

THE BARE FACTS

SANTA FE TRAIL RANCH NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 1

APRIL 1997



WHO WE ARE Since January 1997 the women of the Santa Fe Trail Ranch have met each month to enjoy new friendships, participate in social activities and develop ways to enrich life on the Ranch. Their goal is to insure that the quality of life here be exceptional. The Bare Facts, which will be printed quarterly, is one activity they have initiated. It is an attempt to keep property owners informed about Ranch activities and provide general information. The group has no affiliation with the Property Owners Association (POA): other than the fact that they are property owners. It will not receive money from the POA, but will provide its own funds from profits raised by various efforts already underway. *All proceeds* will be used to benefit the Ranch. After this introductory newsletter, future mailings will be separate from POA correspondence. If you want to receive The Bare Facts the Women's Group is asking a donation of \$5 (four issues) to cover the cost of paper, printing and postage. The preparation and handling will be done by volunteers. If you have a business card you would like reproduced in The Bare Facts, please submit \$15 (also four issues). We need to hear from you before the last week in June for the July printing. If interested, please send the appropriate amount to Santa Fe Trail Women's Group, c/o Joyce Wolff, Santa Fe Trail Ranch, 7558 Overlook Dr., Trinidad, CO, 81082. We hope you will share your ideas and suggestions for an effective Newsletter.

ATTENTION SHOPPERS The Women's Group has adopted a Santa Fe Trail Ranch logo (shown below) and have T-shirts, sweatshirts, jackets and hats for sale. T-shirts, S-M-L-XL/ \$16, XXL/ \$18; sweatshirts, \$26/28; jackets, \$50/55; hats \$10, come in many colors. A variety of these items, and more, will be available at the POA Picnic and Annual Meeting (see calendar). They can also be ordered by mail plus a shipping charge. For more information contact June Stephens, 8111 Cedar Way or Dorothy Novakowski, PO Box 770, Trinidad, CO 81082. *Reminder:* Most residents on the Ranch have cellular phones. Charges are made on *incoming* calls as well as outgoing.



IN ADDITION On Sunday, June 8, in celebration of "National Trails Day," the Raton, NM, Branch of the Santa Fe Trail Association, and twelve Model-T car owners from Pueblo, Colorado, will be guests of the Santa Fe Trail Ranch. They will be driving their cars along the Old Raton Pass in the southeast corner of the property. Tom and June Stephens, Rich Babnick, Blaine Ferguson and David Hulstine will be escorts. Watch for more information on the Ranch Bulletin Board. Call June Stephens, 859-3218 for more information.

YOUR NEW ADDRESS The Postal Service has begun mail delivery to the Ranch. The rural or "cluster" box is just south of the Ranch gate on Fisher Peak Parkway. Roberto and Linda Jordan made the necessary arrangements and David and Cindy Hulstine provided the concrete mounting pad. Linda suggests you talk to the Postmaster or Assistant Postmaster to begin delivery. Each lot has an assigned number that the Post Office will provide. There are slots for *outgoing* mail, and boxes, accessible by a special key, where larger *incoming* parcels are left.

MESSAGE BOARD Carl Putz, security/caretaker, encourages *non-resident* property owners to let him know that you are visiting your property. In that way you can be located in case of wildfire or other emergency. A dry erase board is mounted on the guard shack for these or other messages.

WATCH THE WILDLIFE It's spring and time for our wild (or wilder) neighbors to appear for the summer. Be watchful for rattlesnakes around piles of wood or rocks. DON'T put your hand into a spot where a snake could be hidden from your view. DO take proper care of your garbage to discourage bears. Read the literature that the Fish and Game Department has available. (More news from Fish and Game in the future.)

PLEASE RECYCLE IT The Women's Group is hoping to arrange for a recycling bin on the Ranch. Until that time they will collect aluminum cans at each monthly meeting as a gesture of good citizenship and fund raiser as well. There are recycle bins for cardboard and glass behind Safeway and at the south end of the Wal-Mart parking lot.

CALENDAR Information about meetings and activities of interest in-and- around the Trinidad area will be included in future issues of The Bare Facts and posted on the bulletin board at the Ranch gate.

<u>26 April</u>	Women's Group meets at Karin Gieske's home, 35445 Alpine Meadows Dr. at 9:30 a.m. (Bring aluminum cans.)
<u>24 May</u>	Women's Group meets at Simone Potter's home, 3215 Owen Baldwin Parkway at 9:30 a.m. (Bring aluminum cans.)
<u>21 June</u>	Women's Group meets at Joyce Wolff's, home, 7558 Overlook Dr. at 9:30 a.m. (Bring aluminum cans.)
<u>21 June</u>	Deadline for receiving material for the July Bare Facts.
<u>12 July</u>	*POA Board Meeting
<u>26 July</u>	* Annual POA Picnic Lots of information next Bare Facts.
<u>October</u>	*General POA Meeting

*Check the Bulletin Board at the Guard Shack for time and place.

THE BARE FACTS

Santa Fe Trail Ranch Newsletter

June, 1997

Issue 2



WOMEN'S GROUP NEWS

We have decided that printing The Bare Facts quarterly does not provide subscribers with timely enough information so with this issue we will begin printing the newsletter bimonthly. Thanks to you who have mailed your contribution to cover our mailing expenses. This issue is the second and last that will be mailed free to all property owners. The Bare Facts is a project of the Santa Fe Trail Women's Group and we receive no financial support from the POA. Mailing the newsletter to ALL property owners costs about \$150. We don't have the funds to do that.. To receive THE BARE FACTS for one year please mail \$5 to Joyce Wolff, Santa Fe Trail Ranch, 7558 Overlook Dr. Trinidad, CO 81082.

There has been an outstanding response to the Santa Fe Trail Ranch logo merchandise. June Stephens has worked tirelessly placing orders with Logo Stars, the provider in Raton. New articles include visors, totes and turtlenecks. Items are available by mail and some prices were listed in the last BARE FACTS. To place orders please contact June Stephens, Santa Fe Trail Ranch, 8111 Cedar Way, Trinidad, CO 81082. At the POA picnic various items will be for sale, descriptions and color choices will be available and a jacket, fanny pack, apron, hats and tote bags, all with logo, will be raffled (see flyer enclosed). Merchandise will also be available at the annual general meeting in October.

At each Women's Group meeting we collect canned foods which Linda Austin takes to "The Pantry" at the Presbyterian Church. The food is shared with those in need and the church has expressed its appreciation. We also collect aluminum cans, which Janice Hines takes for recycling, and the money goes into the Women's Group funds. If you are visiting your property and will save cans let someone know (write it on the board at the gate) and we will pick them up. David Hulstine has volunteered to build a collection container for cans at the trash receptacles when we provide him with a bear-proof plan.

At the Women's meeting in May, guest, Ron Macaluso, of the Trinidad Fire Department demonstrated the proper use of hand held fire extinguishers. Everyone had a chance to "pull (or twist) the pin" and douse the imagined fire. Also in May the Women's Group held a dessert at the home of Janice and Byron Hines. Paul Vircsik, a property owner and firefighter from La Mesa, California was guest speaker. He showed a sobering film about house fires which was also shown at the April POA board meeting. Paul works diligently to prepare his fire prevention presentations and we appreciate his effort.

A committee has been formed to plan more of these social and educational evenings for property owners. Your ideas for future topics will be appreciated.

SECURITY NEWS

We love it when a plan comes together.....And it did! The Ranch security system worked as planned and the Sheriff's Department has issued charges. Carl Putz received the word of possible trespass and poaching. When the playback tape was reviewed the license plate on the trespasser's car was reported to the Sheriff. One of the men in the car was also identified from the playback tape.

In an April storm a helicopter went down a 100 yards inside the Colorado border near Raton Pass. The pilot, who was not seriously injured, called 911 on his cell phone. Carl Putz was patrolling the south end of the Ranch when he heard the call on his emergency radio. He found the pilot near the crash site, and took him to San Rafael hospital in Trinidad, where he was treated and released.

CALENDAR

JUNE

8 - Sunday Vintage cars from Pueblo will tour the Ranch, under escort.. Property owners and guests should meet at the gas well at 10:00a.m. Bring a sack lunch and enjoy a visit to Morley at noon. For more information read the flyer on the bulletin board. Linda and Roberto Jordan will be at the Ranch gate and can give more information.

14 and 15 - Saturday and Sunday Santa Fe Trail Festival celebrates Trinidad's heritage as an important stop on the Santa Fe Trail. Main Street will be closed to cars between Beech and Chestnut, so visitors may browse the food and craft stalls. Special activities are planned for both days. The Trinidad History Museum has planned a full day of interesting events on Saturday and the grounds are especially lovely right now. (see poster on the Ranch bulletin board.) Joyce Wolff (859-0395) still needs cookies for the refreshment table and could use some help selling them too.

21 - Saturday - Women's Group meets at Linda Austin's home, The Cross Tree Ranch, at 34945 Elk Ridge Trail. Bring aluminum cans to recycle and canned goods for The Pantry.

29 - Sunday - Trip to Capulin Volcano National Monument in New Mexico, 30 miles east of Raton on U.S. 64 and 87. Capulin, (kah poo leen) means chokecherry or wild cherry in Spanish. Leave from K-Bob's in Raton at 1:00p.m. We will car-pool. Everyone is welcome. The drive over the plains should be beautiful.

JULY

4 Friday - Picnic at Stan and Peggy Obery's - bring a side dish or dessert, any special beverage, a chair, a smile and a good attitude. Please RSVP 1 800 695 1199.

12 - POA Board Meeting: Student Union, Trinidad State College, Sullivan Banquet room.

26 - Property Owners Picnic - See full page of information

CONFUSED???

At the April POA Board meeting there was discussion about holding the POA Annual picnic and the General POA meeting during the same weekend. Many property owners would prefer this. Because of the election of officers at the October meeting there are some problems to work out.

RANCH MAPS AVAILABLE

Tom Stephens has super-imposed a location grid on a readable Ranch map (14 x 24) with an accompanying list of road names. These maps cost \$5 and will be available at the picnic or drop Tom a note at Santa Fe Trail Ranch, 8111 Cedar Way, Trinidad, CO, 81082.

WOMEN'S GROUP INTRODUCES...

By Sue Downs

Recently at one of the meetings of the Santa Fe Trail Ranch Women's Group, it was suggested that we feature one of our members in each Bare Facts Newsletter. We felt that other property owners would like to meet some of the talented and concerned women we have as members. We decided our first profile would feature June Stephens, one of the most active and industrious women on the Ranch.

June was born and raised in Iowa. Her husband, Tom, and she have one daughter, twin sons and three grandchildren. They will celebrate their 39th anniversary this year.

June and Tom purchased their property here, in 1990, planning for retirement. After living in Los Alamos, New Mexico for 25 years, Tom retired from the Los Alamos National Laboratory and June from the Los Alamos School System and they began building the home they designed. Between mortaring cinder blocks and hammering nails, June could be found planting a garden or baking cookies. Building "Osito Canyon Ranch" themselves took two years, but they are now settled in.

In Los Alamos, June owned her own business, selling Bernina sewing machines and was a professional seamstress. In her "school" career, she was a teacher's assistant at the Mid-School, working with special education students, and was Director of Transportation for the Los Alamos Schools. Her hobbies and interests are, sewing, crafts, quilting, reading, camping, hiking and gardening: all of which she does with great energy. She and Tom have joined the Santa Fe Trail Association and are concerned about preserving the historic atmosphere of this area.

Both of the Stephens have been active with the SFTR POA since it was formed. Tom was on the Board over four years, is past chairman of the Electric Committee and is now Co-chairman of the Water Committee. June is an active member of the Road Committee, overseeing the finishing of the road signs. Which, I might add, are absolutely wonderful for women like me who can get lost in the front yard, let alone on our rural roads.

Currently, June is the treasurer of our SFTR Women's Group (she was sort of drafted). She is concentrating on

our fundraisers, and doing the job with her normal enthusiasm. June says of living on the Ranch, "Our dreams are being fulfilled and we are finally enjoying our retirement."

What a pleasure to know such a lovely lady!

LISTEN UP

By Joyce Wolff

And keep your eyes open too. Spring is an exciting season for birdwatchers, which I am. It 's the time when you will hear some male birds sing songs, not just chirp and tweet. Male birds only sing during the nesting season when they are trying to impress the ladies or to defend their established territories against intruders. Migrating birds began arriving on the Ranch in April. A hardy hummingbird arrived in a Spring snowstorm on April 22. He flew directly to the spot where our feeder hung last year, (No bears at Loma Lobo recently.) hovered for a second then streaked off...for where???

There were several inches of snow for miles around. The flocks of birds at the feeders in May have broken up to find nesting sites, either here or farther north. The little chickadees who call to us throughout the year are dee,dee,deeing off in the trees somewhere. The rufous-sided towhee (one of the most prevalent birds on the Ranch) sings from his perch on the highest limb instead of hiding under the oak brush. Such joyous news, procreation!!! Listen for the lovely flute call of the hermit thrush, and the rich (albeit very early morning) song of the occasion robin and warblers who seem determined to break our necks as we try to see them high overhead. Wood peewees are calling in Gallinas canyon around the pond. The "blue" jays around the Ranch are not, but are instead, *Stellar's jays*, with saucy black crests, and *scrub jays*, not as vivid a blue but still noisy and raucous and *pinon jays* fly around a bit later in the summer. A *blue jay* on SFTR would be unusual although we had one visit our feeder last fall. He probably was looking for property. Carl Putz has had a flock of cross bills at his feeder this spring. I will have a nest display in the window of what was Woody's furniture store. Trinidad is trying to make the empty store windows on Main Street useful until they are occupied.

THANK YOU

The Road Committee would like to thank Sandy and Dennis Manifold and Sue and Gene Downs for putting up the rest of the posts and street signs. Your hard work is appreciated by all of us on the Ranch. June Stephens

IN THE NEWS

Janice and Byron Hines son, Matt, who races pro-stock, drag race motorcycles has won two national events this year in National Hot Rod Association sponsored competition. He now holds top time of 7.29 seconds at 185 mph at events won in Virginia and New Jersey. His picture has been in USA Today and he can be seen racing on TNN, ESPN2 and CBS.

SANTA FE TRAIL RANCH
PROPERTY OWNERS PICNIC

Saturday 26 July 1997

2:00 p.m.

Lot #23 – Unit 7A in Gallinas Canyon

(by the old corral)

Pot Luck

Bring your own drinks, folding chairs, and raingear
(Barbecue grills, ice, plates, utensils, etc.. will be provided)

\$5 Family Admission

Games and Prizes for the Kids	Raffle
Horseback Riding	Horseshoes
	Volleyball

Women's Group will have T-shirts, Hats, Jackets and Sweatshirts with
the SFTR logo for sale

MEET YOUR NEIGHBORS AND ENJOY THE BEAUTY OF
THE
SANTA FE TRAIL RANCH

Chat with **SPECIAL GUESTS** from the Sheriff's Department, Colorado
Division of Wildlife, Fire Department, and Colorado Forest Service, as
well as Cris and Bill Quigley, Business Councilors for SFTR.

The Picnic committee, Janice Hines, Susie Davis, Shari Schroepfer, Sandy
Manifold, Barbara Sandgren, Sue Downs, Linda Austin, June Stephens, Michelle
Minion, and Peggy Obery are planning an afternoon full of activities and special
events. The raffle items include a beautiful 24 x 32-framed poster
commemorating the 175th Anniversary of the Santa Fe Trail and merchandise
bearing the SFTR logo.

Janice is providing the picnic site.....thanks!!!!
chemical toilet.

Women's Group will provide a

WILDFIRE DANGER ON THE RANCH

As we enter another wildfire season, those of us fortunate enough to be living on the Ranch, are extremely concerned about land owners building open fires while visiting their property. Already, this spring there have been several incidents which could have very easily resulted in a devastating wildfire. Property owners need to understand that under Colorado laws, if their actions are responsible for a wildfire, they can and will be held liable for cost of property loss in the fire.

As you know, during last year's fire season, when fires were raging all over California, Alaska, Colorado and just south of our development in northern New Mexico, the Fire Prevention Committee and POA felt we needed to do something to assist the volunteer fire department in our area to be able to more effectively fight any fires that may occur in rural Las Animas County. Santa Fe Trail Ranch property owners responded to our plea in a most generous way, giving over \$17,500 in contributions for Fisher's Peak Fire Protection District. The Firefighters used the money in part to purchase Fire Radios and to equip the 3/4 Ton Truck, donated by San Isabel Electric Association, into a fast response brush truck. They also recently purchased a Slide-In Pumper unit to be stationed on the Ranch. We've come a long way in our efforts, hopefully, to insure that we continue to have a beautiful, fire free environment, but we have a long way to go. In the next few weeks, we will be coming to you, requesting additional donations for the fire district. At that time we will detail the exact need and use of your contributions.

We are confident all property owners will continue to be cautious, concerned and considerate of their own and their neighbor's property.

Note: The Fisher's Peak Fire Chief and your Fire Protection Committee have requested we have NO fires on our property because of the difficulty of fighting fires in this type of terrain. If while on the Ranch you see any recreational, open fire or lightning strike, please contact Carl Putz, pager number 738-5630 or Gene Downs at 859-0416. If you see a wildfire or a potentially dangerous fire situation, PLEASE immediately contact the Sheriffs Department at 846-2211 and Carl Putz.

Uniform Fire Code, 1994 Edition, (Recently adopted by Las Animas County).

Definition:

Bon Fire is the open burning of cut trees, vegetation or lumber. (A permit from the Sheriff's Department is required for open burning in Las Animas County.)

Incinerator is a structure, or portion thereof, container, device or other appliance designed, used or intended to be used for the disposal of combustible rubbish by burning. (Incinerator fires are not allowed in Las Animas County.)

Recreational Fire is the burning of materials other than rubbish where fuel being burned is not contained in an incinerator, outdoor fireplace, barbecue grill or barbecue pit and with a total fuel area of 3 feet or less in diameter and 2 feet or less in height for pleasure, ceremonial, cooking or similar purposes.

Open burning is the burning of a bon fire, rubbish fire or other fire in an outdoor location where fuel being burned is not contained in an incinerator, outdoor fireplace, barbecue grill or barbecue pit.

Gene Downs, Fire Committee



THE BARE FACTS

Santa Fe Trail Ranch
Newsletter
August 1997 Issue 3

WOMEN'S GROUP NEWS

By Joyce Wolff, editor

SFTR, 7558 Overlook Dr., Trinidad, CO, 81082

Since we formed our group in January we have tried to make positive contributions to the community both on the Ranch and in Trinidad. We feel we are accomplishing and will continue toward that goal.

We have received great reviews and compliments on The Bare Facts. Thank you for your kind words and support. With this issue the newsletter goes to our eighty subscribers, about 25% of the property owners. Please check your address label for accuracy. Our readers include numerous non-residents; many expressed an eagerness to establish here as soon as possible. Let us know what you want to read about and how we can make you feel at home on the Ranch while living miles away. We will print letters if they are appropriate and positive.

We are delighted with the sales of merchandise with the Santa Fe Trail Ranch logo. Sales were excellent at the POA picnic and merchandise will be available at the general business meeting in October. All our profits will go towards the purchase of things that we can use on the Ranch. We recently purchased a large portable shelter that we will rent for a small amount. It would be handy for camping trips to the Ranch or any outdoor activity.

We can't thank June Stephens enough for her major contributions. Our group is blessed with women contributing their many talents but she has been remarkable in her tireless effort. Thank you, June! And behind this energetic women there is a supportive man. Thank you, Tom! Cindy Hulstine and Linda Jordan will take over the "logo-wear/ware" job, which will allow June to reestablish her guestroom as such instead of a storeroom.

We realize that this market will gradually decrease and are always looking for new ideas. Perhaps a Ranch cookbook? Please think about that project and share your ideas. We have the capability to prepare a fine one.

Thanks also to Linda and Chuck Austin who were co-hosts for the Model T visit, prepared lunches and put identifying markers on some of the Morley buildings. Linda describes the day in her article in this issue.

The Women's Group has "adopted" a section of highway on Interstate 25. We will be responsible for cleanup between Exit 6, the entrance to the Ranch, and Exit 8. The agreement with the State Highway Department lasts one year and requires four pick-ups in that period. They will provide us with bags, safety vests, and a highway sign bearing our name, Santa Fe Trail Ranch Women's Group. Every participant must view a safety and instructional video. More information to come.

WHAT A GREAT PICNIC!!!!!!!!!!!!

The annual Property Owner's picnic, Saturday, 26 June, was a smashing success. The picnic committee and families started getting ready on Friday evening after Byron Hines and crew had beautifully mowed and trimmed their property in Gallinas Canyon where the picnic was held for the second year. Several shelters were raised for sun and/or rain but the weather on Saturday was perfect. The clouds, which kept us cool, threatened to get us wet, but never did. The food, enough to feed "the five thousand," was delicious. Professional entertainer, Will Dudley, from Walsenburg, entertained by playing guitar and singing his own cowboy compositions. Kids and adults alike enjoyed tug-a-war, egg-toss, volleyball and horseshoes. Special guests included, Cris and Bill Quigley, Ranch business councilors: C.K. Morey, (Colorado State Forest Service) always ready to help property owners with their forest landscaping, and members of the Sheriff's Department. The Women's Group venue was popular with June Stephens, Suzie Davis, Sandy Manifold, Cindy Hulstine, and Linda Jordan selling logo items and raffle tickets. Merchandise was raffled every thirty minutes throughout the afternoon. The winners are:

- HATS, Joanna Driscoll, Suzie Davis, Jan Ferrero, Stan Obrey, Jan Hines and Dale Swett
- APRON, Stan Obrey
- TOTE BAGS, Gene and Sue Downs (hmmmm)
- FANNY PACK, Francie Purswell
- T-SHIRTS, David Hulstine, Ken Keller, Betty Withington and Ann Daugherty,
- JACKET, Ed Sandgren
- SANTA FE TRAIL ANNIVERSARY POSTER, Marie Webber

The picnic committee, Jan Hines, Susie Davis, Shari Schroeffer, Sandy Manifold, Barbara Sandgren, Sue Downs, Linda Austin, June Stephens, Linda Jordan, Peggy Obrey and Michelle Minion did a splendid job.



MANY THANKS!!!

SFTR MAPS...

are valuable when traveling the 100 miles of Ranch road. Nicely prepared by Tom Stephens they include an identifying grid and street index, are small enough to be carried in the car, yet big enough to be legible (14 x 24). They are available from Tom, at 8111 Cedar Way, Trinidad, CO, 81082. Please send \$5.55, which includes postage.

CALENDAR

August

- 3 - Concert in the Park* - Chuck Cusimano quartet, country/western
- 8 - Concert in the Park* - The Trinidaires, big band sound, 7 - 9 PM (different time from other concerts)
- 10 - Concert in the Park* - "Jubilant Bridge" trio from Golden, folk/country
- 15 - Friday - Homes and Gardens Tour - a fundraiser for the United Methodist Church Women. The self-guided tour will include seven homes, both Victorian and modern, which can be visited in any order from 10AM - 3PM. \$6 a person. Tickets are available at the church or Joyce Wolff can get them ahead of time.
- 17 - Concert in the Park* - "Native Country" of Trinidad, country/western
- 23 - Saturday - Women's Group, *hostess, Sue Downs, 35311 Elk Ridge Trail
- 24 - Concert in the Park* - Sam Bachicha, country/western
- 28 - September 1 - Las Animas County Fair
- 30 - "Calamity Jane Tells Her Story," Trinidad History Museum, at noon

September

- 20 - Saturday - Women's Group, *hostess, Gretchen Shaw, 7317 Overlook Dr.

October

- 4 - Annual Property Owners Meeting followed by POA Board meeting

*Concerts in the Park on Sundays are free at Kit Carson Park from 5 - 7 p.m., *EXCEPT* for the Trinidaires, August 8. Women's Group meetings are at 9:30 am please bring aluminum cans and canned goods for The Pantry.

SFTR 1997 FLOWER JUNKET

By Carol Rawle

It's a rare person who doesn't enjoy flowers, but few are aware of how much our very existence on this planet depends on them.

There was a time when there were no flowers. Before their arrival, the only plants were ferns and mosses that only grew along waterways. There were few warm-blooded animals and those were only the size of rats. Dinosaurs ruled the world.

Then toward the end of the Age of Reptiles, only one-hundred million years ago, flowers suddenly, mysteriously appeared and changed the face of the earth. Flowers reproduce by means of encased seeds and that's what made it possible for us humans to be here. In that seed is an embryonic plant complete with enough nutritious food to get it started in life. This is what enabled mammals to evolve into what they are today, for everything we eat either comes from flowering plants or eats them.

Flowers have ingenious ways of dispersing their seeds so that they can end up growing just about anywhere the wind blows, water flows, birds fly, or animals trod. This is evidenced by the huge crop of weeds invading the space

around our homes. But don't be too quick to pull them up. Some of the prettiest wildflowers are disguised as so-called weeds.

I had a sandpapery-leaved weed sprout up in my driveway and I stifled the urge to pull it. I kept waiting for it to flower so I could identify it, but it wouldn't open its tight golden buds. I finally discovered it was the Evening Star (*Mentzelia*), hence its name since it only blooms briefly at sunset.

Surely everyone has marveled at the abundant One-sided Penstemon lining our roads. Also known as Sidebells, they come in purple, blue, and rose. Other blue or purple flowers you'll encounter are Lupine, Harebells, Thistle, and soon to come, Showy Erigeron (Blue Daisy) and Gayfeather.

For some reason yellow flowers are the most numerous. There's Salsify (the big dandelion puff ball), Sunflowers, Mullein (the tall fuzzy cabbage-like plant) Gumweed (Sticky Daisy), Cinquefoil, Golden Pea, and soon to come, Coneflowers and Goldenrod.

White flowers include Yarrow, Bedstraw, Prickly Poppy, and the lovely Mariposa Lily.

Look for splashes of red and orange: Scarlet Bugler, Paintbrush, Western Wallflower, and hidden in the meadows, Scarlet Globemallow.

If you find yourself unable to face a long winter without flowers in your life, you might try collecting some of your favorites and pressing them. As soon as you pluck your posy place it between several layers of newspaper to dry with a heavy weight on top to keep it flat. If you want to press a lot of specimens, it helps to layer corrugated cardboard and multilayers of newspaper to absorb moisture and circulate air to keep the flowers from mildewing. Weeks later the pressed

bloom can be mounted on art board with a little spray adhesive, framed, and hung on your wall. If you really want to get involved you can compile an herbarium with your mounted and labeled specimens enclosed in a clear protective covering and filed in a box. This can be added to each year and enjoyed like a stamp album.

A few good wildflower books will help you enjoy the flowers you see. Visit Wahatoya Base Camp outfitter's store in La Veta or Chinook Bookshop in Springs. They carry a number of good wildflower guides, but the ones I use the most are:

Handbook of Rocky Mountain Plants by Ruth Ashton Nelson, published by the Denver Museum of Natural History, about \$20; Peterson Field Guide Rocky Mountain Wildflowers, about \$15; and The Rocky Mountain Flower Finder by Janet L. Wingate, Ph.D. for \$2.

To read more about how flowers changed the world, get a copy of The Immense Journey by Loren Eiseley.

For Botanical supplies, if you want to do the flower pressing top notch, write Carolina Biological Supply So., 2700 York Rd., Burlington, NC 27215-3398.

Now get out there you flower fiends and ENJOY!

Ed. note:
State Park
for the
shared herbarium



Carol is a retired California Ranger with an obvious bent outdoors. She recently beautifully prepared with the Women's Group.

