



THE ORIGINAL RANCH PALAVER

FOUNDED BY
C.T.HANCOX
SKP#16549

VOLUME XVIII NUMBER 5 THE ORIGINAL RANCH LAKEWOOD, NM September/October 2011

Phone: (575)457-2303

FAX: (575)-457-2100

Web: www.skpranch.com Office: skpranch@pvtnetworks.net Yahoo Group: ranch_ramblings@yahoo.com

Board of Directors

President – Lucy Billings
Vice-President –Yvonne Minard
Secretary – Bill Good
Treasurer – Larry Andrew
George Keefe
Frank Lieberman
Charlene Tarvin
Spike Jones
Jennifer Roessler



Fall begins on September 23 — The days are getting shorter!

Labor day is at the beginning and Halloween is on the last day covered by this issue of the Palaver..

Labor Day was made a federal holiday on June 28, 1894 and has been celebrated as the end of summer by many of us. Fast fact—this holiday has been observed on the first Monday in September for over 100 years.

Halloween is not really a holiday and Halloween’s history is much to complex to summarize here, but most of us remember enjoying dressing up and going Trick or Treat and enjoying children and grand children doing the same.

And let’s not forget Fall is also chile time!



LABOR DAY



HAPPY HALLOWEEN



From the Editor

Out of the Past in this issue continues with the story of “The Bell” from the January/February 2001 issue of the Palaver. Thanks again Gene.

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

The next issue will be the November/ December issue and marks the time of year when Ranch Hands head to warmer parts of the country.

Let’s help each other out with

restaurant recommendations and must do fun and interesting things.

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

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 -

Joe Conti

Joe and Fran Conti were members from 1985-1987, on Lot # 103. They weren't members very long when Fran died in 1987. The Conti's either didn't have health insurance or the insurance didn't cover the debts that occurred with Fran's illness. Joe sold his lot to help pay his debts.

Bob Macbeth, Lot # 56, told Joe that he could park his trailer on his lot while Bob was traveling. To save money, Joe refused to run his air conditioner in the summer. He sat on the

Ranch House porch all day, every day, flyswatter in hand.

Joe was on the lot when he blew up! Sometime in 1991 Joe's propane tank developed a leak. One day Joe was in the trailer and lit a cigarette. The propane ignited and blew the trailer apart. The explosion was so large it snuffed out the fire. Joe was unharmed except for some singed hair and eyebrows. The trailer was totally destroyed and Joe moved into Artesia.



Cooking In a Hotel

As many of you know, I've been living a hotel room for almost five months now. I don't like to eat out all the time so I cook in my room.

With only a small refrigerator and a microwave it's a little like camping. I accumulate some essentials like knives, food storage containers, bowls, plates, basic spices, etc. The longer I'm there, the more stuff I acquire. I should get a crock-pot, but for some reason I never do.

For dinners I often take prepared food and mix it with canned and/or fresh ingredients and make enough for several meals.

Here is one of my current staples—

Combine

- 1 package of Homel Pork Roast au jou
- 1 can of Hunts fire roasted tomatoes,
- 1 can of diced green chiles (available even in North Dakota)
- Some spices like cumin and garlic

Microwave for about 5 minutes, stir and cook for another 2 minutes.

For dinner I put the pork mixture and some black beans in a bowl and microwave until hot. Then I add shredded Mexican cheese and eat it with tortillas.

It's not the same as making it from fresh pork, but it's pretty good.

George and I are leaving the Dakotas on September 2 and I can get back to really cooking.!

Pam McMickin
Lot 65.

Did You Know??

We have several new leaseholders, some have moved in and others have bought their lots but not moved in or will move in at a later date.

The view at the entrance to the Ranch is rather new as Lot #1 has a new rig on it. A 33 foot Hurricane with a 12 foot slide.

All new leaseholders are invited to a new comer welcome which will be planned around the time of the fall election meeting. Please let me know if you have attended one or not.

So many things have been celebrated in the month of August. All our regular things plus a roast of Jim Coble as he leaves our

employ. A pot luck dinner was held on August 29 for Lynell as she gives up running the office, and a birthday party for E-2 on the 31st. Of course the monthly birthday/anniversary "party" will be on the 28th.

