



# THE ORIGINAL RANCH PALAVER

FOUNDED BY  
C.T.HANCOX  
SKP#16549  
1998

VOLUME XIX NUMBER I THE ORIGINAL RANCH LAKEWOOD, NM January/February 2012

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## President's Post

December 31, 2011

### President's year end Message

Another year coming to a close and what a year it has been for weather here at The Ranch. From the freezing cold of February to the dry heat of the summer to another snowy cold December and luckily we (George and Bonnie) were able to escape some of the cold and snow.

The escape route thru Cloudcroft had packed snow in two places en-route to Deming and I did not think to check the Texas DOT site for any advisories for US 180. The top twenty miles of the Guadalupe Mountains, 5,900 feet, was falling snow and rain to four inches on the ground (read that road) to wet roads on the down slope. After that there was another falling snow at 5,000 feet that left us with wet roadway.

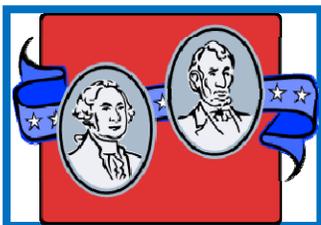
Deming was cold also so we attempted to go overnight without connecting Buster's water hose— wrong— the pump decided to not work. And the car was not switched to tow so the battery was dead. Thank you Art Lumb was in Deming for his and

Sherry's medical checkups. Art had his battery charger with him and Silver Sally was charged overnight. The next day I took Bonnie for eye glasses in Los Palomas, Mexico. We stayed two nights there and played domino's both nights.

In Apache Junction I worked on the pump problem and on replacing the water filter that froze at The Ranch this December. There was voltage available at the old water pump and controllable with the switch. The new water pump works fine. We had a meet with our grandson here in Apache Junction going to an indoor amusement in Mesa and then going to Rawhide (western town and Steak house) south east of Phoenix. They had made a trip from California to east Texas, east on I40 and west on I10. Yes they also got snowed on going east.

We are on to Yuma and Quartzsite for the Elk BoF and Chili Chapter #23 Rallys in January.

George Keefe  
BOD President



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## From the Editor

This is the beginning of my second year as the editor of the Palaver and I've really appreciated all the contributions from the members of The Ranch over the last year – it doesn't happen without you.

We have several returning features-- *Through Needra's Eyes* by Needra Dulcich; *Out of the Past* by Gene Sharp and *I Wish You Had Known* by Marilyn Raily. A new feature is from Roxy Colomb – *Guide to Mexican Food Terms*. In addition in this issue we have a recipe, a local legend and travel recommendations.

As always the updates on travels and life changes help keep us in touch even as we travel apart and also shares this information with our friends who are no longer members of The Ranch.

The Palaver is published on the Ranch web site and is available electronically. The most recent issue and previous issues are available there. We also mail the Palaver. If you are receiving the Palaver through the mail, but could just as easily get it online lets us know. It will save us money as it costs The Ranch to send it through postal mail. If you want to switch to electronic delivery just notify me or the office.

Lastly I want to thank the office (Lynell and Jan) for printing the Palaver and the Palaver committee members who prepare the issue for mailing.

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

*Pam McMickin*  
Editor



## From the Welcome Committee

We would like to welcome two new lease holders to the Ranch. Jim and Joyce June on Lot #97 and Bob and Caren Collins on Lot #62.

We also had a long time resident return this year with her son. Welcome back Ethel Draper and Richard Anthony Lot #18.

A reminder from the Welcome Committee if you have any questions please feel free to come and ask any one of us on the committee. Committee

members are: Marcia Fairchild, Marge Schinke, Betty Campbell, Rosemary Thingvall.

Marcia Fairchild,  
Welcome Committee Chair

## From Out of the Past

Thanks Gene for these two articles "From out of the Past" reporting on the traditional race between Marilyn Railey and John Tenison to ring the bell at midnight on New Year's eve.