Herbarium, from the word "herb," (a flowering plant whose stem is not woody) is a collection of dried plants, systematically arranged. Her specimens might include buds, blooms, leaves and sometimes a bit of the root system. She has included a photograph of each specimen along with both common and botanical names. The pressed specimens, which in some cases are delicate and transparent, appear to be very fragile. Carol assured us they are sturdier than they look. We enjoyed identifying some of the numerous flowers on the Ranch this summer. If a flower identification has you stumped, Carol invites you to drop by for help, at 347 Porcupine, where the entry to her property is both attractive and appropriate.

MODEL TS VISIT THE RANCH

By Linda Austin

Those property owners who didn't make it on Sunday, June 8, 1997 to see the Model Ts and hear about the background of the town of Morley missed a great event!!!!

The weather was gloomy, but it didn't keep the Model Ts or numerous property owners and guests away. There were eight Model Ts and club members in their "Detroit Irons" from Southern Colorado Model T Club from Pueblo, Colorado. The cars crossed the bridge at 10:00 am to an enthusiastic crowd, including Don and Lolly Ming from Pritchett, CO. Lolly is president of the Bent's Fort Chapter of the Santa Fe Trail Association. Lucky property owners, Michelle Minion and Al Tucker and the Mings were invited to ride in the Model Ts; an experience for them all.

The group traveled along Fishers Peak Parkway to the old town of Morley and gathered just below the old church to hear guest speakers Sheriff Lou Girodo and Ed Lackey. Lou has several family members who were miners at Morley and whose names appear on the newly unveiled Miner's Memorial on Main Street in Trinidad.

Lou welcomed the Model T club members saying he was glad they made it here in their "jet-powered" cars. He generously complimented the SFTR property owners on their hospitality and cooperation then introduced Ed Lackey who was born and raised in Morley. Ed talked about the history of the town, once home to 2,000 residents, and pointed out and identified several of the buildings now only crumbling foundations.

The town was owned by Colorado Fuel and Iron (CF&I) and was established in 1906. The homes were company-owned and consisted of four to six rooms and rented for \$7 a month. There was a post office, a YMCA, a doctor, two schoolhouses and a company store. Miners charged their groceries and paid for them at the end of the month along with their rent and other items. The pay was \$105 per month and after paying for everything only about \$42 was left.

Morley was the last mine in Colorado to remove coal from underground tunnels. The coal was removed by mule-drawn cars. Miners took exceptional care of their mules. Ed's father got up at 3:00AM to get the mules ready for a day's work. The miner's workday was from 4:00AM till 4:00PM. In the winter months the miners never saw the sun. The Morley mules drew the attention of travelers passing by.

The church located in Morley was named St. Aloysius and was built with funds raised by the miners and their

families. It was constructed of cement blocks and stone and completed in 1917. The path to the church was originally wooden steps which are now gone.

In 1954 CF&I gave notice that the miners must vacate Morley within one year. By 1955 everyone had moved out and the town was being dismantled. The church was not to be destroyed, but the back wall was removed in order to take out the organ and a large stove. The remaining unsupported walls have fallen to ruin. Ed had a photograph of Morley, showing that it covered a larger area than the remaining foundations visible today.

The SFTR Women's Group sold box lunches to the hungry T'ers and property owners. After lunch and exploring the ruins of Morley the group continued south to a spot on the Ranch near where an Aultman photograph was taken in 1909. The Model T club wanted to reproduce the old picture, which showed a Model T on a dirt road, marked only as "ROAD," on the Wooten Ranch. A picture was taken of each Model T in a similar position. The tour continued through the back roads of the Ranch without a hitch: no flat tires or breakdowns. The weather turned out to be beautiful with the sun shining brightly.

Thanks to June and Tom Stephens, who organized the event; Rich Babnick, who helped scout the way and arrange access; Charles Baldwin, who allowed us to visit Morley, the cookie bakers, lunch packers and all those who contributed to making this a great event.

THE TRIP TO CAPULIN VOLCANO

JJW

Seven couples from SFTR recently drove to Capulin Volcano National Monument in New Mexico. We puffed our way to the top of the volcano (which helped work off the meal at K-Bobs) and enjoyed the magnificent view. This country on the Colorado/New Mexico border between the Great Plains and the Rocky Mountains is graceful, unspoiled, rolling ranch land. We learned that a small hill in the distance was once a small volcano, now practically mined away for its decorative rock used in landscaping. We stopped at the museum, in the wee town of Folsom and absorbed history: recent and ancient. Artifacts from a prehistoric culture, 10,000 years old, were first found at a nearby site just after the turn of the century. The man who chipped this particular kind of arrow point was named Folsom Man, although none of his bones have been found. Best-selling New Mexico author, Tony Hillerman, has written an excellent essay on Folsom Man. *The Hunt for the Lost American* is found in his book *The Great Taos Bank Robbery and Other Indian Country Affairs*.

WOMEN'S GROUP INTRODUCES...

By Sue Downs

Did you know Santa Fe Trail Ranch has its own Amelia Earhart??? Well, it does, and she is Dot ("•") Prestwood. Dot was born and raised in Chattanooga, Tennessee, and at a young age developed a love of flying. When she graduated from high school she decided that instead of attending a college in Florida, where she had been

accepted, she would rather have her own plane. Her father agreed to that and Dot was flying.

This was a time when our country's young men were engaged in the war in Europe and the Pacific: a time when many duties on the home front were left to young industrious women. Some grew victory gardens, wrapped bandages, worked in factories and knitted scarves; but that was not enough for Dot. She started her own Charter Air Service (probably the first ever for a woman) to fill the void left by experienced male pilots now in military service. Flying her single-engine airplane she transported a variety of passengers: honeymooners, vacationers and businessmen. She now says, in her typical modest way, that flying aerobatics and stunts was "fun." She also trained for and was prepared to fly transport planes to Europe, but the war ended before her first flight.

At this time a young Merle Prestwood was heavily engaged in training pilots for service and later stationed in England, flying B-17 bombers on combat missions in Europe. When the war ended Merle returned to his home in Tennessee, met, fell in love with, and married his flying angel in December 1946: *fifty golden years* ago. They have one son, two daughters, six grandchildren, and a darling little Pomeranian named Sweetie.

While raising her children, Dot remained active as a pilot and was president of the Women Flyers of America for many years. Merle is now retired, after flying for Delta Airline for 32 years. They have traveled all over the world and discovered Santa Fe Trail Ranch through the Fort Worth Star-Telegraph. They bought their property in 1992, built their lovely log home, and named it "Higher Ground." Despite some serious setbacks in the early stages of the building they were always cheerful. Dot said, "You have to keep on smiling, there's nothing else you can do." Now they spend summers here and the rest of the year in Texas and Florida.

If you haven't met this lovely couple, please make a point to do so. "The coffee pot is always on." They will lift your spirits and take you with them to "Higher Ground."

Fire

Fortunately there has been only one fire on the Ranch this summer. For details please refer to the insert prepared by the Emergency Services Committee included in the minutes of the July board meeting.

FIRE.....SHERIFF.....846-2211

OTHER EMERGENCY.....911

Then call

Carl Putz....Pager.....738-5630

After tone enter your telephone number followed by any number 1 - 10

10 FOR EMERGENCY

Medical emergency after 6PM or weekends call

Michelle Minion.....859-0672

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THE BARE FACTS

Santa Fe Trail Ranch
Newsletter

October 1997

Issue 4

WOMEN'S GROUP NEWS

By Joyce Wolff, editor
SFTR, 7558 Overlook Dr., Trinidad, CO, 81082

At the general *POA meeting*, October 4th, Women's Group members will wear identifying *nametags*; we will provide *complimentary refreshments*, and the last of our current *SFTR logo-wear* will be for sale. (Unfortunately we have lost our supplier and are looking for another to carry on. If you have suggestions please contact us.) *Ranch maps* will be available or they can be ordered for \$5.50, from June Stephens, SFTR, 8111 Cedar Way, Trinidad, CO, 81082. These 11x14 inch maps, with accompanying road guide, are popular and June has ordered a second printing.

We have been approved to *Adopt-A-Highway*, between Exit 6, the entrance to the Ranch, and Exit 8 to the north. Every participant must view a safety and information video provided by the Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT). The agreement requires that we collect trash at least four times a year. The CDOT will provide us with safety vests and bags, which they will then collect. We will begin this fall.

Send us your favorite recipes to include in a *Ranch Cookbook*: a fund-raiser next year. What can we do to make it a GREAT book: title, artwork, format, etc.???

We plan to have a booth on Main Street at the annual *Santa Fe Trail Festival*, which is held every summer in Trinidad. Bring your ideas and samples for moneymakers to any meeting.

We want to enter a float in the 1998 *Labor Day Parade*; also the weekend of the Las Animas County Fair.

The Women's Group meets every month. (See Calendar) We had felt, in the beginning, that we would not formally organize, but our activities have become so numerous and varied that we have decided to name yearly officers and committees in November to take office in January, when we will also have available a yearly directory of members.

All women property owners are welcome to join us, if only through the mail. If you have attended a meeting we show you as a member. We enjoy life here and have an exciting and energetic group of women. We are eager to share the experience and look forward to hearing your ideas for all our projects. We will happily put you to work, or you can just enjoy the friendship.



CALENDAR

OCTOBER

- 3 - Friday SFTR/POA Annual Evening Meeting
7:00 p.m. TSJC Massari Hall
- 4 - Saturday SFTR/POA Annual Meeting
9:00 - 12:00 a.m. TSJC Massari Hall
Women's Group will serve refreshments.
- 5 - Emergency First-Responder Course (See Article)
8:a.m. Holiday Inn - Raton Room FREE
CPR Provider Course (See Article)
1:00p.m. Holiday Inn - Raton Room \$20
Please contact Michelle for information 859-0672
- 18 - Friends of the Library - New Book Sale
10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. Carnegie Library
- 25 - *Women's Group Hostess, June Stephens
9:30a.m. SFTR 8111 Cedar Way

NOVEMBER

- 22 - *Women's Group Hostess, Francie Purswell
9:30a.m. 908 Tascosa, Trinidad
(Next year in a Barna Log Home)
* Please bring canned goods for the Pantry and aluminum cans!

DECEMBER

Christmas Celebrations in the planning stages

SAFETY AND SECURITY

There is a posted speed limit of 25-MILES PER HOUR on the Ranch. This limit has been chosen as appropriate for our rural roads, which sometimes curve sharply, can be narrow, muddy or dusty, and in winter covered with snow. This summer the addition of red ash has increased the amount of dust on some roads. You can help alleviate this problem by driving *under* that speed in these areas. Please suggest this to your guests and workers.

Property Owners frequently see people on the Ranch whom they cannot identify. Activities and home building have become so widespread that it's difficult for residents to keep track as they once could. What to do in these cases? Above all be cautious and do not approach them if you are at all suspicious. Sheriff Lou Girodo has suggested that instead of confronting them get as much information as you can to give the Sheriff's Department: license plate, car description, number of people and a description of them. In some cases, if you choose, you can contact Caretaker, Carl Putz, who, because he travels the roads extensively and frequently, may know who they are and why they are here. Chances are they are legitimate visitors. Use discretion and common sense. (See Emergency Numbers)

EDITH IS DOING WELL

That's the bottom line on top because we're relieved and happy to learn it. Edith Lind's story itself is incredible: a tribute to her courage and strength.

One morning in August, about 10 am, our SFTR neighbor, slipped off a ladder while she was using a power drill to attach a piece of drainpipe to the edge of the roof. One leg of the ladder slipped when she let go of the roof to grip the drill with both hands to add more force. The drill was still whirring as she fell from an upper step and landed on her right thigh on an unyielding rock. From skiing accidents she knew that the pain would subside if the femur were not broken, and when it did not she knew she was in trouble. No one was within earshot but she tried shouting anyway and heard only her own echo in response.

It took her ten terrible hours to drag herself around the house to the open garage door. During the last of those hours, as the sun dropped, she began to worry about the mountain lion whose presence in the area is well documented. She was able to close the garage door with a rake and headed for the short flight of cement steps that lead into the house. After trying to push herself up them she felt it was hopeless; it was too painful. She knew that a neighbor was coming to pick her up the next evening so she pulled the floor mats out of her car and used them to try to keep warm as a chilly end-of-summer wind began to blow under the garage door. She would just lie there and wait.

When Edith was a teenager in Austria, she had a "near-death experience" which now served her in good stead. She recognized, after lying on the cold cement floor for several more hours, with the pain subsiding because she was motionless, that she was getting "too comfortable." She had two choices; she could stay where she was for another twelve hours, and possibly die, or she could try the steps again. She was brave enough to choose the latter. With an effort so painful we can't imagine, she made it up those steps, got the door open, and crawled into the totally dark house.

After pushing herself over the tile floor by catching the sole of her shoe in the grout cracks, and, with more difficulty, dragging herself over the carpet, she managed to find a light, and call Carl Putz. It was 2:00 a.m., sixteen hours after she had fallen. She told him, "It's me. I need an ambulance."

THE REST OF THE STORY

Carl immediately called the ambulance, met it at the Ranch gate and led in the two paramedics. He called Michelle Minion, now in her occupational role of Physician Assistant, instead of POA Board member. Edith was in good hands. She was stabilized and taken to San Rafael Hospital in Trinidad.

As Edith was carried out the door, Carl told her that he "expected to be reimbursed for all this...with an apple pie." She replied, that if she could, she'd bake it that minute. Knowing Edith we're surprised she didn't.

The next day she was moved to Mary Corwin Hospital in Pueblo for surgery. She is now recuperating at home with pins in a bone that was terribly shattered.

Now enter our own Susie Davis. Susie is a registered nurse, from Physician's Home Health, Walsenburg. The service allows a patient to return home sooner by providing a visiting nurse, who acts as coordinator between, patient, physician, and physical therapist, and oversees a variety of the patients medical needs. She will be visiting Edith as long as she is needed.

EMERGENCY RESPONSE

Michelle Minion heads the Emergency Response efforts on the Ranch. In Edith's case, in the early morning, Carl and Michelle were both available and the emergency response went smoothly. But we all should have an emergency plan for at any time of day. Michelle stresses that, although she will gladly come when called, for the sake of time, you should not call her first. She is not always available as is the Sheriff Office's, State Patrol Dispatcher, or Trinidad Ambulance (if you know you need one) (See Emergency Numbers). These agencies are not familiar with the one hundred miles of winding, forked roads on the Ranch, so be prepared to have someone meet the ambulance at the gate. You can help yourself by having a plan and taking some precautions. Keep a telephone with you when working outside, especially if it is hazardous work. Keep a list of emergency numbers by the phone. To help medical people make decisions quickly, keep a list of your medications and allergies posted on the refrigerator door as well as the name of your doctor, and someone to notify. Edith was conscious and could communicate but that may not always be the case.

ESTABLISH YOUR EMERGENCY PLAN NOW!

This emergency also points out the practicality of developing the Neighborhood Watch. There has been preliminary planning for the Ranch and area organizers named, but plans have never been finalized. That program would be helpful in emergency planning by providing established channels of communication.

EMERGENCY FIRST RESPONDER AND CPR PROVIDER COURSE

There will be an Emergency First Responder and CPR course for Ranch residents and volunteer firefighters on Sunday, 5 October, the day after the general meeting. Both courses will be taught by certified instructors and held in the Raton Room at the Holiday Inn in Trinidad. The Responder portion is at 8:00 A.M. and is FREE. The CPR portion is for Provider Certification and starts at 1:00 P.M. and costs \$20. Please contact Michelle Minion (859-0672) or Al Tucker (708 748-3557) to reserve a spot and help them plan.

WELL DONE, BOB HOLDER

The Trinidad newspaper, Chronicle News, recently reported that Colorado Division of Wildlife (DOW) has named our local Wildlife Manager, Bob Holder, 1996 John D. Hart Wildlife Officer of the Year.

In a conversation with Gary Berlin, Human Resources Manager for the DOW, I learned the details.

The John D. Hart Award, is the most prestigious award offered by the DOW. The candidates are nominated and voted upon by their Colorado peers and the winner is kept secret until the name is announced, in this case, at the Colorado Division of Wildlife Centennial Reunion Banquet in Denver. (This is the Centennial Year for the DOW.)

John D. Hart, a DOW official in the 20s and 30s is the acknowledged model for today's Wildlife Officer because of his exemplary career. He worked tirelessly, was professional, fair and dedicated. The award goes to the Officer who best embodies this ideal. Bob was chosen not only for his outstanding law enforcement, but also for his exceptional ability to deal with the public. On August 17, about five hundred people, along with his family from Trinidad, gave him a standing ovation. His acceptance speech was typically Holder, thanking his family and colleagues for making the award possible.

Bob has always been our officer of the year and we are delighted that he has been given the official recognition that he deserves.

WOMEN'S GROUP INTRODUCES

By Sue Downs

SFTR Women's Group has its very own Park Ranger. Carol Rawle, a Ranch homeowner, is a retired California Parks Ranger. Born in Culver City, California, Carol has three children and two grandchildren.

After a brief career as an Advertising Designer, she decided life must have more to offer. Carol returned to college and became a Park Ranger. Working from the Monterey Coast in central California to the southern deserts, she finished her career in a "One Ranger Park" on the Colorado River, fifty miles from the Mexico border.

Though she loved this desert area, the flash floods, mosquitoes, 120° summers that lasted nine months, gun-toting survivalists and manic boating public, became a little much. She says, "I was ready for Trinidad and some peace and quiet."

Carol purchased her property in 1995, contracted with Veltri Construction Company to build her home, and has lived on the Ranch over two years. Her interests are building hiking trails, collecting wild flowers for her herbarium, photography, art and just enjoying being surrounded by nature. Her charming and inviting home with its creative decorating reflects these interests and her careful landscaping shows a love of tending to things.

At a recent Women's meeting Carol shared her herbarium, offering to assist any of us in developing our own file of Ranch wildflowers. (See her article in The rarefacts, August 1997, Issue 3) She will be leading several day hikes next spring and summer to help us identify the abundant wild flowers on our wonderful Santa Fe Trail Ranch.

A big thanks to Carol for choosing to join the SFTR community of friends and neighbors.

Emergency Numbers

Sheriff's office.....846-2211

State Patrol Dispatcher.....911

Trinidad Ambulance.....846-7360

Carl Putz, Caretaker

Pager.....738-5630

**Enter your telephone number, then
10 for emergency**

Telephone.....859-8487

Michelle Minion.....859-0672

**Medical Emergencies after 6:00p.m. and
weekends, after one of the numbers above
has been called.**

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THE BARE FACTS

Santa Fe Trail Ranch
Newsletter

December 1997

Issue 5

By Joyce Wolff, editor
SFTR, 7558 Overlook Dr., Trinidad, CO, 81082

WOMEN'S GROUP NEWS

As 1997 ends, the Women's Group ends its first year as a support group to the Santa Fe Trail Ranch. It's been a year of new friends working together to improve the already excellent quality of life on the Ranch, and, if we may toot our own horn, we think we have succeeded. We have:

- introduced a logo and sold hundreds of dollars of merchandise, the profits going to Ranch projects (as all our profit does),
- sponsored the annual POA picnic, hosted the Pueblo Model T club visit and tour, and planned several day out social activities,
- adopted a two mile stretch of I-25 at the Ranch entrance for litter control,
- continued, each month, to recycle aluminum and contribute canned foods for distribution,
- established this newsletter, which has a mailing list of over ninety,*

*Ed. Note: Thank you again for your enthusiastic reception of The Bare Facts, encouraging notes, and for sharing your plans for the future. Each time we receive such correspondence it reaffirms what we here - and you there - know: Santa Fe Trail Ranch is a special place.

At the October meeting (delayed till November 1 because of the BIG STORM) (See weather report), we nominated officers who will take office in January. They are president, Susie Davis; vice-president, Karin Gieske; secretary, Linda Austin; co-treasurers, Cindy Hulstine, Sandy Manifold and Joyce Wolff; emergency fund, Michelle Minion; annual picnic, Janice Hines and Barbara Sandgren; newsletter, scrapbook and yearbook, Joyce Wolff and Sue Downs; Adopt-a-Highway, Carol Rawle; fund-raising, June Stephens, Audrey Forcier and Linda Jordan; aluminum recycle, Janice Hines; social activities, Frances Purswell and Sue Downs; program planning, Monica Violante; and The Pantry, Linda Austin.

Sandy Manifold and Cindy Hulstine sold the last of the original logowear at the POA general meeting in October, but they have found a new supplier in Trinidad. The logo can be embroidered on most fabric articles; it has even appeared on boxer shorts.

Please save Betty Crocker coupons. We will use them to buy items that we can use for Ranch activities. Send them to The Barefacts.

HELP

Next year we will begin work on the SFTR Cookbook. PLEASE send us lots of your favorite recipes, comments about them, and ideas you might have for the Cookbook. At the Women's Group meeting in November we made a contribution to the cookie pages when we exchanged delicious cookies and the recipes. Your ideas and input are valuable. We want recipes from ALL property owners around the country not just those of us in Trinidad. Send us regional recipes, healthy recipes, easy recipes, men's recipes, or others. C'mon, help us out here!

SIGN UP

June Stephens will be arranging a defensive driving class after the first of the year. It will be taught by John Trammell, a Colorado State Patrol Officer for 27 years. John recently spoke to the Women's Group about driving under hazardous conditions. There will be a small fee and the class is open to anyone. Please call Joyce Wolff, 845-1091, (new number for Wolff) for more information. Remember these classes fill quickly. Some insurance companies give a discount if drivers have had this class. And speaking of wheels.....

MATT HINES WINS BIG IN 1997

By Janice Hines

"Matt the Missile", as he has been named by Motorcycle Performance Magazine, successfully clinched the National Hot Rod Association Championship in the Pro-Stock-Motorcycle division. Matt, the oldest son of Byron and Janice Hines, set the National Elapse Time record of 7.29 seconds in Englishtown, NJ, this summer. He won 8 out of 14 races he participated in across the country, and set the mile-per-hour record at 186.95 in Pomona, CA, at the Winston Finals in November. Matt has moved to Trinidad and will be racing with "#1" on his bike next year. If you are in the area where NHRA is holding one of its races stop by the pits and say "Hi" to Byron and Matt.

MAPS STILL AVAILABLE

You can now order the popular 11 x 14 in. maps of the Ranch *laminated*. The map costs \$10 plus \$4 postage and mailing tube. Plain ones are \$5.50 with postage. Order from June Stephens, SFTR, 8111 Cedar Way, Trinidad, CO, 81082.

PUTZ'S PAGER

There is a modified procedure for contacting Caretaker, Carl Putz, on his pager. The old code was based on ten levels of need. Ten is now reduced to five. Please review the new code in the SFTR Information booklet recently prepared by Will Potter. This manual is available by contacting the POA.

NEW DIGS

Several SFTR property owners have moved or opened their businesses in Trinidad. Cindy and David Hulstine (board member, David H.) own *David's Construction* and started work here several years ago

by building an addition to the Budget Inn on Santa Fe Trail. David was here; Cindy was there, living in Riverside, California, when she realized one day that David wasn't "coming back," so she packed up and left the city behind. They have moved business headquarters to the former Frank's Billiards at 135 W Plum. The front part of the building, redecorated, serves as an office; the billiard hall in the rear will be open next spring when Cindy's dad retires, moves to Trinidad, and opens *Pop's Pool Palace*. Cindy says the name started as a joke but stuck.

Sandy and Denny Manifold (board member), also from southern California, Vista, have opened *The Country Cobbler*, at 407 Commercial, which they have decorated with country charm. Denny specializes in orthotics and orthopedic shoes, but does general shoe, tack, and leather repair, and especially enjoys making custom western boots. He stumbled into the business twenty-five years ago when he left the service, looking for a career. A "friend of a friend" situation led him to this specialized craft. Orthopedic shoes are made using a mold of the foot, consequently, a share of the business can be done by mail, although Denny also makes his own molds for local customers.

Byron and Janice Hines are opening a new business in the Trinidad Industrial Park, at the north end of Trinidad, at Exit 18. They will be doing light manufacturing and distribution of motorcycle aftermarket parts. It will be a family run business with their sons, daughter, and future son-in-law, handling most of the day-to-day business.

Curiosities, at 305 W. Main, is owned and run by SFTR property owners, Neil Sexton and Audrey Forcier, (recently pictured in the local papers) Jeff Millard, and Neal Spencer. They offer Audrey's *beautiful* studio jewelry, a variety of clever and unusual crafts and gift items. Neil manufactures, sells, (primarily by national telemarketing) and distributes an elegant line of greeting cards, *Colorado Card and Curiosities*. The designs for the cards are created by a number of leading polymer artists (including Audrey) in the United States.

Steve and Monica Violante, from Detroit, Michigan, are busy planning the *Main Street Bakery and Café*, downtown. They will begin serving breakfast and lunch and eventually dinner. They will offer specialty sandwiches along with other goodies.

Someone called *Danielson Design* the best kept secret in Trinidad, but not much longer. The successful business is owned by, soon-to-be SFTR property owners, Aaron and Helen Danielson. Their lovely, hand-painted, wood furniture and accessories, marketed around the country, will become more visible in Trinidad, early next year, when they move their showroom into the former Woody's Furniture building on Main street. They are remodeling the interior of the building, but will maintain the integrity of the original architecture in keeping with the desire to preserve the downtown historic buildings. The manufacturing end will remain in its present location, off the El Moro exit, north on I-25.

ANOTHER MOVE TO NOTE

Jeri Koerting has moved her charming *Finishing Touch* to 440 University,* where she enjoys more space to display her delightful wares. In summer she provides

seasonal fruits and vegetables from the Hannigan farm in Swink, a few miles west of La Junta. Her grandmother, a Hannigan, is from that family, who settled in Swink in 1903 and began raising produce. Right now her corner business is decorated in fall motif with life-size scarecrows in whimsical pose. In addition to her work, Jeri is displaying a fantasy world of Christmas decorations crafted beautifully by Ray and Bev Hallmark, of Trinidad, who also market on a broader scale.

*HISTORY NOTES

The little building, tucked away on the southwest corner of Main and Maple, where Jeri's business was located last year, is now Fishers Perk, coffee and good stuff to eat with it. If you look closely you might guess that this building and the one on the opposite corner were "theme" service stations in the fifties.

Also, in 1914, women from the striking miner's camps staged a march protesting the arrest of Mother Jones. At this corner, they were confronted by the National Guard; the violence that followed was reported in newspapers around the country, bringing further attention to the volatile situation between strikers and mine owners preceding the Ludlow Massacre.

Intrigued? Visit the memorial site at the Ludlow turn-off north of Trinidad.

OUR FAVORITE FORESTER

JJW

One summer in 1992, when visitors to our property were few and far between, a green Colorado Agency truck pulled up to our construction site and a tall lanky bespectacled man got out and introduced himself: C.K. Morey from the Colorado State Forest Service (CSFS). Since then the Ranch has come to depend on and appreciate this delightful forester, who has always been responsive to our needs.

That day C.K. gave us helpful literature about living with the threat of wildfire. We realized that we needed to adjust our concerns from city to rural ones. And "defensible space" was now stored in our vocabulary.

C.K. is a native of Colorado, arriving here from Arizona as an infant; his mother, a southern Colorado native. He received his BS in Forestry and Outdoor Recreation at Colorado State University and MS in Landscape Design. Thinking that a teaching certificate would make him more marketable, he earned that too. But before he took a teaching position he was hired by the CSFS. C.K. is devoted to his job and works long hours both in his one-man office (Although he recently acquired part-time help.) in La Veta and throughout Las Animas county, his District. He frequently represents the CSFS at POA functions. One of his many interests is photography; he has an extensive collection of outdoor life photos, which he has shared with us; his wildflowers are especially beautiful.

DEFENSIBLE SPACE

is the prescribed area around a rural building which is thinned and/or cleared to create a protective buffer between the building and an approaching wildfire and to provide space for firefighters to defend the building.

