



THE BARE FACTS

News from the
Santa Fe Trail Ranch
Trinidad, Colorado

February 1999

Issue 12

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!

February 27	Karin Gieske 35445 Alpine Meadows Drive Michelle Minion/Joyce Wolff
March	Simone Potter 3215 Owen Baldwin Parkway June Stephens
April	Janice Hines 6206 Meadow Ridge Lane Janet Woods/Linda Austin
May	Monica Violante (to be announced) Judy Anderson/ Karin Gieske
June	Peggy Obrey Santa Fe Trail Ranch Suzanne Davis
July	Carol Rawle 347 Porcupine Circle Morgan Chai/Dagney Gahlu
August	Cindy H. 7558 Pass Creek Court Monica Violante/Peggy Obrey
September	Suzanne Davis 32688 Owen Baldwin Parkway Gretchen Shaw/Joyce Wolff
October	Frances Purswell 35114 Ponderosa Ridge Judy Anderson/Sandy Manifold
November	Connie Tucker 68 Owen Baldwin Parkway Jenni Mathews
December	Christmas Party to be announced!

Some hostesses are doubled up. Can you help? Call Karin.

THE CHRISTMAS PARTY

The Arthur Roy Mitchell Museum was an attractive and comfortable setting for the first Ranch Christmas Party. Thank you, Monica and Steve Violante for arranging a delightful evening and to the ladies, who, late in the day dashed in and decorated the tables. The pot luck hors d'oeuvres and desserts, in usual Ranch tradition, were

delicious and plentiful. The gift swap, or "who keeps little bear?" was lively and everyone took home a reminder of the party. A pile of toys was contributed to the Firemen's Toy Drive. Although "dress-up" was not required it was fun to see property owners in festive attire; Audrey Forcier in wine velvet, Janice Hines and Robin Keller, smashing in red, Bill Phillips handsome in a pale blue sports jacket. And who was that tall dashing new board member in a black turtle neck and elegant vest?

Let's make this an annual event!

COOKIES R US

The Women's Group contributed heaps of cookies for the Hometown Holidays open house at the Santa Fe Trail Museum. June Stephens made Christmas red table clothes for the refreshment tables set up in the gift shop and the SFT Museum. Paula Manini, Museum Director, was delighted that 100 people took advantage of the free entry. Merchandise sales in the gift shops amounted to over \$700. This museum, which is a member of the Colorado Historical Society, operates in the red each year, so our efforts on its behalf are appreciated. Thank you, ladies.

Next cookie blitz will be 14 May for the meeting of the Colorado Wyoming Association of Museums hosted by the Trinidad History Museum (THM). We will provide cookies at the Children's Museum and the THM for conference attendees who will be touring Trinidad and local museums. Paula needs help with the registration table on Friday, 14 May from 8:00 am-5:00 pm and again on Saturday morning from 8:00-10:00 am.

GARAGE SALE

Shari Schroeffer will organize a second garage sale this year. It's never too early to start saving those treasures. Last year the last minute rush to get items priced caused a lot of confusion so price your "stuff" as you store it away to save time and effort on sale day. If storage is a problem Cindy and David H. have already begun to store things at their building in town.

POSITIVE PIECERS

Several quilters recently gathered for a day of fun at Carolyn Santoro's to make a mystery quilt. She handed out red, white, blue, and green fabric and cutting instructions but no clues other than it would be a wall hanging for a holiday. One by one we sewed our little strips, squares and triangles into longer strips, which Carolyn had us sew out of sequence to add to the mystery. After many guesses, all wrong, our quilted pieces turned into charming bouquets of red flowers tied with blue ribbon, which will grace six walls come Valentine's Day. It was a *positively pieciful* day.

The piecers have chosen the quilt they will make for the POA picnic raffle. Sneak preview: it's gorgeous!

POA Picnic

24 July

Mark Your Calendar!

WHERE WILL ALL THE FLOWERS GO?

Peggy Obery is meeting with Boulder landscaper and author, John Knopf, who will give us some ideas for improving the area around the Ranch entrance. The POA board has given the Women's Group tentative permission to plant a bit of unobtrusive and maintenance-free landscaping. The emphasis will be on native plants with a few simple highlights. This is a Women's Group project and any expense, will be absorbed by us, NOT the POA.

Mr. Knopf shared his landscaping artistry with us last fall in an informative talk at Massari Hall. (See The Bare Facts, Issue 10)

PHOTO CONTEST

The Women's Group will prepare a Year 2000 calendar appropriate to the Santa Fe Trail Ranch. Please submit your photos for a Photo Contest. The pictures will be on display at the POA picnic and the 12 winners chosen. If you want your photo returned please include a SASE. Label your photo with a label on the back, not ink which may bleed through. We will scan the photos to a standard size or reprint from a negative if you will include it. Of course, the photographers will be given credit. We are looking for printers and format ideas. Share your ideas with us as soon as possible. Send photos to The Bare Facts.

LITTLE BITS

Byron and Janice Hines's daughter, Jennifer, married Joe Vander Brink in California on 21 November. The date chosen was the first weekend after the motorcycle racing season so family and crew were care free. Janice said the wedding was lovely; even the smog blew away to make the evening perfect. Janice's sister, Barbara and Eddie Sandgren were also there. Now the sisters are off to another California wedding, this time a nephew. And speaking of our own Barbara, she recently made her radio debut.

Kim Vest would like to thank those of you who sent their love and best wishes to her family at Christmastime.

David and Shari Schroepfer spent Christmas morning at Elm Street Station preparing food for a free Christmas buffet for anyone in need. Part owners of the Trinidad Restaurant, Chef Chris and Amy Eissler, whose idea it was, plan to make it a Christmas tradition and were pleased with the first year turn-out.

Linda and Chuck Austin are new grandparents. Casey and Phil have a new daughter, and Michaela has a new little sister, Kayleigh Lynn Marie (a surprise namesake for Phil's mother).

Trinidad Medical Associates, Michelle Minion and Bob Carlyle have ended their odyssey. Their medical practice is in its permanent location in the brand new Trinidad Medical Offices, just north of the hospital.

Y2K

The POA Emergency Services committee will coordinate efforts regarding Y2K concerns on the Ranch.

There is a video available of a recent Washington Journal on C-SPAN. Call Karin Gieske at 846-1124.

SECURITY

There has been a spate of trespassing incidents on the Ranch in the last few weeks. Strange lights and cars in the wee hours and suspicious vehicles and trucks. Please call Carl Putz, the caretaker, day or night, if you see anything you think is not right. He will coordinate efforts with the Sheriff's Office. It is your business, you are not being nosy or rude. You should not approach anyone that makes you uncomfortable, but please let Carl know what you have seen or what you suspect as soon as possible. Many of us carry cell phones and can contact him immediately. See Directory.

It's handy to leave people notes on the bulletin board. If you do this don't include information that might lure trespassers to your door. We have had few security problems on the Ranch and in part that is due to our vigilance. (Please erase or remove your notes in a timely fashion.)

WATER AND PHONE LINES

Work has begun to install the water and phone lines. This means moving great amounts dirt around forcing road closures. The Road Committee has mounted a board at the Guard Shack that lists daily road closures and cautions. In some cases there will be open ditches for short periods of time. Orange caution cones usually indicate an large hole or ditch. Since the work has begun on the north end of the Ranch where we live we are observing the process first hand. The crew is careful to make sure that the road is kept open and when it is blocked they willingly move any equipment to let us pass. Trenches across driveways are dug and closed quickly.

Please be Patient and Cautious!

Que Significa, Rancho Cuatro Caminos? On the north end of the Ranch there is a junction of four roads, Little Bear, Overlook, Vista West and Oak Park. If you are in the vicinity of these four corners to check on the progress of the water line you will find Flora and Lázaro Martinez's property marker, Rancho Cuatro Caminos. Rancho is obvious, Cuatro means four and Caminos means roads. Bueno? Buenol

MOUNTAIN LIONS

Carol Rawle

A little over two years ago, Ranch resident, Paul Avis, had the opportunity to meet a mountain lion face to face. He was jogging along Overlook Drive near his home one night when he noticed he was being followed. Division of Wildlife Officer, Bob Holder, explained later that it was probably a young lion intent on investigating this odd, upright, swiftly moving creature. Paul, equally intent not to become prey, stooped to pick up a rock to throw at the animal. That movement probably brought Paul closest to becoming an attack victim. But as soon as he stood upright again and hurled the rock, the lion began to understand that Paul wasn't dinner after all, and decided to hunt elsewhere.

The Ranch is home to a wide variety of wildlife, but only a few have the potential to become dangerous to humans. And at that, these incidents would be rare indeed. As a park ranger working in southern California, I encountered only one incident where a mountain lion actually attacked a person. It occurred in the mountains north of San Diego, and this attack also involved a jogger. It was concluded that this was an isolated incident involving a "cat gone bad." The lion was trapped and killed, and there were no further incidents in the area.

