

25TH. ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION AT THE RANCH

TUESDAY, APRIL 8, 2008

WHAT A WONDERFUL TWO DAY CELEBRATION WE HAD!!! IT STARTED OUT WITH CHRIS GIFFIN, HELEN ABBOTT, AND HELEN FARNSWORTH MAKING SURE EVERYONE HAD SCHEDULES OF EVENTS, AND SPECIAL PINS DESIGNED FOR US. THEY ALSO GAVE AWAY RANCH NOTEPADS.

FIVE CLASSIC CARS FROM A CLUB IN CARLSBAD CAME TO OUR PARK. THERE WERE EIGHT LADIES AND GENTLEMEN THAT ALSO STAYED AND JOINED US FOR LUNCH. IT WAS A BEAUTIFUL DAY FOR OUTSIDE EVENTS. I THINK EVERYONE ENJOYED BROWSING AROUND THESE BEAUTIFULLY RESTORED AUTOMOBILES AND TALKING WITH THE FOLKS THAT OWNED THEM.

NEXT WE HAD A LUNCH OF BARBEQUE SANDWICH, BEANS, COLESLAW (DONATED BY TRISH TEEGARDEN), AND POTATO SALAD. BASKETS OF CHOCOLATE KISSES AND DECORATIONS FOR A 25TH. ANNIVERSARY DECORATED EACH TABLE. IT WAS A DELICIOUS LUNCH PREPARED BY SHERRY LUMB AND ROSEMARY LIEBERMAN. 115 FOLKS JOINED US FOR LUNCH. SEVERAL PEOPLE ATE OUT ON THE PORCH WHERE WE HAD PUT UP TABLES.

LATER IN THE AFTERNOON, JEAN AND BOB STUVEL PUT ON A POKER WALK. WE WERE GIVEN CLUES OF SEVERAL DIFFERENT THINGS FOUND IN THE PARK. WHEN WE FOUND THEM, WE HAD TO WRITE DOWN OUR ANSWER TO A QUESTION. WHEN WE FINISHED, WE MET BACK AT THE RANCH HOUSE. WE COULD DRAW PLAYING CARDS FOR AS MANY ANSWERS THAT WE HAD ANSWERED CORRECTLY. THEN FROM FIVE CARDS, YOU MADE A POKER HAND.

SALLY STRIBLING WON A BOTTLE OF WINE FOR A PAIR OF KINGS AND TENS.

AT 6:30 EVERYONE MET IN THE RANCH HOUSE FOR HAPPY HOUR, ANNIVERSARY CAKE, AND ICE CREAM. WHEN WE HAD FINISHED EATING, SALLY STRIBLING RAN PICTURES OF THE RANCH FROM THE VERY BEGINNING TO THE PRESENT. WE HAD SIX PREVIOUS LEASEHOLDER COUPLES JOIN US FOR THE CELEBRATION. JOAN AND TOM FELLER, SHIRLEY AND BOB FOSTER, BETTY AND FRED KIEZER, MARTHA AND TOM MCILVAIN, CHRISTINE AND DICK SERKLAND, AND ELAINE AND DON WITSCHGER SHARED MANY MEMORIES WITH US. WE WERE SO GLAD THAT THEY CAME. GINA OUR POSTMISTRESS, ALSO ATTENDED SOME OF THE EVENTS, AND BROUGHT HER DAUGHTER, EFFIE, TO THE DINNER.

SHIRLEY AND NORM PARTCH WERE IN CHARGE OF ENTERTAINMENT. THEY DID A FANTASTIC JOB OF ROUNDING UP LOTS OF TALENT HERE AT THE RANCH. CHARLENE TARVIN, LUCY BILLINGS, AND MARY SMITH PUT ON A CUTE ROUTINE PULLING THE WAGON WITH ALL THEIR BELONGINGS TO THE RANCH TO GET A LOT. THEN THE TALENTED SINGERS CONSISTING OF DEBRA SIMMONDS-AMARI, ROSEMARY LIEBERMAN, CHICKIE RUNDALL, NOREEN WARD, JIM WISSMAN, BILL GOOD AND NORM PARTCH SHOWED US JUST WHAT GOOD VOICES THEY HAVE. SHIRLEY PARTCH READ HER POEM ABOUT THE "WATER WAGON" TO THUNDEROUS APPLAUSE. TO TOP OFF THE EVENING, THE PARTCHES DID THEIR FAMOUS RENDITION OF "THE BICKERSONS".