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Excerpt from the Railey's letter to the Palaver

.....We are back at The ranch to be with our Ranch family for all the New Year's festivities. The annual contest to see who can ring the bell at midnight is shaping up. John Tenison can be seen practicing his sprints. Marilyn will endeavor to outsmart him with cunning and treachery..... (Editor Roxy Colomb said that all would have to wait till the next issue of the Palaver for the continuation of this story.)



# PALAUVER

THE ORIGINAL RANCH LAKEWOOD, NM

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### THE BATTLE OF THE BELL (Continued from January- March issue)

For some years John Tenison and Marilyn Railey have had a contest to see who would be the first one to ring the bell at midnight, New Year's Eve. This year, both contestants were seen getting into shape for the race. John would ride his bicycle at blinding speeds throughout the park, building up his stamina. Marilyn sedately walked daily to the Post Office, accompanied by her trusty protector, Bob.

The New Year's Eve was well attended by those anxious to see who would be this year's winner. Unfortunately, skulduggery abounded. Treacherous Tenison continued announcing all evening that HE would obviously be the first to grab the rope and ring the bell. Resourceful Railey seemed quite calm about this and had a self-assured smile on her face. Suddenly, Treacherous Tenison raced over to Resourceful Railey and handcuffed her to her chair. Gasps and cries of foul play filled the air. John couldn't face the crowd's hostility and released Marilyn.

At this time, Rob Levin sensed that there was more to this affair and went to check the bell. To his amazement he found that SOMEBODY had taped the rope to the pole, thereby denying Resourceful Railey from ever winning. He sneakily undid the rope, hoping for a fair race.

After hundreds of pennies were bet on the two contestants, Phil Sharp and his atomic watch began the countdown. The huge crowd (possibly 20) hushed. Treacherous Tenison and Resourceful Railey were stationed at their respective doors, watching carefully so neither had an unfair advantage.

Three minutes before midnight both parties bolted for the doors. Treacherous Tenison ran toward the bell. However, crafty and scheming Resourceful Railey reached for a concealed sack that held one of the Happy Hour Bells. Knowing that old age has the advantage, she ran out of the door and rang the bell!!! Tenison gave up, defeated by an old lady.

The next morning, the Tenisons left the park. John was seen waving his fist and shouting, "Just you wait until next year".

Submitted by  
Marilyn Railey  
Lot #29

## Through Needra's Eyes

### NEEDRA'S ADVENTURE WITH CANCER..SO FAR!

"Holy Smokes"! When I was diagnosed with lymphoma, we decided to leave New Mexico and go to the M.D. Anderson Cancer Center in Houston, Texas. I had no idea why the center is so popular, but I am learning. The patient is the most important person there. They work in teams, a doctor, nurse, nursing assistant, and a scheduler. The place is huge and there are several buildings which are connected by "sky-walks" over the streets. Elevators are lettered, because it is hard to find your way around. On 11-29 we registered at the Hematology-lymphoma clinic and met with Dr. Turturro. First thing I found out was that there are several types of lymphomas. Hodgkin's lymphoma (which is bad news) and over 80 types of non-Hodgkin's lymphoma are the different types that I have learned about so far. My lymphoma is one of the non-Hodgkin's types. Blood draws, weight, height, and chest x-rays on the first day. The next day they prepared me for a "PET scan", which was in another building. The PET scan is a nuclear x-ray which determined where the cancer is located. It showed that mine is isolated in the neck. I had an EKG and met with a cardiopulmonary doctor—Dr. Yusuf. He was amazed that I was doing so well with only part of my lungs. Everything was done as an outpatient, and most of the work was done in the main building and some in a building called "Mays Clinic". They always have wheelchairs ready for you when you disembark from the car. They did a bilateral bone density test on

me (one of the last ones showed my cancer was not in my bones). That puts us to the 9<sup>th</sup> of December when we met with the doctor. He said he had good news and bad news, so he gave us the bad news first. Yes, I did have lymphoma, and the good news was it was stage 1 and isolated in the location where the lump was removed!!