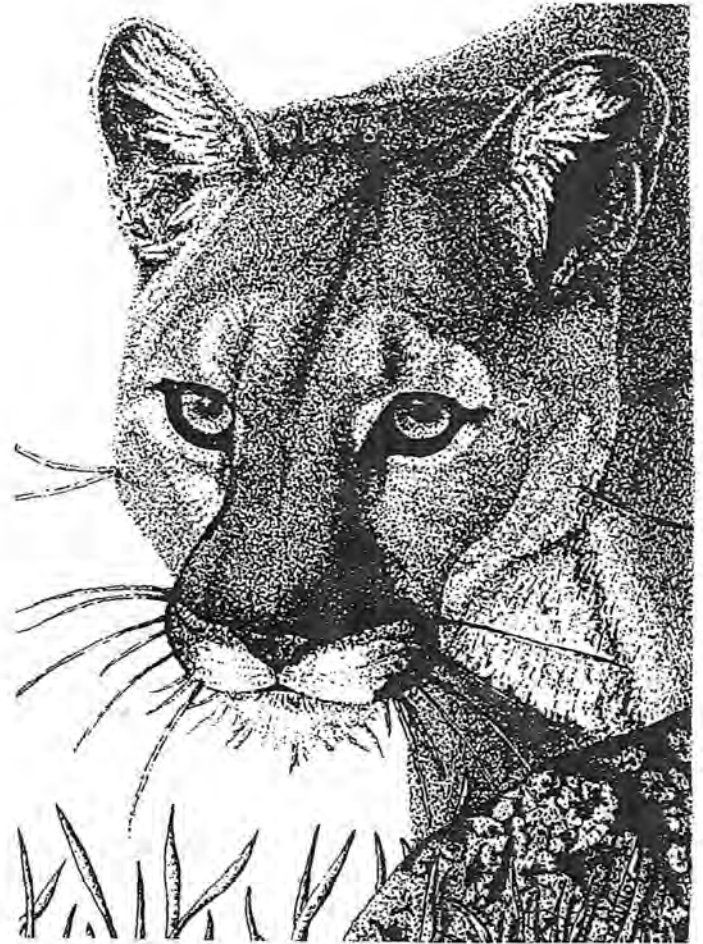
Mountain lions would find it no problem to attack a human if they wanted to do it. This large, tawny gray to brownish red animal weighs from 80 to 200 pounds, and can be five to eight feet in length, females being smaller than males. However, deer is their preferred prey, not humans. The mountain lion, also called puma, cougar, catamount and panther, usually stalks the diseased and inferior animals in a deer herd. When deer are scarce, the lion will hunt other mammals from rodents to elk. They prefer prey they have killed themselves, almost always avoiding putrid meat. After feeding, they cover the carcass with sticks and leaves, returning to it until it spoils.

All members of the cat family do not see things very well until the object moves. Like dogs, they see everything in shades of gray, not being able to distinguish color. But as soon as the lion detects the slightest movement, it becomes extremely alert, thus the folly of being a jogger at night when lions like to hunt. Though their noses aren't as proficient as those of dogs, the mountain lion does rely on its sense of smell, and they also possess keen hearing.

Mountain lions don't migrate, but they must range over a huge area in order to satisfy their large appetite for meat. It is not uncommon for one to travel up to 20 miles in a day, and to have territory of 70 miles in one direction.

Like most cats, the mountain lion is solitary except for the female when she has her young with her. They are secretive and wary, avoiding humans in most instances. Deer being its favorite food, when the lion catches a scent it begins the stalk. It slinks along on its belly, keeping as hidden as possible. It slowly sneaks closer and closer, utterly still but for the nervous movement of the tip of its long tail. When it's about 20 feet from the deer, it draws its feet under its body, extends its claws, and tenses every muscle. The big cat launches itself against the deer knocking it to the ground. It simultaneously sinks its claws into the deer's back as its teeth grip the deer's neck. In seconds the deer dies of a broken neck or severed spine. After feasting on the heart, liver, and lungs, it will start to strip the bones of meat. The lion will consume about seven or eight pounds of meat and save the rest for later. Then it's off to a protected spot for a cat nap.

Mountain lions will mate at anytime of the year, but most births occur in the spring. Males are polygamous and will fight over available females. The winner stays with the female for about two weeks; she remains in heat for about nine days. Only one litter will be produced by a female every two to three years. Gestation is from 91 to 96 days. Two to four kittens may be born, six being the largest litter recorded. At birth the kittens weigh eight to sixteen ounces and sport spotted coats and ringed tails. Their eyes open after about two weeks, and at one month are already eating scraps of meat brought home to them by mom. At six months they'll weigh between 30 and 45 pounds, and



Felis concolor (Latin: cat of the same color. George Olin in *Mammals of the Southwest* says, "referring no doubt to the smooth blending of the body coloration.") or mountain lion is a resident of the Santa Fe Trail Ranch. This beautiful drawing by Shad Roundy is available on notecards. Please see *Shopper's Pages*.

are finally weaned. They begin to hunt only on their own under the tutelage of their mother. They stay with her for a year or longer then strike out on their own. If they succeed in staying away from angry ranchers and avoiding trigger-happy hunters, they can live up to eighteen years.

The mountain lion is one form of Ranch wildlife you will rarely see. It will do everything in its power to avoid us humans. You may, however, see signs that it has been around. One of the most common is scratch marks and mounds of dirt. Like all cats it buries its waste in the soil – about six inches deep and covered with dirt and leaves. Scat will be brown in color and will have deer hair and bits of bone in it. It will also be quite large since up to a quart of material may be voided at a time. You may also notice scratch marks on trees where the lion has sharpened its claws.

Lion tracks are very large, about four inches long and four and a half inches wide for a front foot, and slightly smaller for the rear feet. Only four toes show and in the winter long hair growing on the feet makes it harder to see toe marks. Normally tracks will be about 21 to 23 inches apart. Mountain lions keep their claws sheathed until they use them to kill prey. The claw marks will not show in the tracks of a walking or resting lion.

Do we need to fear the mountain lion? In Paul's case it was most likely a young lion who was out learning to hunt with its mother. Bob Holder came to investigate and did find signs of more than one lion in the area. Paul never saw the others.

The next evening a group of interested property owners gathered at the site of the incident to listen to Bob's description of what probably happened. He pointed out numerous tracks clearly discernible all over the slightly muddy road and ditches. Perhaps the most interesting was four indentations which clearly showed the impressions of two front paws, side-by-side, and directly behind them the long impressions of the back legs as the cat sat on its haunches probably watching the whole episode from the side lines. This same cluster of prints appeared in Hulstine's meadow where the kitten sat in front of, played with and broke Cindy's whirligig. Bob further explained that joggers are at risk because of their steady pounding gait which instinct tells the cat is prey. Light clothing at dawn and dusk also triggers the chase instinct because it mimics the bobbing white rump of its favorite meal.

Being informed and using common sense I would say relax, knowing that lions much prefer to eat a deer than you. And enjoy the fact that this fine animal is agreeable to sharing the Ranch with us.

Ed. Note: The Colorado Division of Wildlife offers an informative little leaflet: "Living with Wildlife in Lion Country." I will send you a copy if you want one.

MAKING TRACKS

Joyce Wolff

Casting animal tracks that we find everywhere on the Ranch is a great activity for kids (visiting grandchildren) and naturalists alike. I have done dozens since I've lived here, including the lion that caused the ruckus. The lion incident occurred on the road which borders our property. The slightly muddy earth was perfect for casting. I spent hours looking for the best prints and think the ones I made are probably good specimens. They certainly are impressive.



Carol Rawle



I don't guarantee results because I am no expert, but offer the following instructions.

You will need, depending on how scholarly you are:

- water (I never seem to have enough)
- plaster-of-paris, (available in hardware or craft stores)
- mixing sticks (clean and strong)(then toss them)
- tin cans to mix in (a variety of sizes)(then toss them)
- collars to put around the track if (you want to)
- a ruler
- a small notebook to keep notes (Because the lion tracks were plentiful I made notes about how far apart they were and drew sketches to indicate how they appeared in relation to one another.)
- a camera if you want to show terrain, weather, etc.

- plastic sacks for trash
- plastic bags to store casts in
- a bucket or box to carry all this in

Do not take your dog, or keep him in the car. Your curious pal could ruin the track or cast. CAREFULLY, if necessary, clean bits of debris from the track. Sometimes a quick puff of breath will blow out grains of dirt. You will be surprised how much detail will be preserved by the plaster. Place a collar of cardboard around the track. This isn't necessary, but it keeps the plaster in a regular shape and allows a thicker cast. Mix the plaster-of-paris with water at the site; the mixture sets up quickly. Only experience will teach you the proper consistency. It should pour like gravy, but needs to stay liquid enough to fill in the details of the print. Better to mix too much and fill in a wide area than to lose part of the track because you haven't mixed enough to fill and cover it all. Let it harden. This may be a few hours or a day depending on the weather. Don't rush it, unless it's in the middle of the road.

Gently pick up the cast. If you have not used a collar the edges may be thin and have a tendency to crumble. Put each cast in a plastic bag and label it to identify later.

After the cast is thoroughly dry, clean it with a tooth brush. You can wet it at this point but be careful not to get it so wet that the details begin to wear away. Allow it to dry thoroughly. My geologist friend says "If you really prize it, Krylonize it." Or you can apply coats of polyurethane. This may be all you require but now you have a raised print that can be used to make a realistic indented print, as you first found it.