Several summers ago C.K. and his crew of CSU graduate students, created "defensible space" at the Donovan's home on the Ranch. The site is now used as an

example of proper land clearing and planning. The property can be visited by calling property owner, Gene Downs, the CSFS representative to the Ranch. General Donovan has requested that visitors be escorted by Gene, but as Gene points, this isn't just a matter of courtesy. It is important to hear an on-site explanation about why and how certain things were done. Also refer to Will Potter's recently distributed *Ranch Information*. Bill Phillips, here on the Ranch, does an excellent job of clearing the scrub oak that stubbornly continues to grow where it's not wanted. (See advertisement).

THINK SPRING

The CSFS operates a nursery in Fort Collins, where it raises and distributes several million seedlings every year for conservation planting. A wide variety of trees and shrubs are available to the public in lots of 50 (bareroot) and 30 (potted) along with planting supplies: irrigation systems, weed barrier fabrics, soil additives and fertilizers, and tree protectors. Information and order forms for these items can be found at the County Extension Office, room 101, in the County courthouse. Last year the deadline for ordering was the end of March.

Several years ago, property owner, Joe Shaw lovingly planted fifty aspen trees from the CSFS, on the slope below his cabin. Despite the fact that deer munch them and cattle trample them, most have survived and are now up to six feet tall and rustle in the breeze. It is a pleasant little grove of which he is rightfully proud. He will happily give you pointers about his success.

COLORADO STATE FOREST SERVICE

The CSFS, a Branch of Colorado State University, offers a comprehensive collection of resources for planning and protecting your mountain property. You will find materials at C.K.'s office in La Veta and at the Extension Office. A volunteer program finds CSFS staff and volunteers building snow fences and hiking trails, planting trees, and working with 4H - and the list goes on.

C.K. takes a personal interest in anyone's land management projects and will eagerly answer questions or offer advice. There is a reasonable fee for a "house call," but a phone call to C.K. may be all you need. In any event, meet this man; it is a pleasure. If you do ask him to visit your SFTR property, schedule it so that he can be at the bridge when AMTRAK chugs through, because, in addition to everything, he is a railroad buff.

THANK YOU, C.K. FOR ALL YOU DO.

C.K. Morey	LaVeta office.....	719/742-3588
Gene Downs	home SFTR.....	719/859-0416

THE WEATHER REPORT

By Walt Wolff

Heavy snow and driving winds across the Front Range and plains of eastern Colorado during the weekend of October 25 essentially shut down the whole area. Several travelers stranded by the storm died from freezing or carbon monoxide poisoning in their vehicles. Thousands of cattle, pigs and sheep died in the storm. I-25 was closed from Denver to the New Mexico border and most highways from the Front Range to the Kansas border were closed for several days. This storm was called the "Blizzard of '97"; the worst in 30 years. Travel on the Ranch was difficult for a few days but not as bad as it might have been.

Neighbors helped neighbors and calls were made to check on one another. The best advice was, "Stay home and hunker down".

Earlier in October there were several days of sustained winds of 35-45 mph. I recorded a high of 61 mph but with no apparent damage.

November weather was [excuse me] a real bear!! There were five snow days and on Thanksgiving night snow started falling and continued for most of the next day. The temperature was a few degrees below freezing causing a wet, heavy snow. I-25 was closed north of Trinidad as were other major highways to the east. My little Kubota tractor was not up to the job of clearing our driveway. For the Ranch this was the "Snow of '97"...so far.

El Nino is a mystery to most of us but I'm about to become a believer. Ted Novakowski, [lot B35] on Owen Baldwin Parkway, has kept snow records for the last four years and they are interesting to compare. Cumulative snowfall for the months of October and November were: 1994, 16"; 1995, 4"; 1996, 25"; and 1997, 74".

This is a report of some weather statistics from our cabin on the north end of the Ranch, Lot 30, Unit 1, elevation, ~6950'. I'm an amateur weather reporter using a home weather station, "DAVIS WEATHER WIZARD".

	OCTOBER		NOVEMBER	
		Day		Day
Temp Hi	84°	1	63°	3
Temp Lo	14°	25	2°	15
Wind speed Hi	61 mph	11	48	26
Wind chill Lo	-31°	25	-28°	14
Rain Cum	1.1"			
Snow	18"	25	2"	9
	[drifts to 5']		6"	14
			6"	20
			18"	28

NOTE: Call 719/846-9262 for Colorado highway conditions.

WHAT WOULD YOU DO?

JJW

Have you given thought to what you would do if you were stranded in your vehicle in the snow? Here are some things to consider. Be prepared. Tell someone where you are going and when you will return. Don't rely on your cell phone or CB radio; there may be no reception where you are stranded. Keep your gas tank full. Wear or take warm clothing and appropriate footwear. Here is a partial list of things to carry in your car to keep you more comfortable if you are stranded in cold weather: sleeping bag, solar blankets or garbage bags (to put over windows or to wrap up in), flashlight, water, (eating snow robs your body of warmth you can't afford to lose), high calorie snacks (avoid alcohol), disposable hand warmers, a whistle and first aid kit. Keeping a positive mental attitude is your best weapon; experts stress that your survival can depend on it. Stay calm, calm others, and objectively consider your situation.

Hypothermia is a leading outdoor killer. It is imperative to keep your body core, neck and head warm. A brain that is cooling down cannot think clearly. A survival

class instructor suggests, "If your feet are cold, put on your hat." Unnecessary exercise burns needed calories; evaporation from perspiration or getting wet can be dangerously chilling. Trying to walk out can be a dangerous decision. Darkness and snowfall can obliterate landmarks, while managing your body's need to keep warm, becomes more difficult.

Don't let the vehicle engine run for long periods of time. The exhaust system may leak or snow can build up around the exhaust pipe forcing carbon monoxide gas back into the vehicle. Let it run only long enough to produce a bit of warmth ONLY when you need it. Snow on the roof is a good insulator.

Three of any signal indicates emergency; three whistles, three gun shots, three fires in a triangle. Audible signals should be spaced several seconds apart so the listener can separate them. These signals can be distorted and confusing in this mountainous terrain.

TRY THIS

Women's Group recommends, RAIN-X, a solution which "improves wet weather driving visibility, by repelling rain, sleet, snow, etc." (according to the label). It comes as a wipe-on or as an additive to windshield wiper fluid.

A FURRY LITTLE TRAVELING COMPANION

By the Colorado Rat Lady, a.k.a., Joanne Roundy

A two-day trip to Albuquerque to pick up building materials and visit a friend suddenly turned into a rat race when my first stop upon arrival was for a "quick lube." Imagine the surprised faces of the gentlemen preparing to change the oil, when they opened the hood of my truck, and found, not an engine, but one massive collection of Santa Fe Trail Ranch plant life, with the proud creator of this nest sitting up staring at everyone - a rat who simply wanted a nice warm home in Trinidad not a free trip to Albuquerque.

The crew reluctantly changed the oil following a lengthy, unsuccessful attempt to catch the rat. They removed only enough of the debris to reveal the engine and suggested a stop at a car wash to remove enough of the mess to ensure safe driving. This proved easier said than done as I drove from one place to another, finding that no combination of washing wands or vacuum hoses could force either the rat or the debris out. Every single nook and cranny of the engine was PACKED SOLID with weeds, leaves, pine needles, chunks of hood liner, and yes, dog droppings—LOTS of them! What an odor! All this was created in less than six weeks.

Everywhere I went I attracted a crowd of onlookers as I opened the hood and was greeted by the rat, who would then quickly scurry back to his little hiding place. A visit to the "Octopus" car wash created quite a stir when six men, who, of course, received the now customary greeting by the rat, worked feverishly with every tool on hand, to make a dent in the nest material, which clogged their hoses and drains with the debris.

Although I placed containers of D-con under the hoods (after flushing and flooding the engine failed to drown the little rascal), the 4-5 day waiting period for the D-con to take effect, called for more serious measures. I set off a series of rodent-control smoke bombs, nearly

choking myself to death, but not bothering the rat in the least.

By this time, it was getting difficult to keep pace with the industrious little devil, because in addition to the SFTR debris that was embedded too deeply to remove, there was an increasing amount of Albuquerque foliage being added to the collection. Half of my friend's garden was now under the hood of my truck, despite the fact that the neighborhood cats were having a field day!

When the 2-day trip became 3 days, and the vigorous efforts to remove debris with needle-nose pliers (and even tweezers) resulted only in a broken hood latch, it was time for an emergency visit to the local Ford dealer, because the hood would no longer open. After the truck had been in the dealer's service department for half an hour, the manager approached me in the waiting room, asking if I was the "Colorado Rat Lady". It seems the entire crew of the service department, forgetting all about a hood latch repair, was embarked on a serious mission: the rat hunt. I walked into the service bay to find a dozen men surrounding the truck, half on foot, half on floor creepers, armed with guns loaded with engine cleaner, squirting the enemy rat from one hiding place to another. For 1-1/2 hours, they engaged in battle, when finally, the light-headed rat moved from the engine to the rear axle, where he was met with a pair of heavy duty pliers. The hunters erupted in a cheer of victory, repaired the hood latch, and charged me a small fee for "hazardous waste material disposal." What a trip!

OUR WILD NEIGHBORS

JJW

The best way to get along with the critters on the Ranch is to learn about them. Several residents have had encounters with that cunning little animal of western tales, the packrat. He is not quite so appealing after he has packed your truck engine full of oak twigs but you must admire his recognition of a big dry pantry for his winter food supply.

The packrat found on the Ranch is a Mexican woodrat, one of eight species of woodrats, all packrats, described in the Peterson Mammal Guide. Woodrats are found primarily in the west and are the size of a house rat.

Called "trade" or "pack" rats because they carry around bits of "stuff" and appear to trade "stuff" for better "stuff" (my apologies to George Carlin). Actually they just drop what they're carrying when they see something they'd rather have. They build quite wonderful one and two room houses of sticks and debris, "packing" home whatever appeals to them: shiny bits of glass, pottery, or metal. They will readily inhabit a vacated building and set up housekeeping, if they can get in. Every reference to woodrats I read describes their habit of thumping both hind legs on the ground or floor when disturbed. Without building supplies provided by humans they build their stick and twiggy houses on and under rock ledges. Woodrats are nocturnal, rarely seen during the day. We saw one in early morning gathering seeds from our bird feeder. They are surely prey for great horned owls.

Our first woodrat, Paco Raton, lived under a pile of leftover cabin logs for two years, until we evicted him. The pile was under a tarp, making a snug home, and was clearly divided into "rooms" in fastidious order. His larder included oak twigs and acorns, mushrooms, bits of cactus

and for amusement, Walt's cigar butts and bands. His nest looked like a bird's nest: soft and fragile, and was separate from the rest as was his pile of droppings.

This fall after driving several miles we smelled something burning and found the space under the hood, just like Joanne's, filled with oak twigs. There was a threat of fire and we made sure we could get to our fire extinguisher, because, without tools, we could remove only a fraction of the debris. Our rat encounter ended quickly with a rat trap. The trap is a quick kill, you know you've caught him, and there is no poison introduced into the food chain when birds or mammals (your dog?) eat the dead animal. When a critter dies of poisoning you probably will never know where it dies. We had tried tying a little bag of moth balls under the hoods of our vehicles and while the odor remained strong we had no critters, but that may have been a coincidence. Chipmunks, mice and squirrels can also rummage around inside engines.

Bob Holder, Colorado Division of Wildlife, says he knows of no incidents of hanta virus from woodrats, but the virus is not host-exclusive to deer mice. Woodrats can be host to fleas that carry plague, but when the rodent dies the fleas leave as the body loses heat. Be sure to wear gloves when handling the dead animal or trap. Traps are cheap so you might simply dispose of trap and critter. If you keep the trap, disinfect it with chlorine bleach. There is information about prevention and control of wildlife damage at the Extension office.

CONGRATULATIONS

On November 8th, Linda and Chuck Austin's daughter, Casey, married Phil Garcia at the Faith Christian Fellowship Church. Casey recently received her Certified Nursing Assistant degree.

Joe and Gretchen Shaw toured the Greek islands in October and celebrated Joe's 80th birthday in Istanbul.

Audrey Forcier, Neil Sexton and friend Tom Scarborough won the "best costume" award at the Black and White Ball, the annual fund raiser for the A.R. Mitchell Museum.

Sandy and Denny Manifold celebrated their 25th wedding anniversary on November 24th.

WOMENS GROUP INTRODUCES

By Sue Downs

In this edition of The Bear Facts we have chosen to introduce the one woman who really needs very little introduction. Michelle Minion has quietly, yet unmistakably taken her place, both in Trinidad and on the Santa Fe Trail Ranch.

Michelle was born in Delta, Colorado, and grew up in near-by Grand Junction. She attended Fort Lewis College in Durango, then, in 1975, was accepted to a four-year Physicians Assistance (P.A.) program in West Virginia.

While serving her internship in Washington, D.C., Michelle became "addicted" to Emergency Medicine. She formed an Emergency Medical Group Practice with twelve medical doctors and two physician assistants. Her life was exciting and more than a little dangerous in a busy inner-city emergency department. But, she says, she was working "with one of the finest groups on the East Coast."

Despite her love for her work, Michelle missed Colorado, her family and the beautiful Rocky Mountains. She answered an ad in a professional journal for a P.A. position in a rural health clinic, accepted it, leased her home in D.C., and moved to Trinidad in 1995. (Her sister and brother-in-law, Betty and Jerry Withington are also property owners and live in Genoa, Colorado, where Betty is the Postmistress.)

Michelle loved the SFTR immediately and purchased her log home, with its magnificent view of the Spanish Peaks and the Sangre de Cristo Mountains.

Her comfortable home, where she lives with her calico cat, and energetic Gordon setter, Sierra, is decorated with wonderful antiques and southwest art. It's a home where you can sit back and relax; it's easy to relax with Michelle. She enjoys tending her flower beds and looks around the Ranch for likely candidates to transplant.

Michelle is a dedicated POA board member and co-chairs the Emergency Services Committee. In her medical role she has stitched up numerous cuts, answered middle-of-the-night calls from concerned Ranch residents, and most recently assisted in the emergency care and transportation of Edith Lind to the hospital after her near fatal accident. Michelle, along with Al Tucker, conducted a First Responder session and arranged a CPR class for property owners. She was a driving force in forming our Ranch Women's Group.

At present she is in the process of purchasing the rural health clinic with Dr. Bob Carlisle.

She says she is blessed to be living on the Santa Fe Trail Ranch, but we, her neighbors, are the ones who are blessed. For us here on the Santa Fe Trail Ranch and for the residents of Trinidad, life is better because of Michelle Minion.



The Women's Group of the Santa Fe Trail Ranch

Wishes You a Joyful Holiday Season!



THE BARE FACTS

Santa Fe Trail Ranch
Newsletter

February, 1998

Issue 6

WOMEN'S GROUP NEWS

By Suzie Davis, President

Christmas is over but the rush of the season seems to have carried over into the new year. The Women's Group had a great 1997 and is now ready to start some projects and continue several already underway.

Thank you Simone and Karin for hosting a successful meeting in January. Over 20 women attended, expressing enthusiasm and appreciation for this warm and friendly sisterhood. The Women's Group will continue to meet monthly. Please bring non-perishable food for the "Pantry" and aluminum cans for recycling. Bad weather may delay a meeting a week; an update will be posted on the bulletin board.

Visiting property owners are always welcome to attend.

Women's Group Meetings

28 February	Pop's Pool Palace (Cindy H.) 135 Plum	9:30am
	Hostesses: Janice Hines/Sandy Manifold	
28 March	Barbara Sandgren 32700 Timber Ridge Lane	9:30am
	Hostesses: Joyce Wolff/Cindy Hulstine	

- We are in the logo business again with a new supplier in Trinidad. The new logo, a covered wagon*, still portrays the Santa Fe Trail. A few representative prices:

T-shirts	ss, \$17 (xl \$19), ls \$20 (xl \$23)
Sweatshirts-9oz.	\$34 (xl \$36)
Caps old and new logo (a variety of styles)	\$10

Send for a complete list of items from Sandy Manifold, 407 N. Commercial, 719-846-3910 (The Country Cobbler), or Cindy Hulstine, 719-846-3500. Inventory of the old logo items includes hats, a limited number of T-shirts and tote bags. The new line will be available at the

POA PICNIC July 25th.

Mark your calendar for that weekend!!!

- A Ranch Cookbook will be an important project for this year. We plan to have it available for Christmas giving. Please send recipes by the end of March to the Bare Facts. We appreciate your ideas for format, title, artwork, printing, etc. Many of us have had the opportunity to sample excellent food prepared by our Ranch women at various functions. This leads me to believe that the cook book will be a great hit. Thank you for your contributions ahead of time.

- Under the direction of Carol Rawle we will initiate the Adopt-a-Highway clean-up program as soon as weather (snow) permits. If Carol plans an impromptu clean-up some weekend when the weather looks promising, she will post it on the bulletin board.
- The "how shall we spend it" Committee suggested we earmark \$1000 for the Emergency Response Committee. This POA committee is working on a master plan that addresses emergency situations that may occur on the Ranch and the procedures to handle them. Michelle Minion, chairman, will suggest a list of items which should be included.
- We have a number of exciting money making ideas that will require photographs or art work. If you have pictures that relate to the SFTR: animals, views, wildflowers, etc., would you share them with us? In some cases they cannot be returned as they will be "used up" in the process. More about this later, but go through you files, albums, and shoe boxes.
- We are planning a white elephant sale this spring, with a percentage of the proceeds to go to the WMCA. Till then don't part with that junkie.
- Please save Betty Crocker coupons to buy items that can be used for Ranch activities.

***HISTORY NOTE**

The Women's Group had a choice of three new logos and chose the covered wagon without horses. The vast majority of wagons that traveled the Santa Fe Trail were pulled by oxen. An ox is a splendid animal and one may be seen at Bent's Fort on special occasions.

DEFENSIVE DRIVING

John Trammell, former Colorado State Highway Patrolman, will teach a Defensive Driving course on Saturday 7 February 9:00am- 5:00pm Holiday Inn with a one hour break for lunch. Thanks to Trinidad Police Chief Montoya, the class is free. Some insurance carriers offer a discount on your auto insurance if you take this class. Call Joyce Wolff at 680-1091 for reservations.

TRINIDAD IS ON LINE

For news and information about Trinidad log on to www.trinidadco.com. This newly established web site, is a private project, designed and maintained by Spanish Peaks Computer Services, Inc. Partner, Bryan Zug described the new service as a coalition of media sources in the area. The web site, whose first sponsor was the Chamber of Commerce, is gradually adding more sponsors and contributors. It should be a valuable resource to non-residents who want to learn more about Trinidad or who need information about relocating here. The operators are eager to hear what users have to say and what they want to see. You can find them at spanpks@rmi.net.

The nifty little Trinidad Plus, in our mail boxes once a week, is the first media sponsor for the Trinidad Internet Site. The paper can be accessed directly at www.trinidadco.com/plus or by using their icon on the Trinidad Site. Plus wants to hear from its readers; they want story ideas, news from organizations, and current pictures with accompanying text.

TRADE FAIR TRINIDAD

The first annual Trinidad Trade Fair was held on January 30th at the Mitchell Museum and proved to be one of the best attended events ever for the Museum. Craftsmen, trades people, artists, and businesses represented their services to the community, displaying their products, offering advice, literature, and buckets of goodies. SFTR business owners were well represented by *The Country Cobbler*, *Colorado Card and Curiosity*, *Higbee Realty*, and *Main Street Caf  and Bakery*. A good news update from Steve Violante: they hope to open within two weeks. We look forward to enjoying more of the delicious fare that their Chef was preparing and offering in generous samples. Also at the Fair were Ranch business counselors, Bill and Cris Quigley, General Business Services. They can be reached at their email address: quigley@rmi.net. A good time seemed to be had by participants and attendees.

MORE NEW DIGS

Property owner, Roberto Jordan, has opened *Murphy's Meadow Design Services* on Commercial Street, over the Colorado Community Bank. Roberto, a mechanical designer, worked at the Los Alamos National Laboratory in New Mexico, before he, wife, Linda, and little dog, Murphy, moved to the Ranch. He offers a wide variety of design services and will soon have a web site. (See Roberto's ad in the advertising pages of Bare Facts.)

Elm Street Station Restaurant is open and will delight you. The handsome, brick building was built in about 1924 as a C&S Railroad Depot, became the Burlington Northern Station, then sat empty for several years. The rearranging of interior space has preserved the lovely architectural features of the building and the airy interior, detailed with reminders of Italy, is as pleasant and tasteful as the food. Owners, Howard Mackey, David Stafford and Chris Eissler, also the Chef, offer a varied menu. Chef Chris comes to Trinidad from the MGM Hotel in Las Vegas, via Vermejo Park. The bar and restaurant are in the west end, *The Grapevine Pizzeria* on the east and midway, a bakery offering an assortment of breads and sweets. ("The Grapevine" is the name of their popular restaurant in Raton.) Howard described future plans for landscaping and a possible beer garden. The property adjoins the Purgatoire River walk and an area that the city plans to improve.

THE SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Because Santa Fe Trail Ranch is outside Trinidad town limits it is within the jurisdiction of the Las Animas County Sheriff's Department. Sheriff Lou Girodo recently described the duties of three law enforcement agencies that impact the Ranch: the Sheriff's Department, the Trinidad Police Department and the Colorado Highway Patrol. The

Sheriff's Office is the prime law enforcement agency for the entire county; 4750 square miles, largest in Colorado and third largest in the United States. The office of Sheriff is a four year elected term and, by statute, the Sheriff is also the County Fire Marshall, with control over wildland and prairie fires (not dwellings). The Department Staff comprises, at present, the sheriff, undersheriff, four sergeants, four deputies (one officer located in Kim), eight detention officers and two office staff members. Lou points out that the Sheriff's Office acts only as a detention service, serving the needs of the Court. Correctional responsibilities belong to the State.

There are law enforcement academies throughout the state. Some are found at junior colleges like the Law Enforcement Academy of Southern Colorado at Trinidad State Junior College (TSJC); a few larger cities have their own. The sheriff, under sheriff, sergeants and deputies who serve duty "on the road" must be certified by one of these academies and must complete twenty hours of additional education each year to remain certified.

Two years ago John Raye arranged to have Deputy Jim Casias talk to property owners about starting a Neighborhood Watch. He was helpful in that respect and gave us the necessary literature to proceed, but he also was willingly to talk to us candidly about other concerns that property owners had. He made us feel that the Department is receptive and available.

The Trinidad Police Department, the only one in the county, enforces the law in the town site. Aguilar, an incorporated town, has its own police officer. (More about the Trinidad Police Department in Issue 7.)

The Highway Patrol, implied by the name, handles traffic control and accident response on all public roads in the County.

The newly approved Criminal Justice Center, to be built on East Main Street, should be finished in April 1999. It will house the Sheriff's Department, Police Department, the County jail, a communications center, and emergency services. Lou expressed gratitude to the many supporters who made the plan a reality.

SHERIFF LOU

The Ranch, along with the rest of Las Animas County is fortunate to have Lou Girodo as its sheriff. Lou is cooperative, friendly, professional, and attentive to Ranch concerns and finds time to work with anyone on a personal level. Last summer when the Pueblo Model T Club visited the Ranch, Lou shared with us his memories of friends and family who lived at Morley when it was a mining town of 2,000 people.

He has taken time to discuss SFTR law enforcement problems with the POA board and with Caretaker, Carl Putz, sharing ideas and insights with them about proper procedures.

A native of Hoehne, Lou Girodo married Mary Lou Garbo, his high school sweetheart. Both families have ties to the mining industry. Lou's father was a miner at the neighboring Del Agua mine at the time of the Ludlow Massacre in 1914. The good Italian names of his father, two uncles, as well as those of Mary Lou's family can be found on the Coal Miner's Memorial on Main Street. The Girodos have three children and six grandchildren ranging in age from twenty years to a few months.

Lou began his 38 year career in law enforcement with certification from the Academy at TSJC, where he now is an instructor, and in addition, has credit hours from Adam's State College in Alamosa, Colorado State University and Northern Arizona University at Flagstaff. His first job was with the Trinidad Police Department, then he became Chief Investigator to the District Attorney for the Third Judicial District in Colorado, which comprises Las Animas and Huerfano counties, and lastly has been Sheriff of this county for 11 years.

Lou enjoys fishing and hunting, but has a more unusual interest. He is an amateur archeologist and recommends the Museum of Archeology at TSJC. One summer in the sixties when he was taking classes at TSJC and despite a cast on a broken leg, he worked on a dig at the old town of Sopris before it was to be flooded with the completion of the Trinidad Reservoir Dam. He hopes to help with the excavation of Ludlow when it resumes next year. His first hand knowledge of mining history along with his interest in archeology make him a valuable resource to that effort. He is a valuable resource for us!

THANK YOU, LOU, AND YOUR FINE STAFF FOR YOUR EXCELLENT WORK. THE SANTA FE TRAIL RANCH IS A BETTER PLACE TO LIVE BECAUSE OF YOUR DEDICATION.

Las Animas Sheriff's Office.....846-2211

COMING OR GOING????

Thank you, non-residents, for using the marker board to let Carl Putz know when you are on your property. The past snow storms have shown it's wise to let him, or someone, know that you are here. Before you arrive you might check on the weather, Ranch road and highway conditions. Raton Pass has been closed a few times this winter and the Highway Patrol will not let you through even if you are getting off the Interstate at Exit 6.

SNOW REMOVAL

The unusual amounts of snow this winter have provided some unpleasant learning experiences for some property owners. There were several stories from residents about getting stuck in snow drifts, running out of food, water, and medications, etc. David Hulstine, Chairman of the Road Committee, recently mailed everyone a letter (4 December '97) describing snow removal policies and offering advice on staying safe and being prepared. PLEASE REVIEW THIS EXCELLENT LETTER and take his advice seriously.

At a recent Board Meeting, residents expressed appreciation and thanks to those who dug us out: Jim Hughes, Carl Putz, and "the Morgan Boys." In the past there have been problems getting the job done to everyone's satisfaction, but the heavy snows this winter have forced the need to solve them. Resident, Bill Phillips, has joined forces with Jim Hughes. They have adopted a more efficient procedure to plow snow from the hundred-plus miles of Ranch roads. They are enthusiastic about the addition of a V-plow, which has two forward blades in a

"V" shape and is capable of moving heavier loads of snow. Bill suggests we might have a kinder more patient attitude if we were to 'spend a day in the life of a snow plow operator.' It is not an easy job.

Sorry, but leaving a ridge of snow in front of a driveway cannot be helped. It would take a prohibitive amount of time to open each entry. Carry a shovel and remember that getting about in snow country can be bothersome.

FRANCIE'S TIP

Francie Purswell shares a hot, well.. warm, tip if you are stranded in your car in cold weather. (See last issue.) She suggests that burning a fat candle in a coffee can, is very effective. Put matches or lighter with the candle, put the plastic top on, tuck it in the car, and hope you never need to use it.

THE WEATHER REPORT

By Walt Wolff

As I remarked in the last issue, October and November weather was a "BEAR." December and January seemed to be "seasonal" for this area and we had many pleasant days.

A bit of info from my "weather book:" the wind chill factor is a number, often stated as an equivalent temperature, that expresses the "cooling effect of moving air at different temperatures". The lower the wind chill, the more calories of heat are being carried away from the exposed surface of the body. Neither your car's engine nor anything else can be cooled below the air temperature; it will just cool down to that temperature faster if the wind is blowing strongly. A temperature of 23 degrees F with a 50 mph wind has the same effect as a temperature of -10 degrees and a 7 mph wind. Both result in about a -20 degree wind chill factor.

