



# PALAUVER

**FOUNDED BY**  
**C.T. HANCOX**  
**JKP # 16549**  
1998

VOLUME XI NUMBER 1

THE ORIGINAL RANCH, LAKEWOOD NM

JAN-FEB 2008

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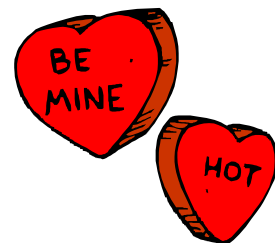
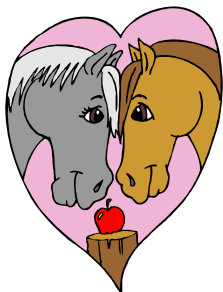


# happy new year



## AND

# HAPPY VALENTINE DAY



# ANNOUNCEMENTS



## HAPPY BIRTHDAY

### JANUARY

Cece Neitz – 4  
 Judy Bell – 11  
 Doris Gage – 12  
 Helen Abbot – 12  
 Carl Mager – 18  
 Rosemary Lieberman – 25  
 Bob Gambol – 27  
 Bob Boman – 27

### FEBRUARY

Kasey Jones – 3  
 Roxy Colomb – 4  
 Joanne Butler – 8  
 Henry Butler – 10  
 Spike Jones – 11  
 Jennie Schubert – 18  
 Thayer Tarvin – 20

## HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

### JANUARY

Lieberman – 18  
 Boman – 20

### FEBRUARY

Schubert - 9  
 Bell - 23

I don't know the exact date and it won't be celebrated, but this is the 10th year of having the Palaver Newsletter at The Ranch thank you to C.T.

### MOVING OVER

Hilda Cerday has moved  
 From Lot #8 to Lot #88

Jim & Noreen Ward  
 From Lot #9 to Lot #89

### MOVING ON

### HAPPY TRAILS

to  
 Howard  
 Replogle  
 And  
 Marilyn  
 Clark

### WAITING LIST

Joe & Bonnie Nemmers  
 Dave & Carol Thews  
 Russ & Gretchen Berquam  
 Barb & Roger Heavers  
 Roy & Kathy Gilbert

### FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Ranchhands,

Another year has gone by amazingly fast in spite of the so-called adversities here at The Ranch. Christmas and New Year's were celebrated in our usual style, with plenty of good food and a great deal of fun. We have had birthdays, anniversaries, families visiting, dug up streets, broken water mains and daily waking up to the beep, beep of heavy machinery as it digs up our carefully landscaped park! In short, life has been happening here. New septic tanks and the pond liner have been delivered and are waiting to be installed: pipes have been buried in the boondock area, which has been graded and regraded; most of Quail Trail has had pipes laid and cleanouts installed. Next to be dug up is Pecos Pass, from Rabbit Run to the septic tank behind the office. Our stalwart volunteers are working hard to fine-tune the new RO system, so that it can be plumbed into the pond, which has been nearly completed.

Meanwhile it is business as usual. The Christmas decorations have been taken down and we are all looking forward to spring and a whole new Ranch, which will be celebrated at the Ranch's 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration in April. The planning committee has several days of fun scheduled, along with some good eating! Perhaps there will be duck races on the new pond..... ??

Until then, from all of us here in construction land, a safe and happy New Year to you all.  
 Debra

PS: Unfortunately, Sue Hoffmeister has decided that she cannot serve on the Board at this time and has resigned. The Board has voted to elect Roxy Colomb to fill the vacancy, so a big "thank-you" to Roxy for agreeing to serve. We all miss Sue and hope that she can be with us in the future.

# RANCH HANDS REPORTING

## SIGNING IN

Linda and I are in southeast Georgia visiting grandchildren and family for the holidays. We plan to head to The Ranch in January following a brief stop to visit the VA in Houston. Linda will be looking forward to her long postponed but scheduled knee surgery in Carlsbad.