Mix plaster-of-paris and water and pour the mixture into a clean plastic container (from whipped topping, margarine etc.) of the appropriate size. Lubricate the original cast, (I've never done this step, but have been told that Vaseline works) to keep it from sticking when you press it gently into the container of wet plaster. Remove original cast and let the new cast dry thoroughly. This will take longer because it is much thicker. Slip it out of the container, spray it, and label it.

My main source of information on making casts is A Field Guide to Animal Tracks, by Olaus Murie.

PREPAREDNESS CORNER

Paul Vircsik

Paul responded with this message after he read about the kitchen fire in a Ranch kitchen. (Issue 11)

When you buy a fire extinguisher read the label and practice the techniques. Start to extinguish from a safe distance, that means 6 - 8 feet minimum. Don't stand on top of a fire before testing the extinguisher for use. Most importantly remember P.A.S.S.

- P. Pull the pin at the top of the extinguisher.
- A. Aim the nozzle or outlet towards the base of the fire.
- S. Squeeze the handle to discharge the agent. Test this once before approaching the fire so you will know what to expect.
- S. Sweep the nozzle back and forth at the base of the fire. Do not aim into the contents of the fire (if class B fire) it could blow the burning fluid out.

If using on a class A fire, make sure to use cooling measures after the fire is out. Dry chemical extinguishers will not lower the temperature, but only smother the fire. Pouring water over the material is usually best.

To review, start to extinguish from a safe distance and have the extinguisher flowing before approaching the fire. Dry chemical extinguishers will shoot the agent 8 - 15 feet. It should be a cloud of powder that smothers the fire not a solid stream of agent.

Please refer to Fire Safety on page 16 of the Santa Fe Trail Ranch Guide.

Paul, How about some words on Class A and Class B fires?

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®

	DECEMBER		to JANUARY 26th	
	Day	Day	Day	Day
Temp Mean	33.4°	--	38.2°	--
Temp High	62.6°	1	66.3°	15
Temp Low	-02.4°	21	09.1°	4
Wind Spd. Average	06.0mph	--	05.2mph	--
Wind Spd. Hi	53.mph	22	42.0mph	16
Moisture from snow	00.15"	--	00.38"	--
Snowfall	06.0"	6 - 7	02.0"	1
	02.0"	16	06.0"	3
	02.0"	21	08.0"	21 - 22

In the dark hours of December 22 the wind chill was about -50°.

On January 26 high winds caused the Highway Patrol to close I-25 between Pueblo and the New Mexico border to "high profile" vehicles.

See Directory for telephone numbers for New Mexico and Colorado Highway Conditions and Ski Resorts.

WOMEN'S GROUP INTRODUCES

By Judy Anderson

Judy is a new and enthusiastic member of the Women's Group. Last summer she and Paul moved to Trinidad to begin building their home on the Ranch. With this issue Judy begins writing this column. JJW

The Women's Group introduces our president, Suzie Davis, not just for the first term but for a second. It puts all our presidents under one roof, so to speak, since husband, Jim took over as POA president in October. (Suzie is reluctant to call herself, "president.")

Suzie is a Wisconsin native where her mother and brother still live. She has a sister who led what amounted to a family migration to Colorado, in Paonia. Suzie and Jim grew up in the same town but didn't meet until she was 17 and had graduated from high school. She was still in nursing school several years later when they decided to marry before Jim went into the air Force. After she

graduated they were off to San Antonio (and culture shock) while Jim fulfilled his military commitment. Several years after returning home they moved to Minneapolis where they lived for about 25 years until they started their new life in Colorado.

Visiting Suzie's sister was their original exposure to Colorado and they fell in love right away. Their search finally brought them to a snowy afternoon on top of the mountain and they knew they had found the right place. It was Thanksgiving 1991. They figured it would take between ten and fifteen years to make it out here...they had jobs, kids in college but the lure was too strong and in the fall, 1996, they were on their way.

Suzie remembers the move as a cross between being a gypsy and "shades of being first married." There were boxes and furniture in the U-Haul (one of many, many adventures for the U-Haul Queen), to squeeze into a tiny apartment in Trinidad with no electricity and the keys buried in the middle of the truck.

They started their oak log home on the Ranch in September 1997. Among the many memories of the building experience Suzie fondly recalls bawling her eyes out in the middle of a Pueblo hardware store over too many tile samples. But her best memory is that the beauty of the land far exceeded the dreaming and expectations that she had as she stood in the unfinished house. They moved in early June 1998. (In an emergency situation she hosted a Women's Group meeting in a house still piled with packing boxes the first week after they moved in. That's typical of Suzie's generosity.)

She acknowledges a certain amount of culture shock. Her mother had her doubts about this whole thing because Suzie was a "city girl." Her work as an e.r. nurse (although a "humongous" challenge) and having her family close by have helped Suzie settle in. She comes from a family of nurses: her mother, an aunt and her sister. Her own children have followed their parent's example. Son, Jeff, even beat them out west, arriving in 1995. He is a Deputy Sheriff in Telluride. Their daughter, Trish, arrived after she finished college and lives and works in Paonia. Suzie says that having both children relatively close has been one of the very special aspects of moving to Colorado.

But one special event stands out in Suzie's mind: the day she received the invitation to the coffee that led to the formation of the Women's Group. Suzie says she was so excited she could hardly wait to respond. It was the first time she felt a connection to the other people on the Ranch. With her smile, enthusiasm and positive attitude, she has more than repaid the Women's Group for anything it might have done for her. Thanks, Suzie, for what you do for us. We're lucky to have you, Madame President.

Ed Note: Suzie takes many of us down memory lane when she mentions that first coffee-turned-meeting. The invitation was from Sue Downs for 9:30 am. Gene Downs kept coming home and going away, coming home and going away, his house full of chatting women until after 2:00 pm. It seemed clear that there was a need here. That's how we began.

Index of Articles.....Second Year

April '98

Issue 7

For Gardeners, The Odious Ophidian or Rattlers on the Ranch-by Carol Rawle, Let's Talk Dirty-by Joyce Wolff, Preparedness Corner-by Paul Vircsik, Women's Group Introduces...*Joyce Wolff*-by Joyce Wolff

June '98

Issue 8

Building a Trail with Carol and Joyce-Carol Rawle, The Dreamer's side-by Joyce Wolff, Preparedness Corner-by Paul Vircsik, Women's Group Introduces...*Sue Downs* by Sue Downs

August '98

Issue 9

Bright New Face on Main Street-by Sue downs, Bears-by Carol Rawle, Preparedness Corner-by Paul Vircsik, When the Lights Go Out-Joyce Wolff, Women's Group Introduces...*Edith Lind*-by Edith Lind

October '98

Issue 10

Dogs On The Ranch-by Carol Rawle, Noah's Ark, Oso's Tale-by Joyce Wolff, Women's Group Introduces...*Sandy Manifold*-by Sue downs

December '98

Issue 11

Trinidad History Museum, Positive Piccers-by Carolyn Santoro, Soon! The Other Newsletter-by Carol Rawle, Water...Who Needs It-by Joyce Wolff, Knowing the Enemy All About Scrub Oak-by Carol Rawle, Preparedness Corner-by Paul Vircsik, Women's Group Introduces...*Butch Curro*-by Joyce Wolff

February '99

Issue 12

Mountain Lions-Carol Rawle, Making Tracks-Joyce Wolff Preparedness Corner-Paul Vircsik, Woman's Group Introduces...*Suzie Davis*-by Judy Anderson

Editor's notes

The Women's Group has completed its second year of publishing The Bare Facts. Many thanks to those who have contributed. (Please read "Index of Articles" above.) I am very grateful for your help and support of our little newsletter. Thanks, Sue, for printing and mailing them. Thank you, Walt, for doing the Weather Report, thank you, June, for taking notes for me and welcome Judy Anderson, new contributor for Women's Group Introduces.

Joyce Wolff, Bare Facts Editor

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 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.

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

Will care for your home and pets while you're away.

HIGHWAY CONDITIONS

New Mexico

800 432 4269

Colorado

303 639-1111

(Sorry, no 800 number, but they talk fast.)

Plant talk™ is a 24-hour toll-free automated phone service on horticultural topics, sponsored by the Cooperative Extension, Denver Botanic Gardens and the Green Industries of Colorado.

888-666-3063

SAN ISABEL ELECTRIC

(719) 846-2287

SANTA FE TRAIL RANCH CARETAKER, CARL PUTZ

Pager 738-5630

859-8487

SHERIFF'S OFFICE

(719) 846-2211

For any emergency, *including fire*

SKI RESORTS

Angel Fire Resort, NM 800-358-0350

www.angelfireresort.com

Cuchara

888-CUCHARA or 1-888-282-4272

Taos Valley Resort, NM 800-473-1000

TRINIDAD ON LINE

www.trinidadco.com

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.

*SANTA FE TRAIL RANCH LOGOWEAR

T-shirts Ss, \$17 (XL \$19), Ls \$20 (XL \$23)

Sweatshirts-9oz. \$22 (XL \$24)

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.