There have been several falls on ice reported on the Ranch recently, prompting another note. Dry, cold ice is much less slippery than ice with a film of water on it. Take care!!

This is a report of some weather statistics from our cabin on the north end of the Ranch, Lot 30, Unit 1, elevation, ~6950'. I'm an amateur weather reporter using a home weather station, "DAVIS WEATHER WIZARD".

	DECEMBER		JANUARY	
	Day	Day	Day	Day
Temp Hi (degs)	59	15	59	2
Temp Lo (degs)	6	11	8	7
Wnd Spd. Hi (mph)	34	11	39	18
Wnd Chill Lo (mph)	-26	11	-11	6
Snow	4"	3	10"	6
	10"	10		
	12"	25		
	6"	26		
cumulative	32"			

Call 719/846-9262 for Colorado highway conditions.

WE HAVE TWO NEW ADVERTISERS

American Investors Group, Inc. Jim Davis
The Digital Entertainment Store Lee and Teri Kirkwood

"A TRINIDAD CHRISTMAS 1873"

The Trinidad History Museum and the newly formed Living History Committee gave the community a wonderful Christmas gift. Someone said to me after I moved here that every now and then Trinidad offers a gem. This was a diamond.

The entirely original play, the first offering of the new group, was presented in the, as yet unfinished, Museum of the Santa Fe Trail building, at the back of the Museum property. The little vignette takes place on Christmas Eve at candle-lit St. Joseph's Academy, the first Catholic school in Trinidad. As two students and the sisters prepare for Christmas, figures from Trinidad's history, including Dick Wooten, Dr. Beshoar, William Hoehne, Felipe Baca, and George Simpson, drop in, bring gifts and discuss, sometimes in an animated way, the news of the day. The cast was enthusiastic-not a weak character-the charming costumes had been carefully researched, the script was funny and informative. Having the characters walk past the audience to enter and leave "the stage" made clever use of the long narrow building. At the end of the delightful performance, the audience was invited to join the cast for refreshments and talk with them as they maintained their historical rolls. The play was presented three times to sold out audiences of 60 satisfied play goers. Don't miss future productions. (More about the Living History Committee in Issue 7.)

A ROSE BY ANY OTHER NAME or THE 'STINKBUG' FOUND OUT

We all co-habit with those buzzing brown bugs who have an uncanny sense of place. Open your newspaper...there he is, turn on the light...he's sitting on the switch, put on your shoe...he's resting in the toe, moseying along in his sluggish one-leg-at-a-time walk then going belly up in numbers on the floor and window ledge. If you look carefully at his back you can see a threatening "face" made of markings probably a defense mechanism against predators. And his chosen scent is, to be kind, "au naturel". No need to describe that pungent odor to anyone who has crushed or brushed one. "Stink bug" was appropriate but he does have a name. Mike Pace, the Extension Agent, sent a specimen to Denver and forwarded this message.

"The insect that you brought into my office the other day has been identified as a Conifer Seed Bug or Leaf Footed Bug, by a CSU entomologist. They are related to the box elder bugs and are more of a nuisance than anything. They do not bite nor reproduce indoors. There are no control methods recommended for indoors or out doors other than hoping for a very cold winter to kill off a majority of them. The Latin name for the Conifer Seed bug is *Leptoglossus* species." Well, we're smarter now but this bug by any other name would smell as bad.

MAPS STILL AVAILABLE

You can still order the popular 11 x 14 in. maps of the Ranch *laminated*. The map costs \$10 plus \$4 postage and mailing tube. Plain ones are \$5.50 with postage. Order from June Stephens, SFTR, 8111 Cedar Way, Trinidad, CO, 81082

WOMEN'S GROUP INTRODUCES

By Sue Downs

"Happiness is having Great Neighbors," a saying that truly describes Linda Austin and her husband, Chuck. We have been next-door neighbors since both families began building our homes in 1995.

Linda was born and grew up in Cincinnati, Ohio where she and Chuck were high school sweethearts. Soon they were married and moved to California, where their two children Loring and Casey were born and raised.

In California, Linda worked for the most part in the banking loan field, supervising collection departments in two Savings and Loans. Chuck recently retired from the Southern California Gas Company. Linda is now the bookkeeper/secretary for Western Land Acquisitions and Southern Colorado Realty and Chuck owns a local window washing business and works part time for the Trinidad State Junior College in the Gunsmithing Department.

Having purchased their land in August 1992, they began making plans to move their family, i.e., son, Loring, daughter, Casey, granddaughter, Micheala (the apple of their eye), and their dachshund, Ace to Colorado.

Linda has been active in our Women's Group since its beginning, helping host the first meeting. She is known as "The Hallmark Lady" because she acknowledges all our member's birthdays, anniversaries, and special events, with cards or announcements on the bulletin board at the Ranch gate house. Linda never seems to run out of energy or ideas and is always enthusiastic and willing to contribute her time and skills to a make a group project a success.

She heads up the club's community project of supplying nonperishable food to "The Pantry," housed in the United Presbyterian Church and dedicated to assist anyone in need in Trinidad and Las Animas County. She was recently elected Recording Secretary of our Group.

Chuck is one of our Neighborhood Watch Coordinators, an important part of our community.

Linda and Chuck's hobby for many years has been antique and vintage cars, having owned at one time, a 1926 Model T Coupe, a 1923 Model T Depot Hack, a 1931 Ford Coupe and a 1955 Chevy. So when June and Tom Stephens were approached to host a tour of the Ranch by the Pueblo Model T Club, Chuck and Linda were only too happy to assist. They still proudly own the 1955 Chevy.

After building their lovely stucco home, they named it "The Cross Tree Ranch" for the large pine tree on their property. Upon its base someone in the history of the Santa Fe Trail area has carved a Spanish cross. Linda has done a great deal of research regarding the origin of this phenomenon, which still remains a mystery.

Recently, many of us were privileged to attend Casey's wedding to Phil Garcia, with Michaela acting as flower girl for her mother and new dad.

I haven't begun to cover all of Linda's many attributes or the Austin's contributions to our community, but those of us who know them agree they are "Great Neighbors."

Ed. Note: Michaela wore a pretty little dress made by expert seamstress Sue Downs.

Index of Articles.....First Year

April '97 Issue 1

Who We Are, Attention Shoppers, Your New Address, Message Board, Watch the Wildlife, Please Recycle It

June '97 Issue 2

Women's Group News, Security News, Ranch Maps Available, Listen Up, Matt Hines in the News, Wildfire Danger on the Ranch, by Gene Downs, SFTR POA Picnic, by Janice Hines, Women's Group Introduces...*June Stephens*, by Sue Downs.

August '97 Issue 3

Women's Group News, What a Great Picnic, SFTR Maps, SFTR Flower Junket, by Carol Rawle, Model Ts Visit the Ranch, by Linda Austin, A Trip to Capulin Volcano, Women's Group Introduces...*Dot Prestwood*, by Sue Downs.

October '97 Issue 4

Women's Group News, Safety and Security, Edith is Doing Well, The Rest of the Story, Emergency Response, Well Done, Bob Holder, Women's Group Introduces...*Carol Rawle*, by Sue Downs.

December '97 Issue 5

Women's Group News, Matt Hines Wins Big in 1997, by Janice Hines, Maps Still Available, Putz's Pager, New Digs, History Notes, Our Favorite Forester, Think Spring, Colorado State Forest Service, The Weather Report, by Walt Wolff, What You Would Do?, A Furry Little Traveling Companion, by Joanne Roundy, Our Wild Neighbors, Congratulations, Women's Group Introduces...*Michelle Minion*, by Sue Downs.

April '98 Issue 6

Women's Group News, Letter to Barefacts, More New Digs, The Sheriff's Office, Sheriff Lou, Putz's Pager, The Weather Report, by Walt Wolff, A Rose by Any Other Name or The Stinkbug Renamed, A Trinidad Christmas 1873, Women's Group Introduces...*Linda Austin*, by Sue Downs.

Editors notes

This issue ends the first year of the Women's Group newsletter, *The Bare Facts*. In it we have tried to share our experiences from living on the Ranch. I have some heartfelt thanks to offer. I could never do this job without help from Walt Wolff. He continually solves my problems, answers my questions, sets up graphics, folds newsletters, licks stamp, and lets me win the arguments. Thanks to Carol Rawle, Gene Downs, Linda Austin, and Joanne Roundy for their articles and June Stephens for supplying me with information I need, and to Sue Downs, who got herself in trouble by suggesting the Ranch Women profiles, but has always cheerfully provided them right on time.

I didn't staple the December issues before taping them shut and I have learned that some were delivered with no inside sheets. I will gladly send you another if you were missing pages.

The Women's Group has recently changed banks and I believe a few checks for Bare Facts subscriptions might not have been deposited promptly: we're current now. For checks received in November and December I extended subscriptions through April 1999. We appreciate and enjoy your letters, (the chatty and complimentary ones are in the Women's Group scrapbook.) ideas, and suggestions. Thanks! JJW

Joyce Wolff

Santa Fe Trail Ranch

7558 Overlook Dr., Trinidad, CO, 81082

phone: 719-845-1091 email: lobos@ria.net

719-680-1813 (cellular)

SUBSCRIPTION INFORMATION

A one-year subscription to Bare Facts, six issues, costing \$5, expires 1 April. Please check your address label for the year your subscription expires. Take this opportunity to mail your remittance if due and make corrections to the address label. We will print your business card for an additional \$15 per year (subscription and ad=\$20). Send me a few words describing your business and I will include it in the text. When you give a gift subscription (family, kids, friends left behind???) I will enclose this note:



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THE BARE FACTS

Santa Fe Trail Ranch
Newsletter

April 1998

Issue 7

WOMENS GROUP NEWS

MEETINGS

Meetings are at 9:30 a.m. usually the third or fourth Saturday of the month; the date is the choice of the hostesses. Information is posted on the bulletin board at the Ranch entrance. Please bring aluminum cans for recycling and non-perishable goods for The Pantry. We welcome Flora Martinez and Jennifer Mathews!!!!

Visiting property owners are always welcome to attend.

<u>April 18</u>	Linda Jordan 2488 Old Mission Road
Hostesses:	Joanne Roundy/ Karin Gieske/Susie Davis
<u>May 30</u>	Janice Hines 6206 Meadow Ridge Lane
Hostess:	Barbara Sandgren
<u>June</u>	Linda Austin 34945 Elk Ridge Trail
Hostesses:	Joyce Wolff/Sandy Manifold
<u>July</u>	Frances Purswell* 35114 Ponderosa Ridge Drive
Hostesses:	Sue Downs/Shari Schroeffer
<u>August</u>	Suzie Davis* 32688 Owen Baldwin Parkway
Hostesses:	Michelle Minion/Joanne Roundy
<u>September</u>	Sue Downs 35311 Elk Ridge Trail
Hostesses:	June Stephens/Frances Purswell
<u>October</u>	Shari Schroeffer 32010 Spruce Lane
Hostesses:	Linda Austin/Barbara Sandgren
<u>November</u>	Karin Gieske 35445 Alpine Meadows Dr.
Hostesses:	Suzie Davis
<u>December</u>	Cindy Hulstine* 7558 Pass Creek Court
Hostesses:	Janice Hines/June Stephens

* New Ranch homes for these ladies!

Michelle Minion, P.A.C., Emergency Response Committee on the POA Board, is preparing a list of *medical supplies* to be purchased with the \$2,000 recently allotted by the Women's Group. The supplies, for emergency use, will be stored at several residences around the Ranch. She and Suzie Davis will give basic instructions to anyone interested in learning how to use the equipment. Several residents took the First Responder

course last October. More classes will be given in the future.

HELP WE NEED HELP WE NEED HELP WE NEED

We need LOTS more recipes for the cookbook and more contributors: a minimum of 250 recipes (we have 100) and 50 contributors (we have 20). Many thanks to you who have sent them in. Send more! PLEASE, if we are going

THE DEADLINE IS 15 APRIL

to get it done by summer, now is the time to "get around to it." Photo copies of your favorites are FINE. We'd like sections for KIDS, INTERNATIONAL, COOKING for a CROWD and one from MEN, It's a Guy Thing. (See defensive driving). Send them to the Bare Facts, or to June Stephens, SFTR, 8111 Cedar Way, Trinidad, Co 81082

HELP WE NEED HELP WE NEED HELP WE NEED

Shari Schroeffer is organizing a Women's Group *garage sale* on Saturday, June 6th, in the parking lot across from Dairy Queen (400 block University). We can use ANY usable items from furniture to clothing. Eighty percent of the profits from this sale will benefit the Trinidad YMCA: twenty percent to the Women's Group.

Plans for the annual POA picnic are underway. Mark your calendar for Saturday, 25 July. Again it will be potluck held on the Hines property on Gallinas Parkway. More information in the next issue of Bare Facts which will be mailed to ALL property owners, courtesy of the Women's Group.

Shad Roundy, Joanne and Vaughn's son, is providing our first design for *SFTR note cards* which will be available this summer. His pen and ink wildlife drawings are beautiful; we are eager to see them in print.

June Stephens, never lacking for ideas, suggests that if you have *craft projects or artwork* you'd like to sell, with a percentage or all of the profit, going to the Women's Group, please bring them to the POA picnic in June. They will be offered, along with the new logowear, at the busy and popular merchandise stand.

Plans are underway for a *bear-proof receptacle* for recyclable aluminum and *beautification of the entry* to the Ranch.

Please save Betty Crocker coupons to buy items that can be used for Ranch activities.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY BARE FACTS

If you find a '98 after your name on the address label, it's time to mail \$5 to renew your subscription to the Bare Facts. We will print your business card for the following year (six issues) for an ADDITIONAL \$15 along with a one-time introduction (if you provide it) to your business.

SPECIAL ARTICLES INSIDE



For Gardeners
The Odious Ophidian
Preparedness Corner
Let's Talk Dirty

Joyce Wolff
Carol Rawle
Paul Virscik
Joyce Wolff

WE'RE INVITED

Linda Austin shares this letter. 3/11/98

Dear Linda

and Friends of the Santa Fe Trail Ranch Women's Group:

We invite you all to a luncheon at our church, Sunday, April 19, 1998, in appreciation of your ongoing stocking of our church Pantry for the needy. Time for the lunch is 12:15 p.m. (after our worship service). We will also be having a concert by contemporary Christian musician, John Denigan, at that time.

We look forward to seeing you then.

Pastor Sylvia Edwards and members of
the United Presbyterian Church

THANKS

The Women's Group thanks Ben Heath for taking the time to tidy up the area around the dumpsters. Ben does this several times a week and we appreciate it.

CONGRATULATIONS

The place to go is the Main Street Bakery and Café. Our congratulations and thanks to Steve and Monica Violante for bringing Trinidad an excellent little eating establishment. It is THE place to eat and meet friends and neighbors.

On April 6th Michelle Minion, P.A.C., and Robert Carlisle, M.D. will open their new health care service, Trinidad Medical Associates. They will be temporarily located in the southeast wing of Mt. San Rafael Hospital. Their new telephone number is 845-0627.

Matt Hines recently broke yet another pro-stock motorcycle record in Florida.

GOOD TIMES PAST

DEFENSIVE DRIVING

Eighteen property owners took the Defensive Driving course in February. Thanks to Police Chief Montoya and the City of Trinidad the class was free. In addition to coming away with new driving insights we spent a day in friendly company and had a GOOD time. "It's a guy thing," "It's a gal thing," and "It's a Swedish thing," will always make us chuckle. And State Farm policy holders are enjoying a nice little discount on their auto insurance. Thank you Chief Montoya and John Trammell.

ON STAGE

In March Trinidad State Junior College (TSJC) Kaleidoscope Players presented several performances of "The Three Musketeers." Dumas must be chuckling in his grave. The whole production was delightful and the sword fights were completely convincing. The swordsmen had been coached on campus for three weeks by J.R. Beardsley, one of 12 certified Fight Masters in the U.S. He has coached combat scenes for Hollywood and the MGM Grand in Las Vegas. (Janice Hines gave him a tour of the Santa Fe Trail Ranch.) The dialogue was clever and well delivered. We're hooked on these Thespians. Don't miss future productions!

THE ARTS COUNCIL S

The Tucson Arizona Boys Choir recently performed in Raton on their Rocky Mountain Tour '98. What an entertaining evening! The performance was held in the historically important and carefully preserved Shuler Theater in Raton.

Trinidad and Raton each have Arts Councils that sponsor performing arts throughout the year. We highly recommend their offerings. Tickets and memberships are reasonably priced.

PURPLE RULES

On March 19th we were treated to a sneak preview of Pop's Pool Palace at David H.'s purple birthday bash. The purple crowd played pool, loved the delicious food catered by Steve and Monica Violante, and enjoyed the cake complete with fireworks. Thanks Cindy and David!

CALENDAR

- APRIL 19 Thank you Luncheon at the United Presbyterian Church
- JUNE 6 Women's Group Garage Sale
- JUNE 7 - 14 Santa Fe Trail Rendezvous at the NRA Whittington Center - Raton. Visitor days June 8 - 13, daylight hours.
- JUNE 11 Grand Opening - Santa Fe Trail Museum 1:00 - 3:00 p.m.
- JUNE 13 - 14 Santa Fe Trail Festival
- JULY 4 * Bent's Old Fort - Independence Day Weekend
- JULY 24-26 * Bent's Old Fort - Santa Fe Trail Encampment

JULY 25 - POA PICNIC

- JULY 24 - AUGUST 16
Cuchara Music and Arts Festival, opening night guest artist, Charlton Heston. (The schedule looks exciting. 1 888-Cuchara for more information)
- AUGUST 1 Bent's Fort and Corazon Chapters of the SFT Association - picnic at the Wooton Ranch. An excellent opportunity to see this historic site.
- *Bent's Old Fort, probably the most prominent stop on the Santa Fe Trail, is a National Park near La Junta and well worth a visit. While in La Junta visit the Koshare Museum and in the evening watch the Boy Scout Koshare Dancers who perform throughout the summer.

TRINIDAD ON LINE

For news and information about Trinidad log on to www.trinidadco.com. Trinidad Plus can be accessed directly at www.trinidadco.com/plus or by using their icon on the Trinidad Site.

FOR GARDENERS

Joyce Wolff

As we look around there are wee green buds waiting for a little encouragement and the air is filled with bird song. With these happy thoughts in mind here is a partial list of plants that we have grown successfully in this dry, rocky and windy climate. June Stephens grows tomatoes, green peppers, and broccoli in a south facing garden. She places bottomless coffee cans around the bases for wells.

Flowers that do well are scabiosa, blue flax (both bloom almost all summer), cosmos, holly hocks, iris, columbine, dianthus, shasta daisies, yarrow, dusty miller, alyssum, coreopsis, gloriosa daisies, and oriental poppies. Joe and Gretchen Shaw grow petunias in hanging baskets; critters may eat them otherwise. June has climbing roses. Nothing bothered my butterfly bush and it bloomed continually and vigorously. My bridal wreath, forsythia, Old World rose, pyracantha and snowball bushes have survived a couple of years, but are occasionally set back deer and turkeys. Wildflower and grass seed can be sown on late snows.

Deer love aspen, but if protected and given extra water when young they grow well. My ornamental crabapples, golden honey locust, purple plum and mountain ash trees are fine. June protects her apple, pear, cherry and peach trees with barbed wire and surrounds them with large wells. Spring frost is a threat to non-native blooming plants.

Walt grew a good assortment of herbs in a box raised four feet off the ground and rimmed with six inches of metal flashing to keep it safe from chipmunks. The basil flourished. Linda Slater has sent an article on discouraging deer. I will send a copy to anyone interested.

I have purchased good quality plants from Records, in Raton and Trinidad Greenhouses. The Iris Patch is a delightful little garden.

THE ODISIOUS OPHIDIAN OR RATTLERS ON THE RANCH

By Carol Rawle

Two years ago this spring, I came home from town to find my cat, Thor, with a swollen shoulder and in a whole lot of pain. At first I thought it was probably a sprain from jumping out of a tree. It didn't occur to me until next morning that it might be snake bite. A trip to the vet confirmed my suspicion, and after having the toxin flushed out of his system and he was given antibiotics to head off infection, he recovered nicely.

Here it is spring again, and I doubt Thor will make the same mistake twice, but the danger remains, none the less, that any of us could encounter one of the most venomous snakes in the U.S., *Crotalus Viridid*, the Western Rattlesnake.

Our resident rattler is generally found below 8200 feet, usually in dry rocky terrain. They can be encountered anytime the weather is mild, but as a general rule, they can be expected to emerge in late April, and remain active until early November. Don't discount the possibility of seeing a rattler as early as March or as late as December. If we're enjoying the nice weather; so could they.

In spring and fall, when nights are cool, rattlesnakes will be out in the daytime. In summer when it's hot, they prefer the night to be out making a living. Snakes are ectothermic, meaning they are at the mercy of their environment to maintain a comfortable body temperature of 80° to 90°F. Below that, they're sluggish, can't capture prey, or digest their food. Above that, they get perilously close to being par-boiled. A few hours exposed to freezing temperatures will also kill them.

Most of the time, rattlesnakes lead a life of indolence and leisure, just hanging out, looking dead to the world, so to speak. A lot of people have been bitten by making the mistake of picking up what looked to them, like a dead snake. Rattlers only need to eat once every two or three weeks. They are meat eaters: birds, lizards, toads, frogs, baby bunnies, whatever happens to be going by when they're hungry.

Rattlesnakes use their venom to immobilize their prey, then they very slowly swallow the meal whole by unhinging their jaw. The venom injected into the prey helps digest the meal since the toxin breaks down the tissue. This is why one of the most dangerous results of snakebite is gangrene of the tissues surrounding the bite.

It's hard to determine how smart rattlesnakes are, but their eyesight is fair; they can detect movement up to 15 feet or more. They're mostly deaf but do rely on vibrations transmitted through the ground to determine the approach of an enemy or prey. Their strongest sense is in the pits below their eyes. They can locate the presence of any warm-blooded animal with these heat sensors. This tells them also if an animal is too big to swallow...like us. Most of the time they'll ignore anything too large to be food unless they're mercilessly provoked into wasting their precious venom, which would mean not being able to eat later on. As a rule, most older snakes may bite if provoked, yet won't release much, if any, venom. Baby rattlers, on the other hand are ruthless little beasts, not having the experience to be as selective as their elders.

There is much misinformation about rattlesnakes, but some strange conceptions *are* true. Can snakes climb trees? Some of them, but usually rattlers don't get much higher than entwining themselves in short bushes. Can they swim? Yes, if they need to. Do they really den up in hoards in winter? Yes. As many as 50 - 100 snakes have been found in one den, but all may not be rattlers. Gopher snakes, garter snakes, and racers have been known to slumber peacefully together for warmth. Do rattlesnakes have sex? Yes, and you may be interested to know the males have a double penis, though only one is used at a time. 'Why such virility should be wasted on such lowly life form?' is a question some will ask.

The females give birth to about a dozen live young, after a gestation period of a year and a half, in late summer or early fall. The babies are six inches long, with only a nub where their rattles will be some day. They are voracious eaters with potent venom, and must fend for themselves immediately upon birth. If they do not build up enough fat to get them through winter, they'll perish. This makes them even more dangerous than the adults, since they're far more active.

We can expect to co-exist peacefully and safely with our slithery neighbors if we remember to be ever mindful of their presence. When we forget to look before we jump

over a log or put our hands into spaces we can't see into we invite disaster. Recognizing a rattler who is merely coiled in restful slumber from one who is coiled to strike is important. One at rest looks like an inert cinnamon roll; one angered and ready to strike is like a coiled bed spring. You can safely move away from the former; remaining still is safer strategy with the later. Remember, a rattler's striking distance is usually no more than three quarters of its body, and usually about a foot and a half high. They can bite in any position, but will almost always assume the strike-coil position when threatened. But if not in this coil, they can only strike out a few inches. They may or may not rattle to warn you; they follow no rules where their rattle is concerned.

When a rattler strikes, it does it with a speed that is slower than a man striking with his fists and the snake probably won't chase you. If they do decide to "charge," they are relatively slow-moving. At their absolute fastest they'd have difficulty getting up to 3 MPH, but only for a short distance. They don't have energy reserves for marathons, and even if they did, it'd take a day and a half for them to cover a mile.

Rattlesnakes have to live with a very bad rap. They do have an important role in the ecosystem. They eat lots of nuisance critters, and lots of other critters eat them. We can keep ourselves out of their food chain by simply being careful where we put our hands and feet when the weather is nice.

It is very important to remember to do nothing with a snakebite victim other than to keep him/her/it calm and transport to a medical facility ASAP.

PREPAREDNESS CORNER

by Paul Vircsik

Most of us know Paul from his past presentations on fire prevention and safety. In his 14 years of fire service he has gained an expertise which he puts to valuable use. This article is yet another example of his dedication to our well being. Thank you, Paul, we all appreciate your effort to strengthen the Ranch goal of "good neighbors." To contact Paul see his business ad, Firescape.

I have realized throughout my career in the fire service that the best way to thank those who helped educate me, was to pass on what I have learned to others. Giving back to those we touch in our lives is very important.

While enjoying the ranch vicariously through "The Bare Facts," I have gotten to know this growing, close knit community and would like to share some of this information with my Colorado neighbors. When I come across anything pertinent to the well being of the Ranch, I will pass it along. As always, if anyone has questions in the fire/emergency medical area, feel free to contact me.

This time:

EMERGENCY WATER SUPPLY

In the unlikely event that the water lines become cracked or broken during a major disaster or freeze and impurities pollute your water system, you can take the following precautions:

- Shut off the water to the home to prevent contamination of the supply within your home.

- If the water has sediment in it, strain the water through paper towels, paper coffee filters, or several layers of clean cloth.
- Boiling water vigorously for five minutes will usually make it safe from harmful bacterial contamination.
- If boiling is not possible, strain the water and treat by adding ordinary liquid chlorine household bleach.

Do not use granular forms of bleach, they are poisonous!

Amount of Water	Amount of Chlorine Bleach	
	Clear Water	Cloudy Water
1 quart	2 drops	4 drops
1 gallon	8 drops	16 drops
5 gallons	1/2 tsp.	1 tsp.

Mix thoroughly and let stand for 30 minutes. A slight chlorine odor should be detectable in the water, if not, repeat the dosage and let stand for an additional 15 minutes before using.

- Purify only enough water at a time to last a maximum of 48 hours; this will minimize chances of recontamination. Store in clean covered containers.
- A supply of STORED WATER may be your most important survival item. SEVEN GALLONS PER PERSON can last two weeks. Commercially bottled water, should be used or discarded on the expiration date. Rotate new water for the old into daily usage. The 2 1/2 gallon jugs are excellent.
- Water heater water. Turn off the heat source, close the inlet valve, open a hot water faucet in the house (to let air into the tank) and open the drain faucet on the water heater. This should give you 40-50 gallons of good water.

I hope that you will never have to put this to the test, but when it comes to surviving an emergency situation, that seven gallons of preparedness now may mean survival later.

LET'S TALK DIRTY

(Sorry Guys, it ain't whacha think.)

All of us who live or are building on the Ranch will use a septic system, as one third of the population of the U.S. does. A septic system (presumably named that because of the microbacterial decomposition taking place in the process) is a two part function: a holding tank and a drain field. There are a number of types and sizes of holding tanks and various configurations for drainpipes but the process is the same. Colorado State law dictates how a septic system must be installed, to prevent health hazards.

In simple septic systems the waste from kitchens and bathrooms enters the holding tank, where the heavier solid particles settle to the bottom while lighter ones and grease float on the surface. A tee-shaped inlet baffle prevents the incoming waste from disturbing the water surface while an outlet baffle prevents the outgoing effluent from carrying the surface solids with it. The process of decomposing as much of these solids as possible takes place here.