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 9, 2008

OUR SEMI-ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING WAS HELD AT 9:00 FOR ALL LEASEHOLDERS. THE REST OF THE DAY WAS FREE UNTIL HAPPY HOUR AT 4:00.

AT 6:00, WE ALL MET AT STEVENS INN FOR A BUFFET DINNER. WE HAD 92 PEOPLE ATTEND. DAVE STRIBLING GAVE THE INVOCATION AT BOTH THE LUNCH AND DINNER. LYNELL ARNOTT DID A GREAT JOB AS EMCEE. MARILYN RILEY WROTE AND SPOKE ON SOME OF THE HISTORY OF THE RANCH. BOB RILEY SPOKE OF SOME OF THE BACKGROUND OF OUR SEWER AND WATER WOES, AND HOW EVERYTHING IS COMING TOGETHER NOW. DEBRA SIMMONDS-AMARI, PRESIDENT, WAS PRESENTED WITH A PLAQUE FROM LIVINGSTON, TO BE HUNG IN THE RANCH HOUSE. THEN SHE PRESENTED US WITH A FEW WORDS OF WISDOM. THE FORMER LEASEHOLDERS WERE INTRODUCED AND GIVEN PICTURE BOXES MADE BY THE COMMITTEE. LYNELL READ A LETTER SENT TO US BY JOE PETERSON EXPRESSING HIS REGRETS FOR NOT BEING ABLE TO ATTEND AND TELLING US OF GETTING THE RANCH STARTED. ORIGINAL LEASEHOLDERS SENT US LOTS OF CARDS FILLED WITH THEIR MEMORIES OF THEIR TIME AT THE RANCH. SEVERAL OF THESE WERE READ BY THE FOLLOWING LADIES; KASEY JONES, ROSEMARY LIEBERMAN, SHIRLEY PARTCH, CHRIS GIFFIN, CINDY JOHNSON, BARBARA WALTHER, AND TRUDIE TENISON.

DOTS HAD BEEN PLACED ON THE BOTTOM OF ONE CHAIR AT EACH TABLE. THE PERSON THAT HAD THE LUCKY CHAIR WITH A DOT, TOOK HOME THE CENTERPIECE. SALLY STRIBLING SAID THAT THE HEAD TABLE CENTERPIECE THAT SHE WAS LUCKY TO GET, WOULD BE PLACED IN THE RANCH HOUSE FOR ALL TO ENJOY.

LOCAL MERCHANTS FROM CARLSBAD AND ARTESIA DONATED 22 VERY NICE GIFTS FOR OUR DOOR PRIZES. THESE WERE GIVEN OUT SEVERAL TIMES DURING THE TWO DAYS.

A NAME THE POND CONTEST WAS HELD AND THE WINNING NAME WAS "RAUNCHY RESEVOIR" SUBMITTED BY SHERRY LUMB AND TRISH TEEGARDEN. THEY HAD TO SPLIT THE PRIZE OF A FOUR-PACK PACKAGE OF TOILET PAPER.

CARL JOHNSON BUILT A TIME CAPSULE IN WHICH LEASEHOLDERS ARE PLACING INTERESTING ITEMS. IT WILL BE BURIED ON "BOOT HILL".

TUESDAY WAS A FUN, RELAXED DAY AND WEDNESDAY EVENING A FUN AND MORE FORMAL EVENT. SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE.

A SPECIAL THANKS TO ALL THAT HELPED MAKE THIS A VERY SPECIAL ANNIVERSARY.

TRUDIE TENISON