***NOTECARDS BY ARTIST SHAD ROUNDY** are

available in four designs: St. Aloysius Church at Morley, Bare Facts Issue 8; a black bear, Issue 9 to illustrate Carol Rawle's article on black bears, a mountain lion (illustration for Mountain Lions by Carol Rawle, this issue) and a coyote. The drawings were done 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



THE BARE FACTS

News from the
Santa Fe Trail Ranch
Trinidad, Colorado

April 1999

Issue 13

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. *We collect aluminum cans for recycling and non-perishable foods for The Pantry, at every meeting.*

Visiting property owners are always welcome!
We need some hostess help. Call Karin!

April 24	Janice Hines 6206 Meadow Ridge Lane Janet Woods/Linda Austin
May	Monica Violante 3200 Tin Cup Trace Judy Anderson/ Karin Gieske
June 26	Peggy Obrey 35011 Alpine Meadows Suzanne Davis/?
July	Carol Rawle 347 Porcupine Circle Morgan Chai/Dagney Gahlu
August	Cindy H. 7558 Pass Creek Court Monica Violante/Peggy Obrey
September	Suzanne Davis 32688 Owen Baldwin Parkway Gretchen Shaw/Joyce Wolff
October	Frances Purswell 35114 Ponderosa Ridge Judy Anderson/Sandy Manifold
November	Connie Tucker 68 Owen Baldwin Parkway Jenni Mathews/?
December	Christmas Party to be announced!.

The Women's Group meetings are lots of fun, and the food is scrumptious. (Just don't eat breakfast, Judy.) The ideas and projects never end with this energetic and talented group. There is something for any woman who wants to participate, but there is no pressure to do so; just enjoy the company of other Ranch women. Those who recently attended their first meeting were: Linda Meyers, Michael Hughes's wife, who "is here to stay," Anne Donovan, Jim Donovan's daughter: here till spring, Bobbie Parkhill, from Chicago: visiting her Ranch home, and Mary Schwyzer, originally from Switzerland, now living in Raton. She and husband, Hann, are planning to build their home on the Ranch this spring.

CPR AND FIRST AID

Clay Hart, R.N., a certified Red Cross CPR and First Aid Instructor will conduct a class in each on *10 April*, at Suzie Davis's home, **32688 Owen Baldwin Parkway*. The CPR session begins at *8:45 am*, the First Aid at *1:00 pm*. You can take either or both classes; *each* class costs *\$20*: lunch available for \$6. Students will also be taught how to use the supplies in the emergency medical packs located around the Ranch. Please be prompt for it will be a full day. Space is limited to 20 people and the class is filling. If you are interested please leave a message for Suzie at Jim Davis's work phone (846-2248) or call Michelle at 859-0672. If the classes are filled and there is enough interest they may be offered later.

*Look for their beautiful new property marker.

MAY DAY.....MAY DAY

Peggy Obrey announces that on Saturday, May 1, at 9:00 am, there will be a work party at the main gate to begin clean-up and simple landscaping. The plan is to stack some low rock walls to retain soil, prepare planter beds, and lay railroad ties. *This is a "guy and gal thing."* Please bring a load of suitable flat rocks. Details and plans for food and festivities will be posted on the bulletin board.

SFT MUSEUM HOSPITALITY

The Women's Group Hospitality Committee did spring house cleaning duty at the Trinidad History Museum's Bloom Mansion, Baca House and Santa Fe Trail Museum. Dorothy Novakowski, June Stephens, Sue Downs, Judy Armstrong and Joyce Wolff, dusted and polished and managed not to knock over a single Victorian bauble.

Our next project for the museum is to provide cookies and help with registration for the Colorado Wyoming Association of Museums Conference, this year hosted by the Trinidad History Museum (THM). On May 14th we will provide refreshments at the Children's Museum and the THM for conference attendees who will be touring Trinidad museums that afternoon. Paula has also asked if we can help staff the registration table on Friday, May 14 from 8:00 am-5:00 pm and Saturday, May 15 from 8:00-10:00 am. Read more about Paula and the THM on page 4.

POA Picnic
24 July
Mark Your Calendar!

THE BARE FACTS

Please check the date after your name on the address label. Most subscriptions expire in April. If you want to extend yours for another year please mail \$5 to The Bare Facts (address on page 6). If your business ad expires please mail \$15 which includes a subscription.

GARAGE SALE

Shari Schroeffer announces that the garage sale will be on June 5 from 8:00 am till 2:00 pm. Again, Doctors Amy Polk and Chris Polk have agreed to let us set up shop in their parking lot across the street from the Dairy Queen.

Please bring plastic bags, tables, card tables, and hangers. BEFORE the sale PLEASE mark the prices on all items *except* clothing. Last year bargain hunters were so eager to shop they picked up things before items were marked, causing confusion for the cashiers.

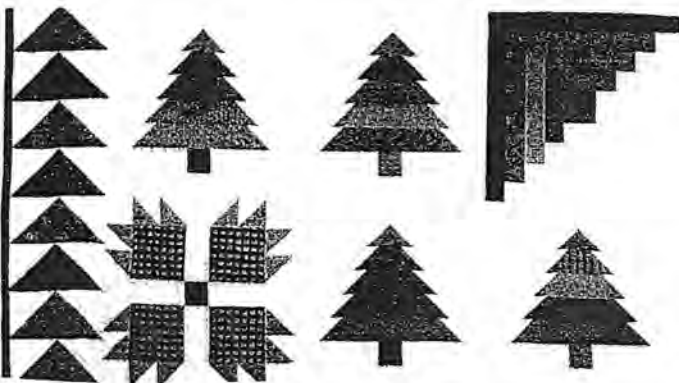
Except for exceptional garments all clothing will be put in like bunches and marked accordingly. If you think a garment is worth more than the grouped pieces, mark the price on it and separate it from the others. If you want to hang these garments separately, bring hangers.

The proceeds will be divided between the YMCA to help fund their summer youth program and Noah's Ark Animal Welfare Association (described in Issue 10, October '98). The Women's Group will withhold 20% for its budget which is used to benefit the Ranch. Unsold toys will be donated to Mt. San Rafael Hospital. Remaining unsold items will be donated to charities unless they are retrieved by 2:00 pm on sale day.

If you haven't room to store rummage goods David and Cindy H. have volunteered to.

POSITIVE PIECERS

The Positive Piecers provide here a glimpse of the quilt they are stitching for the POA picnic raffle. They hope to display the quilt at the Women's Group meeting in April or May.



ADOPT-A-HIGHWAY

The Women's Group is proud of the job it does in keeping tidy a few miles of Interstate 12. The "pick-up-sticks" that Carol Rawle ordered work beautifully and make the job much easier on the back. It's comforting to know that with this on-the-job training we could always find work at a major California theme park. Thanks to you who do this not-very-glamorous but satisfying job.

CALENDAR PHOTO CONTEST

Last issue we announced that the Women's Group hopes to prepare a Year 2000 calendar appropriate to the Santa Fe Trail Ranch. Janice Hines is spending a lot of time on the project but it has proved more complicated than we anticipated. But we aren't giving up. Next Issue we will have full details.

WORDS ABOUT WILDLIFE

If you have a wildlife emergency please contact Bob Holder, our Department of Wildlife (DOW) officer as soon as possible. He needs to be informed quickly in order to assess the problem accurately. If an animal is injured or appears to be a threat, call him as soon as possible. He is available by cell phone (see Directory) 24 hours a day and needs the information first hand.

LITTLE BITS

♥ There has been a growing number of complaints about ATVs on Ranch roads. Riders have been traveling too fast, endangering themselves and others. Other complaints have been about riding on private property. To increase the danger there are open trenches, closed roads, piles of construction material and heavy equipment in many unexpected places because of the water line work. Respect your Ranch neighbors. Ride responsibly.

♥ Please advise your building contractors that the dumpsters are for resident's use only. Also, please flatten cardboard boxes. It's not only a courtesy to fellow residents by not filling up the dumpsters unnecessarily but it costs the POA, i.e., you to add additional dumpsters.

♥ At present all mail boxes are taken in the cluster boxes on Fisher Peak Parkway where Butch Curro delivers our mail. If you are wanting a box for your Ranch address please write to the POA *and* the Trinidad Post Office requesting one. Pouring a slab to accommodate another bank of boxes is presently on the POA agenda. When that is done the Post Office can install more boxes.

♥ Janice Hines is recovering from back surgery and is feeling well enough to have the next Women's Group coffee.

♥ Barbara and Eddie Sandgren with a group of friends recently vacationed for a week in Can Cun. It seems a shame that while Janice was lying in bed her sister was lying in the sun. Life is not fair!

♥ Dot Prestwood, who spends her winters in warmer Dallas and mails the Women's Group greeting cards, is off on a cruise. She and her sister will board the *Majesty*, top-of-the-line ship in the Royal Caribbean Fleet, in Escondido, Mexico, then cruise to and around the Hawaiian Islands. Maybe life is fair!