The Ranch has had a rash of Random Acts of Kindness

1. Help with the water leaks has been an ongoing proposition for many volunteers.

2. Weeds have been sprayed and dead plants picked up and taken out to the desert.

3. Help with broken air conditioners, dead batteries, snake pick-up.

4. Offering the use of an empty lot at no cost to the user for someone who needed to have their rig moved for a few days

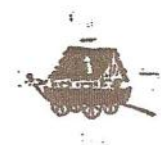
5. Trips to CARC to empty the swap table

It is wonderful to see how our Ranch Family turns out to help when help is needed. There are very few, if any, in the park who have not volunteered and when you return please be sure to say thank you to everyone. This is one of the greatest things about our Ranch Family.

THANK YOU ONE AND ALL.

Roxy Colomb
Chair
Welcome Committee

From Out of the Past

The Original Ranch

PALAVER

Volume IV, Number I

The Original Ranch, Lakewood, NM

January/February 2001

The History Corner

Our Ranch is famous for ringing the bell and greeting newcomers. From the February, 1984 issue of *Escapes* we discover the history of that bell and its tradition.



Kay Peterson, Editor ... Published by RoVing Press
Volume V No 4 ... February/March 1984

New Mexico

by Ted Lee, President

Winter in Lakewood, NM was, as with the rest of the country, unseasonably cold. Dec. temperatures forced us to stop Ranch House construction until April. Only the footing and 2/3rds of the floor are done. We thank all the SKPs who stayed with us until the stoppage. Your efforts will be rewarded with a completed Ranch House this Spring.

The roads are in and the efforts of the "Road Gang" are to be commended. The roads are great!

After months of searching, Bill & Sarah Webb found a large dinner bell dated 1890. It was used to call workers to dinner on a Tennessee plantation. Harold and Jackie Webb offered to pay half the price. The two Webb families donated the bell to the Ranch at the Oct. Roundup. It stands near the manager's office. Lots of hugs are due all SKPs "for whom the bell tolls." Ring it and see!

Ranch Hands Checking In

From the Walthers

Soren and I have had to stay pretty close to "home" this summer. We have both had doctor's appointments coming out of our ears. Even tho it has been really hot, we have been enjoying our time here. This is our first summer at The Ranch and we have been able to spend time with folks that don't come to happy hour during the winter.

Today we enjoyed a buffet salad bar luncheon. Lots of goodies to put on our salads.

We have enjoyed going to places with Red Hat ladies and Chili Chapter where we can't go with a big group. It has been interesting to try out new restaurants. We have talked about maybe going to the mountains to escape the heat but haven't made any decisions yet. I still hope to fly to

Florida to spend time with my daughter, Chris and Grandson, John. I really enjoyed the time we had with them last fall and winter.

Hope all you travelers and staying cool and safe. We look forward to yu'all returning in the fall. Right now, Lago Vista is really lonesome. Barb & Matt are planning to leave soon, Doug and Lola just came back and we along with Roxy have been holding down the street!

Hugs to all, Barb & Soren,
Lot #10

The Striblings

Hello Ranch Hands,

We took a quick trip from The Ranch to Jackson, MI in July. Many of you know my sister is not doing well and it was time to head back for a visit. We made the trip back in 5 1/2 days in some very HOT weather. Not fun to travel with temps over 100 and the humidity just about the same!

We found diesel prices higher in Michigan than in any other state we traveled through, well over \$4.00/gal. Most areas were close to \$4.00 but not over.

After visiting with family for 2 weeks, we headed home but made the decision to not travel over 200 miles per day and try not to travel every single day. We enjoyed the 2 weeks coming home much more!

We spent some time in Cape Girardeau, MO and found it a very interesting city. Would like to spend more time there another time. We also went back to Paducah, KY. That called for another long visit to the National Quilt Museum, of course. In both Cape Girardeau and Paducah they have built flood walls along the rivers. Sections of these walls have been painted to show the history of the towns. If you have not seen these two cities, a trip just to see the flood walls is worth it.

We very much enjoyed driving the red roads all the way home but mostly through southern MO and northern AR. Bet they would be beautiful when the trees have fall colors! It was still very hot (heat indices 110-120 at times) when we traveled home but limiting the driving hours made it much more enjoyable.

We are enjoying being back at The Ranch but looking forward to the next trip.

Hugs,

Dave and Sally
Lot 86

Update from Facebook, Sunday, August 28:

My sister, Martha, passed away this morning. It was very peaceful. I thank all of you that have been praying for her and all of her family. We are thankful that her struggle is over but will miss her. She was a very positive person and I know she would want us to get on with life and remember the good times.