The doctor did not like the way I sounded and so I was sent downstairs to the ER. (I had trouble breathing.) They gave me hourly breathing tests, blood draws, taking temperatures and lots of antibiotics. The result was they discovered that I have COPD. I did not know that I had it, but the flare-up had to be taken care of before I could start "chemo". From the ER they put me into the hospital and they released me from there on the 11<sup>th</sup> of December. Just before that we moved from the park down town to the Lake Conroe Thousand Trails park (they have a Winter Texan program). There are about 3 RV parks in and around the cancer center and about 10 miles away there is an "ELKS". Every park has a shuttle to the center and they have long hours. On the 13<sup>th</sup>, I had a complete pulmonary function test and a 6-minute walk test. Then we met with Dr. Balachandran, in the internal medicine center in the Mays Clinic. Then the next day, I had a blood draw and met with Dr. Turturro, and he said we will start the chemo on the 15<sup>th</sup> if the blood looks good and no fever. Cliff attended a class for the caregiver to learn how to take care of the dressing and port. I have a

PICC line with 2 catheters which he has learned to clean and flush. I have now finished the first session of chemo (the first of three), and after Wednesday, we will have two weeks off, and then start the second session. My second and third session will be done at their branch in "The Woodlands" which is about 18 miles from here. I only have to do 3 sessions then they will follow up with radiation. I feel o.k. and I fooled a lot of people, myself included, since I have only a part of my right lung, a heart valve replaced and no gall bladder. I am tired, but happy and would recommend M.D. Anderson to everyone.

Needra Dulcich

[Update from 12/25 and 12/29.]

*From Cliff on 12/25—As I send this we are back in the hospital. Needra's platelets took a big drop so they've admitted her for Christmas. Hopefully only a day or two.*

*From Cliff on 12/29—Still working with hospital to get up and around. Looks like maybe by the weekend she will go home. Never sure though until all the blood counts and such are ok.*

*Happy Trails,  
Cliff & Needra*

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## 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 -

### **Frank Usrey**

Frank and Evie Usrey were members from 1989-1994, on Lots 95, 111, and 113.

Frank was the auctioneer at the White Elephant Auction at Roundups for many years. He had the patter and could talk anyone into bidding, whether they had their hand up or not.

One time he auctioned off an article in a brown paper bag. Frank Lowe won the bid and found out that he had just paid good money for his own hat!

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## Ranch Hands Checking In

### **From Craig and Gale Anderson**

As I write this Christmas is right upon us, and a New Year is just around the corner. For us there has been many changes this past year. We purchased a new house this past July and now are homeowners for the first time in thirteen years. We are enjoying our home in New Braunfels, Texas where we have had many good friends stop by while on their way south or to other parts of this great country. It has been really great visiting with our fellow Ranch hands and showing them around our new town and home. It has been especially rewarding to have our family together once again. Our son Craig lives close by in Converse so we get to see them a lot more now. It has been good having him nearby as he has been a great help to us with moving in and doing some upgrades to our home. Couldn't have done a lot of it without his help. Our daughter

Cara has moved from California and in the beginning she moved in with us. She now has a job teaching in San Antonio and has found a place of her own in San Antonio, closer to where she works.

We had our first Thanksgiving at our home with the whole family and also had some Ranch family here too, which really made it nice. We fit fourteen people in our little house, had lots of good food and drink to share and I think we all had a good time. I know I enjoyed having everyone together here.

This Christmas we celebrated early at our son's house. His son Tristan flew to Minnesota to spend Christmas with his mother and her family. So an Christmas was enjoyed a week early. It was really nice, and I got all my Christmas shopping done before the big "crush" ; ) Christmas Day we are all getting together for

dinner at our house once more. I think it will be a pretty relaxing day of just playing games, eating and watching a football game if there is one on?

We still have our Dutch Star. We put it in storage and advertised it with RV Trader.net. So far no sale, and half of me wants to sell it and the other half wants to get back in it and travel again. There is so much to do and see and we have a lot of National Parks still to visit.

We would like to wish all a very Merry Christmas and Happy, Healthy New Year.

And anyone coming near by, please come and stop by, we would love to see y'all.

Happy Holiday's,  
Craig, Gale and Samson too  
Lot 78

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## Ranch Hands Checking In

### Art and Sherry Lumb

Art and I are in Deming at Dreamcatcher. We are doing Doctor and Dentist stuff. Almost finished with dentist, just waiting for a crown.

