



THE ORIGINAL RANCH PALAVER

FOUNDED BY
C.T.HANCOX
SKP#16549
1998

VOLUME XIX NUMBER 3 THE ORIGINAL RANCH LAKEWOOD, NM May-June 2012

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President's Post

April 24, 2012

Summer has almost arrived here at The Ranch as temperatures are into the 90's. Our water bib's replacement project is winding down and the end is near.

Member lot fire hoses will be pressurized and inspected in the next month. Any failures need to be replaced by the member. The park can replace these failed hoses and invoice the member if they are not present in the park.

Today there are 26 lots remaining to be replaced with 17 built waiting to be installed. Digging the holes is done in the mornings and not every day as the heat is here ninety degree days. Water use has been good as there have not been any big leaks.

The Claret-cup cactuses have bloomed and they were especially beautiful on some lots this year.

Along with Mike Brown and Rob Levin we ordered the Dalco building for the laundry and it will be built in Hobbs and be delivered in about a month.

Let us keep breaking down our cardboard boxes. Flattening the boxes makes more room in the dumpsters.

Bonnie and I will be taking a trip to Austin, TX in the beginning of May for a week to visit with our grandson and our daughter Carole.

George Keefe
BOD President



From the Editor

You would never know that Summer doesn't start until late June—hot, hot, hot!

Our ongoing columns continue with Gene Sharp contributing an article from a past Palaver; tales of former leaseholders from Marilyn Railey and the next installment of a Guide to Mexican Food Terms from Roxy.

Starting with the next issue, we will also be publishing an ongoing saga from the first Palavers from Bob Railey,

Chief, Top, Ace Investigative Reporter.

I think it would also be interesting to hear from our former leaseholders. They may no longer be members of The Ranch, but they are still part of our family.

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



From Out of the Past

Gene Sharp provides us with articles from past Palavers. This time it's the story of the beginning of The *Original Ranch*.

—Thank-you Gene.

The ORIGINAL RANCH

PALAVAR

Volume 1, Number 3

The *Escapees Ranch*, Lakewood, NM

March, 1998

THE WAY IT WAS

By Flo Schmalzi, Columnist

In 1982, Joe and Kay Peterson planned a series of cooperative campgrounds (co-ops) where SKPs could dwell inexpensively in comfort among their peers. The first co-op had already been established in Casa Grande, when the Petersons chose southeastern New Mexico for the second.

After all, Joe grew up in the Carlsbad/Artesia area where many of his friends still lived. Joe's life long friend, Wayne Gregory, agreed to sell fifteen acres of his ranchland. Since Joe wanted trees, Wayne flew Joe over the spread. The big trees along an arroyo caught Joe's eye. So the 15 acres were staked out near the almost-ghost town of Lakewood.

SKPs Roni and Tom Foster moved their trailer to an adjacent derelict farm which still had electricity running to a pole. Although the house was gone, weather-worn, dilapidated out buildings and sheds remained gaunt testimonials to times long gone.

The co-op was ready to start in early 1983, despite cattle still roaming through the chaparral and around the parked rigs. '83 must have been an *El Nino* year as, according to Roni's diary, snow fell intermittently every month thru April, sometimes as much as ten inches (a month), with April having twelve inches. Most days, however, the snow melted quickly.

Roni recorded the first rattlesnake was killed on April 9th quickly followed by a second on the 11th. A utility shed was quickly assembled and work began. Beginning April 25th well casings and sewage pipes were delivered; trenching began; the septic systems were laid out and started. Volunteers flocked to the park whether they planned to live here or not.

By May 23rd the power poles were up and power was provided. With 51 rigs assembled, the first rally began Saturday, May 28th. The lots were drawn the next day. Ted Lee was elected the first president, Jerry Isaacson the treasurer. At a "Name the Co-op Contest" the group voted to call it THE RANCH. Instead of calling themselves "Roof Raisers," a la Casa Grande, the members wished to be called "Ranch Hands."

DID YOU KNOW?

We use about a case of Styrofoam cups per month in the club house?

A case costs around \$25. Management does not mind if you bring your own cups and/or glasses to Happy Hour and any other function taking place in the club house.