Ranch Hands Checking In

Hello from the Raileys

Most of you know that we took a Danube River Cruise in June-July. It was truly a fantastic voyage. We were in the Czech Republic, Austria, Slovakia, Hungary, Croatia, Serbia, Bulgaria, and Romania. It was all the more fantastic because for so many years they were under Communist control, and out of our ability to visit them. As I said on RR, if anyone wants to know exactly what we saw and did, e-mail us and we will send a daily journal that I wrote.

We have just spent 2 weeks in Santa Fe helping our son with

painting and repairs on his home. Extra hands were helpful to him. We are currently (Aug. 16) at Heron Lake State Park where it is cooler than most of the other places we have been this summer. Still not a lot of rain here either. We plan to be here with Rusty and Mary Irons for 3 weeks and then back to Santa Fe for our grandson's birthday. Then on to Elephant Butte State Park for 2-3 weeks before a return trip to Odessa. We are taking advantage of our NM park pass.

No other plans at present, hoping that all of you have had a great summer. (That excludes

the people who stayed at the Ranch and suffered through the hot and dry and windy summer. They are true survivors.)

Hugs, Bob and Marilyn

Update from Art and Sherry

Our summer has been very hot here in WI, so hot that Art said if it's like this next year were heading further north.

Bonnie and George Keefe stopped by for a couple of days but stayed at different CG. The new owners here think \$45 was the going rate, LOL. If you were staying at the Dells maybe, our CG has a pool, that's all they have.

We played Domino's and went out to eat. Our daughter wasn't here so we stayed in her screen room,

it's bigger than ours.

Garden is not doing good this year, not enough rain and too hot.

We're going on a trip to Door County on Sept 11th, haven't been on a trip for awhile. Art's still cutting grass.

Our CG will be changing, 5 or more trailers pulling out. New owners. They're not going to far but other CG has smaller sites. Our biggest problem here is with electric, not enough when the weekends come. Electric Co

has been checking into it for 3 months.

I think we'll leave here earlier this year. Grandkids are back in school.

Hope everyone had a great summer.

Hugs Art & Sherry
Lot #6

Ranch Hands Checking In

NORTHWARD HO----!!!!

After leaving Williams, AZ and the train, we took to the road again. We landed in one of our new parks (joined Colorado River Adventure or CRA) IN Needles for Memorial Day long week-end. We left there and drove to Angles' Camp, CA & stayed in the fairgrounds (called Frog Town) for one week. We met up with some of Cliff's work friends & their wives for Forestry Wagon Train, Forestry state wide golf tournament & 25 year club meeting & dinner. Cliff has belonged to the Forestry 25 year club for 28 years. They only do this meeting & dinner once a year.

I met some of the wives & they invited me to attend a craft's class one day & lunch with the red hats another day. We made a door messenger in the shape of a large green frog. We had no place to hang it, so I gave it to a friend who collects anything "frog". The lunch was rearranged & I was able to eat all the food. It was held at the local golf course restaurant where Cliff was playing. From Frog Town we drove to Mariposa still in California.

I visited with my son & daughter & we parked at Cliff's nephew's place. We went to my daughter's 50th birthday party, and while there Cliff got to visit family also. From there we went to NAAF VIA Visalia & Soledad Canyon. (NAAF stands for National Alopecia Areata Foundation). Alopecia is the medical word for baldness & Areata means in an area. Some of you may know someone who lost their hair in spots about the

size of a quarter when they were young.

My mother told me that I lost my hair in small spots on my head when I was about 3. She took me to an old county doctor & he gave her some salve to put on the spot. It worked for a short period of time, but later mom noticed my hair was thinning. SOON IT WAS ALL GONE!!! As of today (year of 2011) I have had Alopecia Universalis (no hair on any part of the body) for 73 years. Cliff & I have known each other since the 5th grade, so he knew I was bald when we got together.

I admire him for being willing to go with me to these yearly conferences, but he said he has learned a lot. While there, we left the coach at "Camping World" to fix our bedroom slide, put in a built-in vacuum cleaner, & fix our basement air-conditioner.

When we went to pick it up at Valencia Camping World on Sunday, our coach was locked away in the service bay. No one knew anything about our rig!! We rented a room & had to stay the night. When we got the coach only the vacuum had been done. From there we started north on the east side of the Sierras to Mammoth.

We stopped by my girl friend's house and visited for about 2 ½ days. It was great seeing her & her husband. From there we stopped at Mendon, NV & had lunch at a wonderful Basque Restaurant called "Overland" in Gardnerville. Lots of food. Then we went to Carson City and stayed in another hotel

to get our slide "leak" fixed. No Soap! From there we drove back to CA & Cliff showed me around Susanville where he used to live, then on to Oregon.