♥ Monica and Steve Violante have moved into their new home on the Ranch and Peggy and Stan Obery are about to. Peggy will be glad that she need no longer Women's Group (that's a verb) from Aurora.

♥ Edith Lind is returning to the Miami Eye Clinic for more evaluation of her problem. Our love and thoughts are with her.

♥ Karen and Paul Miner's children, returning to Texas from a visit to their parent's Ranch property, were in a serious automobile accident. Their daughter was badly injured but is, according to Simone, doing OK. Our thoughts are with her and the family and we wish her a speedy recovery.

♥ Carol Rawle is off her feet for a while recovering from surgery on her toes. Is this just an excuse for not having to do highway litter pick-up?

CERVUS CANADENSIS - WAPITI OR ELK

Pictured below on the next page is the majestic bull elk that is the latest drawing done by Shad Roundy for the Women's Group note cards. (see Shoppers Pages) It is appropriate to mention that the elk herds will soon be moving to higher elevations as warmer weather arrives and they follow the retreating snow line. In May they can be seen in great numbers in the valleys around the Picketwire near Stonewall. The bulls by then will have lost their antlers (as opposed to horns that are not shed) but if you look carefully you might pick out the nubs on their heads that will produce this year's magnificent racks. The DOW has designated this area as a Watchable Wildlife Area.

Bull Elk
By Shad Roundy



ABOUT OUR NEWSLETTERS



Carol Rawle

At the time I'm writing this, there are only 75 subscribers to the new newsletter, The Ranch Review. The reason for the creation of this newsletter stemmed from the huge clamor for information about Ranch business and board activities following the 1998 Annual POA meeting.

The Ranch Review in no way attempts to take the place of The Bare Facts, nor does it compete with The Bare Facts. It does not duplicate the information published in The Bare Facts. (Ed. Note The article below is an update of the article in January The Ranch Review. It appears here only because the work has begun and we wanted to describe it to as many people as we could reach in both newsletters. This is an exception to the rule.) Where The Bare Facts is apolitical by philosophy and

content, The Ranch Review concerns itself with political issues.

The POA membership has demanded more information. The Ranch Review is delivering it. Please support our new newsletter. \$5.00 per year will get you The Ranch Review published quarterly to keep you abreast of

- how your POA dues are being managed,
- important developments with major projects,
- the in-depth information you need to make informed decisions when the time comes to vote on important matters at the annual meeting.

Make check payable to the Communications Committee, SFTR POA. Mail to P.O. Box 870, Trinidad, CO 81082

The Communications Committee is working on the SFTR website. We will have complete details soon.

- Please mail me The Ranch Review.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, zip: _____

E Mail: _____

THE WATER AND COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEMS FIRST QUARTER UPDATE

Tom Stephens

Ed. Note: Tom Stephens is the Ranch contact for the POA Water and Communications Systems. He can direct your requests, questions, and information to the appropriate contractor. You can reach him at 719 859-3218 or 8111 Cedar Way, Trinidad, CO 81082. Your POA Water and Communications committees and SFTR Metropolitan District volunteers have spent countless hours of hard work to bring the system to this point.

In this article I will list contract people, explain their functions and describe progress on the system to date.

The water system project engineer, is Laverne Jaschke a professional engineer with High Plains Engineering in Raton, New Mexico. Vern has developed our water system engineering drawings and specifications. He and his assistant, Brandon Lark, are presently in the field inspecting our contractors work. The pipe, trenches, valve stations, pressure reduction stations, hydrants, storage tanks, and pumping stations are only part of the system they are inspecting for us.

Our primary construction contractor for water supply and communications lines is Outside Plant Engineering Consultants (OPEC) with headquarters in Colorado Springs, CO. OPEC's on-site foreman is Mike Northern. He and his crew began digging trenches on the Ranch on January 5, 1999.

The first phase of OPEC's work includes the Ranch portion of the primary water supply line from the northeast corner of the Ranch at the north end of Fisher's Peak

Parkway to water tank number one located on lot C46 (Morley Peak). They are installing pump control wiring and communications lines in these trenches. As they work their way west along the north end of the Ranch they are also installing the secondary feeder lines that bring the water and communications lines to each lot line. By the end of March OPEC expects to have most, if not all, of the systems installed from the north boundary of the Ranch to Cottonwood Canyon Drive.

OPEC's second phase will connect the Ranch water supply lines to the city of Trinidad water system near The Holiday Inn at I-25 Exit 11. The communication lines will be connected to the U.S. West system near Trinidad. The pipe and communications lines will extend along county and state right-of-ways along the west side of I-25. The line will cross lots J-1 and J-2 at the northeast corner of the Ranch then pass under the BN&SF Railroad at the north end of Fisher's Peak Parkway. OPEC has a good start on this phase. A small crew using a track hoe is working on this at present.

OPEC's third phase will complete the Ranch part of the water and communications systems. Mike Northern hopes to have the pipes and wires in the ground and tested by Thanksgiving '99. I will update you in the next issue.

OPEC is currently using two Vermeer Trenchers (large track mounted chain saws) for most of the trenching. They also brought in a TESMEC TRS 1100 rock saw for those nasty rock shelves. The saw cuts a trench more slowly because it grinds the solid high density sandstone into sand. OPEC is also using two track hoes, a back hoe and a bulldozer as well as a compactor and other equipment. The OPEC crew has changed their work schedule to a conventional five day work week, however some crews are working on the weekends.

A separate contractor, Fluid Automations Systems, Inc., of Fountain Colorado is responsible for the pumps, lift stations and pump controls used to move the water from the Holiday Inn (6,320' elevation) to tank number three (8,000' elevation).

Early in March we signed six contracts with our local power company, San Isabel Electric Association Inc. (SIEA) to set 13 new poles and run 240 volt power to our six water pumping stations. The SIEA engineer and survey team have staked the pole locations and are preparing to install poles and lines. Also in March we awarded a low bid contract to Mike's Electric of Trinidad to connect the power and control circuits to the six pumping stations. That should tie up the loose ends on those stations.

Late last fall, in preparation for our three new A.O. Smith Agua Store water storage tanks, Jim Hughes of JH Excavating, built the water tank pads, including underground pipe stubouts, to A.O. Smith Co. specifications.

Our water storage tank assembly contractor, Ron Ludens of Heartland Tanks Inc., has completed the assembly of all three. Each glass-coated steel tank stores 110,000 gallons of water. They measure 31 ft. in diameter by 26 ft. high and are cobalt blue with white tops.

The water and communications systems should be operational by early year 2,000. We have more work to do (in our spare time) on the individual lot hook-ups. We can discuss that and other topics in future articles.

When you are on the Ranch, please be aware of open ditches, heavy equipment, stacks of pipe, and other materials along the roadways. We are doing our best to keep roads open. Road closures and construction activities are posted on the white board at the entrance building near the bridge. Send me your pertinent questions and I will try to address them next time.

TRINIDAD HISTORY MUSEUM NEEDS VOLUNTEERS

Ed Note: This is a note from Paula Manini, Director of the THM.

The THM needs volunteers! Volunteers work from May 1-September 30, on Monday-Thursday, from 10 am-4 pm.

Volunteers assist visitors (from all over the country and abroad), sell museum tickets, orient visitors to the site, provide local tourist information, help shoppers, operate a cash register, dust shelves, and do other miscellaneous tasks. You are also an ambassador for Trinidad and the surrounding area.

With advance notice, we accommodate vacations or other time off, and we cover for volunteers in case of illness or emergencies. Otherwise, we ask you to make a commitment to work on the assigned day and time.

Benefits are free admission for volunteers to the THM and other Colorado Historical Society (CHS) sites all summer, two free one-day passes to any CHS site, and 10% off books and gift items at the THM. We also have a Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon in the autumn. Last year, it was held at *Chicosa Canyon Bed and Breakfast (a historic stone homestead). Nano and Nana's Pasta House, the Main Street Bakery and Café and the bed and breakfast provided lunch.

?Que Significa, chicosa? Since I couldn't find the word, chicosa, in any of my four Spanish dictionaries I called Keena Unruh, who owns and runs the Chicosa Canyon Bed and Breakfast. She explained that even after research in the Trinidad Public Library and numerous conversations with long-time residents, including the octogenarian daughter of William "Chicosa Bill" Rigg, who homesteaded the site, she couldn't find what the word meant. She did hear at least twice that it might be a Ute word for cholla, the cactus that grows profusely in the canyon west of the Interstate, where the Bed and Breakfast is located, and on Chicosa Flats, east of the Interstate.
?Quien sabe que significa chicosa?

The THM complex consists of the Baca House, Bloom Mansion, Santa Fe Trail Museum, and the Historic Gardens. The site is operated by the CHS.

Other Society sites are El Pueblo Museum, Fort Garland Historic Site, Healy House and Dexter Cabin (Leadville), Ute Museum (Montrose), Fort Vasquez Historic Site (Platteville), Byers-Evans Mansion (Denver), and the Colorado History Museum (Denver).

To volunteer or learn more, call Paula Manini at 846-7217.