As waste water flows into the tank an equal amount of water, now effluent, is forced into the drain pipes buried in the drain or leach field. The pipes are perforated with holes, through which the water passes into the soil. Here

microorganisms purify the effluent as it percolates back into the water shed.

The goal to decompose the solids that enter the tank depends on *what* solids and *how much* water we drain or flush down. One source says the use of a garbage disposal fills the tank with solids twice as quickly. A continual flow of water, say, from several tubs of laundry, one right after the other, keeps the water stirred up, preventing the solids from settling. And since an equal amount of water is simultaneously being forced into the drain field, solid particles can be carried along. These particles can clog the holes while the overload of water can saturate the soil preventing proper drainage. Prevent large amounts of water from entering the leach field at once from either inside or outside the drain pipes. Don't drain a downspout onto the field. (It's easy to pump out the tank. It is not easy to replace the drain field.)

A drain field will not work efficiently if the soil becomes compacted or if the microorganisms that purify the water leaching away from the pipes are deprived of oxygen. To avoid compacting never put the drain field under a driveway, or paved area. Grass is the ideal cover and trees and bushes will use up some water. Roots from these plants will not damage plastic drain pipes. Vegetable gardens should not be planted over the drain field as harmful bacteria from the effluent may be absorbed into the plants before the purifying process is complete.

To keep your system working efficiently:

- **Be careful what you put down the drain:** no coffee grounds, cooking fats, napkins or paper products. Most toilet paper decomposes easily; check the label for suitability. Use the disposal sparingly; the system is meant to treat water, not garbage. Normal amounts of household cleaners and bleach are not harmful. Do not put toxic chemicals down; they can prevent "friendly" bacteria from doing their job. Avoid phosphate detergents; they will not harm the system but if the system is not working properly, phosphorous can pollute water that will eventually become surface water.
- **Conserve water.** For your comparison the daily average water consumption in the U.S. is 60 gal/per person. Run water-consuming appliances one at a time. Do no more than two loads of laundry at a time. Remember, the amount of water you put in your cistern (in most systems) goes into your tank and drain field. Water in, water out!

One hears differing opinions on how often a septic tank must be emptied. All the variables mentioned above affect that length of time. Below are some numbers from an Ohio State University publication, using a 1500 gallon tank as an example (usual size tank for a household of four).

	Number in household					
	1	2	3	4	5	6
Approximate Number of Years Between Pumping	19	9	6	4	3	2.5
<i>Use of a garbage disposal cuts these figures in half.</i>						

A word about additives: most experts believe that additives do little good despite manufacturer's claims. There are two kinds of additives, biological ones which probably do no harm and chemical additives that might.

Biological additives may help in the decomposition process in the holding tank. Chemical ones actually dissolve solids in the tank that are not broken down by natural means. Chemical ones must be used with care. They can damage the system or pollute the soil and water. Some can even *interrupt* the decomposition process going on in the tank. Read the label to see how the chemical works. Avoid additives that list "chloride" or "chloro" or solvents. Claims that certain additives will eliminate the need to pump are probably as full of it as the holding tank itself.

A local septic tank service advised the Stephens that *powdered* laundry detergents create a crusty residue in the tank that will not break down. They suggest not using them. The Stephens share a "recipe" for a biological septic tank cleaner.

Once a year, mix 6 packages of yeast, 1 pound of sugar and 2 gallons of water. Flush down the toilet.

Information for this article is from the Rural Living Handbook, University of Idaho: College of Agriculture (provided by Mike Pace CSU Extension Office), Funk and Wagnall Encyclopedia and personal conversation.

THE WEATHER REPORT

By Walt Wolff

This is a report of some weather statistics from our cabin on the north end of the Ranch, Lot 30, Unit 1, elevation, ~6950'. I'm an amateur weather reporter using a home weather station, "DAVIS WEATHER WIZARD".

	FEBRUARY		MARCH	
	Day	Day	Day	Day
Temp High (degs)	60	24	76	24
Temp Low(degs)	-3	4	5	8
Wnd Spd. Hi (mph)	62	24	53	25
Wnd Chill Lo (mph)	-30	4	-25	8
SNOW:	2"	5	5"	7
	skiff	7,10,12	3"	15
	8"	16	4"	18
	2 "	17	skiff	28
Cumulative	12"		12"	

For the months of October '97 through March '98 I estimate that 114" of snow fell on our lot.

For the same period Ted Novakowski estimates 166" fell at his home, lot B-35, which is about in the center and west side of the Ranch, at ~7500' elevation.

Of interest to you fishermen: since October '97 the Trinidad Reservoir has risen about 16' and added 204 surface acres for a volume of ~25,000 acre feet. I hope the spring fishing will be GREAT.

WOMEN'S GROUP INTRODUCES

By JJW

I will be preparing The Bare Facts for another year so let me introduce myself. I was born in Los Angeles, and still love to visit southern California.

When I was eight my parents moved to Los Alamos, New Mexico, the "secret city" where the atomic bomb was

being developed. I grew up there, married and had one daughter.

Then, in 1975 and divorced, I went to work in the Geophysics group at the Los Alamos National Laboratory as a data analyst (catch-all job description for women entering the job market with no marketable skills). But I was trainable and learned to interpret seismic data, prepared a quarterly earthquake catalog (mailed around the world) and enjoyed extensive fieldwork in several states. The Lab sent me to several writing and technical presentations classes.

I love to write and still remember marching proudly up to collect my five dollars for winning the Fire Prevention Essay Contests in fourth and fifth grade.

I met Walt, a Group Leader and Test Director in the Nuclear Test Program at the Lab, and we were married nineteen years ago. Walt is a born traveler, and his job took us to England and Europe (negotiations with the Soviets in Geneva) several times. He thrived on planning itineraries, busy airports, and ordering food from menus in foreign languages. We traveled a lot, and off the job toured the U.K., Greece, Denmark, Germany, Kenya, Egypt and Mexico. We had great adventures!

We never planned to live on the Ranch. The property we bought in '90 was intended as an investment and eventual gift to Walt's children. Even as Rich Babnick helped us flag the road and we started the cabin, it was only a lark. Finally we gave in to what we knew all along; we wanted to live here, and have for two years. Walt was on the POA Board for its first three years and has been treasurer.

I love this country and the critters. We've counted over 70 species of birds on the Ranch and have contributed data to the Breeding Bird Atlas of Colorado, sponsored by the Denver Museum of Natural History. I am a volunteer for the Colorado Division of Wildlife. Preparing the Bare Facts has been a wonderful challenge and learning experience for me.

Time flies; my own grandchildren are 20 and 17. My extended family includes Walt's five children and ten more grandchildren; I claim them all. Our travel is limited by the big furry dog who was wandering the Ranch: homeless, frightened, befriended only by Cindy H. I love books and needlework and Carol Rawle has helped me start an herbarium and soon will help me build a trail or two up and down Loma Lobo (wolf hill). (She will describe trail building in The Bare Facts if the snow ever melts.) It's a satisfying life.

SHOPPER'S PAGES

THE WOMEN'S GROUP CANOPY is available for rent for \$20 per day. It is 20' x 10' and is easy to put up. Contact Sue Downs, 859-0416 to reserve it.

LAMINATED RANCH MAPS, 11" x 14", cost \$10 plus \$4 postage and mailing tube. Plain ones are \$5.50 (includes postage). Order from June Stephens, SFTR, 8111 Cedar Way, Trinidad, CO, 81082

A COMPLETE LIST OF LOGOWEAR ITEMS is available from Sandy Manifold, 407 N. Commercial, 719-846-3910 (The Country Cobbler), or Cindy Hulstine, 719-846-3500. Inventory of the old logo items includes hats, a

limited number of T-shirts and tote bags, a great way to carry mail home from the box. A few representative prices:
T-shirts ss, \$17 (xl \$19), ls \$20 (xl \$23)
Sweatshirts-9oz. \$34 (xl \$36)
Caps (old & new logo in a variety of styles) \$10

THE CLOTH CARAVAN, 148 South First Street, is a new fabric store in Raton. They are offering a variety of classes and publish a newsletter, The Stitch Niche (\$10). June Stephens will be teaching some classes there.

WELCOME NEW ADVERTISERS

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THE DIGITAL ENTERTAINMENT STORE

We welcome Lee and Terri Kirkwood, owners of *The Digital Entertainment Store* located at 101 Plum Street in Trinidad, phone (719) 846-0999. Their business card follows. They can demonstrate a wide variety of sound and entertainment systems in their showrooms including a special Home Theatre Room. They also sell or rent CD size discs for home viewing of the newest released movies. Hours are Tuesday through Saturday 9:30 to 5:30 or others by appointment. Lee and Terri offer the following guidelines for planning your home audio visual entertainment system.

Today's world encourages the desire for more sophisticated, home entertainment and information gathering. This may be more difficult in a remote area. On the Ranch cable is not available, and only a few stations are available using an antenna as opposed to about 150 using one brand of 18" satellite dish. Digital Video Disc is the newest and highest level of signal provider available today. A wide range of entertainment systems is available. The choices for electronic home entertainment need not be expensive or extensive. Judicious choices should be made in the preplanning process. There are four key steps to this process.

STEP 1 Prepare a budget for your in-home sound, TV and video system. Keep in mind that expensive is not always the best way to proceed and that jumping into purchases because they seem to be a good deal may cost you more in the long run.

STEP 2 Visit electronic dealers and discuss your budget and your equipment needs. A simple, high quality video source system attached to your existing TV may cost only a few hundred dollars and may be all you need. On the

other hand, a sophisticated home theatre room can cost several thousands.

STEP 3 Plan early! Placement of speakers, routing wires, cut-outs, switch box locations, and other details are important to the highest quality installation. These are best done during the basic house wiring before drywall is put in place. Your equipment dealer is usually able to do this preliminary wiring, or will develop detailed plans for your electrician. In either case, use only cables and speaker wires designed to provide the appropriate signal level quality required for the rest of your system. These quality products are available at qualified A/V dealers.

STEP 4 The final step is the installation of the hardware and should be done by a qualified installer. A dependable entertainment component dealer will provide detailed demonstrations of the equipment capabilities and after-sale service when required.

world over. Gift wrapping is always pretty and free, and Curly will always provide a warm welcome.

CURIOSITIES



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TRINIDAD, CO 81082
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Spanish Peaks Chimney Sweep Free Safety Inspection

CHIMNEY CAPS
MINOR CHIMNEY REPAIR
CLEANLINESS GUARANTEED

Roland Safranek
868-3600
after 6pm

The **SPANISH PEAKS CHIMNEY SWEEP** is Roland Safranek. Roland has cleaned several chimneys on the Ranch, including Carol Rawle's and the Wolff's. We vouch for his conscientious and careful work. This energetic and friendly young man was born in Germany where his father was stationed in the military. Later he too joined the service and after 17 years took an early retirement then learned the chimney sweep business.

Roland suggests having your chimney inspected and cleaned every year but that depends on the fuel you burn and how frequently you build a fire. Pinon leaves more residue than some other woods. It's best to play it safe and avoid a chimney fire which could have serious consequences on the Ranch. Pinon will deposit more residue than some other woods.

You will find **CURIOSITIES** at 305 W. Main in the "Corazon de Trinidad". The "little shop with the big selection" features great handmade jewelry. Several talented artisans are represented, including Audrey Forcier, co-owner and manager of the shop. Curiosities features a fantastic assortment of earrings, pendants, necklaces, bracelets and other baubles. There really is something for everyone! In addition, Audrey has stocked a curious array of candles, aromatherapy products, lotions and scents along, with some wonderful imports items from Viet Nam and Afganistan. The selection is always changing as Audrey looks for unique, tasteful and fun items from the

At Curiosities, you can also find the perfect greeting card for any occasion. That's because behind the store, Audrey, her husband Neil Sexton, and their partners operate "Colorado Card & Curiosity", Trinidad's hometown line of unique greeting cards. Neil has a talented group of Trinidadians using telemarketing to sell "Colorado Cards" all over the country. So ... next time you're in downtown Trinidad, come see Audrey, Neil.... & Curly too.

PLEASE SUPPORT OUR ADVERTISERS

Editors notes

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phone: 719-845-1091 email: lobos@activematrix.net
719-680-1813 (cellular)

A subscription to the Bare Facts, expires 1 April. Please check your address label for the year your subscription expires. To renew please send \$5 and make any corrections or changes to your address. We will print your business card for an **additional** \$15 per year (subscription + = \$20). Send me a few words describing your business and I will include it in the text. When you give a gift subscription to family, kids, and friends left behind, I will enclose this note (in color):



A SUBSCRIPTION TO
THE BARE FACTS
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THERES MORE.....



THE BARE FACTS

News from the
Santa Fe Trail Ranch

June 1998

Issue 8

WOMENS GROUP NEWS

MEETINGS

Meetings are at 9:30 AM usually the third or fourth Saturday of the month; the date is the choice of the hostesses. Information is posted on the bulletin board at the Ranch entrance. Please bring aluminum cans for recycling and non-perishable goods for The Pantry.

Visiting property owners are always welcome to attend.

June 20	Linda Austin 34945 Elk Ridge Trail
Hostesses:	Joyce Wolff/Sandy Manifold
July	Frances Purswell*
Hostesses:	Sue Downs/Shari Schroepfer
August	Suzie Davis*
Hostesses:	Michelle Minion/Joanne Roundy
September	Sue Downs
Hostesses:	June Stephens/Frances Purswell
October	Shari Schroepfer
Hostesses:	Linda Austin/Barbara Sandgren
November	Karin Gieske
Hostesses:	Suzie Davis
December	Cindy Hulstine*
Hostesses:	Janice Hines/June Stephens

* New Ranch homes for these ladies!

• GARAGE SALE

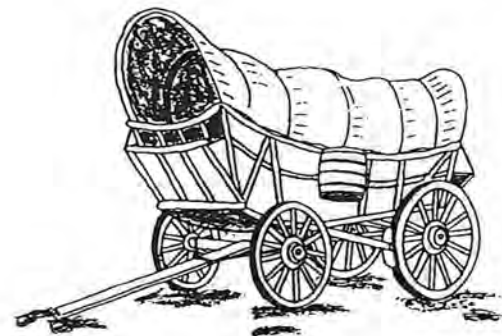
The Women's Group garage sale will be on Saturday, June 6th, in the parking lot across from Dairy Queen (400 block University). Eighty percent of the profits from the sale will benefit the Trinidad YMCA. Please have your usable items (anything goes) there by 7:00 AM for sale at 8:00AM. There will be no pre-sales. *Please put prices your items, except clothing, which will be put in stacks of like items and priced alike. Make a list of things you will pick up at 4:00 PM if unsold, otherwise we will donate them to a local charity. Thank you Drs. Chris and Amy Polk for letting us use your parking lot.*

• THE COOKBOOK

The cookbook has gone to press! The title, *We've Come a Long Way*, commemorates the women pioneers of the Santa Fe Trail. The title implies how far we modern women have come in the convenience of our lives compared to theirs, and how far they came, and we have come, to build new lives on the Santa Fe Trail.

Many thanks, readers! You contributed 300 recipes after the plea in April. You made the project possible along with the people who did the work - hours of work. They are: chairman, June Stephens, typing Sandy Manifold and Frances Purswell, and proof reading, Sue Downs and Linda Austin. Tom Stephens designed the cover, shown below, and Joyce Wolff wrote the dedication and history. (See Shopper's Pages, page 5)

WE'VE COME A LONG WAY



recipes from the
Santa Fe Trail Ranch
Women's Group

• THE POA PICNIC

Picnic information in the enclosed flyer!

If you have *craft projects or artwork* you'd like to sell, with a percentage or all of the profit, going to the Women's Group, please bring them to the picnic. They will be offered at the busy and popular merchandise stand.

CALENDAR

JUNE 6	Women's Group Garage Sale (see page 4)
JUNE 7 - 13	Santa Fe Trail Rendezvous at the NRA Whittington Center - Raton. Visitor days June 8 - 13, daylight hours.
JUNE 11	Grand Opening - Santa Fe Trail Museum 1:00 - 3:00 p.m.
JUNE 13 - 14	Santa Fe Trail Festival
JULY 4	* Bent's Old Fort - <u>Independence Day Weekend</u>
JULY 24-26	* Bent's Old Fort - <u>Santa Fe Trail Encampment</u>
JULY 25 PDA PICNIC (see flyer)	
JULY 24 - AUGUST 16	<u>Cuchara Music and Arts Festival</u> , opening night guest artist, Charlton Heston. (The schedule looks exciting. 1 888-Cuchara for more information)
AUGUST 1	Bent's Fort and Corazon Chapters of the SFT Association - <u>picnic at the Wootton Ranch</u> . An excellent opportunity to see this historic site.

*Bent's Old Fort, probably the most prominent stop on the Santa Fe Trail, is a National Park near La Junta and well worth a visit. While in La Junta visit the Koshare Museum and in the evening watch the Boy Scout Koshare Dancers who perform throughout the summer.

• WHEN THE TOUGH GET GOING

Neither high wind nor cold kept Carol Rawle and her intrepid little crew from doing highway clean-up on I-25.

Thanks to Carol (four days of it), Joanne Roundy, Barbara Sandgren, Janice Hines, Dorothy Novakowski, Sue Downs, Suzie Davis, Flora and Lazaro Martinez and Joyce Wolff, who all get gold stars on their charts.

I found myself asking some questions as I dragged the orange bag around. *If we put together the 2,001 bits of metal we found at Exit 6 could we tell what kind of car it was? Where was the rest of the animal's body? How long will it take me to catch the next person I see littering?* And guess what? It will be time to do it again in July. It won't be nearly as difficult. The weather should be more pleasant and only three months of accumulated litter.

• THE BARE FACTS

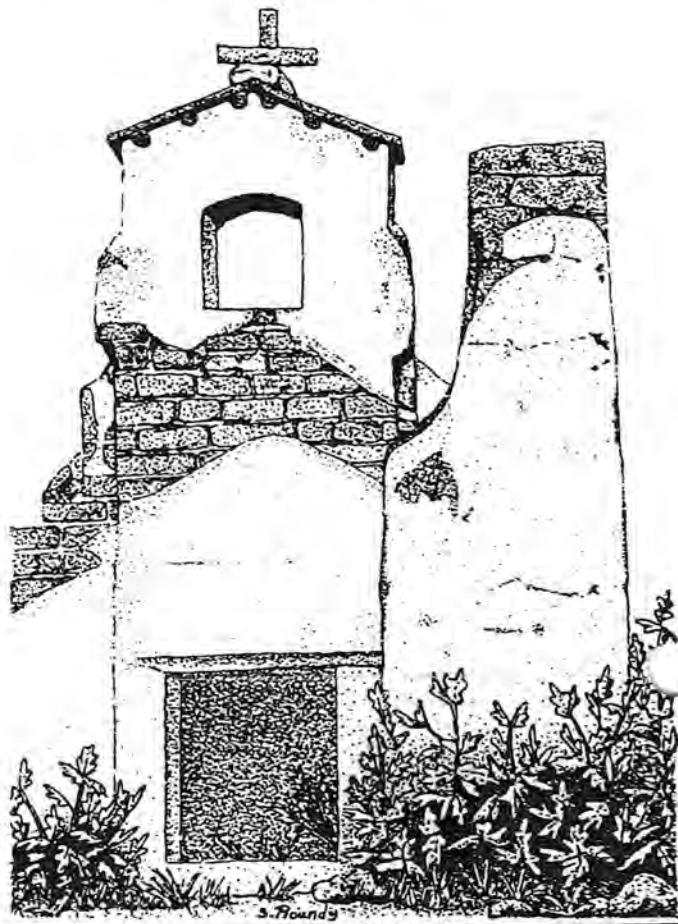
This issue of the Bare Facts is going to all 370 property owners: a gift from the Women's Group to non-subscribers. And it is going to businesses who advertise as a reminder that their advertisement is also due if they want their business card printed another year. If you are a subscriber or business with a '98 after your name on the address label, this will be your last issue. If you want to renew, start a subscription, or print your business card please see page 6 for information. Thanks for your support; we regularly mail to 120 subscribers. We welcome articles, letters and ideas and will print them if they are appropriate and positive.

CORRECTION

In Issue 7 I wrote that \$2000 had been allocated to emergency supplies on the Ranch; it should be \$1000. JJW

• SANTA FE TRAIL RANCH NOTE CARDS

Shad Roundy, a talented young artist in Denver, has drawn exclusively for the Women's Group, two beautiful pen and ink drawings for the first printing of SFTR note cards. Shown below, is St Aloysius Church (sadly in ruins) at Morley, the other, the graceful head of a mountain lion. (see SHOPPERS PAGES, page 5)



• THE ROAD RALLY

The First Annual Road Rally in May was a smashing success. The Rally sends participants off on a giant hunt taking them around the Trinidad area, solving puzzles and looking for clues. Each car was given a set of envelopes containing clues or, alas, bogus clues. (Panic envelopes were provided in case of emergency.) Winning the Rally depends on the most points earned by solving the puzzles along the way and by proper use of the envelopes. The last stop was Chef Liu's for dinner, tallying points and awards. And the winners are:

- 1st Place: \$100 and a promise to plan next year's Rally, Christine and Brian Zug, and Debbie Parks
- 2nd Place: \$40 Janice and Jennifer Hines and Barbara Sandgren,
- 3rd Place: \$20 Jim and Suzie Davis and Sue and Gene Downs.

MANY THANKS, Steve and Monica Violante, for planning the Rally. We appreciate their creativity and hours of work and look forward the Second Annual Road Rally, '98. Good luck, Christine, Brian, and Debbie!

FUNDRAISER DINNER

Santa Fe Trail Ranch was represented recently at a fundraising dinner for the Trinidad State Junior College Educational Foundation. Attending were Simone, Will, Eva and Bart Potter, Suzie and Jim Davis, Sue and Gene Downs and Joyce and Walt Wolff. We were entertained by John Gagliardi, football coach at St. John's College in Minnesota. He is the second highest winning college football coach in the country. Trinidad mayor, Harry Sayre, gave him the key to the city and proclaimed 15 May, John Gagliardi Day. Coach Gagliardi graduated from Holy Trinidad High School and said that the values he learned as a young man growing up in Trinidad contribute to his winning career.

OOPS, NOT AGAIN?

Dagney Gahlu, was putting up a drainpipe, when she fell from the ladder and broke her leg. Does this sound familiar? It's Edith's accident all over again. Dagney will be on crutches and recovering for about four months. We wish her as successful a recovery as Edith's.

BUILDING A TRAIL WITH CAROL AND JOYCE

Part 1 by Carol Rawle

Day One

It is a perfect day in April, sunny, warm, a touch of a breeze; time to begin the trail down to Joyce and Walt Wolff's windmill. We each have a roll of surveyor's flagging tape (hot pink is best) and off down the hill we stroll, looking for the gentlest slope. It is a clear case of the "warrior and the dreamer" - while Carol is flagging tree limbs and shrubs, Joyce is busy discovering every wildflower, bird, and animal spoor in the area.

We can hear the windmill screaming its eerie song, un-nerving Joyce's dog, Oso, but the sound keeps us oriented to our goal.

We look for a "switch-back" route, to avoid hiking straight down the slope. While a straight down-hill trail would get us to the bottom faster, coming back up would be far too strenuous over the long haul. (We ain't gettin' any younger!) Switch backs also prevent erosion.

Our flagged route takes us within eyesight of the windmill, but we find a sheer rock cliff between us and our goal. We decide to turn around and retrace our route. We take down the last few flags and look for an easier way around the rock cliff. We find it. After an annoying stretch of scrub brush, our new route gets us to the windmill through a lovely stand of tall oak.

After visiting the windmill, and a drink from the creek for Oso, we follow our flagged route back up to the house, testing the proposed trail on the uphill trek. At the top, Joyce and Carol agree; it feels like a trail.

Day Two

The day is the kind you get in April- partial sun and threatening to snow. But spring is a good time for trail building since the oak and mahogany haven't leafed out yet, making it easier to deal with. It is also easier to see the "lay of the land" when unhindered by thick brush. Our tools consist of a small chain saw, long handled anvil

loppers, hand saws, and a wonderful tool called a McCloud, a fire fighting tool, ideal for building trails. It has a big hoe on one side and a rake on the opposite side.

With the McCloud we pull rocks off the trail, level the path, and carve out steps on steep slopes. It's really important to see where the water run-off will go so you don't inadvertently cause erosion. The idea is to let the water flow off the side of the trail, not let it flow down the middle of your trail which would eventually carve out a streambed. You want a foot path, not a water course.

The chain saw comes in handy for large tree limbs and for cutting mountain mahogany off at the base. Most of the work is done with loppers, and this is the tool you'll use to maintain your trail once or twice a year. While we're on the topic of maintenance, the oak brush you cut down in the middle of your trail will sprout from runners with a vengeance. I've found that a spray bottle filled with a mixture of one half Brush Master (a 2-4D herbicide) and one half water and hand pruners can tackle the problem. While you cut the sprouts off at ground level with one hand, you give the cut stem a quick squirt with the other. Fall is the ideal time for this project, the kill rate being the greatest right before the oak goes dormant.

We decide to call it a day, having gotten a trail completed a third of the way to the windmill.

Day Three

After a brief interlude of spring snow Joyce, Carol and Oso tackle the trail again. We're at a daunting expanse of scrub oak and mountain mahogany. We decide to put the muscle in and take the time to clear some sweeping switch backs - more labor now to gain the ease of gradual elevation gain for comfortable future hiking.

Joyce mans the McCloud to sculpt the trail while Carol goes ahead with the chain saw and loppers to hack down the brush. Oso's role is trail boss, keeping the workers under close scrutiny. Today's progress seemed minimal when measuring the distance of trail we completed, but considering the amount of work, it was a productive day.

Day Four

Hi ho- hi ho, it's down the trail we go! With tremendous satisfaction we hike the beautiful trail we've completed so far. Yesterday we stopped after a steep slope of scrub oak and mahogany. It is now May and the mahogany is beginning to leaf out. Soon the oak will too, making it heavier and clumsier to handle; one reason we're hoping to complete the trail soon. Oso is here again to give advice and direction and to help us eat our snacks and lunch. Today we tackle a six foot, rocky drop-off. No way around it - so we move rocks, levels off steps and landings, to create a staircase out of nature. No such thing as a problem without a solution.

We spend the rest of the day hacking through scrub and finally arrive at the tall oaks at the bottom of the canyon. But we're too pooped to go on. Oso says, "Let's call it a day." One more day and we should be finished.

Day Five

Joyce, Oso, and Carol head down the trail after a night of welcome rain that washed the cedar pollen out of the air. It's a perfect day for completing this arduous project, and we're confident we'll succeed.

Joyce is, by this time, proficient with the McCloud so she works on some steep sections of trail requiring steps

and leveling. Carol goes ahead with the chain saw to the oak section near the windmill. Though the terrain has leveled off considerably, we still look for a route with the least slope. We're almost to the end. Carol is down to the last stretch of relatively flat ground through the tall oaks. Trying not to sacrifice too many of these beautiful trees, she tunnels through with the chain saw - And we're there!

The windmill stands at the edge of a seasonal creek running through an inviting green meadow. Joyce and Carol admire the trail's end while Oso celebrates with a romp in the creek. We now walk the entire length of our completed trail for the first time. It's almost a half mile walk uphill to the cabin, but the steps and switchbacks make it a comfortable trek. We even flag a spot for a trail bench about halfway up. We both agree that having a trail opens up much more of your land to use and to enjoy. Joyce also learned from our local forester, C.K. Morey, that a well maintained trail acts as a small fire break.

If you'd like to build your own trail and you have questions or need a little direction, you now know two expert trail builders. Joyce or Carol will be happy to help. And anyone interested in walking the completed windmill trail in order to see what we've done is invited to give Walt and Joyce Wolff a call.