Looking forward to seeing y'all then  
Henry & Linda Butler  
Lot #46

## HOFFMEISTER UPDATE

As most of you know, Bill and I will be relocating to Iowa. By the time you read this we will be living in a duplex in Mt. Pleasant. Bill is doing pretty well with his therapy and will continue with when we get to Iowa. This was not in our plans but God sometimes has different plans for us.

For those that don't know, Bill has incurable cancer. He had a brain tumor removed and has cancer of the spine and right hip. We spent almost three months in Lubbock TX. We are ready to start down this new path

We are going to keep our lot at The Ranch for now. We love it there and are hopeful that Bill will get strong enough to travel again and one of the first places we will head for will be The Ranch.

We will have internet access and will love to hear from everyone.

Hugs, Sue and Bill Lot #21

## HAD FUN - CAME HOME

After spending five and a half months in Colorado tending to the annual doctor stuff and getting repairs done to the motor home after the lightning strike, we finally returned to The Ranch the first week of October. It felt soooo good to "be home"!

As our plans stand now, (we all know how plans go, right?) we plan to spend most of the winter here. We may take a trip down to Big Bend, but with the price of fuel even that is up in the air.

Soren went to Denmark during November to help his oldest brother to celebrate his 70<sup>th</sup> birthday. He spent 2 weeks there while Barbara spent the time with her children and grandchildren in (where else?) Colorado! Barbara enjoyed Thanksgiving with the kids where we had traditional (to them) Mexican food. Patty and Fred have become excellent cooks where Mexican food is concerned. We managed to stay away from The Ranch during the snow, but Barbara got some in Denver and Soren had cold, humid weather in Denmark.

Barbara & Soren Walther  
Lot # 10

## RAILEY'S ON THE WATER

We wish all of you a belated Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. We spent an early Christmas with our Odessa family and Christmas with our Santa Fe family.

Thank all of you who came to share our 50th anniversary party on Dec 28. We had a great time and it was a wonderful way to celebrate our special day. It was great having Robert, Zoe, and August here from Santa Fe and Mark, Sandie, Delaney and Henley here from Odessa to be with us.

When you read this we will be "on the water", literally. We board the cruise ship, Ryndam, on Jan 6 for a 30 day cruise. It is a round trip from San Diego, stopping in the Hawaiian Islands (Hawaii, Oahu, Maui, Kauai) and French Polynesia (Tahiti, Bora Bora, Moorea, Raiatea, Nuka Hiva in the Marquesas).

Sometime while we'll be gone, The Original Ranch will be "in the water" as the R/O water should be operational and the septic system on line. What a wonderful way to start the New Year. Every member should pat themselves on the back for being so patient and understanding while this was in progress.

Hugs, Bob and Marilyn

Hello Everyone,

Bev and I are staying in our park model in Casa Grande AZ. We have been here since early Oct except for a couple of quick trips to the Ranch in early Nov to attend the business meeting and to enjoy Christmas with our Ranch Family. The weather here has been nice although a little cool for this time of the year. We plan to stay here through March with a few short trips probably to California to see Bev's neurologist plus friends. We both enjoy the Casa Grande area and I get to play golf at least twice a week.

Around the first of December I went in for a stress test as a follow-up of my bypass surgery last year. During the test my cardiologist saw something that troubled him and wanted me to do an angiogram. I went in for this procedure on Dec 10 and he discovered a blockage to one artery. The doctor was able to do a stent and everything went well. I stayed in the hospital overnight and Bev was able to stay with me. George and Linda Frey were staying in our park and volunteered to drive us over as I was not supposed to drive. I feel fine.

Bev is doing well and is having speech three times a week. We bought her a lift chair which helps her get up and she loves it. If anyone is coming through Casa Grande we are staying at Sunscape RV Resort, which is located east of Casa Grande near the fairgrounds. We are on Lot # 360.