PAULA MANINI, THM DIRECTOR

Paula has been director of the THM since October 1991. Originally from the Berkshire Hills of western Massachusetts, she headed west in 1973. After a few semesters of college and four winters working at ski areas, she enrolled at the University of Colorado at Boulder, where she received a B.A. in anthropology (Folklife) and Italian. She also studied Spanish, and worked at the University of Colorado Museum.

In 1987, Paula entered graduate school at the University of Texas at Austin, where she earned an M.A. in Anthropology and was employed at the Texas Memorial Museum. She also worked on special projects for the Texas Folklife Resources and the American Folklife Center at the Library of Congress.

Paula is involved with several local and state cultural organizations and museum associations. She is also the vice president of Noah's Ark Animal Welfare Association. Along with her four dogs and four cats, she lives in the foothills at the western edge of Trinidad.

BOBCATS AND DOGGIE-DOORS

Carol Rawle

Ed. Note: Kudos to Carol Rawle and The Bare Facts. Our Division of Wildlife Officer, Bob Holder, told me in a recent conversation that he is forwarding the February 1999 copy of The Bare Facts to DOW headquarters in Denver to illustrate how individuals can and are educating themselves about living with wildlife.

As I was thinking about which animal to write about this time, I remembered an incident involving a bobcat and a dog-door – those small flapping holes you install in the back door so the family pet can come and go at will.

This little adventure took place in the California State Park on the Colorado River where I had rangers for seven years before coming to Trinidad. We all lived in employee housing in the park and the maintenance worker's cat had just had kittens. He came home for lunch one day to find a bobcat had gotten in the house via the doggie-door and was devouring the kittens. He made a quick exit and called the wildlife warden, who arrived pretty fast. All the doors and windows were opened, and, as in my "bear in my house" experience, they waited for the bobcat to leave. No kittens remained and the doggie-door was sealed up for good.

Bobcats have a reputation for being especially ferocious when cornered, but I would guess that would be true of just about any wild animal with sharp teeth and sharp claws. A lot of people think bobcats and lynxes are the same thing, but the lynx is a larger cat found mostly in Canada. Lynxes are gray with much longer ear tufts, while bobcats are mottled yellow and brown with reddish tinges. Bobcats get their name from their short stubby tail, and when glimpsed as they're slinking into the bushes, they resemble large house cats. While the bobcat kittens do look very much like chunky domestic kittens, they're not tamable. They quickly develop vicious habits and can be quite dangerous even if raised in captivity.

An adult bobcat is about 50 inches long, stands about 22 inches high, and weighs between 18 and 25 pounds, the females being slightly smaller than the males. They have long hair about the face, short tufts of hair standing up

from the ear tips, yellow eyes, long legs in proportion to their bodies, and big furry feet. Bobcats are found in all of the western states, along the bottom of the southern states, and even throughout New England. They need brush for concealment and are very secretive. For this reason they hunt mainly at night. Their home range is from 5 to 50 miles and they tend to rotate their hunting ground.

Like mountain lions, bobcats are solitary. When they are little more than half grown they're on their own. Male and female adults may come together briefly in late winter to mate noisily; the female has two to three kittens three months later.

The female finds a rocky fissure or a hollow log or a burrow in which to den up for motherhood. The kittens are 10 to 12 ounce spotted bundles of fur and like domestic kittens, are blind for the first ten days. After two months their original blue eyes turn yellow. Mama feeds them small birds and mice. By two months they're usually weaned to a straight meat diet. By early winter the young weigh about 10 to 12 pounds and are ready to be on their own.

The old saying, "he can lick his weight in wildcats," was based on a close appraisal of the bobcat's ferocity. Humans and dog packs are about their only enemies. A lone dog doesn't stand a chance. If a bobcat encounters a dog, it will flop onto its back with its legs in the air. As the dog goes for the cat's throat, the bobcat bites the dog, fastens its front claws into the dog to hold it close, then disembowels the dog with its powerful hind claws.

Bobcat tracks are about the size of a cocker spaniel's but without claw marks. They cover their scat like a domestic cat does, but sometimes you'll find the scratched together mounds. These animals are so intent on avoiding humans, they're rarely seen, and needn't be considered a danger.

However, back to those doggie-doors. They're fine if you live in the city, but here on the Ranch you're literally inviting trouble if you have one. Some years ago in the city I had a rather cranky opossum in my kitchen one night that had come in the pet door after the dog food. My cat Thor has to endure the inconvenience of announcing when he wants to be let in or out. It's more than worth it to avoid having to wonder what kind of wildlife I'm going to encounter in the morning.

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®

	FEBRUARY		TO 28 MARCH	
		Day		Day
Temp Mean	42°	–	44°	–
Temp High	67°	8	73°	15
Temp Low	9°	11	18°	12
Wind Spd. Average	6 mph	–	6 mph	–
Wind Spd. Hi	49 mph	10	46 mph	7
Moisture	.07"	–	.38"	–
Snowfall	none		5"	12
			4"	18

WOMEN'S GROUP INTRODUCES

Simone Potter

By Judy Anderson

Simone Potter was born and raised in Stockholm, Sweden, where she went to the University. She came to the U. S. while flying for Pan American for a year before meeting her future husband, Will, and settling in America. Although from different countries there was a unique connection which brought them together. In one of those strange quirks of fate Simone's grandmother's best friend was a close friend of Will's grandmother. This indirect connection eventually led Will's mother to invite Simone to visit the family. The rest, as they say, is history.

After they married they lived first in Baltimore and then in Easton, Maryland till 1994. They have two children, Eva and Bart. Eva is married, has one little girl (the apple of her grandmother's eye), and lives in Florida. Bart lives here in the Trinidad area.

When the Potters began to talk of retiring and doing something different with their lives they knew that they wanted to live in the mountains. Through a chance phone call they discovered Santa Fe Trail Ranch. Oddly, it was a homecoming of sorts for Will whose great-grandfather and grandfather had owned the Vermejo Park Ranch in the early part of this century. The Potters bought their property the first time they saw it and immediately began the move to the Ranch. One of Simone's most vivid memories of the building process was the mud, especially the mini-flood right after they had laid their floors. However, she does look back on the whole adventure as a "learning experience."

Just about everyone on the Ranch knows who Will is because he has diligently served on the POA Board but most don't know that Simone is equally dedicated to our community, both Santa Fe Trail Ranch and Trinidad. She has become actively involved with special events and fundraising for the local YMCA and serves on its board. She acts as agent for the well known local artist, Tom Scarborough. Her latest project will be developing a riding camp this summer here in Trinidad for disabled children. She hopes that the camp will eventually build the riding program into one that will serve all the children in the area.

In Simone's "spare time" she does fitness training, skies, and gardens. She and Will travel often, and she participates in many aspects of the Women's Group. We as a group are fortunate to have someone who gives so unstintingly of herself to those around her. Thank you, Simone!

Joyce Wolff, Editor
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 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.

DIRECTORY

COLORADO DIVISION OF WILDLIFE

Bob Holder (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

SAN ISABEL ELECTRIC (719) 846-2287

SANTA Fe Trail RANCH CARETAKER, CARL PUTZ

Pager 738-5630 859-8487

SHERIFF'S OFFICE

(719) 846-2211

For any emergency, including fire

TRINIDAD ON LINE

www.trinidadco.com

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. We also have three heavy folding banquet-type tables, three for \$5 per day.

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

SANTA FE TRAIL RANCH LOGOWEAR

The Women's Group has a large inventory of logowear.

Sweatshirts: M-L \$20 XL-XXL \$22, purple, 1 M, 1L

pink 1 XL, oatmeal 1 M, 1 L, 2 XL 2 XXL, maroon 1 M

1 XXL, forest 1 M 1 L 1 XL, slate blu 1 M 1 XL

Adult T: M-L \$16 XL-XXL \$18, oatmeal: 5 M, 8 L, 7 XL,

3 XXL, black 2 M 1 XL 1 XXL, purple 3 M 1 XL,

maroon 1 M, lt blu 3 M 3 L 1 XL 2XXL, forest 5 M 7 L 1 XL 2 XXL

Henleys: ss \$28, navy 2 M, slate 1 L

Henleys: ls M-L \$32 XL-XXL \$34, leaf 1 M,

navy 1 M 1 L 1, 1 XL, gray 1 M 1 L 1 XL

Jackets: \$57, forest 1 XL 1 XXL

Caps (old & new logo in a variety of styles) \$10

Totes: \$14, 6 oatmeal, 1 navy

"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, (The Bare Facts Issue 8; a black bear, Issue 9, a mountain lion, Issue 12, coyote and now available, a bull elk (shown on page 3).

The drawings were done for the Women's Group by Shad Roundy 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



THE BARE FACTS

News from the
Santa Fe Trail Ranch
Trinidad, Colorado

June 1999

Issue 14

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. *We collect aluminum cans for recycling and non-perishable foods for The Pantry, at every meeting.*

Visiting property owners are always welcome!

June 26	Peggy Obrey 35011 Alpine Meadows Suzanne Davis, Sue Downs
July	POA Picnic
August	Cindy H. 7558 Pass Creek Court Monica Violante, Peggy Obrey
September	Peggy Obrey 35011 Alpine Meadows Gretchen Shaw, Joyce Wolff
October	Frances Purswell 35114 Ponderosa Ridge Sandy Manifold, Shari Schroefer
November	Suzie Davis 32688 Owen Baldwin Parkway Jenni Mathews, Frances Purswell
December	Christmas Party to be announced!.