We've been out to eat a lot. One place I wrote about — the BBQ place — closed. I think it was just too far out of town. A new BBQ opened in the old Sonic but we haven't had a chance to go yet. First New Mexico bank just had their free food party and like good Escapees, we went. It was very good and sure had a lot of people there. The

only place we haven't gone to yet is the Adobe Deli for dinner, but had lunch there and the soup was as good as usual. I still need glasses so we'll get them in the next week.

Hope everyone had a great holiday.

Hugs,

Art and Sherry

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### George and Pam

This is the longest we have been away from The Ranch and it feels strange. We left sometime last March and will probably be back by the April meeting.

From March until Labor Day weekend we worked for FEMA in the Dakotas. George was in South Dakota and Pam was in North Dakota. Labor Day weekend began our trek west.

But first we detoured to Forest City, IA to the Winnebago factory for work on the motorhome, including recovering our sofa. A week and \$\$\$ later we finally were on our way with the only deadline being Thanksgiving in Manteca, CA with Pam's family.

We spent the first week in Custer, SD and with the first rain storm discovered a leak in the bedroom slide — the slide that had been repaired by Winnebago. Following that our new MCD electric windshield shades developed a short. We had entered the dreaded "What's next???" stage of the RVing life style. Luckily a local mobile repair guy was able to re-wire the shades—cost reimbursed by MCD. We had the leak fixed in Bend, OR.

Even with all that we had a great time in Custer and even found the herd of Buffalo on the first day. George posted pictures on Facebook of us in the middle of the buffalo herd as they crossed the road.

We continued west stopping at Devil's Tower, WY, which Pam had long wanted to see, and then going on to the Grand Tetons NP and Yellowstone NP. We had been there before but it was many

years ago—it is even more spectacular than we remembered. In addition to the spectacular mountains we also had beautiful Fall foliage.

As we continued on we found that we were on a trail of volcanic landscapes. We stopped for two days at Craters of the Moon, ID which is a large volcanic field. The weather wasn't cooperating, but we did get to hike into a very large cave that was really a lava tube.

We continued on to Bend, OR and discovered that the main North/South highway borders the Newberry National Volcanic Monument. The lava is right beside the highway! The main visitors' center was closed, but we hiked a lava field and climbed an Obsidian flow—awesome! While we were in Bend we reconnected with friends we had met on the road many years ago and had a great visit.

As we continued toward California we stayed for a week at Timber Valley Escapees co-op, Sutherlin, OR. When we left there we discovered we were ready to stop traveling and headed straight for Pam's brother's house where we were having Thanksgiving.

Thanksgiving was fun with lots of family, friends and children. We spent Christmas with Pam's sister's family in Riverside, CA where the weather has been perfect!!

New Year's Day we head for the desert. We miss our Ranch family and hope to see you along the road.

Hugs and safe travels,

George Brother and Pam McMickin, Lot 65

## The Story of Pecos Belle

October 29, 2011

A very thick fog this morning and my car windows had ice on them but when the dogs and I were walking, I thought I heard Pecos Belle's mournful horn blowing faintly along the Pecos River.

For those of you who have not heard the legend of Pecos Belle, I will tell you now about her.

Years and years ago before the dams were built along the Pecos

River and before the Pecos River dried up, a small steamboat called the Pecos Belle went up and down the river between Carlsbad and Roswell. She carried passengers, livestock, and merchandise to all the small towns between Roswell and Carlsbad.

The legend goes that on one very foggy morning like today, she disappeared with her passengers and cargo, the last report was her horn blowing as

she went by the little town, Seven Rivers. No wreckage or any sign of her was ever seen again. And to this day, on a foggy morning, if you listen carefully you can hear her mourning horn as she passes the old site where Seven Rivers was. So on a very foggy morning listen very carefully for Pecos Belle's horn as she goes up or down the river.

Lucy Billings  
From the Ranch, Lakewood, NM

## Guide to Mexican Food Terms

### Regional Specialties

Do you know what you are ordering? Well for this year you will be able to read about a few of them in alphabetical order in each issue of the Palaver.