Hope to see some of you.  
Bev and Bill Heeter  
Lot #70

## HELLO AGAIN FROM LAS VEGAS

Haven't done real well on updates lately, and this will be a quick one. Our only travels recently were a long weekend over at Bryce Canyon for Labor Day where we did some hiking and then enjoyed the trip back to The Ranch for Thanksgiving. Bill also surprised me for my birthday with a hot air balloon ride (telling me my gift was on "backorder" when windy weather on the weekends caused it to be delayed. It was worth the wait. On the balloon ride, we met a couple from Alaska, now living in Washington, who were very intrigued to hear more about the RV lifestyle so we got together with them the following weekend and traded stories. Although it was great to get back home for a visit, there wasn't a lot of time for socializing (except for that yummy Thanksgiving dinner!). Seeing this was a "working vacation" with doctor and dentist appointments and then Bill dove into our coach remodeling project wholeheartedly. He didn't meet his overly optimistic completion date while we were there and is back to finishing things up on the weekends, but everything is really looking great. The new carpeting is done and all that remains is putting down the new tile in the kitchen/entranceway. We're still waiting on the cabinet doors to be mounted on the custom storage unit he built where the dinette used to be, and our new chairs have yet to arrive, but at least we can see the light at the end of the tunnel. He's put in a lot of hard work but guess it is a lot cheaper than buying a new rig!

We just celebrated our 18<sup>th</sup> anniversary by going out to dinner and seeing "Mama Mia" (great music, great energy) down on the Strip, and have decided to plan a Hawaiian cruise for our 20<sup>th</sup> year together. We're still planning on the Pacific Northwest for the summer of 2008, maybe including a week at a dude ranch somewhere, and another trip to Alaska (possibly moving there for a year or two) is also on the future agenda. Christmas was a low-key affair seeing as we didn't take any extra time off, but did go down and check out some of the holiday decorations on the Strip and ate out on Christmas Day.

In the meantime, Bill's contract is going strong here in Vegas and we both continue to work in order to save up for all this future planning. He still checks out the job boards occasionally just to see what's out there at locations on our wish-list, and even though it's cold enough here now to require running the furnace and catalytic heater, we know summer will be here soon enough.

I had a brief scare with a bad mammogram report in November, but a follow-up mammogram and ultrasound have ruled out anything serious, thankfully.

Well guess that's the news in a nutshell.

Wishes of good health and happiness go out to everyone for the coming year. Safe travels to everyone and give us a holler if you're passing through this area. By the way, our e-mail address on the last official mailing that went out was incorrect. From now on use:

[patandbill@escapees.com](mailto:patandbill@escapees.com)

Holiday Hugs

Pat and Bill and Samantha the Kamper Kitty Lot #106

## COLOMB CHECK-IN

For those of you who haven't been around, you may not know that the Matched Set have finally spent some time at home at The Ranch. It has been a bitter sweet period but then Roxy loves chocolate which, as a diabetic, she should not have.

First off our plans to return to south Texas went by the boards, then when Tom found that he could no longer work, our plans to stay at Bitter Lake didn't materialize. Not having a volunteer job always costs us since we miss the many perks which save us a good deal of money, like a \$90.00 electric bill.

However we have sure enjoyed reuniting with our Ranch family and meeting the many new folks who have moved in during our absences. This is still the friendliest park in, or out of, the system. Sure we have our differences and misunderstandings but we probably wouldn't be a family if we didn't.

The holiday season was a really nice time and a big thank you to all who did such a fine job planning it.

We have no definite plans until March when we hope to head for California for a business meeting for Roxy and then east to volunteer at Erie NWR in Pennsylvania. Roxy had some plans for finishing the inside of our "big red barn" but they took second or third place to the newest assessment, her many doctors visits, her cataract removal, and just enjoying The Ranch. Although Tom can't do much walking his health remains great.

Best news for the season was that we had another great granddaughter. That makes a total of seven greats for us. That fills you in on current and possible future events so enjoy the coming year and do what you can do.

Luvya  
Roxy/Tom Colomb  
Lot #1  
The Big Red Barn

## HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL

We are here in freezing, windy, sunny Arizona and are enjoying three of our sons and their families. When we left

The Ranch on the day after the semi-annual meeting we went to Pancho Villa and met Fred and Joyce Cook for about a week. Needless to say we enjoyed one meal at the Pink House. We had planned to spend Thanksgiving there but plans changed and we came over to Cave Creek. Joyce and Fred came over to Tempe and stayed a few days so we had another couple of good meals with them.