GARAGE SALE COUNTDOWN

The garage sale will be this Saturday, June 5, from 8:00 am till 2:00 pm (earlier closing this year) in the Polk Dentistry parking lot across the street from the Dairy Queen. Set up will be between 7 - 8:00 am. Organizer, Shari Schroefer says that if you will price your items you can just drop them off and need not stay. Unsold items will be donated to charities if they are not retrieved by 2:00 PM. Unsold women's and children's clothing will be taken to the Women's Shelter. Women's Group Cookbooks and notecards will be for sale.

BEFORE the sale PLEASE put prices on all items *except* clothing and books which will be put in like bunches and marked. If you think an item is worth more than the grouped pieces, mark it and separate it.

The Women's Group will withhold 20% of the proceeds for its budget to benefit the Ranch. The remainder will go to the YMCA to aid their summer youth program and Noah's Ark Animal Welfare Association (described in Issue 10, October '98).

CPR AND FIRST AID

Several Ranch residents recently took First Aid and CPR classes held at Suzie and Jim Davis's home. The students were Brad Potter, Simone Potter, Judy Anderson, Joyce Wolff, Carl Putz, Jim Davis, Monica Violante and Shelby Violante. Suzie, an R.N. in the emergency room at Mt. San Rafael Hospital in Trinidad and Michelle Minion, P.A.C. added their medical expertise. The class also reviewed the contents of the emergency medical boxes now positioned around the Ranch.

MUSEUM HOSPITALITY

Hospitality committee members Joyce Wolff, June Stephens and Sue Downs along with Dorothy Novakowski, Janet Woods, Sandy Manifold, Cindy Hulstine, Carolyn Santoro and Suzie Davis provided refreshments and helped register members of the Colorado Wyoming Association of Museum whose conference was held recently in Trinidad. Remaining food was taken to the Women's Shelter. It seems the SFTR Women's Group has a high profile and fine reputation for contributing to the community.

THE BARE FACTS

is prepared by the Women's Group as a good neighbor gesture; we do not make a profit from it. The June issue goes to all Santa Fe Trail Ranch property owners courtesy of the Women's Group. At present we have over 125 paid subscribers and 18 advertisers, who receive six issues a year. Most subscriptions expire in April. Your expiration date is printed after your name on the address label. (No expiration date indicates no subscription.) If you want to subscribe or re-subscribe please mail \$5 to the address on page 4. A business subscription (We print your business card.) costs \$15 and includes a one time write-up about your business.

THE RANCH REVIEW is a highly recommended read for Ranch property owners. With two issues already mailed, Editor, Carol Rawle keeps you up to date on the *business* side of the Ranch in this quarterly publication. The newsletter prepared after each quarterly POA Board meeting contains timely articles by President, Jim Davis, Tom Stephens, who is keeping readers updated on the progress of the water and telephone installation and other contributors. Articles clarify and amplify the news from Board and Committee meetings. For a year's subscription mail a check for \$5 to the Communications Committee, SFTR POA. Mail to P.O. Box 870, Trinidad, CO 81082

POA Picnic

24 July

See flyer in this issue!!!!

PHOTO CONTEST

Janice Hines is planning a SFTR calendar for the year 2000. What better way to commemorate the beginning of a new century than with a collection of photographs illustrating this beautiful country: our new home? Please sort through those snapshots you've taken of sunsets, wildlife, wildflowers: any subject that relates to the Ranch. Mail them to Janice, SFTR, 6206 Meadow Ridge Lane, Trinidad, CO 81082. If you want your photo back please provide a SASE. They will be displayed at the picnic where property owners will vote for their 12 favorites and can order their calendars.

RANCH BITS

♦ There is a black mailbox beside the door of the guard shack where you should leave your notes to the Caretaker and not written on the dry erase board. It is smart to let him know when you are visiting your property in case of emergency: wildfire and road closings which we experienced during the damaging storm last month.

♦ Please warn your construction crews that the dumpsters are for resident use only: not construction debris.

♦ Jim and Suzie Davis enjoyed a welcome trip to Hawaii. No one deserves a rest more than these two.

♦ Last month Ranch Caretaker, Carl Putz, was invited to the Policemen's Ball in Pueblo where he was recognized for his help and participation in a police case there earlier in the year. Accompanying him was Candace Barbot, award winning photographer for the Miami Herald, who happened to be on the Ranch visiting her mother, our own Edith Lind. Candace, unaware she would need formal wear was stunning in a long velvet gown belonging to her mother. (Some of us know that Edith has a closet filled with chic women's wear.)

♦ Anne Donovan, now staff writer for the Chronicle News, has a front page byline in almost every issue.

♦ Madelyn Irene, who arrived in the world on 8 April, made Joyce Wolff a great grandmother. "Good Grief," exclaimed The Bare Facts editor.

DIVISION OF WILDLIFE

Joyce and Walt Wolff, as Division of Wildlife (DOW) volunteers, have become the recording secretaries for the Management Advisory Committee for the Bosque del Oso project. The DOW acquisition of 30,000 acres of wildlife habitat near Weston on Highway 12 will be maintained in perpetuity as a prime State Wildlife Area.

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®

The winds in the first week of April had everyone talking. I can only record wind speeds that are sustained long enough for the wind gauge to measure them, consequently my record of 49 MPH is quite conservative.

Several homes lost shingles and the Hines found several cement shingles dislodged on their roof.

The storm of late April and early May produced over five inches of moisture from rain and melted snow. There was considerable damage to Ranch roads and the ponds in Gallinas Canyon overflowed. Several basements filled with water from the saturated earth. Big R sold out all their sump pumps immediately. Much of Las Animas County experienced serious flooding.

	APRIL	TO	25 MAY	
		Day		Day
Temp Mean	46°	--	57°	--
Temp High	79°	20	86°	22
Temp Low	14°	16	31°	6
Wind Spd. Average	6 mph	--	5mph	--
Wind Spd. Hi	49 mph	8	42mph	10
Moisture	4.8"	--	1.8"	--

WOMEN'S GROUP INTRODUCES

THE HINES By Judy Anderson and Joyce Wolff

MEET JANICE. Our introduction to Janice is long over due. She was one of the first residents on the Ranch, one of the first board members and a "charter" member of the Women's Group. Janice will tell you she's just an ordinary wife and mom but as you talk with her you quickly learn she is anything but ordinary.

One of six children, she was born in Burke, South Dakota, where her grandparents pioneered the west: even crossed the Missouri River on a raft and established a homestead. She and her family moved to California in 1956. In 1971 she met her husband, Byron through Byron's brother, and in 1972 the Hines were married. The unique part of the story is that in the fifties Byron's family had moved from Nebraska to within five miles of Janice's home in California. It turned out that they had lived within 100 miles of each other in South Dakota and Nebraska. It seems it was meant to be. Janice and Byron lived in Orange County where their three children were born: Matt, now 27, Jennifer, 23 and Andrew, 16.

MEET BYRON. Byron has always loved motorcycles. When he came home after his second tour in Vietnam he went to work in a motorcycle shop. He and his friend, Terry Vance, formed the Vance-Hines racing team and eventually formed a company that specializes in motorcycle exhaust systems, which Vance-Hines still operates in California. Byron raced a Yamaha in '93 and '94.

Janice and Byron began looking for a place to relocate in about 1990. In their travels with the Vance-Hines racing team they had the chance to see the US from coast to coast. They had settled on a piece of property in Tennessee until they spent a week there and discovered that ticks ruled.

They happened upon a SFTR advertisement and fell in love with the area at first sight. They were looking for some land, a small town, and weather that provided four seasons. Trinidad filled the bill.

The Hines began to build in July 1993 and moved in August 1994. Their home has attracted interest from the beginning. The large spacious two-story house sits on the edge of a canyon providing a view of countless canyons to

the Sangre de Cristo Mountains. Janice and Byron have filled the house with beautiful detail. Byron appreciates wood and stone and has used several different kinds of wood throughout. The long bar in the inviting family room is polished and carved stone. The low ceiling in this room is a patchwork of square panels each containing an inset mirror and recessed lights. The master bathroom contains a green marble walk-in sit-down shower.

Spectacular views are a beautiful background for the simple and effective landscaping. This May delicately waving blue flax (one of the BEST self seeding and perennial plants for this area) were surrounded by long stemmed salmon tulips in a flower bed that borders the drive. The driveway and several special-purpose areas are bordered by large wooden ties. An inviting seat provides a view of Fisher's Peak and morning sunrises. The effect is that this all belongs here: tucked away. And because the Hines own several lots at the end of a cul-de-sac they are assured the peace and quiet that Janice likes best about the Ranch.

MEET MATT. Have you ever noticed how people love to be associated with celebrities? Like, "My step-sister met Harriet Nelson in the vacuum cleaner store." We on the Ranch enjoy dropping the name of our own celebrity, Janice and Byron's oldest son, Matt, who has held the World Championship Title for Pro-Stock Motorcycle Racing the past two years. Trinidad loves its famous resident too, and last year the local Chronicle News printed a weekly update as he closed in on the '98 Championship.