THE DREAMER'S SIDE

Part 2 by Joyce Wolff

Since Carol and I finished the rudimentary work on the Rawle Trail (officially named) I've been up and down it several times just for the pleasure of enjoying new views of our property. Scrub oak and mahogany make most treks around your property difficult, unpleasant or even impossible. Trails are the answer for anyone who wants a bit of exercise while enjoying the outdoors.

We began the trail the day after Easter and the pasque flowers were right on schedule; lots of candy tuft. We finished the trail on a pleasant Mother's Day. How delightful after our long, snowy winter.

On Sunday, 26 July, the day after the POA picnic, anyone who wants to walk the Rawle Trail is invited to do so. This trail is *moderate to difficult*. Difficult because there are some short steep slopes with carved steps. The trail bench is in place and the windmill no longer howls. Carol and I will be on hand to walk along, offer suggestions and identify flowers and birds. More information at the picnic.

C.K. Morey, the Colorado State Forester for Las Animas County, ordered a McCloud for me (a tool I can't imagine not having now) and a Pulaski, which is half adz/half ax (chuckle). (A Pulaski goes where shovels fear to dig.) He was kind enough to deliver them to Loma Lobo, hike the trail with me, offer advice, demonstrate the use of the tools, and even identify a lovely white sand lily. He was encouraging and urges others to build trails to enjoy their property more fully.

My head spins with ideas after I've spent time with C.K. He has so much knowledge and information he is willing to share. Aside from the matter of the new trail, he assessed our efforts at developing defensible space around our cabin. He makes that project less daunting with his explanations about how it can be done attractively yet effectively. We had ordered plants from the Colorado Forest Service this spring and were happy to show him that

they were thriving. Please make use of his expertise. His number in La Veta is (719) 742-3588.

PREPAREDNESS CORNER

by Paul Virscik

Hi Neighbors,

I was out visiting the ranch the middle of May preparing to build and noticed that the weather has changed for the better. Now that warmer days are upon us, many of our living habits will change. Outdoor cooking, entertaining and maybe some nagging chores will become a part of daily life again.

I receive a plethora of information each month as a fire-arson investigator: methods, evidence and product recalls. Last month there was a major recall of Sunbeam barbecues. If you own any barbecue, now is the time to check it for loose or worn connections, and grease build-up (if the bears haven't cleaned it for their spring breakfast). In the Sunbeam case, the gas line that feeds a side burner for pots is positioned too close to the bottom of the burner. It will overheat and fray causing a gas line leak and an unwelcome surprise.

Entertaining brings candles and torches, both for bug removal and esthetics. In 1997, consumers bought over 2 billion dollars in candle products. We shake our heads in amazement when we remember that people once decorated their Christmas trees with burning candles. They were fires waiting to happen and not waiting long either. But some new decorative items can cause fires today as candle adorned trees of yesteryear.

The Fire Findings Laboratories bought a wide assortment of candles and holders and were alarmed at how hazardous the current products are: center pieces of dried flowers with candles in plastic holders or mounted in Styrofoam, and candles with a combustible covering or paint. Some items caused fires nearly every time the wicks were lit. Unattended candles and torches can burn down to the decorative foliage or fall over. Even a small breeze can blow melted wax down the side of the candle causing the flame to burn higher as more wick is exposed. The flame temperature of a candle can reach 1,750 ° F. No kidding, that's hot. Remember that plastic melts at 200°, and wood burns at 450°. Other test results showed that a portion of a match, left in the candle caused the flame to reach seven inches. The exterior of some candle holders reached 300 degrees. Water tossed on melted wax instantly turned to steam, exploding the wax two feet above and around the surface of the candle container. So please be careful!

Lastly, those chores: gas and electric power equipment cause sparks. Every year, hundreds of wildland fires are caused by lawn mowers, chain saws and other power tools. When using them in our great outdoors, keep a shovel and a fire extinguisher (a bucket of water will do) near you. Believe me, the time you don't could be the time you burn your paradise away. But on a happier note, see you at the picnic. Paul

PLEASE BE GOOD NEIGHBORS! COLLAPSE
CARDBOARD BOXES BEFORE YOU PUT THEM IN
THE DUMPSTER.

TRINIDAD ON LINE

For news and information about Trinidad log on to www.trinidadco.com. Trinidad Plus can be accessed directly at www.trinidadco.com/plus or by using their icon on the Trinidad Site.

THE WEATHER REPORT

By Walt Wolff

This is a report of some weather statistics from our cabin on the north end of the Ranch, Lot 30, Unit 1, elevation, ~6950'. I'm an amateur weather reporter using a home weather station, "DAVIS WEATHER WIZARD".

	APRIL		MAY	
	Day	Day	Day	Day
Temp High (degs)	78	24	87	20
Temp Low (degs)	23	18	32	13
Wnd Spd. Hi (mph)	57	11	56	13
Wnd Chill Lo (mph)	3	2	-	-
Rain Cumulative [includes snow melt]	1.64"		0.61"	
SNOW:	1"	2	NO SNOW	
	2"	7,8,16	THANKS!!	
	4"	18		
	8"	26		
Cumulative	19"			

Of interest to fishermen: Since October, the Trinidad Lake has not released water. The highest level was about 6195' for a capacity of 32,192 acre/feet and a surface area of 861 acres. The dam was opened to flow about May 18.

The "upside" of our seven months of snow is the abundance of beautiful wildflowers blooming on the Ranch.

WOMEN'S GROUP INTRODUCES ME....SUE DOWNS

I was born and raised in Tulsa, Oklahoma and my mother and sister still live there. My sister still lives in our grandparent's home where we both were born. My husband, Gene, was born in Sperry, Oklahoma, a small oil field town, north of Tulsa.

Gene and I were married 27 years ago in Tulsa. We have four daughters, three granddaughters, three grandsons and two dogs (Eboe and Barney). Two of our daughters and their families live in Oklahoma and two in the Denver area. Our oldest daughter, Deb, owns lot C-47 here on the ranch.

We lived in Claremore, Oklahoma (the town known as the birthplace of Will Rogers) in our two-story Victorian home built in 1898 for our first senator from Oklahoma, Bill Brisco.

Shortly after we were married, Gene was transferred to the Denver area, with Hathaway Electronics. We first moved to Conifer, Colorado, a mountain community west of Denver. This was quite a commute to Denver, so after three years we moved to Littleton, Colorado. We bought and restored the home built in 1916 for Littleton's Mayor Bowles.

We purchased our land on the ranch on July 4, 1993, and started building our log home, with the help of Paul Montoya and Frances Purswell, in 1994.

In March 1995, Gene retired from Martin Marietta and I, after 23 years, from CSU, Arapahoe County Extension Service. We sold our house in Littleton, Colorado, moved into the unfinished basement to begin finishing our new home.

Gene is presently on the POA Board, a member of the Covenants and Road Committees, a volunteer for the State Forest Service and the Fishers Peak Fire Protection District. I work part time for Danielson Designs and am, happily, a member of SFTR Women's Group. We are avid skiers, campers, backpackers and fanatic Bronco fans. We have had south stand season tickets for 20 years. Gene is a serious bow hunter and I love decorating, sewing, crocheting, knitting, and going "junking," as you can tell by the clutter in our home.

Our love of the outdoors drew us back to the mountains and to this beautiful community. Our many good friends and neighbors make it a joy to live here.

SHOPPER'S PAGES

WE'VE COME A LONG WAY

The Women's Group cookbook will be available for \$10 at the POA picnic

WOMEN'S GROUP NOTECARDS

The note cards are 4.5" x 6.5", printed in black on heavy ecru paper, with envelopes, ten of one design per package. They will be available at the picnic or can be ordered from Joanne Roundy, SFTR, 32000 Squirrel Lane, Trinidad, CO 81082. Please make checks to Santa Fe Trail Ranch Women's Group for \$12.50 which includes postage. Please indicate St. Aloysius or the mountain lion.

THE WOMEN'S GROUP CANOPY is available for rent for \$20 per day. It is 20' x 10' and is easy to put up. Contact Sue Downs, 859-0416 to reserve it.

LAMINATED RANCH MAPS, 11" x 14", cost \$10 plus \$4 postage and mailing tube. Plain ones are \$5.50 (includes postage). Order from June Stephens, SFTR, 8111 Cedar Way, Trinidad, CO, 81082

A COMPLETE LIST OF LOGOWEAR ITEMS is available from Sandy Manifold, 407 N. Commercial, 719-846-3910 (The Country Cobbler), or Cindy Hulstine, 719-846-3500. Inventory of the old logo items includes hats, a limited number of T-shirts and tote bags, a great way to carry mail home from the box. A few representative prices:
T-shirts Ss, \$17 (XL \$19), Ls \$20 (XL \$23)
Sweatshirts-9oz. \$34 (XL \$36)
Caps (old & new logo in a variety of styles) \$10

WELCOME NEW ADVERTISERS

Hadad's Home Furnishings is a locally owned home furnishings outlet for some of the best names in the appliance, furniture, carpet and bedding business. Franchised appliance lines include Maytag and GE. Furniture franchised sources include La-Z-Boy and Schnidag. Hadad's carry an exceptional line up of fine

SANTA FE TRAIL RANCH PROPERTY OWNERS PICNIC

Saturday 25 July 1998

1:00 p.m.

**Lot #23 Unit 7A in Gallinas Canyon
(by the old corral)**

POT LUCK

**Also please bring your own drinks, folding chairs, and raingear.
(Barbecue grills, ice, plates, utensils, etc., will be provided)**

\$5 family admission

<i>Games and Prizes</i>	<i>Raffle</i>	
<i>Horseback riding</i>	<i>Horseshoes</i>	<i>Volleyball</i>

The new logo wear, SFTR cookbook and note cards will be for sale.

MEET YOUR NEIGHBORS AND ENJOY THE BEAUTY OF THE SANTA FE TRAIL RANCH

Raffle items include

- a quilt displaying "fabric photographs" of the Ranch***
- a framed print commemorating the 175th Anniversary of the Santa Fe Trail***
- a variety of logo items***

The picnic is sponsored by the Santa Fe Trail Ranch Women's Group



THE BARE FACTS

Santa Fe Trail Ranch
Newsletter

August 1998

Issue 9

WOMENS GROUP NEWS

MEETINGS

Meetings are at 9:30 a.m. usually the third or fourth Saturday of the month; the date is the choice of the hostesses. Information is posted on the bulletin board at the Ranch entrance. Please bring aluminum cans for recycling and non-perishable goods for The Pantry.

Visiting property owners are always welcome.

<u>August 15</u>	Linda Austin 34945 Elk Ridge Trail
Hostesses:	Michelle Minion/Joanne Roundy
<u>September</u>	Sue Downs 35311 Elk Ridge Trail
Hostesses:	June Stephens/Frances Purswell
<u>October</u>	Shari Schroeffer 32010 Spruce Lane
Hostesses:	Linda Austin/Barbara Sandgren
<u>November</u>	Karin Gieske 35445 Alpine Meadows Dr.
Hostesses:	Suzie Davis
<u>December</u>	Cindy Hulstine 7558 Pass Creek Court
Hostesses:	Janice Hines/June Stephens

This summer we have enjoyed many new faces! Welcome property owners, Robin Keller, who recently moved to Trinidad, (see Shopper's Pages) her mother, Roberta Schrandt, and Janet Woods, all from California, Debbie Roberts, (all together now... "Sue Down's oldest daughter") from Denver, Denisa Derrick from Illinois, Carolyn Johnson, from Minnesota and part time resident. Also visiting were Loraine Davis, Suzie's mother-in-law and Jeannie Nadolski, Kim Vest's mother from Michigan, who was here for Kim and Brian's wedding. Thirty women attended the meeting at Suzie Davis's new home in June.

At the Town Meeting on Friday before the picnic, Will Potter gave a generous salute to the Women's Group and its efforts on behalf of the Ranch and Trinidad. We appreciate the recognition. Karin Gieske, vice-president, spoke briefly and described our many projects. Apparently we are making a positive statement to the community.

• HIGHWAY CLEAN-UP #2

We did it again and the weather was cooperative – but windy. Thanks Shirley Lambert and Carol Alfs from Albuquerque, who were visiting their property and lent a hand. A few observations: It's a toss up between "regular" and "lite," the car was a Buick, Sue Downs

sounded like the ghost of old Jacob Marley as she dragged a heavy, rusty, abandoned tire chain along. Hope you appreciate the gift, Gene! We were encouraged by truck drivers who tooted their encouragement, but discovered they were honking cute Cindy H. Since the section of highway we cleaned was officially adopted by David H. (We've negotiated some deals with him.) he popped for lunch at Main Street Café. Is that a precedent David? Thanks, we loved it!

• THE GARAGE SALE

The garage sale in June to benefit the Trinidad YMCA was a good time and a great success as well. Chairman Shari Schroeffer, on behalf of the Women's Group, presented the YMCA director a check for \$1,225. The parking lot in front of Doctors Chris and Amy Polk's building was inviting with the Women's Group canopy and balloons bouncing in the breeze and the YMCA thoughtfully delivered donuts. It seemed there were acres of clothes to rummage through, lots of bargains and of course we did the predictable, we bought each others treasures. Well, stuff. Well, junque. OK then, junk.

The unsold toys and clothing were taken to the Trinidad Women's Shelter and the rest to a local thrift store. The Chronicle News, Trinidad Plus and the Trinidad website covered the sale and gave us credit for the effort. The money donated to the Y will go toward the purchase of a bus. Other donors along with the Women's Group will have their names printed on the side of the bus making our name highly visible in the community.

• TO THE RESCUE

Trinidad History Museum (THM) director, Paula Manini, turned to the Women's Group for help with the grand opening of the new Santa Fe Trail Museum, a new addition to the THM complex. A local Trinidad organization had agreed to provide refreshments, but only a few days before the scheduled opening the organization was unable to fulfill its commitment. The Women's Group rallied as usual and on the spur of the moment provided a beautiful table of goodies for the affair which was held in the THM courtyard. Visiting dignitaries included Trinidad Mayor Harry Sayre, the president of the Colorado Historical Society, and a representative from the National Park Service.

RANCH NEWS

• PICNIC '98

The second property owners picnic sponsored by the Women's Group was another great success. The rain showers that sent folks running for shelter didn't dampen appetites, spirits, or stop the children's games. The Women's Group booth, manned by June Stephens, Sandy Manifold, Cindy Hulstine, Joanne Roundy and Suzie Davis was busy, as usual, selling the new logo wear, cookbooks, note cards, and conducting the raffle (winners below).

Will Dudley, western singing entertainer from Walzenburg, entertained us under the "big top." Last year a number of people bought his tapes and were delighted to listen to him again in person. He also makes an excellent master-of-ceremonies. On Saturday nights you can hear him play at Alys's Fireside Café in Walzenburg.

Many thanks to Janice (picnic chairman) and Byron Hines for providing the beautiful picnic site on their property in Gallinas Canyon. Byron's crew spent hours mowing acres of grass and each year prunes and trims more trees. Harry Ritchie led the children's games that Barbara Sandgren and Linda Jordan planned. Sandy and Sue Downs spent hours of work on the charming and unique SFTR quilt (a raffle item), which was made of "photo" squares showing scenes from around the Ranch. Linda and Chuck Austin, Tom Stephens, Gene Downs and Denny Manifold helped make the picnic another success.

The winners of the raffle items were:

Santa Fe Trail Ranch quilt	Mary Rhoades
Santa Fe Trail poster	Francie Purswell
SFTR logo jacket	Paul Richter
SFTR logo T-shirt	Sue Downs
SFTR logo sweat shirt	Sue Downs
SFTR logo cap	Mike Mercier
SFTR tote	Mary Wright
Magazine and plant stand	Janice Hines

(Generously donated by Hadad's Home Furnishings. See Shoppers Pages)

• WEDDING BELLS

Kim Benoit made a lovely June bride as she and Brian Vest were married at Murphy's Meadows, Linda and Roberto Jordan's property on the Ranch. The couple lives on the Ranch on Old Mission Ridge.

Bruce Bohn, we all know from LPI, and Krissy Hurth were married at the Cuchara Chapel with reception held at the Baker Street Restaurant. The Bohns look forward to living on their property on the Ranch in the future.

• A WONDERFUL RAINY FOURTH

The Obrey's Fourth of July picnic for property owners was delightfully wet and lots of fun. Finally the Ranch enjoyed some rain and no one minded. Stan and Peggy handled the situation with good cheer as did the guests and everyone had a good time.

CHECK THE BULLETIN BOARD There are frequently announcements, invitations, and bits of information posted there that are not in the Bare Facts. Check it out.

IN THE NEWS

It seems every time we open a newspaper (The local ones are the Trinidad Plus, a neat little freebie and the Chronicle News,) we find Ranch property owners making news.

• THE HINES BROTHERS

Matt Hines continues to establish new records in pro stock motorcycle racing. He has won eight out of nine of his last races. He's truckin' along at 188.67 miles per hour. The Chronicle News frequently prints a "Matt Hines Update." Trinidad is proud of its new racing resident.

Andrew Hines, JROTC Cadet Corporal, received the American Legion Medal for General Military Excellence and Rifle Top Gun Award at the annual awards banquet. The brothers are the sons of Byron and Janice Hines.

• THE MAIN STREET GROUP

Neil Sexton (Curiosities), *Steve Violante* (Main Street Bakery and Cafe) and *Denny Manifold* (The Country Cobbler) are on the Board of the recently formed Main Street Group. The goal of the organization is to revitalize and to preserve the spirit of the Main Street area. There are Main Street Groups around the country doing the same job: encouraging, not just merchants, but everyone to take pride in, preserve and/or restore their down town. Neil also initiated a downtown clean-up program and urges everyone to help. The clean-up squad mans the brooms every other Friday at 11:00 a.m. and would love your company. Drop by Curiosities, 305 Main, for information. Main Street is taking on the new demeanor that we have hoped for. It's our town—take pride!

• ROBERTO JORDAN

Roberto Jordan, who owns Murphy's Meadow Design Services, recently was the subject of a front page article in the Chronicle News. Roberto was approached by the paper to comment on his involvement with the Los Alamos National Laboratory and his contribution to fusion energy research. He has just completed a one year contract with the Lab in New Mexico.

BRIGHT NEW FACE ON MAIN STREET

By Sue Downs

Danielson Dry Goods is a beautiful new addition to commerce in downtown Trinidad. Located in one of the historic buildings on Main Street, and built for James Lynch in 1885, this wonderful old building housed Trinidad Gas and electric Supply Company, Burkhard Saddlery and Architects I.H. Rapp's offices in the early 1900's. In 1953, the Ben Franklin Variety Store opened its doors thus giving it its present identity. It was sadly vacant for the past couple of years along with numerous other buildings on Main Street.

But NOW! Ranch property owners, Aaron and Helen Danielson, purchased the building this year, and through their beautiful and creative preservation effort the building has come alive. The Danielson's desire to join in Trinidad's revitalization program led them to the talents of Duane Erickson of Erickson's Architects in Denver: a firm involved in the restoration of historic Larimer Square in downtown Denver. The new owners want to showcase the talented craftsmen and artists who live here and work for Danielson Designs. All the picture frames, wooden furniture, and many accessories you will find in the store are designed, built and hand painted by our friends and neighbors. Each piece is unique.

Mark, Annie, Aaron and Helen Danielson started their family business in 1991 in a 900 square foot shop in Bon Carbo with a line of 12 frames. They now have over 700 different designs and many employees, working in a 16,000 square foot shop and showroom in Trinidad's Industrial Park just north of town.

Danielson Dry Goods is yet another reason to be part of this energetic progressive community. We thank them for their dedication to preserve an historic building. So, go shopping soon—I did!

BEARS

by Carol Rawle

Carol, a SFTR resident, is a retired California State Park ranger. She has written several articles for the Bare Facts. They always bring favorable comments.

Not long after I moved into my house three years ago, I came home, after being away for only fifteen minutes, to find a full grown bear in my living room. There he was looking at me from the wrong side of the window! When he ran into another room, I opened the front door, propped open the screen door, then got out of sight until he decided to leave.

While I thought how neat it was to have a bear story like Joe Shaw's, no one would want to experience the kind of mess and destruction a bear creates when he decides to make himself at home. In only fifteen minutes that bear had visited his havoc on every room in the house, and I truly learned what bears smell like.

It was no mystery what incited this bear into my home. I had just finished a breakfast of yogurt pancakes and syrup and had left the remaining pancakes to cool on the kitchen counter under a window opened part way. I guess you could say it was a "Goldilocks" story in reverse. And there he was when I returned home.

Black bears really are preoccupied with food. They're very large animals – a male weighs 300 to 400 pounds, and since they're in large part vegetarian, they must consume huge amounts of food, really porking up in the fall. Of all the mammals, the bear has one of the most intense sweet-tooths. This led "my" bear into the bathroom where he devoured my strawberry hair rinse.

A bear's nose houses its strongest sense. It uses it to locate most of its food. Grasses, sedges, acorns, berries, leaves, inner bark of pines, grubs, ants, beetles, roots are a sampling of what they eat, but acorns are the most important for building their winter fat. They'll eat meat, of course, in the form of birds' eggs, squirrels, mice, baby deer and elk and weakened adult animals.

They love gorging themselves on Dumpster garbage, as we all know, and will soon learn to depend on this source of food over their natural ones, when we are careless and leave the lids open and unlatched. One of their most favorite domestic meals is pork. When Bob Holder brought the bear trap up to my house after "my" bear came back a second time, he baited it with a pork hide covered with honey then burned to an irresistible glaze with a blow torch. Worked great—caught the criminal only an hour after the trap was set.

When fall arrives a bear starts building fat for the winter, and on his back the fat layer can get up to five inches thick. Some bears can develop up to 200 pounds of fat on them.

Bears don't truly hibernate since their temperature only drops a few degrees from normal. This means they can awaken and be instantly active at anytime during the winter. Most of their dens are found on the north slopes and any kind of a natural hollow or crevice will do. Before crawling in for winter, they stop eating for several days, voiding all matter from their intestines. The bear then consumes leaves, pine needles, and sometimes its own hair to form a plug, sometimes as long as 12 inches, at the end of its digestive system. This plug stays in place all



winter so the den stays clean. By the time the bear goes to sleep, its stomach and intestines have shrunk to a fraction of normal size. Upon coming out of hibernation the bear will need to drink huge amounts of water before trying to eat. This will restore its intestines to normal elasticity so he can start cramming them with food again.

Bears' thoughts turn from food to sex for a brief period from June to July. Females aren't ready to breed until their third year. And it's only during this brief period that she feels like dating. The rest of the time she won't have anything to do with the males. She and her chosen will lick each other, rub and stroke each other, and wrestle and tumble: so much for foreplay. Bears have delayed implantation—the fertilized egg won't attach itself to the uterus until late fall. Gestation is from six to eight months; the cubs are born in the middle of the winter—usually twins or triplets, but sometimes up to six can be born.

The cubs are only about eight ounces at birth, tiny, blind, and completely helpless. They open their eyes after about 40 days and then weigh about four pounds. They're two months old when they leave the den for their first look at the world. Mama bear is very protective and you never want to find yourself between her and the cubs. She keeps them with her all the next winter, then they're ready to be on their own the following spring.

While bears do not migrate, they will roam over a large territory—5 to 15 square miles; females with cubs considerably less. They usually stroll about at a rate of two to three mph but they've been clocked on the road at 3 to 4 mph. And forget about climbing a tree if one decides to chase you. Adults as well as the cubs are great tree climbers, and they can jump down from 40 feet without harming themselves. They swim well, too.

As long as a bear hears you coming, he'll usually head the opposite direction to avoid you. Most times when I've been hiking and heard or smelled a bear, I've never seen the animal. They're normally shy of humans. When "my" bear came back, just after I'd completed y six hour cleanup of my house, he padded up onto my porch, right up to my front door! The nerve of that bear, I thought, and I flung open the screen door, yelling and screaming every swear word in my vocabulary and some new ones for good measure. That bear didn't stick around, but ran off down the hill as fast as his four flat feet would carry him.

I don't leave my windows open any more when I leave home, especially after I cook yogurt pancakes for breakfast. I much prefer viewing a bear with the bear on the outside of the window.

WILDLIFE TIPS

By JJW

With bears highly visible on the Ranch these days we need to stop and remember our wildlife etiquette. Leaving garbage, dog food, bird feeders and other tempting foods where a bear can find them is encouraging, inviting, asking, begging for trouble. Almost all bear incidents are caused by humans, not bears. Bears don't understand the "1-2 and you're out" mandate that the Colorado State Division Wildlife (DOW) practices for our safety. Problem bears must sometimes be killed. Having to destroy a bear because he has only followed his nose to available foods carelessly left out by humans should not happen. That killing when avoidable is deplorable. There are Do's and Don'ts for people living in bear country. Learn them! Ignorance is no excuse because the information is available! Bob Holder, our DOW Officer, gave an excellent program on "bear prevention" at the recent Town Meeting.

Most of us came here because we love the scenery, the stillness of the mountains, and the animals we see every day. Most of us are willing to take the extra measures necessary to live peacefully with them, for without our wildlife the quality of our lives would be lessened.

Ed. Note: *Que Significa?* (What does it mean?) We live in an area of rich Hispanic history; we see and read Spanish words everyday. In each coming issue of The Bare Facts I will define a Spanish word and put it somewhere in the newsletter. *Oso* is a word you will find time after time, especially on a map that shows geologic features. It means *bear*. By adding *ito* (or *ita* if the noun is fem.) to a Spanish noun the word becomes diminutive. So *Osito* becomes little bear. *Negro* means black. In Spanish an adjective follows the noun. *Oso negro?* You got it: our resident black bear.

Recently I was walking down a city street when unexpectedly a young Say's phoebe literally fell from the sky and landed at my feet: beak open, eyes closed, little breast heaving, one wing extended. I looked up and judged that he probably had fallen two stories from a roof edge; I could hear a parent calling plaintively. (A phoebe's call is sorrowful anyway.) I picked him up and tucked him away on the edge of a wall where I thought no one could see him. An hour later when I walked back by he was

gone. I'm sure he was only stunned and when he recovered his parents continued with the flying lesson.

REMEMBER—If you find a young animal or bird that appears to be orphaned, think it over before you take on the role of foster parent. Chances are a parent is near by and waiting for you to leave. Many animals and birds are taken to a wildlife "clinic" that need not have been. In the case of a bird the parent may be off foraging for food and may take as long as twenty minutes to reappear. If a nestling falls from its nest carefully put it back or let it alone if you can't reach or find the nest. The smell of "human" on the baby will not prevent the parent from continuing to care for its young. If a predator finds a meal, be happy for its success. Nature is only cruel in human minds. (Leaving a nestling or injured bird to the mercy of dogs or cats is another matter.)

Speaking of pets...Please remember that it is against the law to allow your dog or dogs to chase wildlife. Roaming dogs form potentially dangerous packs quite capable of killing wild animals only for sport. In the next issue you will find a thoughtful article, Dogs on the Ranch, by Carol Rawle.

A tip from <http://www.wackyuses.com/bounce.html>
Repel mosquitoes by tying a sheet of Bounce through a belt loop when outdoors during mosquito season. Let us know if it works. Although the dry weather on the Ranch in May and June have kept the mosquito population down, they are appearing with the recent rains.

PREPAREDNESS CORNER

by Paul Virsick

Hi Neighbors!

Fire season is officially open out west and during a recent drill I was reminded of something that I hope tugs at your heart strings as it did mine.

While fighting a recent fire in southern California we were assigned to protect structures in one area. It was immediately apparent that all were not going to be saved. Our five-engine strike team picked the homes most likely to survive and placed the engines accordingly. With smoke as thick as fog, we hunkered down and watched as sixty-foot walls of flames marched towards us.