I (Donna) am home, dog and cat sitting until 12/29 as Rob, Kelly and Levi went up to the Phoenix area to have Christmas with her family. We had a great day with Richard and his family and Robin and his wife on Christmas and will spend time in Gilbert with Richard's family for the New Year. Rich and Sandy became grandparents just after Thanksgiving so that makes Russ and me great grandparents of a beautiful baby girl. This is the first girl in the David family in 21 years. Santa was good to both of us.

We are not quite sure when we will be back at The Ranch as both Russ and I had to have some spots on our faces off. If everything goes well we will know then. We do plan to spend a few more days at Pancho Villa on our way back as we have four more days coming since we left that much early.

We have enjoyed hearing from some of you at The Ranch through telephone calls you have made to us. Glad to hear that Richard Baker is doing well and sad to hear that the Hoffmeisters have traveled on as well as the Culpeppers. We understand that there are more new people on Windmill Vista, won't know the place when we get back.

All of you have a very Happy New Year, we will be back soon.

Donna and Russ  
Lot #119

## NEW MEXICO (RANCH) ALERT

New Mexico Residents who are cancer patients or survivors make a New Year's Resolution!!! Attend the New Mexico Cancer Center Service "FAMILY CANCER RETREAT", at the Conference Center in Glorietta NM (18 miles east of Santa Fe). The retreat is held twice a year and the dates for 2008 are April 25-27 and Sept 12-14. You can get more information at: [cancerservicesNM.org](http://cancerservicesNM.org)

The retreat is for cancer patients, survivors and their caretakers/spouses/families. Your only expense is your travel. Lodging, meals, wonderful seminars, entertainment and socializing are all free.

Bob and I attended last year just before I finished my chemotherapy. We felt it was the BEST conference that we attended and would like to return as volunteers in the future.

Do something special for yourself. Enjoy all that you do.  
Ede/Bob Trockels  
Lot #102

## GETTING READY AND SET TO GO

Hello all from South Carolina. Greg and I are getting closer to the plan. We ordered and picked up our new motor home on December 17-18 in North Carolina at Bill Plemmon RV. It is a 38' Winnebago Adventurer. We are in the process of sorting through the house, having house sales and loading the motor home. A much larger task than we thought.

Frustrating and stressful also. Our son and his now fiancé are trying to get settled in so it is chaos in the house. We have loose ends to tie up, my Jeep Liberty to sell and the last of the furniture. Hoping to head west in early January. But things don't seem to be going our way. The weather here has been dry till our first open house last weekend and then the bottom fell out. After months and months of no rain, the driest summer/fall in years, then temperatures dropped from 80's to 40's daytime: not knowing how to dress, and we all got sick for Christmas.

Hope you all will have a prosperous new year.

See you all soon.

Mary Ann & Greg Obst

Lot #26

The following article was sent to me in four different segments. I have divided into whatever fits as I type. Thanks you two for remembering that my pocketmail only accepts 4000 characters per message. Below is number 1 and it fits just perfect for an opening.

## DA BIG BUS

I don't believe we have described and shared the plane trips we have made, for y'all have been there, done that, right? Sit tight while while we spin the tale of our BIG BUS GREYHOUND trip.

We Johnsons have always gotten a kick out of trying something different from the mundane, especially if it behooves our schedule. In our other life, we once sought out a vacation via Amtrack, a combo fare/hotel /Disney spring vacation to Orlando from the northeast. Our friends in perplexity exclaimed, "What? You're not taking a plane??" We loved the relaxing get-to-know-your neighbor and look out the window vista. Likewise, we again decided to travel to next via the unthinkable.