It might be amazing how much money we could save ourselves if did bring our own cups or glasses. (Note: We cannot leave them in



the clubhouse however. This would get us in trouble with the State Food Safety Inspectors.)

Donations for coffee have increased since we brought it to everybody's attention and provided a more conspicuous

container to put the donations in. However they still do not match the cost of the coffee and tea we consume. Perhaps we should consider donating to the fund more often.

Just a thought.

Marge Schinke, SKP65543
Welcome Chairman

Guide to Mexican Food Terms—From Roxy Colomb

We start our Mexican words with G for this newsletter

G

Gordita – Thick masa dough shaped like a small pita. Often filled with shredded pork and vegetables.

Guisado – Cubes of meat cooked in sauce

H

Hominy – Dried kernals of corn that have been boiled in lime juice and water to remove the hard

outer shell.

Huevos Rancheros – Breakfast dish of tortillas topped with fried eggs and covered in a red salsa.

J

Jaiba – Crab

Jamaica – Cold beverage made by brewing water with hibiscus flowers. Some say it reminds them of pomegranate juice.

L

Lenque – Beef tongue

Leche - Milk

Recipes

(Editors note: As many of you know, the **Little Valley Bar & Grill** in Dexter has a pot of green chili soup going and diners can help themselves for free. Sherry got this recipe from them.)

Ingredients:

1/2 lb pork, cubed
1 onion, chopped
1 jar La Victoria salsa verde
1 can Swanson chicken broth
3 carrots, sliced
1 or 2 potatoes, diced.

Put everything in crock pot except potatoes. Cook until pork is tender. Then add potatoes and cook until potatoes are done.

Serve with shredded cheddar cheese and sliced green onions.

If you have extra time you can brown the meat and onions and then follow recipe. La Victoria salsa verde is not very hot even if you buy the medium. If it's still too hot, add some sour

cream. Salsa verde, mild, is very hard to find in the south.

Hugs,
Sherry Lumb
Lot #6

Note: Less chicken broth and you have stew instead of soup.

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 -

Marie Hall

Marie Hall was the traveling companion of Marcus Mix who was a member from 1989-2001, on Lot # 72. During a Valentine's Day party the question was asked, "Who was married in the most unusual place?" Marie's story won.

Marie and her sweetheart were anxious to get married but Marie was underage. They went to her father for permission to be married. He said that he would give permission, but they should talk to the minister of their church. The minister had a day job at the local gravel pit, so the three of them went to see him. The situation was explained and the minister asked the couple how soon they wanted to be married. Naturally, they said as soon as possible. He said, "Let's get it done then" and they were married in the gravel pit. She added that they spent their wedding night at her in-laws home. Their bedroom was above the parents and the newlyweds hoped that the squeaky springs sounded like the squeaky windmill in the yard and no would notice.

Round-Up



Come visit the old WILD WILD WEST on November 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 2012. You will have a choice of things to do, foods to eat and activities fitting for all cowboys and girls. Go prospecting for Pecos Diamonds, learn about Geo-caching, enjoy a craft and bake sale, a silent auction and/or a raffle and a 50/50. Shoot a golf ball or maybe a gun and keep a sharp lookout for the sheriff who gives fines for many things or a summons if you really mess-up. If he or his deputies don't get you, the western photographer and the roving camera may. Western garb would be nice but is not a requirement.

If you want to join in just come to The *Original* Ranch in Lakewood NM. If you want to help out, contact the following folks:

Roxy Colomb – Wagon Master – rxyclmb@gmail.com

Charlette Bratcher – Trail Boss – cbratcher8448@yahoo.com

Barbara Walther – registration & door prizes – walther2@escapees.com

Gil Carey – Sheriff's office – pcarey@peoplepc.com

Nancy Schneider – Silent Auction, Craft 7 Food sale – schofcos@yahoo.com

Rsemary & Olf Thingvall – Hot Breakfast, Beanbag Baseball – rthingvall2@aol.com

Charlette & Dennis Bratcher – Brisket Lunch – cbratcher8448@yahoo.com

Trish Teegarden – Sit Down Dinner – tee42@escapees.com

Find a flyer for details on The Ranch website or on Ranch Ramblings.