All of a sudden, a woman walked out of the smoke and up the driveway where we had parked. She was covered with ash and carried a small dog in one arm and a picture of her deceased husband in the other. All she said again and again was, "I didn't know what to take. I didn't know what to take." These two things were all she had time to save from her fire-ravaged home. After we calmed her, she told us she had watched the fire coming and thought it would go around her house. When it didn't, she panicked.

It is a time proven fact that when faced with an emergency, all animals (including humans) will do what they did the last time: right or wrong. To do it right you must practice. That is why firefighters, police or anyone dealing with adverse conditions drill over and over and over. You should too. Be ready for any emergency!

Look around your home. Note what items are important and irreplaceable. Have a designated container (It can simply be a laundry basket in present use.) that

these items can go into. Know a pre-planned route out and whom you will contact that you are safe. Most importantly, practice going through the motions. Don't tell yourself "I won't forget." because yes you will.

Last week my Fire Department trained in the same area and we came across the same woman. She wanted us to know that twice a year she practices what we taught her. She still has the picture of her loved one and new puppies to raise and care for.

WHEN THE LIGHTS GO OUT JJW

Rita Thompson at San Isabel Electric offers advice on what to do when you lose electricity. First check your breaker box and make sure the main breaker and switches are all set. If the problem is not there you might check with neighbors. Contact San Isabel. If the problem is not widespread they may not be aware of it; it may only be a localized one. If the outage is wide spread San Isabel phones lines may be busy for extended periods; a clue that they already know and are working on the problem. Wait a while and try again to reach them. In our experience they do not mind hearing about the outage for the empty umph time and have even called us when they have news. Be prepared to give them your telephone number, address and instructions on how to find you. Rita says it is also helpful to have your account number or meter number to further identify your location. If the trouble is local to SFTR or just your line, knowing precisely where your home is located gives them a starting point to begin the search. In a summer storm it is important to tell them if you have heard or felt an especially loud thunderclap or have seen a close lightning strike.

After business hours the call will go to a dispatcher. The area that the dispatcher covers is much larger than that covered by the local San Isabel office. If you experience an outage in daylight hours it is especially important to call promptly so the search can begin in daylight rather than darkness. All trouble calls should be made to the San Isabel office number in Trinidad, 846-2287.

Being without power is yet another potential emergency that you should be prepared for in a rural environment.

THE WEATHER REPORT

By Walt Wolff

This is a report of some weather statistics from our cabin on the north end of the Ranch, elevation, ~6950'. I'm an amateur weather reporter using a home weather station, Davis Weather Wizard ®.

	JUNE		JULY	
		Day		Day
Temp High (degs)	98	29	99	20
Temp Low (degs)	39	5	55	28
Wnd Spd. Hi (mph)	48	7	37	1
Rainfall total	0.45"		5.8"	

Did the Obrey's picnic and the Ranch picnic trigger the welcome rain? Whatever the cause, we're grateful! The Ranch had been dry and hot with extreme fire danger.

Watch for new and improved weather report next issue from the Davis Weather Station WeatherLink®, a computer interface.

WOMEN'S GROUP INTRODUCES

Edith Lind

About a year ago we told the story of Edith Lind's fall from a ladder. Her recovery from a badly shattered femur has gone well. She spent the winter with her daughter in Florida and relaxed and rested as well as Edith can relax and rest. She returned rarin' to go and this summer (sometimes with a crutch under one arm) has built a deck (put on hold last fall because of the accident) and has hand mixed and poured numerous bags of cement in the process. She keep going and going and going!

I recently prepared a directory for the Women's Group asked for information to include. Edith submitted this charming account of herself. JJW

I named my property after my grandfather's title, "Falkenklaue," which means the "claw of the falcon." I was born in Vienna, Austria, May 2, 1929, Edith Maria Roswitha Fritsch Edle Von Falkenklaue; quite a name if you have to sign anything.

I retired April 1994 and have been building my house with gusto. I live alone and like it that way; I have always been my own best friend. I moved into my house after it was framed in September 1994.

I celebrated my 50th year in the USA on the 14th of December 1997. I have lived all over this country: from Alaska to Miami, Florida. I came to Winter Park, Colorado in 1980, then purchased the land at the SFTR in 1993. I love living on the Ranch and I owe a lot to my great neighbors. My second love is Vienna and will always be.

I hope that at least one of my children will one day live on the Ranch and enjoy it as much as I do. I won't be gone entirely. I hope to have my ashes put on top of my mound to watch over the canyon.

Edith shares the following bit for your education and amusement.

Dear Sir:

I am writing in response to your request for additional information. In block number three of the accident reporting form I put, "trying to do the job alone," as the cause of my accident. You said in your letter that I should explain more fully and I trust the following details will be sufficient.

I am a bricklayer by trade. On the day of the accident I was working alone on the roof of a new six-story building. When I completed my work I discovered that I had about 500 pounds of brick left over. Rather than carry the bricks down by hand, I decided to lower them in a barrel by using a pulley which fortunately was attached to the side of the building at the sixth floor.

Securing the rope at ground level, I went up to the roof, swung the barrel out, and loaded the bricks into it. Then I went back to ground level and untied the rope, holding it tightly to insure a slow descent of the 500 pounds

of brick. You will note in block eleven of the accident reporting form that I weigh 135 pounds.

Due to my surprise at being jerked off the ground so suddenly, I lost my presence of mind and forgot to let go of the rope. Needless to say, I proceeded at a rather rapid rate up the side of the building.

In the vicinity of the third floor I met the barrel coming down. This explains the fractured skull and broken collarbone.

Slowed only slightly, I continued my rapid ascent, not stopping until the fingers of my right hand were two knuckles deep into the pulley. Fortunately, by this time I had regained my presence of mind and was able to hold tightly to the rope in spite of my pain.

At approximately the same time, however, the barrel of bricks hit the ground and the bottom fell out of the barrel. Devoid of the weight of the bricks the barrel now weighed approximately 50 pounds. I refer you again to my weight in block eleven. As you might imagine, I began a rapid descent down the side of the building. In the vicinity of the third floor I met the barrel coming up. This accounts for the two fractured ankles and the lacerations of my legs and lower body.

The encounter with the barrel slowed me enough to lessen my injuries when I fell onto the pile of bricks, and fortunately, only three vertebrae were cracked.

I am sorry to report, however, that as I lay there on the bricks—in pain, unable to stand, and watching the empty barrel six stories above me—I again lost my presence of mind, I let go of the rope.

MORAL OF THIS TALE. IT DOESN'T PAY TO TRY TO DO THE JOB ALONE.

DIRECTORY

COLORADO DIVISION OF WILDLIFE

Bob Holder 846 4834

Planttalk™ is a 24-hour toll-free automated phone service on horticultural topics, sponsored by the Colorado State University Cooperative Extension, Denver Botanic Gardens and the Green Industries of Colorado. Dial 1-888-666-3063 (This info from Peggy Obrey.)

SAN ISABEL ELECTRIC 846 2287

SHERIFF'S OFFICE 846 2211

Please call the Sheriff's office for ANY emergency including fire. Give your address and telephone number. Ideally you should arrange to have someone meet them at the gate to guide them to you.

TRINIDAD ON LINE

For news and information about Trinidad log on to www.trinidadco.com.

SHOPPER'S PAGES

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available from Sandy Manifold, 407 N. Commercial, 719-846-3910 (The Country Cobbler), or Cindy Hulstine, 719-846-3500. The new logo, a covered wagon with Santa Fe Trail Ranch written above, and Trinidad, Colorado, written below, is very handsome. A few representative prices:
T-shirts Ss, \$16 (XL \$18), ls \$20 (XL \$23)
Sweatshirts-9oz. \$20 (XL \$22)
Caps (old & new logo in a variety of styles) \$10

"WE'VE COME A LONG WAY," the Women's Group cookbook is a collection of 300 recipes from property owners around the country. It is available by mail (\$10 plus \$3 postage for one or two books) from Sandy Manifold, 407 N Commercial, Trinidad.

NOTECARDS BY ARTIST SHAD ROUNDY are available in four designs: St. Aloysius Church at Morley, (shown in Bare Facts Issue 8) a black bear, (shown on page 3 to illustrate "Bears") and a coyote. The mountain lion will illustrate "Cats on the Ranch - Big Cats," in the next issue of Bare Facts. Shad, who is Joanne and Vaughn's son drew the designs for the Women's Group. The pen and ink drawings, on a cream background, each with an envelope, cost \$10/10 cards plus \$1.25 postage each package. Please specify your choice of designs and order from Joanne Roundy, SFTR, 32000 Squirrel Lane, Trinidad, CO, 81082

Editors notes

Joyce Wolff
Santa Fe Trail Ranch
7558 Overlook Dr., Trinidad, CO, 81082
phone: 719-845-1091 email: lobos@activematrix.net
719-680-1813 (cellular)

A subscription to the Bare Facts, expires 1 April. Please check your address label for the year your subscription expires. To renew please send \$5 and make any corrections or changes to your address. We will print your business card for an additional \$15 per year (subscription + = \$20). Send me a few words describing your business and I will include it in the text the first time we print the card. When you give a gift subscription to family, kids, and friends left behind, I will enclose a gift notice from you

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THE BARE FACTS

News from the
Santa Fe Trail Ranch
Trinidad, Colorado

October 1998

Issue 10

WOMENS GROUP NEWS

MEETINGS

Meetings are once a month at 9:30 a.m. on a Saturday. The date is the choice of the hostesses and the announcement is posted on the bulletin board at the Ranch entrance. Please bring aluminum cans for recycling and non-perishable goods for The Pantry.*

Visiting property owners are always welcome to attend.

October 24 Shari Schroefer
32010 Spruce Lane
Hostesses: Linda Austin/Barbara Sandgren
Special guest, Paula Manini, Director of the Trinidad History Museum, will talk about the Museum and Noah's Ark. (see page 3)

November Karin Gieske
35445 Alpine Meadows Dr.
Hostesses: Suzie Davis and Simone Potter

December Cindy Hulstine
7558 Pass Creek Court

Hostesses: Janice Hines and June Stephens

* The Pantry, a food distribution service for those in need, is now being managed by the Salvation Army.

There are no dues or requirements for membership in the Women's Group: only attendance. We enjoy meeting property owners who have attended when visiting their property and consider them part of us. We welcomed new faces at the August meeting: Marika Janssen, from California, visiting her Ranch home; Carol Santoro, who is renting a cabin on the Ranch while building; new bride, Kris Bohn; Judy Anderson, who has recently moved to Trinidad; and always a pleasant addition, Elaine Manifold, Sandy's mother-in-law. Twenty seven women attended the meeting in September and we met Rachel Rowe, who is a land agent for Big Pine Realty and also running for the POA Board of Directors. We were happy to see Gretchen Shaw, from Dallas, here for the summer.

We will provide refreshments for the Town Meeting and POA General Meeting in October. Please bring cookies to these meetings.

We need officers and committee members for next year. There are lots of ways to become involved. We will need a fundraising chairman; June Stephens needs a break. Connie Tucker will take over the subscription list for the Bare Facts. Future subscriptions, renewals and advertising should be sent to her. (See Editor's Notes on page 6.)

Our first scrapbook, sewn and decorated by June Stephens, is already full of memories. Linda Austin will paste up the next one.

POA WEEKEND

9 October Friday Town Meeting
7:00 p.m. Massari Hall TSJC Campus

10 October Saturday General POA Meeting
9:00 a.m. Massari Hall
Light refreshments at both meetings will be served by the Women's Group

10 October Saturday Tom Scarborough Preview
2:00 'til 7:00 p.m. Preview recent works of Trinidad artist, Tom Scarborough at the A.R. Mitchell Museum

11 October Sunday Hike the Rawle Trail
Any time between 9 a.m. and 12 p.m.
Joyce and Walt Wolff invite those interested in trail building to hike the trail that Carol Rawle and Joyce built this summer. The hike that was planned in July was rained out. More information on the bulletin board that weekend.

• THANKS GUYS

We appreciate the men's help with yet another highway clean-up. Stan Obrey and Will Potter joined wives Peggy and Simone and Dale Manifold joined daughter-in-law, Sandy. New faces included Michelle Minion and Jennifer Mathews who joined organizer, Carol Rawle, and the ever faithful, Dorothy Novakowski and Sue Downs. We have agreed with the Department of Transportation to "adopt" the same two miles on Interstate 25 for another two years.

• THE BUS ON PARADE

The YMCA has purchased the bus that the Women's Group helped to buy with proceeds from the garage sale this summer. The bus was proudly presented to the community at the Las Animas* County Fair Parade on Labor Day with Santa Fe Trail Ranch Women's Group emblazoned on the sides along with the names of the two banks that also contributed money for the purchase. A picture of the bus decorated with the banner appeared in the local paper.

*QUE SIGNIFICA *animas*? *Anima* means soul. Add "s" to *anima*, and the word becomes plural as in Las Animas County, where we find Trinidad and the SFT Ranch. As the story goes, a group of Spanish explorers in the area, disappeared and were assumed killed by Indians. Presumably they died without benefit of their church's last rites and as a consequence their souls were condemned to Purgatory. As a result the river that runs through Trinidad was named, *El Rio de Las Animas Perdidas* (lost) *en Purgatorio*, and later shortened to Purgatoire River. Later the county was named, Las Animas, as an extension of the legend. (*Picketwire* River is a sound-alike we occasionally see.)

• **WE'RE STRIPPING**

Well, strip quilting that is. June Stephens took a few of us under her talented wing and taught us quilting basics. Little did she know she was teaching a soon-to-be winner. Dorothy Novakowski, is an accomplished needle person, whose home is filled with her beautiful cross stitch, but she had never pieced a piece. She took to quilting with enthusiasm and entered two pieces in the Las Animas County Fair; both won ribbons. Congratulation, D.A.N.! The little group enjoyed the stitchery and the good company so much they decided to continue learning together and look forward to learning more needlework skills from our talented new neighbor, Carolyn Santoro.

SAFETY NOTES

- Some property owners put up a chain or cable across the entrance to their property to discourage vehicles and/or trespassers from entering. These barriers should be clearly flagged or marked to insure their visibility. On July 4th on the south end of the Ranch, a woman and her husband, who were guests of property owners, were riding their ATVs on a Ranch road. They became separated when the man took a turn that the woman behind him did not see him take. She thought he had turned into an entrance and followed but looked away for an instance. When she looked ahead she saw a cable strung out across the road but didn't have time to avoid it. The cable caught her across her lower face and neck causing severe bruises and a shaken up lady. It could have been a deadly accident. It was a cloudy rainy day making visibility poor, but the accident may have been prevented if the barrier had been more visible.
- We urge drivers on the Ranch to SLOW DOWN! Please encourage your construction crews to use caution!

WILL ROGERS ON THE TRAIL

By Linda Austin

Would you believe Will Rogers came to Trinidad? In August, Rogers came to town in the form of actor, Lance Brown. Brown's impersonation held a captive audience of over 100 people at the Arthur Roy Mitchell Museum. Brown has studied Will Rogers for eight years and has gotten help from Will's only surviving son. He does his performances as a tribute to the colorful Rogers. During one of his roping tricks he chose a lady from the audience: our own Simone Potter. But then, this was not the first time Simone had been captured by a Will.

It was a great performance!

CORRECTION

I apologize to Mark and Annie Danielson who co-own Danielson Dry Goods and Domestic Finery with Aaron and Helen Danielson. I gave the impression that only Aaron and Helen owned the delightful new store. It's a family operation!

JJW

DOGS ON THE RANCH

By Carol Rawle

Ed Note: Carol's articles continually draw positive comment from Bare Facts readers. We appreciate her thoughtful and informative work.

The dog—loyal friend, stalwart servant of man, cherished member of the family. Since the later part of the Stone Age, there has been an ongoing bond between dog and human.

All dogs are descendants of wolves (*canis lupis*) and jackals (*canis aureus*) or a combination of the two. After ten thousand years of breeding and domestication the dog has been "fine-tuned" into hundreds of different breeds, each with its own specialty. From breeds expert in tracking, to those expert in running down game, to those small enough to go into holes to drag out prey, all were bred to serve some purpose of humans.

The fact that dogs have always maintained their instinct to be pack animals is what makes them so willing to accept a role as a loyal member of a human family. However, this instinct to be a member of a pack combined with their specialized breeding is what can make your family pet a potential danger to our wildlife.

Most dog owners will tell you their dog often seems more like a human member of the family than a mere pet, however some of these same people will insist their dog is a "wild animal" and should be allowed to run free. This misguided notion can have far reaching consequences for both dog and owners.

When the family pet is let loose, he doesn't just go out for a harmless frolic, especially if there are other dogs in the area also at large. His instinct is to form a pack with those dogs and "go to work." In other words to carry out the purpose of its breeding. A pack of dogs can consist of an expert tracker, an expert runner and perhaps one or two strong enough to bring down a large animal once it is worn down. What was before a single, fluffy, lovable pet is now a part of a murderous machine. Even well fed dogs, once in an excitable pack, will bite and tear at the flesh of a wild animal, often leaving it to die in agony. Working as a park ranger in wilderness areas adjacent to human habitats, I've encountered some of these consequences where dogs are running wild. You never want to encounter a doe that has been run to death by a pack of dogs lying in a pool of her blood with an aborted fetus protruding from her hind quarters.

Dogs are NOT wild animals. They do NOT belong in the wilderness. Wildlife can be dangerous to the family dog and the family dog can be a danger to the wildlife. Dogs running loose on the roads can be a traffic hazard. Trying to avoid hitting a dog, a driver could go off the road and down the embankment. Dogs running wild on someone else's property may create a nuisance or a threat and end up being shot. A dog let out alone could get lost or injured. A lost dog that manages to survive in the wild becomes feral and will join up with other feral dogs, breed,

and create the diabolical threat to wildlife I previously described.

The happiest dogs are those who know their boundaries and that they are pleasing their humans. Dog owners who truly love and value their pets and respect their neighbors keep their dogs safely restricted. It's also the responsible things to do. After all, the dog as we know it today is a human invention. His place in the natural scheme of things is at his master's side or at home by the hearth awaiting his return.

Editor's Note:

Bob Holder explains that a Colorado State statute provides for penalties against owners who allow their dogs to harass wildlife. A DOW officer can make the determination on the spot to shoot a dog that is seen or found to be running wildlife. Recently, in Trinidad, a property owner was given a permit to shoot dogs that have formed a pack, invaded his property and killed a number of his prize sheep.

An incident in the Jemez Mountains in northern New Mexico cost dog owners \$1000 after their friendly family beagles ran two deer into a barbed wire fence. The Fish and Game Department had to destroy the animals.

NOAH'S ARK

This information comes from Paula Manini, whom we know as the Director of the Trinidad History Museum, but in this case wearing another hat. She gave us this news please just after we printed The Bare Facts two months ago, but the message remains the same. Cindy Hulstine, Simone Potter and Joyce Wolff support the group.

Late last year several Trinidad people founded Noah's Ark Animal Welfare Association. The group was motivated to form because of the number of animals, especially dogs, who are abandoned and left to fend for themselves. Many do not survive, or are sick and malnourished when rescued.

A number of local businesses recently supported a fund-raising campaign and both local veterinarians put announcements about the new group in their August billings. Noah's Ark has a clearinghouse number, 846-9070 for exchange of information. Most calls come from people who find abandoned dogs or cats on their property. Sadly, there are many more animals needing homes than homes available. Last year over 600 animals were euthanized in Trinidad.

The group takes positive action by:

- educating school children and the general public about proper animal care,
- assisting the city with an animal adoption program,
- promoting spaying, neutering and vaccinating,
- and working with local officials on animal control ordinances.

You can help by making a contribution, becoming a member, joining one of their committees and attending monthly meetings. For information call the clearinghouse number or mail a contribution to Noah's Ark, PO Box 478, Trinidad. Paula is encouraged by the excellent response following the recent publicity in the local papers.

OSO'S TALE

By Joyce Wolff

Que significa oso? Bear, remember?

Resident property owners may remember the big golden dog who for several weeks roamed the north end of the Ranch during the cold snowy April of '97. The most striking thing about him was his size; he was BIG; he was also unapproachable. Michelle, Carl and the I all tried to offer aid but he always vanished into the scrub. Finally, driven by hunger, he approached David H.'s crew working on the Hulstine's house. They named him "Loner" and shared tacos with him for lunch. Cindy fed him when she was "on site" then he would disappear again. One weekend when Cindy didn't arrive with groceries he shyly walked up our driveway and straight into our hearts.

His heavy winter coat was dirty, matted and one pointed ear, which looked to be missing, was secured to the back of his head with burrs which were also tangled throughout his fur: some imbedded in his skin along with cactus spines.



This is Oso, already known to Bare Facts readers as the trail boss from Carol Rawle's article, Building a Trail with Carol and Joyce. I asked my friend, Carol, (an artist of sizable talent) to do a sketch of Oso for this article. She provided me with this charming little drawing that we share with you and I treasure. Thank you, Ma'am!

We tried to think of someone who might adopt him (no Noah's Ark then) and I delivered a lengthy explanation to Dorothy Novakowski listing the reasons why we couldn't. But, the next day we took him for his shots, bought a collar, leash, food, bowls, brush, doggie shampoo, toothbrush and chicken flavored toothpaste. Walt named him Oso, 'cause he looks like one. Veterinarian Skip Aaroe pulled out the cactus spines and judging from his teeth guessed he was about six years old. Maybe we'll keep him, after all.

After reading our "Found Dog" ad in the paper, a man whose dog met the description, came to identify him. After only a few days I was close to tears at the thought of losing him. Wrong dog - great sigh of relief!

He passed every test that we required of him. He doesn't bark, (except for some deep woofs when someone arrives) he slept outside on the door mat (one of Walt's stipulations) not minding the snow, (That rule has been overturned. Now he curls up on the bed, but ONLY in a lightning storm for as my T-shirt says, "You can move a mountain but you can't budge a big dog.") He doesn't get car sick, he doesn't beg (much), and he will "wait" (dejectedly) under the porch allowing us to drive away. And a most important requirement for a dog living on the Ranch, he does not roam and he does not bother wildlife. From his vantage point on the porch he merely watches the turkeys that came through our property every day and he ignores the cows when we go walking in the meadow. This lack of interest amazes us for he must have had some hunting instincts those weeks he was foraging for himself. We wondered if he had been raised with livestock on a farm or ranch. Oso is reluctant to talk about his past. The only "wilderness" food he still eats is crunchy dried acorns that he forages for under the oak brush and an occasional wildflower. He does snap at and occasionally catches flies, but that's sport.

Oso graduated from *Dog Obedience School, even though he failed second grade; that was my fault. He is shy, but tolerant with visitors (they confuse him) and grandchildren (they hug him). He is devoted to his new digs and trotted the five miles between Putz Peak and Loma Lobo in only 45 minutes when we tried to leave him for a few days with Homer.

Our stray dog story has a happy and satisfying ending; many do not. Good Luck Noah's Ark!

*Kathleen Brewer, who works at Dr. Skip Aaroe's, Fisher's Peak Veterinary, offers obedience classes in the summer.

FLORA AND FAUNA

- C.K. Morey, Colorado Forester, has diagnosed Mountain Pine Beetle (MPB) as the culprit killing Ponderosa pines primarily on the south end of the Ranch. Several property owners have lost trees. Gene Downs is the Colorado State Forest representative on the Ranch. If you have dying trees Gene can tell you if MPB or the somewhat less harmful Ips beetle is at work, as he did in the case of our several dead pinons. The Colorado State University Cooperative Extension has information leaflets that Gene can give you if you give him a call at 859-0416.

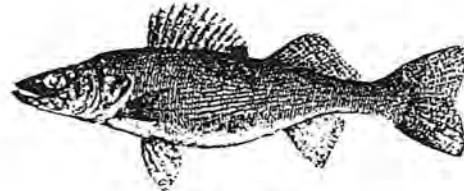
A complete list of leaflets and publications available from the Extension Service can be found at Extension Office in the Courthouse in Trinidad. The literature is inexpensive and is mailed promptly. (See Directory for phone and email.)

- This summer property owners caught northern pike in the Gallinas pond. The question is, how did they get there? They had not been officially planted there and they are not native to that water. Bob Holder (DOW) advises us that it is unwise to put any fish into our ponds as they can carry disease that could infect the healthy fish

already there. The DOW is very careful about the health of their stockers as well as the waters into which they are placed; we should be too. Bob adds, that both northern pike and walleye pike are predator fish and will prey on smaller trout.



Northern Pike



Walleye Pike

THE WEATHER REPORT

By Walt Wolff

This is a report of some weather statistics from our cabin on the north end of the Ranch, elevation, ~6950'. I'm an amateur weather reporter using a home weather station, Davis Weather Wizard®

	AUGUST		SEPTEMBER (26 th)	
	Day	Day	Day	Day
Temp Mean (degs)	69	n/a	68.5	n/a
Temp High (degs)	92.8	24	88.2	6
Temp Low (degs)	50.6	14	46.2	15
Wind Spd. Average	5.1	n/a	5.2	n/a
Wind Spd. Hi (mph)	37	27	37	25
Total Rain/month	5.1	n/a	0.08	n/a

The fall days have been beautiful and the leaves are turning. For a pleasant "leaf-peeper" drive travel west from Trinidad in Highway of Legends (12) through Weston to the small town of Vigil. Turn right on Rd 21.6. On your left you will see the abandoned little "house on the bridge." Follow this gravel road for about seven miles where it again joins Highway 12 just past North Lake. As you travel up into the foothills through the gently sloped valley the Sangre de Cristo range comes into view rising up beyond the oak covered hills. For history buffs, take along the Highway of Legends booklet available at the Visitors Center.

WOMEN'S GROUP INTRODUCES

Sandy Manifold

By Sue Downs

This month we would like you to meet Sandy Manifold, Women's Group co-treasurer and co-chairperson for logo-wear. As you can already see she is a great asset to our organization and we have come to depend on her quiet and steady support; she is always ready to lend a hand, as she does with the highway clean up effort. The "Photo Quilt" which the Women's Group raffled off at the POA annual picnic in July, was Sandy's idea. She collected the photos, arranged for their reproduction, and designed the quilt: then did hours of stitching and quilting.

Sandy was born in Alameda, California and lived in Vista most of her life. She attended Palomar Junior College and has taken business classes. In 1972 she married Denny, her high school sweetheart, whom she had known since eighth grade. They have one grown daughter, Tanya Marie, who lives in California and works in theater production. They have two dogs, Samantha and Honey Bear.

In Vista, Sandy and Denny owned a shoe repair shop from 1974 till they moved to Trinidad in 1996. In 1990 they saw an ad for the SFTR in The Penny Saver, came to look at the land, fell in love with the Ranch and became the owners of Lot 22, Unit 1. Their friends and next door neighbors in Vista, John and Janet Woods also bought property on the Ranch and are in the process of moving here.

Now living in Trinidad the Manifolds have opened The Country Cobbler, a shoe repair shop (and more) on North Commercial Street where they specialize in making orthopedic shoes and orthotics. Sandy's dad, Dudley (Joe) Austin, a really neat gentleman, decided to join them in their new adventure. Denny's parents, Dale and Elaine, come to visit each summer and we have gotten to know them as well. Elaine attends Women's Group meetings and Dale helps with Ranch projects. They have become members of our extended Ranch family.

A few months ago Sandy and Denny purchased a home in town and are hoping to start building their log home, "The Cobbler's Cabin" in the near future. Denny, a real go-getter, is on the POA Board and an active member of Trinidad's Main Street Group, dedicated to the restoration and beautification of old Trinidad.