#### A

ADOBO - A smoky chile marinade made of chile peppers, garlic, vinegar or citrus juices, and spices. Usually served on pork or chicken. If either citrus or vinegar are not to your liking you can always ask which they use.

ANCHO CHILE - Dried Poblano chile peppers.

#### B

BARBACOA - Meat barbequed in a pit. Depending on the area, the meat may be:

borrega (lamb) in central Mexican cooking;

barbacoa de cabeza (cow head) or cabrito (kid goat) in northern Mexico;

cochinita pibil (pork) if the restaurant specializes in Yucatan cooking

BOLILLO - bread used for tortas and sandwiches.

#### C

CABRITO - Kid Goat

CALDO - Broth soup, usually served as chicken or beef - not always specified on the menu.

CARNE ASADA - marinated and grilled flank steak

CARNITAS - pork roasted in citrus juices, then shredded.

Just a few to learn in each issue so enjoy and know what you are ordering.

Roxy  
Lot #1

## Recipes

*[Editor's note: We've all been out of a needed ingredient and far from a store. Thank-you Marge.]*

### How To Make Sweetened Condensed Milk

To make your own sweetened condensed milk, combine 2 cups of nonfat instant milk, 1 1/2 cups

of sugar and 2/3 cup of boiling water in a bowl. Then slowly mix in 6 tablespoons of melted butter. Pour mixture into a blender and blend until smooth and creamy. Enjoy!

Makes 14 oz. same amount as is in a can!

This was a lifesaver for me today. I just had to Google to find it. I knew it was out there.

Marge Schinke

## Travel Recommendations

### **Our Summer and Fall – Orv & Marge Schinke, Lot 83**

We left The Ranch near the end of June and first headed to Cache, OK (near Lawton) to visit Escapee friends. We thought we were going to leave the heat at The Ranch but it turned out to be 109 there. Below I list some of our stops this summer:

### **MidAmerica Hearing and Dental Clinic, right off I-44 on Hayward Dr, Mt. Vernon, MO.**

We first learned of MidAmerica because they advertised in the Escapee programs. We go there every year for dental work and find their prices almost comparable with those in Mexico. Their hearing aids are also less expensive. The best part about going there is that when you have an appointment you get to stay in their RV park FREE. These parking spots used to be the pits, but a year or two ago they did a major upgrade with new electric hookups and they redid the sewer system. Now it's great. This year Orv got the new behind the ear 4 channel hearing aids and he likes them so well he wears them continuously. Sometimes he even forgets he has them in they are so comfortable. He also bought the remote control so he can change the channels and the volume from his pocket! There are different channels for Normal use, TV and church, Truck noise, Restaurant noise. The restaurant noise channel turns off the speaker that picks up noise behind him. Orv used to never be able to hear me talking when we were driving and now he can. Mt. Vernon is between Joplin and Springfield on I-44.

**Rock Port, MO** This is where we got a first-hand look at the Missouri River flood of 2011. I-29 was closed north of Rock Port clear to Sioux City, IA. This was in July and they didn't expect the waters to recede until at least September. There are still portions of I-29 that are closed.

We stopped one night at the **Benton Harbor, MI Elks Club**. They are not in the directory, but I find that if I Google a town and find there is an Elks club and then go to their website and find someone to contact, they are more than willing to let us park if they have room. Benton Harbor doesn't have any hookups, but it was a great place to park for one night.

**Waterford-Pontiac Elks Club in Waterford, MI.** We've been going to this Elks Club for several years as it is near our son. It has water and electric hookups. On Saturday, September 3, we attended our grandson's wedding in Ann Arbor.

**Midland County Fairgrounds, Midland, MI** is also a place we stop every year for about nine days and then to the Living Word Church parking lot for 9 days. We go to the church every year the third week of September for a conference. While we were at the fairgrounds, Midland had their balloon festival with about 50 balloons launching from the fairgrounds.

We have a lot of church contacts and wherever we can we like to park in church parking lots. Anderson, IN is another church parking lot stop. We stop and

help the pastor with computer issues and updates to his website.