Luvya,

Roxy Colomb
Wagon Master
Lot #1

Ranch Hands Checking In

THE BIRD HOUSE HAPPENINGS

We left The Ranch on Wed. the 11th at 8:30am with an agenda to be in Tennessee for the 14th of April. Yea! We made it. Had a time zone change to central daylight savings time in TX which we have adjusted to. As Loyce told our daughter when she was little "*The sun has riz, the sun has set and here we iz in Texas, yet*".

For two days we were in TX. On the last leg of TX (just before entering LA) a moving sign signal vehicle stopped right in front of us. Thank goodness Loyce knows how to stop the big rig and put on flashers to keep from getting hit in the rear.

Diesel fuel prices at Flying J in Tye, TX \$4.12.9. Driving on thru and entered LA. Then at a Pilot in Rayville, LA diesel prices were \$4.12.9. Then on thru AL where we had the truck serviced (oil changed, filters, greased and the camper greased, too) at a Petro in McCalla, AL. Might add it was much cheaper in AL than in NM plus we had more work done in AL. Also, bought diesel there @ \$4.00.9

We had a short day expecting to arrive early at our destination at Texas T Campground in Cornersville, TN (outside of Nashville-campground cheaper, of course) but that didn't happen. Detour in Birmingham and of course we didn't follow signs all the way thru and we saw neat parts of Birmingham we didn't know existed.

No problem until we got on I-65N where a small car was in the left hand lane on the three (3) lane interstate and he turned right in front of us and an ice cream truck to turn right at an exit. Scared the bee-cheezies out of me. Happened too fast to do much reacting on my part. I'm glad Loyce is an alert 81 year old and keeps everything under control.

Then we crossed over into TN. Remind you now that this is a Saturday mid morning and we discussed stopping at The Tennesseans Restaurant to eat lunch. WRONG-Tennessee, in their wisdom, decided to do construction on the week-end. One lane traffic on I-65N to do bridge work took one (1) hour and 15 minutes to go seven (7) miles. Everybody was returning from Spring break and of course the snowbirds from FL were returning to the NORTH-

soooooooooooooooooooooo the traffic was awful—backed up 12 miles or so. NO stop for lunch—too aggravated by this time.

Did make it though by 2:30pm to Texas T Campground. Played cards that evening with friends in the campground. Sunday went to church with son, Pat, wife, Cindy and son, Luke and then on over to their house where we had lunch and a wonderful visit with all.

We made our doctors appointments (skin) can't spell the big word-HA on Monday with me getting an A+ and Loyce getting an A (had to have spot removed from his hand). Thank goodness for good reports.

Learned a new card game-Up the river and down the river-very fun which we have been playing with our friends. Then on Tues. met Pat & family at J. Alexander's for dinner and visit there. We both got hair cuts and I know we have to look better because we are much lighter with less hair. Had lunch at Corky's Bar-b-que in Brentwood with friends from Loyce's working days on Thursday and it was so good to see them.

On Saturday the 21st will be heading to Nashville to a Freightliner Rally at the KOA. I know we will have fun because we will be seeing friends that we haven't seen since last year and learning new things for our big trucks. Then after the rally we will head to Knoxville, TN to see Kim and her family plus more doctor appointments. Hope to met up with Glyn and Dianne (Cowboy Church) in Crossville, TN on the way over to Knoxville.

We hope everyone traveling has safe travels and the ones at The Ranch have cool, and happy days.

Until our paths cross again,

Hugs from Tennessee,
Laney and Loyce
Lot #48

A Little Novel
In a Few Words Novel

Maureen Bigelow for Happy Hour

April 11, 2012

The Ranch

Over the cattle guard, rumble in.

Ranch-house rockers sway a welcome;

The bell rings and hugs greet.

Park the rig, set up - but return for Happy Hour,
when the “ranch hands” gather to laugh and talk over coffee.

“Ding-a-Ling” rings for silence, tells tales, has birthday and
anniversary songs, and introduces all newcomers.

Event announcers parade up; --- more jokes told.