In addition to working along side Denny in the shop and with his activities to enrich life on the Ranch, Sandy does beautiful stained glass work available in their shop which is a beehive of their activities. Sandy loves quilting and is an avid reader. We are most happy to have this young couple as friends and property owners on SFTR and Trinidad is fortunate to have them as business owners. Drop by for a visit at their shop soon.

DIRECTORY

COLORADO DIVISION OF WILDLIFE

Bob Holder, in Trinidad

846-4834 or 680-1410 (mobile)

COLORADO HIGHWAY CONDITIONS

303 639-1111 (new number from last year)

CSU EXTENSION AGENT

Las Animas County Courthouse
719-846-4257

email: lasanima@coop.ext.colostate.edu

COLORADO STATE FOREST SERVICE

Las Animas County Forester, C.K. Morey in La Veta
742-3588

SFTR Forest Representative, Gene Downs

859-0416

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SHOPPER'S PAGES

THE WOMEN'S GROUP CANOPY is available for rent for \$20 per day. It is 20' x 10' and easy to put up. Contact Sue Downs, 859-0416 to reserve it.

LAMINATED RANCH MAPS, 11" x 14", cost \$10 plus \$4 postage and mailing tube. Plain ones are \$5.50 (includes postage). Order from June Stephens, SFTR, 8111 Cedar Way, Trinidad, CO, 81082

A COMPLETE LIST OF LOGOWEAR ITEMS is

available from Sandy Manifold, 407 N. Commercial, 719-846-3910 (The Country Cobbler), or Cindy Hulstine, 719-846-3500. Inventory of the old logo items includes hats, a limited number of T-shirts and tote bags, a great way to carry mail home from the box. A few representative prices:
T-shirts ss, \$17 (xl \$19), ls \$20 (xl \$23)
Sweatshirts-9oz. \$34 (xl \$36)
Caps (old & new logo in a variety of styles) \$10

"WE'VE COME A LONG WAY," the Women's Group cookbook, is a collection of 300 recipes from property owners around the country. It is available by mail for \$10 plus \$3 postage for one or two copies. Please order from June Stephens, SFTR, 8111 Cedar Way.

NOTECARDS BY ARTIST SHAD ROUNDY are available in four designs: St. Aloysius Church at Morley, shown in Bare Facts Issue 8, a black bear head, shown in Issue 9 to illustrate Carol Rawle's article on black bears, a mountain lion and a coyote. The cards were drawn for the Women's Group by Shad Roundy, who is Joanne and Vaughn's son in Denver. The pen and ink cards are black drawing on a cream background, each with an envelope. They are \$10 for 10, plus \$1.25 postage per package. Please specify your choice of designs and order from Joyce Wolff, SFTR, 7558 Overlook Dr, Trinidad, CO 81082.

WELCOME NEW ADVERTISER

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THE BARE FACTS

News from the
Santa Fe Trail Ranch
Trinidad, Colorado

December 1998

Issue 11

WOMENS GROUP NEWS

WOMEN'S GROUP MEETINGS

Meetings are once a month at 9:30 a.m. on a Saturday. The date is the choice of the hostesses and the announcement is posted on the bulletin board at the Ranch entrance. Please bring aluminum cans for recycling and non-perishable foods for The Pantry.

Visiting property owners are always welcome!

No December meeting. See Christmas Party

January

Cindy Hulstine

7558 Pass Creek Court

Hostesses:

Sandy Manifold and Robin Keller

The Women's Group flourished this past year. We have the names of fifty women in our Directory: from those of us here who rarely miss a meeting to those who can only attend when they are visiting their property. Recent meetings have found an average of 25 women filling a great room, sitting on the floor and spilling up the stairs. We are a dynamic group making a difference. Welcome Bobbie Colaner, from Michigan, who attended the October meeting in Shari Schroepfer's stunning home.

Our projects this year have included:

- the annual POA picnic in July,
- the adoption of two miles of highway on I-25: a Colorado Department of Transportation program,
- the BI-monthly publication of The Bare Facts newsletter,

The April issue is mailed free to all 380 property owners.

- the collection of aluminum cans for recycling, earning about \$200 this year,
- the collection each month of non-perishable foods for The Pantry, distributed by the Salvation Army,
- providing refreshments at the annual POA and Town meetings in October and the grand opening of the Santa Fe Trail Museum in July, (see Trinidad History Museum, page 2)

We feel a bond with the Museum because of our commonly shared name and think it appropriate to provide refreshments for future museum functions

- a defensive driving class for any interested property owner, (The Trinidad Police Department paid the instructor fee.)
- the creation of a Ranch quilt raffled at the POA picnic, (see Positive Piecers, page 2)

- a Xeriscape lecture by Boulder Landscape Architect, John Knopf, (review on page 2)
- a garage sale which earned \$1225 for the YMCA bus, *Unsold toys, children's and women's clothing went to the Sheltered Women's Home. We had so much fun the first time, we've decided to do it again and Shari Schroepfer has agreed to organize it a second time.*
- the purchase of over \$2000 worth of medical supplies to be placed around the Ranch,
- the publication of our *cookbook, *We've Come a Long Way*, 300 recipes from resident and non-resident property owners,
- the sale of *note cards printed with designs drawn especially for the Women's Group by Shad Roundy, * see Shoppers Pages



SFTR HOLIDAY HAPPENING

Date: Saturday, Dec. 5th 1998
 Time: 7:00 till 10:00 p.m.
 Place: A.R. Mitchell Museum
 Admission: \$8 per person or \$15 per couple
 An hor d'oeuvre or dessert to share

It's Pot Luck - heavy Hor d'oeuvres & Desserts.

Please let us know what you can bring.

The Women's Group will provide Coffee and Punch.

Also...

Anyone interested in participating in our gift exchange game, please bring a gift (generic, gag,???) not to exceed \$5, wrapped. (one per person)

Just a thought...

We will also collect toys for the Fire Department's Christmas Toy Drive. Bring the gift unwrapped.

We will get them to the fire department.

RSVP: Monica Violante

846-8756 home, 846-8779 work

*On 5 December, as part of Trinidad's Hometown Holidays, the Santa Fe Trail Museum will be open free of charge, from 10 - 4.

The Women's Group will serve refreshments at both gift shops.

This will be our first official "Hospitality" activity for the Museum.

OFFICERS FOR '99

<u>President</u>	Suzanne Davis
<u>Co-president</u>	Karin Gieske
<u>Secretary</u>	Michelle Minion
<u>Treasurers and Logowear</u>	Sandy Manifold and Cindy Hulstine
<u>The Bare Facts Newsletter</u>	Joyce Wolff and Sue Downs
<u>Adopt-a-Highway</u>	Carol Rawle
<u>Emergency Response</u>	Michelle Minion
<u>POA Picnic</u>	Janice Hines and Barbara Sandgren
<u>Recycling</u>	Janice Hines
<u>The Pantry</u>	Linda Austin
<u>Scrapbook</u>	Linda Austin
<u>Garage Sale</u>	Shari Schroepfer
<u>Hallmark Ladies</u>	Dot Prestwood and Linda Austin
<u>Directory</u>	Jenni Mathews
<u>Social Events</u>	Sue Downs, Frances Purswell, Monica Violante and Carolyn Santoro
<u>Hospitality</u>	Joyce Wolff, Sue Downs, June Stephens and Judy Anderson

This new committee will organize refreshments for the annual Town and General meetings, the THM or any function we decide to support in this way.

GARAGE SALE

It's never too early to start saving those treasures. If storage is a problem Cindy and David H. have agreed to store things at their building in town. Give them a call!

THE STURDY SIX

The 14th of October turned out to be one of those days when only a few could make it to clean up the highway; we know all you residents really wanted to be there. But a glorious fall day and the arrival of the new can catchers made the tedious job easier. Carol's crew, Dorothy Novakowski, Flora and Lazaro Martinez, Joyce and Walt Wolff got the job done in a remarkable three hours. The Women's Group bought 16 can catchers which allow you to snatch up debris without bending over; they are wonderful! They grip tightly, reach into dark places and are lightweight. Then you start playing with them to see how small a bit of glass you can pick up by the edges.

It's a dirty job and somebody did it!

TRINIDAD HISTORY MUSEUM

Paula Manini, Director of the Trinidad History Museum (THM) (and co-founder of Noah's Ark, the new Animal Welfare Association formed in Trinidad, see write-up in last Bare Facts) was guest speaker at our October meeting.

She shared with us the long range plans for the grounds of the THM. The site is one of the largest belonging to the Colorado Historical Society. Because of its size and the costly upkeep of four old houses, it operates at a loss each year. The Bloom Mansion, (Victorian/post-railroad) the Baca House, (pioneer/pre-railroad) the Barglow building, (1906) the new Santa Fe Trail Museum, and the lovely gardens occupy an entire city block directly across from the Post Office. The gift shops carry a delightful assortment of educational, useful,

and pretty things all appropriate to the museum, and an excellent selection of books. Paula expressed the need for volunteers next summer when regular hours are resumed.

In May the THM will host the Colorado Wyoming Association of Museums for a three day Conference. The Women's Group will provide refreshments at the THM and the Children's Museum on the day that participants tour Trinidad. Our new Hospitality Committee will be helping to coordinate the two catered evening dinners.

POSITIVE PIECERS

Carolyn Santoro

The SFTR Positive Piecers Quilt Group is off to a good start. The last three months have been busy ones. Our activities included shopping trips to Pueblo and Colorado Springs, attending a quilt show in Canon City and we are now working on our second small quilt. Our members include Sue Downs, Dorothy Novakowski, Robin Keller, Sandy Manifold, June Stephens, and me. The photo quilt that was raffled at the POA picnic last summer was so popular that the Piecers have decided to make another for next year. If anyone is interested in joining the group please call me or Sue for the details of our next project.

Ed. Note: Many thanks to June Stephens who started this little group and offered her tireless encouragement.

SOON!

THE OTHER NEWSLETTER!

Carol Rawle

Because of overwhelming support at the annual meeting for a POA business news pipeline from SFTR to the property owners across the country, we will soon have "The Ranch Review" newsletter and the SFTR information Website.

Michael Hughes and Carol Rawle will be preparing the Website and the newsletter and hope to have both ready soon. "The Ranch Review" will be hard copy issued quarterly; the Website will be updated monthly and will be accessed with a pass-word to obtain Ranch committee reports, monthly expenditure reports, status of major projects, unusual occurrences, and of course, email.

The first issue of "The Ranch Review" will be mailed to all property owners with subscription information and how to access the Website. Comments and suggestions are welcome. Address correspondence to:

Communications Committee
C/O SFTR POA
P.O. Box 870
Trinidad, CO 81082

WATER ...WHO NEEDS IT?

Joyce Wolff

We can have attractive and even lush landscaping in this land of little water if we learn and apply Xeriscaping techniques. Prominent author and landscape architect, John Knopf, from Boulder, recently treated us to an informative and encouraging lecture and slide show arranged by Simone Potter. Mr. Knopf has designed gardens in the United States and abroad. His valuable book, The Xeriscape Flower Gardener, A Waterwise Guide

for the Rocky Mountain Region, was available at the meeting.

Xeriscape means "water efficient landscaping." The word was coined in 1981 by the Associated Landscape Contractors of Colorado and has become a trademark word shown on the logo of the National Xeriscape Council.

John described many advantages to Xeriscaping; the most important (certainly to SFTR gardeners) being the wise use of water and the economic benefit that follows. In addition he listed lower maintenance, reduced threat of wildfire, creation of defensible space, (Where have we heard that before?) attracting birds and butterflies and considering wildlife. Photos of buildings surrounded by fields of grasses, wild wildflowers and occasional islands of conifers illustrated these points.

He pointed out that in many cases state and city governments, organizations, and developers, to name a few, should consider their landscaping practices more carefully. Many of his slides were clear examples of unattractive, impractical, and in some cases potentially dangerous, land development customs. He stressed the desirability of incorporating projects into the existing habitat - developing and working with it - not against it.

Questions from the audience prompted a description of plants that might have been grown in Trinidad during Victorian times. There was discussion about "old world" roses (now coming into vogue) and fruit trees that have remained productive without tending for decades. He suggested plants and grasses for special needs and offered solutions to a variety of problems. He suggested searching the Internet for resources and recommended three nurseries in Santa Fe, one of which is on line.

About his book...It's excellent. It's comprehensive and cleverly written. The forward is written by Ken Ball, Water Conservation Officer for the Denver Water Department. The seven chapters cover everything you need to know to get started and lots more. "Plant Profiles" is a list of suitable plants with accompanying color photographs. There is a source list, resource list, and list of demonstration areas, many in Colorado. Every few pages you will find a little gray box in the margin containing a bit of "gee whiz" information. If you read only these you will be amused, informed and inspired. This book and others on Xeriscaping are available at the Trinidad History Museum.

This spring (probably in April) Trinidad State Junior College will offer a class in Xeriscaping. The teacher, Carol Kasler, owns a successful landscaping business in Denver and specializes in Xeriscaping. Last summer some of us had the pleasure of visiting her parents home outside Raton. It is an oasis, a gardener's paradise, and clearly shows what is possible.

CFSF SEEDLING PROGRAM '99

I recently received Colorado State Forest Service literature from C.K. Morey that describes the seedling program operated by the CSFS. It is valuable information and describes the plants that are available (well over fifty kinds), a long list of seedling survival supplies and detailed description and information on how to succeed in getting your plants to grow and flourish. Walt and I were well pleased with the plants we ordered last spring.

The bare root plants come in bundles of 50 and are 5" to 30" tall depending on the variety. Potted plants, regular and small are 4" to 12" tall in lots of 30. Prices run between \$20 and \$30 per lot. There are some conditions for the sale. The plants must be used for other than landscaping, i.e., windbreaks, erosion control, wildlife habitat, etc. For information call or email C.K. (see directory) Members of the Women's Group may share orders and the information will be available at the next meeting.

KNOWING THE ENEMY All About Scrub Oak

Carol Rawle

It's everywhere we look, most places we don't want it, and if we try to get rid of it, it seems to come back worse than before. Gambel Oak, or scrub oak, is found in greatest concentration between 7,000 and 8,500 feet elevation in the ecological zone between pinon/juniper woodland and ponderosa forest. That's right where the Ranch is.

If you try to look closely at the oak brush leaves, they may look different from place to place, but that's because it has hybridized with other native oak species. Whether the leaves are short or long, flat or wavy, you're looking at Gambel Oak - *quercus gambolii*. The low-growing shrubs choking the terrain on steep, sunny slopes are identical to the tall, stately groves along Tall Oaks Drive and other canyons on the Ranch.

The very qualities that make scrub oak so difficult to eradicate enable this stubborn species to survive, and to thrive under conditions that would discourage most other plants.



Quercus Gambolii

The leaves on scrub oak are covered with a fatty substance called cutin. This keeps the plant from losing precious moisture during long dry periods and helps to protect it from the intense solar radiation we have at this elevation. But this feature also makes it hard for herbicides to penetrate the leaves when you're trying to spray the stuff to get rid of it.

One of the most fascinating things about scrub oak is its reproductive "prowess." It can reproduce by either sexual (seeds) or vegetative means. It's the latter that makes it so hard to eradicate. Being able to reproduce

either way enables this plant to cope with the cold temperatures and periods of drought that would otherwise limit it to iffy germination and infancy.

Our ubiquitous shrub has specialized anatomical structures called *lignotubers* at the base of the stem or trunk. These *lignotubers* contain hundreds of dormant buds, each capable of spreading into a leafy shoot. If this weren't all, the oak has numerous stems or rhizomes which lie just beneath the ground surface, each with its own supply of dormant buds. All it takes to unleash this onslaught of hordes of new oak on your freshly cleared landscaping is to have cut down the original oak brush at ground level.

Oak brush has built-in insurance against fire, flood, heavy browsing by animals, and insect or human attack. Any environmental stress such as the afore mentioned triggers an end to the hormonal suppression that has kept these buds dormant. So it's possible that we are living amongst and trying to battle a stand of oak brush that had been cloned from a single mother plant for stress induced suckering that may be literally thousands of years old!

I've been battling this persistent pest since I moved into my house on the Ranch over three years ago. I had impenetrable scrub oak growing up to my front door, so I embarked on a frenzy of bush-whacking. By fall of my first year I had cleared an impressive area around the house. That winter I rested knowing I had a plan for the following spring.

When regrowth appeared I was ready with my three gallon sprayer and Roundup, which is touted to kill a plant all the way to the roots. As I sprayed I was gleefully confident I'd never have to deal with this nuisance again.

Wrong. The following spring, not only was the oak coming back in all the places I'd sprayed it, but in hundreds of new places all around the original bushes. So I found a new herbicide called Brushmaster. I mixed it up, adding a surfactant (dishwashing detergent—Dawn is best) to get the herbicide to penetrate the leathery oak leaves. I sprayed all the regrowth and the new growth. I was certain that this time I would prevail.

Wrong. It all grew back. Yes, and then some. Am I telling you a story you haven't heard? So last summer I tried something new. I snipped each stem of regrowth and new growth down to ground level and sprayed it with a 50/50 mixture of Brushmaster and water. It was labor intensive but I was certain that this time I'd win.

Wrong. While it didn't come back nearly as universally as it did in the past, the oak was still stubbornly refusing to concede defeat. And so was I. This year I've been zealously excavating the entire woody stem and root burl, surgically severing it from the multiple lateral, below ground roots, then spritzing the cut root ends with my 50/50 Brushmaster mix.

I now have huge piles of these oak burls, drying in the hot sun like so many petrified remains of a species long extinct. Something tells me, though, I haven't seen the last of this.

Ed note: To be continued???

SHAKE THAT THING

A recent kitchen fire in a Ranch home taught us a lesson. A pan caught fire on the stove. The home owner grabbed the fire extinguisher and aimed correctly at the base of the fire. To her horror, a rush of air burst from the

extinguisher causing the fire to spread outward and leap higher, clear to the ceiling. It appeared that the fire extinguisher could only make the fire worse so she stopped the application. The fire was then successfully extinguished with a kitchen rug.

In reviewing the accident we've learned that the first blast from a fire extinguisher will be a seemingly explosive rush because of the pressurized contents. If you are cool enough to remember, aim the first blast away from the fire. In the panic of the moment this might be hard to do. It still may splatter the burning substance in small bits, but *don't* stop spraying and always aim at the base or source of the fire. The chemical in the extinguisher is a powder and will settle with time. So to shake the unit periodically to loosen the chemical. The fire extinguisher once activated should be used up. You have a better chance of putting out the fire and the extinguisher will need to be recharged anyway, if it is the rechargeable kind.

ANOTHER HOT STORY

A pan full of eggs meant only to be hard boiled ended up forgotten and dry on the hot burner. When she discovered them she quickly doused them with cold water in the sink and when they exploded Edith ended up with egg on her face...and the ceiling, and the wall, and the floor: in other words, all over the kitchen. We're glad she wasn't burned and perhaps sharing this story will prevent someone else from being hurt. Thanks!

PREPAREDNESS CORNER

Paul Vircsik

Hi Neighbors, It was wonderful to be home on the Ranch in July. I got to enjoy seeing many of you during my stay, even though some of the visiting was yelling tent to tent during the picnic's "sunny" weather. My points of interest this time are short and hopefully helpful.

1. Caught out in the woods without direction? Use your watch as a compass. Point Mickey's little hand at the sun. Halfway between the hour and 12 is south. It doesn't matter what time of day—it works. If your watch doesn't have hands, you can buy a small compass that attaches to your band.
2. *Got bears in your house, turnin' on the water and then just leavin'? Try wiring your water pump system to a switch. When you leave, turn it off.
3. The highest percentage of fires occurs in the kitchen and usually with small appliances. To prevent this from happening, unplug them or have your electrician wire the kitchen outlets to a master switch. When you leave or go to bed turn them off. Anything electrical has juice running all the way to the on/off switch if it's plugged in and can arc if knocked over (lamps for example) or just short if worn out.
4. Recently I described a personal fire pump. (see shoppers pages) I hope that Ranch residents will take advantage of this. We could place a few around the Ranch: perhaps at the Emergency Response area leaders homes. Remember "You are your own fire department."

See you all soon,

Paul

*Paul is referring to the bear that broke into Bev Todd's house last spring. The bear managed to turn on the

kitchen water faucet then push the spout away from the sink and onto the counter top. 'Nuff said?

THE WEATHER REPORT

By Walt Wolff

This is a report of some weather statistics from our cabin on the north end of the Ranch, elevation, ~6950'. I'm an amateur weather reporter using a home weather station, Davis Weather Wizard®

	OCTOBER		NOVEMBER 22 ND	
		Day		Day
Temp Mean (degs)	53	n/a	41.3	n/a
Temp High (degs)	78	14	69.2	15
Temp Low (degs)	28.4	6	15.1	10
Wind Spd. Average	6.9	n/a	4.4	n/a
Wind Spd. Hi (mph)	53	4	41	8
Total Rain/month	2.4	n/a	.71*	n/a

*moisture from snow and rain

About 10" of snow on Halloween and 4" on 10 November. But Mother Nature has repaid us for last winter with a beautiful fall!

The Road Committee has sent an informative letter to all property owners that discusses many facets of winter survival in this area and on the Ranch in particular. It is an excellent letter and should be taken quite seriously. Those of us who experienced last winter on the Ranch certainly will. See Directory below for telephone numbers for New Mexico and Colorado Highway Conditions.

WOMEN'S GROUP INTRODUCES

Joyce Wolff

..... a very important man in our lives, Butch Curro, our conscientious and capable mailman. Butch takes such good care of mail delivery to this Ranch it seems the holiday season is an appropriate time to thank him for a job well done. I talked to him at the mail boxes.

He's a native: born and raised in Trinidad. His Italian Grandfather Curro arrived here and went to work in the mines at age 12. The Curros have been here ever since. Butch typifies the best characteristics of a small town. He is caring, friendly and professional. Despite his youthful appearance, he and wife, Lynda, have a boy, 32, a girl 29 and five grand children. Taking the grandchildren (ages two to eleven) fishing, as he likes to do, must help keep him young. Butch enjoys golf when he has time, still water skis each summer, and of course, is a Bronco fan.

Butch's has other family members in the postal biz. His mother has owned a Highway Contract Route (HCR) along Highway 12 for 27 years; his brother is the carrier on that route. Butch and Lynda have each worked for the Post Office for 26 years. She has an HCR that takes her as far as Delphi, southwest of La Junta. Postal workers travel LONG distances each day.

The Trinidad Post Office distributes all the mail for Las Animas County, the third largest county in the country. At present there are four rural and three Highway Contract Routes. SFTR is on Butch's rural route which circles the city. He is paid by the day plus mileage unlike an HCR which is a contract up for bid every three years. Butch has watched the growth in the county change from urban to rural; when he and Lynda started work there were only two rural routes.

Butch described Trinidad when the population of Las Animas County was 32,000, as a busy bustling crowded town especially on Saturdays when as a teenager he had jobs in downtown stores. He remembers when there wasn't a vacant building and it was difficult for a business to rent or buy one. He thinks that the current growth, after the long depressed and depressing period as the mines closed, is good (It keeps him on his toes.) and that the best attitude is to accept it.

Butch has a back-up carrier on Saturdays, and they will be working together for the Christmas rush. Butch tells me that she gets the route run faster than he does; he doesn't know why. Maybe, he says, it's because he has to take care of PR along the way. Did I mention he has a sense of humor?

Butch invited me to the Post Office to watch the morning process. He starts his day between 6 and 6:30 a.m. (I didn't arrive that early). I was welcomed at the back door and entered a warren filled with rectangles and squares, boxes, flats, tables and cubbyholes: every space divided into the appropriate size for filing, sorting and storing all size envelopes and packages. Butch begins by casing (sorting) his mail that the clerks have cased previously by route. (I have seen the nightmare of junk mail!) Side by side along one wall are three-sided cubicles about the size of a voting booth, each sectioned into the ubiquitous labeled slots, one for each address. Rolling bins filled with packages were being pushed along to the appropriate booth for each carrier. The mail for each patron is bundled and loaded in order on long plastic trays and stored in the vehicle. Butch is on the road by 9:30.

I met Gil Hensley who has been with the Postal Service for eighteen years and Postmaster in Trinidad for two. He and everyone I talked with takes amazing pride in their work. Sorting and carrying countless pieces of mail can be tedious, stressful and tiring, (One city carrier walks 12 miles on his route every day.) but the job gets done with dedication and a sense of humor. Gil described the processing that each piece of mail goes through to provide safe accurate delivery to your box: how and why those little black and orange bar codes are applied to that letter. I saw the lengthy encoded list of postal patrons used for keeping track of moving and forwarding mail.

Gil has an interest in history and reminded me that the Post Office building was built in 1910 and is on the National Historic Record. The town has outgrown the building and can only be remodeled with permission from the National Historical Society. I felt quite in the way in the crowded space with people having to step around me but they didn't seem to mind and I was even rewarded with a piece of cake.

Thanks Butch to you and all your co-workers for your excellent work. The Santa Fe Trail Ranch appreciates you. The double-duty you will do this month is a gift to us of Christmas pleasure. MERRY CHRISTMAS!

DIRECTORY

COLORADO DIVISION OF WILDLIFE

Bob Holder in Trinidad

(719) 846-4834 or (719) 680-1410 (mobile)

CSU EXTENSION AGENT

Las Animas County Courthouse

(719) 846-4257

email: lasanima@coop.ext.colostate.edu

COLORADO STATE FOREST SERVICE

Las Animas County Forester, C.K. Morey in La Veta
(719) 742-3588 email: csfslv@rmi.net
SFTR Forest Representative, Gene Downs (719) 859-0416
JIM GAGLIARDI 846-6220

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Opens 25 November www.angelfireresort.com

*Cuchara 888-CUCHARA or 1-888-282-4272

Taos Valley Resort, NM 800-473-1000

Opens 21 November

TRINIDAD ON LINE

www.trinidadco.com

***QUE SIGNIFICA cuchara?** Cuchara means spoon. In the Cuchara valley you will see signs for Spoon Ranch and other references to spoon. The interesting little publication, *Signature*, that describes activities in the La Veta area, says the name may have come from the spoon-shaped valley. This lovely little resort area began as a fishing camp called Cuchara Camps dating from 1908. The ski run has had its ups and downs (a pun, a pun) through the years but the present owners are succeeding in making it attractive year round.

SHOPPER'S PAGES

LAMINATED RANCH MAPS, 11" x 14", cost \$10 plus \$4 postage and mailing tube. Plain ones are \$5.50 (includes postage). Order from June Stephens, SFTR, 8111 Cedar Way, Trinidad, CO, 81082

PERSONAL PUMP SYSTEM includes a 5HP motor with 100' of hose, (an additional 100' available) Call Paul Montoya, 719 846-2777, for more information.

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*"WE'VE COME A LONG WAY," the Women's Group cookbook, is a collection of 300 recipes from property owners around the country. It is available by mail for \$10 plus \$3 postage for one or two copies.

***NOTECARDS BY ARTIST SHAD ROUNDY** are available in four designs: St. Aloysius Church at Morley, shown in Bare Facts Issue 8, a black bear head, shown in Issue 9 to illustrate Carol Rawle's article on black bears, a mountain lion and a coyote. The cards were drawn for the Women's Group by Shad Roundy: Joanne and Vaughn's son in Denver. The pen and ink cards are black drawing on a cream background, each with an envelope. They are \$10 for 10, plus \$1.25 postage per package.

* Order these fundraiser items from Sandy Manifold (The Country Cobbler), P.O. Box 833, or Cindy Hulstine (David's Construction), P.O. Box 199, Trinidad, CO, 81082

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Sue Downs writes the *Women's Group Introduces*, prints and mails the newsletter.

A subscription to *The Bare Facts* cost \$5 for one year or 6 issues. We will print your business card for an additional \$10. Send a few words describing your business and we will include it in the text the first time we print the ad.

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