When we got to Oregon we first parked at the "Water Wheel R.V. Park" near "Chiloquin". Along side of a small river and the mosquitoes were out in full force. We took a side trip to go to Crater Lake. It was so beautiful and so blue!! I found out that the reason it is so blue has to do with clean clear water & that the color blue is the last color to leave the water, so it absorbs it.

Then off to Bend, OR (actually south of Bend to "Thousand Trails" park "Sun River" for 2 weeks & then to Leavenworth, WA for 2 weeks. Now as I write this, we are on our second week in Mt. Vernon, WA. This long trip's destiny was Mt. Vernon so I could meet a distant cousin of mine who I had never met. She & I had been working on our genealogy, and we both agree that we have adventurous great, great grandpa.

Cliff & I met Lynn & her husband, John, yesterday. Oh, what a lot of fun looking at old pictures and reading old letters. From here we are going to "La Conner" for a week and half, then on to Seattle to board a cruise ship to go up the inside passage.

Needra Dulcich

Elizabeth Evelyn—Her Music and The Ranch

Nearly eleven (11) years ago I came to "The Ranch" to have some time with a then lease-holder who was a good friend who also played music. We had enjoyed "jamming" together on several occasions. Additionally, I had experienced a minor stroke just prior to my arrival at The Ranch and my friend was also a retired nurse, which I did not know. I had seen a doctor and had some blood pressure medication, and was okay.....

The Ranch seemed like a great place with wonderful people. My always correct "inner voice" suggested/urged me to give some serious consideration to buying in to the Co-Op, settle in for awhile, and really give some thought to my way of living the FT Lifestyle...

Boondocking full time for 16 years was a long stretch and a lot of fun as well as incredibly economical..... Maybe it was time to at least have a "home base"???? Three lots were available for lease.... I had my choice! I had been a member of Escapee's since 1986 so I qualified! I chose a lot and settled in.....

Two delightful musicians who played keyboard took turns, months at a time, to dedicate every day from before 4.p.m until 5 p.m. to play music for the "Social Hour" that brought the community together, along with all visitors, to the club house to socialize, greet and meet visitors, new leaseholders, and to share information..... I really wanted to be one of those who played for the afternoon Social Hour.

It did not take long before I was the third member of the group who played keyboard every afternoon for several months each year... Some time later there were two....I was one.... Additionally, I played for an hour or two at three places in our two closest communities, two once each week, and the third once a month. I was sure I had died and gone to heaven!

One afternoon following the Social Hour, a young man, a visitor with a delightful accent came up to me as I sat at my keyboard, "I have one of those" he said. "Well go get it!" I told him..... Michael



and Rosie Sinclair had planned to stay over night at The Ranch..... What a great musician was/is that delightful young man, a native of Scotland.... His wonderful and equally delightful wife Rosie and I clicked on many other levels..... She is Michael's very good professional manager musically, and she teaches wonderful self-help classes. She is a native of England..... They stayed a week so Michael and I could play together..... Then they were gone again.....to their then home in Spain.

Over the years there have been jam sessions with many visitors....some have returned just to connect musically again and again. One single solo guitar player who played at "up-scale" dining places and private clubs has come back several times on his way to and from winter/summer places.... Once a couple from The Ranch joined me to play with me at one of my gigs...

My keyboard, a Technics KN7000 is the last of the "portable" (50 lbs) arranger keyboards made by Technics before they went out of business.... I have two of these totally awesome boards. One in my rig that I play daily, the other at the remaining Nursing Home that was my original, and now my last (probably) weekly gig. All I have to carry there is my music notebook and a little SD card, like the one many use in cameras. That little card stores my programing that I make changes in frequently.....

Music has always been a part of my life.... a true passion! Never had a piano in my home during my "growing up" years. I taught myself how to "read" music at age 10 after listening to a friend play with her teacher sitting beside her at her piano. Her teacher was impressed with my dedication. He gave me one of those cardboard "keyboards" that sits behind the keys on a piano. It has all the names of the keys..... My friend was talked into giving me her John Thompson's "Beginners Books" that she had completed. That teacher said to me, "If you remember nothing else that I tell you, remember this.....NEVER, never look at the piano keys! Keep your eyes on the music, your mind will tell your fingers just which keys to press!" He was absolutely right! That has been habit for all the years I have been playing. What a great lesson that was! It was

Elizabeth Evelyn (continued)

my only lesson..... Practice,
Practice, Practice and my passion
have served me well.....I never need
to look at the keys.....