We didn't want to drive 200 miles to get a plane or train to embark from Lakewood for Christmas in Maine. Cindy decided to check out Big Bus Greyhound, 30 miles to Carlsbad (same on the other end), 2 days plus some hours and \$200 round trip per person on a 7 day reservation (\$99.00 for 14 day) clinched it – a new adventure found for Carl and Cindy. We took plenty of reading material, Sudoku, food and water bottle for refilling. We barely used the reading material. The return trip remains to be seen as we write from South End Boston looking out at the city lights. Read on for the Johnson's Big Bus Adventure

## DEPARTURE

Tony and Debra were crazy when they volunteered to chaffer us to Carlsbad bus depot. Thank goodness Cindy had chosen 8:40 at night rather than in the morning. Tony and Debra must have gritted their teeth as they stood outside Carlsbad bus depot braving the biting cold breeze and waving to us, the two former Mainiacs heading for...yep, Farmington, Maine via Carlsbad, Lubbock, Wichita Falls, Tulsa, St. Louis, Columbus, Pittsburgh, NYC and Boston.

We awoke at 200 miles away in Lubbock TX – it's spitting and blowing snow! Here we met our first co-traveler who also had been sleeping. Julie left from Phoenix and was heading for her New York State home for the holidays. We awoke again in Wichita Falls, north of Dallas and made our first transfer at 5:30 AM. Not wanting to miss a first meal, Cindy dashed across the street in the dawn sky to BKs while Carl stayed on the bus (don't want to chance leaving Cindy behind). Mmmnn good! That coffee and egg variety sandwich came just at the best time.

That afternoon, Saturday, we arrived in Tulsa OK to snow on the ground. Folks at this transfer told us we'd have a two-hour wait. A late bus of travelers needed to connect with us. This connection brought our next co-traveler, Sharon, who had left Denver and was going to Boston. It was nightfall and snowing when we had to sit in the bus on a "parking lot" of stopped cars (way ahead an accident). During this hold-up we discovered the non-talking bus driver did talk – when a young man appeared in the dark from the rear. "While we wait would it be possible for me to get off and have a smoke?" The non-talking driver responds, "You are NOT getting off this bus. Five minutes later another young man appeared from the back asking the same question...." "You think I'm going to let you onto the highway? Are you crazy? You ain't stepping off this bus. Ain't nobody getting off this bus. Now get back to your seat and I don't want to see you up here again." She 'can' talk when she gets her back up.

We arrived in St. Louis MO at 2:30 in the morning. We were supposed to have a 3 hour layover but we were four hours late so we guessed we'll be jumping right on the next connection. Carl rushes to the to the front counter to find out what time our bus leaves. The smiling attendant says, "You can find a bed over there with everyone else. Nothing is going on the road until at least 8:00AM. "Remember watching many times on TV the delayed passengers in airports terminals? Sacked out with their suitcases for pillows?" In the St. Louis terminal Carl and Cindy finally got to add this to their worldly adventures. Expecting a dark looking St. Louis terminal we were pleasantly surprised with what looks like a former train terminal – marble floor/walls, beautiful antique chandeliers hanging from high ceilings and a full fledged grill. The grill had just about anything you could want.

Carl found us a private room, the temporarily blocked off side entrance and get this... a carpet on the floor!!! Carl instantly nodded off. Cindy wasn't so fortunate and eventually got up to visit, eat and read. Around 9:00 AM busses began loading, westerly they go. No buses on the highway heading east because of the bad traveling left behind. Needing a change of scenery and food, Carl walks around the corner and brings back Domino Pizza. It's times like this that bring out how good D's pizza can be. Shortly after 1:00PM a bus plus one extra bus arrived to take us east to Boston. Oh, this is sweet – Phoenix/NY Julie boards along with Boston Sharon and another young woman we picked up in Joplin MO. (She was headed for Fall River MA. Via Boston). Our entourage was together again. Two underage children, from separate families are still with us since Lubbock. Cindy had groaned when she first heard the little voices getting on with their parents. But now, on the other side of St. Louis we commented on how content they have been – no fussing and softly chatting with their parents. Driving through Ohio, Penny, and NYC onward to Boston was pretty straight forward. We thrilled at the tour of NYC as the bus wound its way by famous places and views of the Empire State Building. Among other sights were the Astor on Park, people walking and exercising in Central Park and possibly Grant's Tomb ( that's a maybe).