Leaving? -- “Happy Trails” sung with waves and smiles.

Only half an hour, but folks chatter on, wandering back with
each other —Games tonight – groups in the mornings.

Out in the desert – set apart — below Artesia — above
Carlsbad -

Lakewood – and the one of a kind “Original Ranch”



Ranch Hands moving on, moving in and moving around
Ranch Hands Moving On

Eric and Jean Bayliss
Denny and Chickie Rundall
Karl and Barbara Komatz

Ranch Hands moving in:

Cindy and Bill Pulsipher— Lot #68.
Dennis and Charlette Bratcher— Lot #27
Bob and Beth White — Lot #51
Carol and Ed Hines — Lot #84

IN MEMORIUM

In March, The Ranch lost three beloved members in one week—Larry Neitz, Needra Dulcich and Joyce Smith. Larry Neitz's funeral was at the San Jose Catholic Church in Carlsbad with a reception following the service. Many members of our Ranch family were able to attend and lend their support.

At The Ranch, Marilyn Railey gave a memorial at a special meeting where friends had an opportunity to share their memories.

Following is the memorial given by Marilyn Railey and then a special remembrance of Needra by her husband, Cliff.

Memorial at The Ranch

Marilyn Railey

Before we begin the meeting, let us reflect on the passing on of three of our leaseholders. We have never before had so many die in so few days, and our memories of them are still with us.

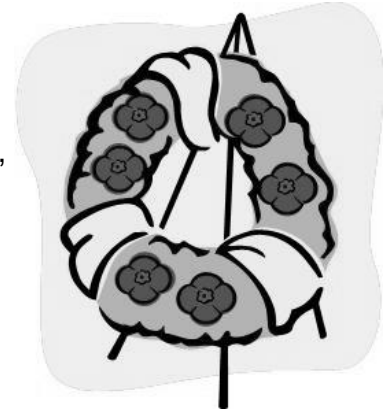
Larry Neitz, #44021, and Cecy became a member of the Ranch in 1998. They were first on lot 70 and then became leaseholders on lot 52 where they resided for 12 years. Larry was able to stay in their trailer during his illness and passed away there. Cecy will continue living there. Larry was always there to help with a project until ill health made him unable to participate in many activities. He died March 11, 2012.

Needra Dulcich #5541 became a member of the Ranch when she and Cliff were married on Jan. 3, 2007. They resided on lot 59, and Cliff will continue living here. Needra and Cliff traveled extensively, and were in The Woodlands, Texas for her cancer treatment when Needra passed away. Needra died March 13, 2012.

Joyce Smith #53624 also became a member of the Ranch on her marriage to Al, who we know as 'Cowboy' on Jan. 26, 2006. They resided on lot 23 when they weren't at her former home in Pampa, Texas. Cowboy will continue to make his home at the Ranch. Joyce's increasing inability to care for herself made it necessary for her to be in a nursing home in Carlsbad for several months before passing away on March 14, 2012.

Let us pause for a moment and give God thanks for allowing all of us to know these special people.

Amen.



NEEDRA DULCICH AS SEEN THROUGH THE EYES OF A TORMENTOR, FRIEND, HUSBAND



Needra was born in Monte Vista, CO. In 1935 and then moved to Clifton, AZ where she first attended school. From there her family moved to Hornitos, CA and then to Mariposa where I first met her in the 5th grade (1945). By that time she was already suffering with Alopecia Universalis and this made her different. Mostly boys, including myself would make fun of her when her wig would go flying and she would run off to the restroom crying. As the years went by we continued through school and graduated from Mariposa High School in 1953 in a class of 34 students. During this time we had crossed paths in several ways such as learning to play the violin from the same teacher, playing in the school band, and of course taking some of the same classes, but we really didn't know each other.

After graduation Needra moved to the San Francisco Bay Area working for the phone company and met and married Monte Blew. They had three children, two sons Keith and Brian and one daughter Laurie.

Over the next many years Needra and I ran into each other at such strange places as the California Department of Forestry office in San Louis Obispo when she came to get a burning permit. Next it was the 25th class reunion and then the 40th class reunion.