**Dr. Edmund A Babler Memorial State Park near St. Louis** is a beautiful park with cement pads for every site. We have a nephew and his family that live just outside of the park. This is a park you cannot get into without reservations and you have to make your reservations several weeks in advance. I messed up and waited too long, but because Orv has a handicap permit we were able to get a handicap site.

**East Fork Park, Wylie, TX** (near Plano) This is a beautiful Corps of Engineer park on Lake Lavon. Each site has a covered patio with a cement picnic table. There's lots of room between sites so no one feels crowded. With our Golden Age Pass it's only \$9/night. We just started using Corp of Engineer parks a year or two ago and we've really enjoyed them.

## Ranch Lot Changes



### Changes since the November/December issue:

#### Moving In

Jim and Joyce June on Lot #97

Bob and Caren Collins on Lot #62

Ethel Draper and Richard Anthony Lot #18 (returning)

#### Moving Out

*We wish you all the best in your new adventures. You are still part of our family so stay in touch.*

Bill and Linda Good

Helen Farnsworth

Larry and Karen Andrews

Dean and Yvonne Minard

#### Moving Around

Ethel Draper from Lot #84 to Lot #18

Richard and Johnnie Wygant from Lot #37 to Lot #100



## Birthdays and Anniversaries



### JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

1 – Mike Kerr  
 4 – Cecy Neitz  
 4 – Chance Brunton  
 5 – Sharon Kerr  
 10 – Chuck Haase  
 10 – Rob Levin  
 12 – Doris Gage  
 12 – Helen Abbott  
 12 – Joan Whitworth  
 12 – Greg Obst  
 16 – Ro Benish  
 16 – Ed Griffen  
 16 – Rosemary Thingvall  
 17 – Roger Heaver  
 18 – Carl Mager  
 27 – Bob Gambol

### FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

3 – Kasey Jones  
 3 – Patti Coble  
 4 – Roxy Colomb  
 4 – Elaine Simms  
 8 – Joanne Butler  
 11 – Spike Jones  
 12 – Jolianne Brunton  
 14 – Roy Gilbert  
 18 – Jennie Schubert  
 18 – Mark Benish  
 19 – Trish Teegarden  
 20 – Pam McMickin  
 20 – Thayer Tarvin  
 21 – Laura Melvin  
 21 – Art Singley  
 25 – Marge Schinke  
 26 – George Keefe  
 26 – Roland Begin

### JANUARY ANNIVERSARIES

8 – Don & Linda Ranes  
 16 – George Brother &  
 Pam McMickin  
 23 – Cowboy & Joyce Smith  
 25 – Les & Elaine Simms  
 29 – Al & Betty Lugar

### FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARIES

4 – Rudy & Jennie Schubert  
 10 – John & Trudie Tenison  
 17 – Soren & Barb Walthers  
 19 – Mark & Karen Ireland

## Committee Contacts

### Beautification:

Liaison: Richard Wygant  
 Chair:

### Building & Safety

Liaison: Wally Mauck  
 Chair: Dave Stribling

### Finance

Liaison: Richard Wygant  
 Chair: Maria Fairchild

### Governing Documents

Liaison: Al Lugar  
 Chair: Nettie Haase

### Grievance/Dispute

Liaison: Greg Obst  
 Chair: Gil Carey

### Library/Video

Liaison: Linda Ranes  
 Chair: Betty Lugar

### Long Range Planning

Liaison: Chuck Queen  
 Chair:

### Lot Transfer

Liaison: Barbara Walther  
 Keeper of the Keys: Roxy Colomb

### Nominating

Liaison: Al Lugar  
 Chair:

### Palaver

Liaison: George Keefe  
 Chair & Editor: Pam McMickin

### Ranch House Hands

Liaison: Barbara Walther  
 Chair: Nancy Schneider

### Water

Liaison: George Keefe  
 Chair: Jim Coble

### Welcome

Liaison: Linda Ranes  
 Chair: Maria Fairchild

### WiFi

Liaison: George Keefe  
 Chair:

# 2012

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The SKP Ranch  
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