## ARRIVAL

Yes our adventure began at 9:00PM on Dec 14 in Carlsbad. It ended Tuesday the 18<sup>th</sup> at 10:00AM in the Maine capital of Augusta. It was a beautiful blue-sky day and white snow so bright it hurt our eyes to look at it – and it was deep. Christmas in Maine has been brown for years and for years children had to spend their school vacation gazing wistfully at new skis and sleds. The small town ski club had its slopes opened for skiing over Christmas vacation. Winter jackets have not been a part of the Johnson wardrobe since Dec 26, 1999, the date we escaped our other life. For the trip north, layering kept us more comfortable – fleece pullovers under vests along with hats and gloves.

Although we were 24 hours late, we were on time. We still had three days to spare to be at the first birthday of our youngest grandchild, Mariah, in our old home town of Farmington. Boston daughter (previously known as LA daughter) joined us in time for the birthday celebration on the 21<sup>st</sup>, followed by Christmas Eve gala, Christmas morning unwrapping, and Christmas brunch with Cindy's sister's families. Of course we've been sharing the entertaining incidents of the trip, not the ordinary scenes. Two toilet events an one bus plus a variety of minor incidents have left us with plenty to laugh about for down the road.

As this is written we are in South End Boston spending time with daughter. New Years Eve Day we depart for the 2<sup>nd</sup> half of the Big Bus Greyhound Adventure.

Cindy and Carl Lot # 92

# CHRISTMAS FESTIVITIES AT THE RANCH

By Gene Sharp

What a flurry of activity during December at The Original Ranch! The calendar, like our tummies, was filled to the brim all month long. To start off on a cheery note, the Ranch House was decorated with care. The final scene was a brilliant array of Christmas lights, Christmas trees with presents under the boughs and garland providing Christmas thoughts everywhere one looked. Sue Arnold taught the ladies at Stitch & Bitch how to make the cutest snowmen and those added a cute touch to the tables.

There was a box in which toy donations were received for children.. The Marines sponsored this activity. The box was filled to overflowing even before the time arrived for the toys to be distributed. Another box collected needed household and personal items which were delivered to Grammy's House in Artesia. And yet another box held items for the animals at the shelter.

Robert Handel encouraged all to decorate their lots – and wow, were there decorations galore! The Ranch was truly a Christmas wonderland of lights. We voted for our choices of the best decorations. Robert took the count and presented the 1<sup>st</sup> place winner and three other Griswold winners with gift certificates. This is Robert's gift to The Ranch each year – Thanks Robert!

On a brisk evening “the strolling caroling group” bundled up and sang carols for all to enjoy as they walked through the park. The Christmas sounds were melodious in the crisp air.

The Cookie Exchange, headed up by Mary Smith, was a fun activity, which was held during Ladies Coffee. Of course, there were plenty of cookies left to be eaten at the Christmas Eve Party and Mary graciously chaired this fun time also. Mary read the poem “Twas the Night Before Christmas”, told about some of her family's fun Christmas times and then read the redneck poem “Twas the night after Christmas”. Everyone joined in the fun of “get and swap” gift exchange with some gifts wrapped in paper sacks and others traditionally wrapped. Oh! Those bottles of wine sure traveled around! All enjoyed singing Christmas Carols. The evening was closed with the reading of the story of the Birth of Christ, lighting the candles and singing of “Silent Night”.

Then it was Christmas Day and time to come together for a delicious dinner. Each table was decorated by a host/hostess and every table was a work of art. What a beautiful sight when we entered the clubhouse! Dave and Janet Duncan and Dan and Nancy Newland prepared succulent ham and turkey with gravy and ham sauce for all to enjoy. Everyone brought side dishes to round out a wonderful meal. There was so much food leftover that the next night we all gathered for a “leftovers” meal. Jan Barnes aptly organized the dinner and seating arrangements.

In honor of Bob and Marilyn Railey's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary on December 28, their children's gift to them was a delicious barbeque dinner here at The Ranch for all to enjoy. It was a wonderful evening of sharing and laughter as Bob and Marilyn and their children, grandchildren and other relatives who attended told of funny incidents along the road of those 50 years.