Just this past Friday at the Nursing
Home during my "play time"..... A
very attractive young woman of 65
(she told me) came up to tell me
she loved my music. She also told
me she is a musician, "too" a piano
player who also entertains at
various places..... We shared a bow
to each other! Oh how I love it
when someone refers to me as a
musician!

What I love even more is others to play music
with and groups or just a person or however many
to play for! My Clyde cat is under my chair as I
sit at my keyboard and play most every day..... I
like that too! My choice of music ranges from the
late 1800's through the 1970's??? I need the
treble clef and the chord symbols, along with the
time/key sig-nature only on my "sheets".....do not
read/play the bass clef... With an Arranger
Keyboard, playing the bass can be accomplished
with one, two, or three left-hand fingers! It
contains all the instruments you can think of and
more..... It also has many wonderful
rhythms. There is a recorder and a way to
transfer the music played to a computer and then
to a CD!! It is there.... if I just knew how to do that
I could send my 100+ yr. old Mom a CD of my
music played on my KB!



Once there were four women
players in my rig, a dulcimer player, a
guitar player, another KB player and
me! Oh what fun! We not only played
together, we shared music too.....
Everytime I play those great tunes, I
can see and feel the fun we had!

After almost a 10 year absence,
Michael and Rosie came back for
another week with me! Mike & I set up
our KB's in my Casita and played and
played and played.... A lady who was
visiting me played a banjo and so did
Rosie.... they went to one of their rigs to
play.... Michael and I were not in their

beginners league, they said.....We all shared a pot-
luck meal every evening in my MoHo....the largest of
our 3 rigs.... What a wonderful week!

So.....Should you be in the neighborhood.....do stop
by The Ranch and check us out.... If you are a
musician, or call yourself a player, and you too love to
jam it up a bit.... come see me! My rig or my casita,
depending on the number of people involved, are both
available for jam sessions.....

Be All You Are...Be Yourself, Everyone Else Is
Taken...

Enjoy All You Do...Do All You Enjoy...

Live Moment By Moment...NOW Is All There Is...

The World Transforms As YOU Transform...

Love, Light, Hugs, & Harmony...

Elizabeth...aka E2



Birthdays and Anniversaries



SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- 2 – Russell Loomis
- 7 – Kathy Gilbert
- 7 – Doug Wood
- 7 – Les Simms
- 12 – Loyce Finch
- 15 – Martha Nyman
- 18 – Richard Groves
- 23 – Earl Culpepper
- 24 – Barbara Pruett
- 27 – Jim Wissman
- 27 – Joann Mauck
- 28 – Barbara Walthers

OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

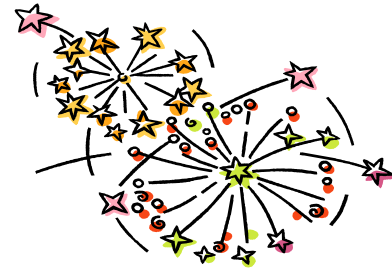
- 5 – Joe Cherry
- 7 – Charles Butler
- 7 – Pat Gorsuch
- 9 – Judy Todd
- 10 – Mary Lee Wissman
- 13 – Merrilee Mager
- 18 – Jim Fagan
- 19 – Jim Cunningham
- 19 – Dean Minard
- 25 – Harry Fishel
- 25 – Bob Nyman
- 25 – Sally Stribling
- 26 – Pat Busch
- 28 – John White
- 29 – Judy Fagan
- 29 – Ron Pardee
- 31 – Bob Helm
- 31 – George Frey

SEPTEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

- 7 – Jim & Mary Lee Wissman
- 12 – Russell & Gretchen Bergquam
- 18 – Rich & Melody Baker
- 30 – Bill & Linda Good

OCTOBER ANNIVERSARIES

- 9 – Chuck & Nettie Haase
- 11 – Jim & Noreen Ward
- 12 – Bob & Helen Abbott
- 14 – Jim & Patti Coble



Update on recent Ranch Hands moving out, moving in and moving around

Lot 113—

The Arnolds (Arnie & Sue) moved out
Bill & Maureen Bigelow moved in

Lot 66—

Dan & Judy Todd moved out
Fred & Laurie King moved in

Lot 60—

Mike and Pat Allen moved in

Lot 54—

Frank and Rosemary Lieberman moved out
Jerry & Barb Pruett moved from Lot 60 to 54

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

**Palaver
The SKP Ranch
PO BOX 109
Lakewood, NM 88254**