My late wife Margaret and Needra became good friends during those years as we returned to Mariposa for a variety of reasons. My family lived there and the school has an all class picnic each year that we tried to attend.

In 2006 our lives became more involved when she became a part of a support group helping me cope with the illness and impending death of Margaret. At that time we had no idea that this was going to lead to the greatest 5 ½ years either of us had ever had.

I had returned to California to bury Margaret and as a close friend Needra came to the funeral and tried to tell me that she had been through this and how to cope. She even took me to dinner. After everything was done I repaid her by taking her to dinner. At that time she asked what my plans were. I'm sure thinking I was staying in the area. I explained I was headed for Canada the next day. When we would tell this story to friends she would always say "I knew I had competition".

In August of 2006 we decided to give things a try after much discussion over the phone and internet. One of the first questions was "How do you feel about sleeping with a bald woman"? My answer was I don't know I have never done it. It obviously worked.

Needra was first and foremost a great promoter of the two passions in her life. One was AA and she was willing to tell people about it and that she was over 31 years sober. The other was National Alopecia Areata Foundation. I had the privilege and pleasure of attending two of the conferences with her. The first was in Indianapolis, Indiana and the second was in Century City, CA. After that I understood why she was so adamant about helping people get to know about Alopecia. After 74 years and being a guinea pig for many treatments in the old days, she was very vocal about trying to find a better way. In talking with parents at the conferences I could see why they are so upset.

Needra made friends everywhere we went and will be sorely missed by all of them. I have received so much support with her passing that those friendships brought. She fought a valiant battle but her body just couldn't handle the fungal pneumonia and the drugs that it took to fight back. Needra lost the battle on March 13, 2012.



I would request that if this is printed that anyone who wants to do something for her please make a donation to the National Alopecia Foundation in Mill Valley, Ca. They are funding research all over the U.S.A and other countries to find the cause and hopefully one day the cure.

Cliff Dulcich

Proud to have been her husband



Birthdays and Anniversaries



MAY BIRTHDAYS

1 – Dave Stribling
 2 – Karen Ireland
 6 – Nettie Haase
 6 – Chuck Morris
 9 – Nancy Schneider
 11 – Mary Gallivan
 12 – Rich Baker
 12 – Shirley Culpepper
 13 – Ron Frey
 31 – Phil Sharp

JUNE BIRTHDAYS

4 – Jim Hughes
 7 – Paula Russell
 10 – Beverly Hughes
 11 – Craig Anderson
 13 – Tony Simmons/Amari
 15 – Linda Frey
 16 – Mark Ireland
 20 – Bill Kukes
 21 – Sherry Lumb
 22 – Charlene Tarvin
 24 – Shirley Partch
 24 – Jerry Pruett
 25 – Soren Walthers
 26 – Marie Helm
 28 – Marilyn Railey
 30 – Caren Collins

MAY ANNIVERSARIES

2 – Mike & Sharon Kerr
 10 – Ed & Lynn Griffen
 14 – Rob & Taffie Levin
 18 – Dave & Sally Stribling
 19 – George & Bonnie Keefe
 19 – Roy & Kathy Gilbert
 23 – Gary & Jennifer Roessler
 28 – Phil & Nancy Schneider

JUNE ANNIVERSARIES

8 – Bob & Marie Helm
 8 – Charles & Joanne Butler
 9 – Norm & Shirley Partch
 12 – Spike & Kasey Jones
 12 – Orville & Marge Schinke
 13 – Jerry & Barbara Pruett
 15 – Jim & Judy Fagan
 15 – Wally & Joann Mauck
 15 – Art & Sandy Singley
 16 – Cliff & Needra Dulcich
 19 – Don & Doris Gage
 24 – Bob & Jean Stuvell
 25 – Larry & Cecy Neitz

Committee Contacts

Beautification:

Liaison: Richard Wygant
 Chair:

Building & Safety

Liaison: Wally Mauck
 Chair: Dave Stribling

Finance

Liaison: Richard Wygant
 Chair: Marcia 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: Marge Schinke

WiFi

Liaison: George Keefe
 Chair:



Palaver
The SKP Ranch
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