feed us volunteers.

Sat. thru today we have worked at accepting, sorting and organizing "grocery" donations. This is only one of the many (don't know how many) donation & distribution centers in town. As of today, we have so many donations, we had to turn away a semi of donations because there was simply no more room. We have the Catholic HS multi-purpose room (a triage immediately after the tornado) for the groceries. The gym (a shelter immediately after the tornado) has the clothes, shoes, toys and bedding - fortunately, a couple women had the foresight to know that the number of donations would not fit in one room - that was the original plan.

We have learned alot about donations and what people need after this kind of disaster. We are amazed at the generosity of people from near and far.

We have only seen a portion of the devastated area on our way to the KOA Thurs. night where we went to do our laundry and fill our water & fuel tanks and dump tanks. And then saw a bit more devastation

on our way back to the church the next morning. We are now parked on a grassy area behind the church w/ the pastor's permission. Generator is getting a real workout.

Some of the stories we've heard are these. At Sunday Mass we learned that only 3 people - unfortunately, all in the same family - from THIS parish died. The Dad had gone to Home Depot with his 2 little boys. He was found holding the boys under the debris. One of the other volunteers told us that they found the body of the 16 year-old girl/friend who had taken his daughter's shift at work so she could attend her graduation. One of the nurses told us that a man who had had heart surgery at the hospital that was hit carried all his own tubes in his arms and walked to the other hospital.

We're not doing exciting rescue, recovery, or clean-up work, BUT it has been hard work and VERY important to the distribution process which was just starting today. Some people have nothing left. We have enough baby wipes to clean all the babies in the state, I think. The toothbrushes and toothpaste tubes Tom estimates @ over 100,000. Today, a young woman ready to deliver her baby tomorrow came in for supplies with her Mom. We gave her a "shower gift arrangement" of diapers and small baby items that was donated yesterday - it was so pretty AND the new Mommy was so excited to receive it. Unusual & unexpected happy moments to make the work seem really worthwhile.

Our plan is to stay and continue working thru the end of the week. Each night our bodies seem more tired and achy than the day before. But as anyone who does this kind of work knows, it's a GOOD tired & achy.

Please pray for all these people who have a long way to get back to normal. Pray for the safety of the workers who are "out in the field" - it's quite hot and humid out there and their work is so much harder than what we're doing. And finally, thank God for everyone who have been here to help and will continue to help after we move on down the road.

Tom & Marion Braum
Lot 40



Birthdays and Anniversaries



JULY BIRTHDAYS

8 – Carol Koontz
 9 – Chris Giffen
 12 – Art Lumb
 12 – Noreen Ward
 15 – Dennis Rundall
 17 – Carmen Begin
 19 – Matt Lucas
 20 – Neil Brunton
 21 – Lou Novy
 24 – Carol Cunningham
 28 – Barbara Novy
 28 – Larry Whitworth
 28 – Mike Brown

AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

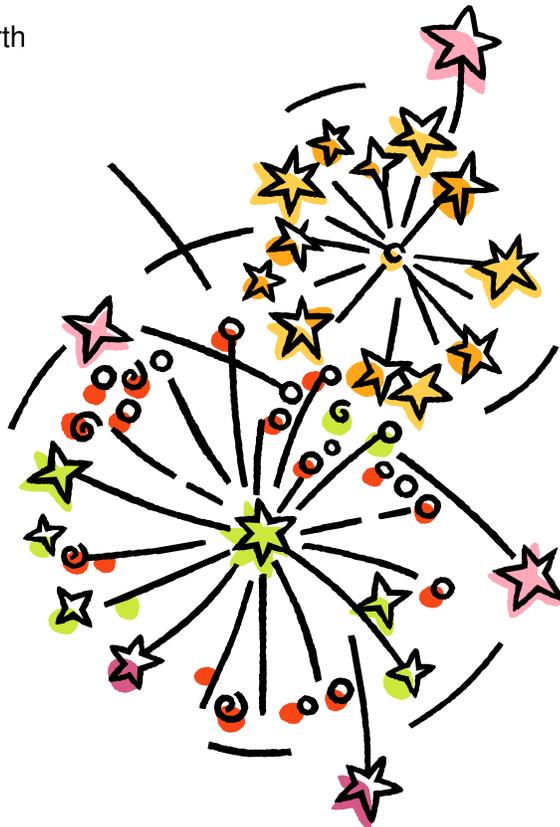
7 – Jennifer Roessler
 9 – Frank Lieberman
 19 – Sheila Scarborough
 28 – Russ Berquam
 31 – Elizabeth Evelyn

JULY ANNIVERSARIES

1 – Art & Sherry Lumb
 7 – Roger & Barbara Heaver
 7 – George & Linda Frey
 30 – Dean & Yvonne Minard
 31 – Charlie & Sheila Scarborough

AUGUST ANNIVERSARIES

9 – Tony & Debra Simmons/
 Amari
 9 – Ron & Phyllis Frey
 10 – Jim & Carol Cunningham
 17 – Carl & Merrilee Mager
 21 – Larry & Joan Whitworth
 21 – Doug & Lola Wood
 23 – Vern & Sheila Miller
 31 – Charles & Paula Russell



Committee Contacts

Beautification:

Liaison: Lucy Billings
Chair: Charlene Tarvin

Building & Safety

Liaison: Spike Jones
Chair: Dan Newland

Governing Documents

Liaison: Bill Good
Chair: Nettie Haase

Grievance/Dispute

Liaison: Lucy Billings
Chair: Dean Minard

Library/Video

Liaison: Charlene Tarvin
Chair: Linda Raney

Long Range Planning

Liaison: George Keefe
Chair: Carol Fishel

Lot Transfer

Liaison: Lucy Billings
Keeper of the Keys: Debra
Simmonds-Amari

Nominating

Liaison: Charlene Tarvin
Chair: Johnnie Wygant

Palaver

Liaison: Lucy Billings
Chair & Editor: Pam McMickin

Ranch House Hands

Liaison: Yvonne Minard
Chair: Patti Coble

Water

Liaison: George Keefe
Chair: Greg Verderoff

Welcome

Liaison: Yvonne Minard
Chair: Roxy Colomb

WiFi

Liaison: Lucy Billings
Chair: Pam McMickin

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