We rang in the New Year with a party, hosted by Jan and Bob Boman, in the clubhouse. Everyone brought finger foods and their choice of drink. Funny games were played which brought lots of laughs entertainment to the revelers. Bob and Jan led us in celebrating three times – yes, three times. The first was at 10:00PM because New York was celebrating: then at 11:00Pm because Chicago was celebrating: and then at midnight because that is when THE ORIGINAL RANCH celebrated. Yes, the WELCOME BELL rang at the strike of midnight. No doubt, that was in someone's plans long before the NEW YORK CITY BALL descended.

Jean Stival was the star of the evening. She out shot all the men and out thought all the gals, ending up with a total of four gold medals. Karen Ireland wasn't far behind with three gold medals. Better watch out for these gals, they are just too good.

Your Editor

The following article, written by a visitor, appeared in the Palaver a few years ago. However it was resubmitted now for republication as a part of the history that we are preparing to celebrate on our 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. Hope you enjoy it.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL ARTIFACT DISCOVERED  
(Subtitled: Local History Never Before Written or Even Thought Of)

On March 14, 2003, a small group of intrepid explorers under the able leadership of Charlene T. and Lucy B. left the safe haven of The Ranch. We traversed the inhospitable desert ever mindful of the dangers of cow-patties, badger holes, and spiny cactus. Our western Route followed the Original Ranch Fault Line (not to be confused with the insignificant San Andreas fault in California). Our destination was a deep chasm where a mysterious ancient artifact had been discovered by our resident archaeologist Lucy Billings.

Although we were all eagerly anticipating the view of this treasure, we slowly sauntered along identifying the many beautiful gold and purple flowers. This was obviously a ploy to confuse any unscrupulous relic snatchers who might be lurking in the area.

Finally, we stood in awe on the brink of the deep chasm and stared into its depth. There, far below us, protruding from the canyon wall was a rarely seen artifact. Although no one in our group had come equipped to rappel down to it, we were able to visually identify it as an ancient instrument of torture known as the  
**IRONING BOARD.**

At the present time, plans are uncertain regarding an expedition to excavate this artifact (which fortunately is now extinct).

However, pseudo-history, now being formulated, is that this explains the mysterious disappearance of a local pioneer rancher in the 1800s. This dude was very picky about his clothes and his wife was never able to iron them to please him. After his untimely disappearance, his wife's report to the sheriff was,  
"The last I saw him was in the presence of a skinny broad".

The wife continued to run the ranch but she never ironed again. Eventually she became known as the  
"Wrinkled Widow".

It is believed that excavation of this ancient ironing board will also reveal the skeleton of the missing rancher. Speculation now is that he died from severe head trauma caused by a heavy flat iron object.

Respectfully submitted by pseudo-historian  
Evelyn League #  
([aleve@pocketmail.com](mailto:aleve@pocketmail.com))

Editor's Note: Apparently, at some time after this article was written, there must have been a decision to excavate the artifact as it, or an item of similar description, has been seen standing in a corner of the laundry room at The Ranch. There is also an item fitting the description of the supposed weapon sitting on a shelf over the sink in that same room. There has been no sign of the rancher as far as my investigations have revealed.

If anyone is interested in doing it I would love to see the two columns we have had before re-installed in this newsletter. One was called "Did You Know" and referred to some of the guidelines for living here at The Original Ranch. The other was information about great places to stop while on the road. It can be a special restaurant, a museum, an overnight stopping spot or a place to good to pass up for a visit. Let's share this information with those who may travel later or are on the road now but not yet in that area.

**THE DEADLINE FOR THE MARCH – APRIL ISSUE OF  
THE PALAVER IS MARCH 1, 2008. REMEMBER  
THAT EVERY MEMBER OF OUR RANCH FAMILY  
WANTS AN UPDATE ON WHAT YOU ARE DOING  
WHETHER IT IS HERE AT THE RANCH OR  
TRAVELING IN OUR USUAL LIFESTYLE. SEND  
ARTICLES TO:  
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