Janice and youngest son, Andrew, offered Joyce a kick class in, "Pro-Stock Motorcycle Racing for Dummies."

The Pro-Stock Motorcycle Racing season lasts from March to November under the auspices of the National Hot Rod Association and Winston Drag Racing. The season consists of 14 races run all over the country. A racer can win points toward the national championship by qualifying, winning elimination rounds, winning the event, and for breaking a national record during the race.

Racers run additional races during the season, as Matt will do this summer at Indianapolis for the Superman Competition promoting the new Superman movie. He and the bike will be specially outfitted for the event. You can see Matt race this year on SpeedVision and TNN.

Matt races a Suzuki, 1500cc stock motorcycle painstakingly modified by Matt and Byron to tolerances as precise as .001 per inch to produce higher horse power. The combined weight of the bike and rider must be 600 pounds. Janice points out that a light weight rider like one of Matt's competitors, Angel Seeling, has an advantage in that extra weight can be added to the bike at critical points contributing to faster speeds. (Does this bring back your physics classes?) A wheely bar attached to the rear of the bike prevents the rider from flipping backward on start (or take-off as I imagine it). Andrew says that in the first seconds of the race the racer is pulling 3 gs. as he accelerates from zero to 100 miles an hour in 2.4 seconds, reaching a speed of 189 mph in 7.2 seconds, "the longest 7.2 seconds in a mother's life," Janice adds. At the finish line the racer has traveled one quarter of a mile and is still pulling 1.5 gs.

MEET JENNIFER AND JOE VANDERBRINK.

Janice and Byron's daughter, Jennifer and husband Joe are still newly weds, marrying last November in California and now living in Trinidad. Joe drives the semi truck that carries the motorcycle, the dirt bikes, a car and all the equipment that is required to keep Matt racing. The dirt bikes are used to move the racing bike around; the only time the racing bike engages its gear is to warm up the wheels in the "burn out box" just as the race begins and during the race. The gas tank holds one quart of gas but the bike uses only one pint of gas to run the race.

MEET ANDREW who travels with the race team if he can when school is out. This summer after a spring trip to California he will only have time to go to two races. (Usually no races in August because it's too hot.) Summer is over too quickly and then its back to the books at Trinidad High School where he has won awards in the JROTC and is Captain of the Rifle Team. I appreciated the time Andrew took with a total "dummy" to describe this exciting sport. Last year Andrew, the family, and a number of Ranch and Trinidad residents made an impressive contingent in Denver at one of Matt's races.

FREEDOM SPORTS. The Hines family has recently started a new company in the Trinidad Industrial Park north of town on I-25 where they modify Suzuki motorcycle engines. Byron's engines have earned an outstanding reputation and are in great demand. They also modify street bikes and make repairs. Joe, in Sales, and Jennifer both work for Freedom Sports.

BACK TO JANICE. After settling in Trinidad, Janice passed the Realtors board and became a realtor with Land Properties, Inc. She enjoys bowling and photography and hanging out with her best friend and sister, Barbara who, with her husband, Eddie Sandgren followed the Hines to the Ranch where they also live.

For three years the Women's Group has been recycling aluminum cans. Thanks, Janice, for faithfully, with the help of Barbara, hauling off those many sticky pounds to be recycled. She has earned several hundreds of dollars for the Women's Group and contributed to good citizenship as well. A special thanks also goes to the Hines for hosting the annual POA picnic each year on their property in *Gallinas Canyon, as they will do again this summer (SEE FLYER).

So you can see Janice is anything but your average, ordinary wife and mom with her fingers in so many pies. She does admit that the only thing missing at the moment are grandchildren but you have to wonder how she'd fit them into her busy life. Leave it to Janice; she will manage.

See you at the picnic and when you come, say hello to Janice, and all the Hines. They help make the Ranch a special place.

?Que Significa, *gallina*? Gallina means hen, chicken or coward. Pronounced gah-yee-nah; the double *ll*. in Spanish is pronounced *y*. On July 24 we will travel up Gallinas Parkway to Janice and Byron Hines's property where the annual POA picnic will be held. Cock or rooster is gallo. Ruben Cobos in A Dictionary of New Mexico and Southern Colorado Spanish, says *gallina de la tierra*, means turkey. Perhaps that definition applies to Exit 6 where presumably the Ranch Parkway derived its name.

Joyce Wolff, Editor
 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 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.

DIRECTORY

COLORADO DIVISION OF WILDLIFE

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



The bears are up and about for the season. Please remember to be cautious. If you come upon one talk to it gently, do not look him in the eye, and calmly raise your arms above your head to make yourself look bigger. Chances are he wants nothing to do with you either. As you hike you might talk to your companions or to yourself (Gretchen Shaw sings, "The Eyes of Texas are Upon You).

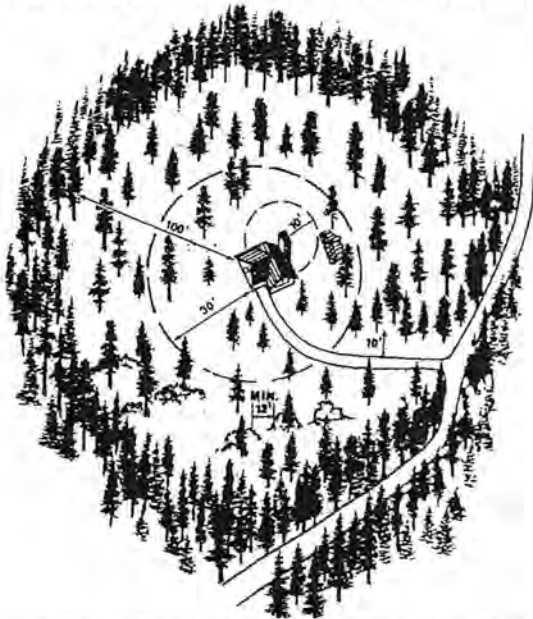
Remember to report a wildlife problem to Bob Holder immediately.

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



Consider this Defensible Space diagram from the CSFS

SAN ISABEL ELECTRIC (719) 846-2287
SANTA Fe Trail RANCH CARETAKER, CARL PUTZ
 Pager 738-5630 859-8487
SHERIFF'S OFFICE (719) 846-2211
 For any emergency, including fire
TRINIDAD ON LINE www.trinidadco.com

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. We also have three heavy folding banquet-type tables, three for \$5 per day.

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

SANTA FE TRAIL RANCH LOGOWEAR

A wide variety of logowear can be purchased at the picnic, with new items available.

"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 five designs: St. Aloysius Church at Morley, (The Bare Facts Issue 8; a black bear, Issue 9, a mountain lion, Issue 12, a coyote and a bull elk, Issue 13. The drawings were done for the Women's Group by Denver artist, Shad Roundy. 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, 407 N. Commercial, 719-846-3910 (The Country Cobbler) or Cindy Hulstine, 719-846-3500 (David's Construction).

WELCOME NEW ADVERTISER

TAMROCK is a new advertiser in The Bare Facts. We appreciate their support and we offer them ours. Please see the following pages for advertisers who continue to support The Bare Facts and the Women's Group.

A HEARTFELT THANKS

Tamrock Gravel Co.

OFFERING THE FINEST IN:

- ROAD BASE • SAND • GRAVEL • TOP SOIL
- DECORATIVE ROCK • LANDSCAPE STONE

CUSTOM SCREENING TO YOUR SPECIFICATIONS
 100FT. X 60FT. CERTIFIED WEIGHT SCALE
DELIVERY AVAILABLE ON ALL PRODUCTS LARGE OR SMALL

127 PLUM ST. TRINIDAD, CO. 81082
 (719) 846-3034
 HOME: 846-9483 • CELLULAR: 846-0095

GAMES PRIZES HORSEBACK RIDING HORSESHOES PRIZES HORSEBACK RIDING

SANTA FE TRAIL RANCH PROPERTY OWNERS PICNIC

Saturday 24 July 1999 11:00 a.m. (to beat the rain)

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

Please bring a Pot Luck Dish (per family) to share.

Hot Dogs, Brats and Pop available for sale.
(plates, utensils etc. provided)

\$5 family admission

Bring folding chairs and raingear.

Dogs on leashes, please!!!!

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

RAFFLE ITEMS (available by mail)

More at the Picnic

___ BEARS IN THE WOODS QUILT (described on the back of this flyer)

SFTR Logowear ___ Jacket ___ Sweatshirt ___ Tee Shirt (indicate size, s, m, l, xl)

___ Women's Group Cookbook ___ Notecards by Shad Roundy

We are offering raffle tickets by mail. Tickets cost \$1 each or 6 for \$5. Please indicate above which items you want the tickets applied to. We will mail your item if you win, did not attend and live out of town.

Send me _____ raffle tickets. Enclosed \$ _____ Payable to SFTR Women's Group

Name _____ Address _____

Town _____ State _____ Zip _____

Mail to Sandy Manifold, 409 N. Commercial, Trinidad, CO 81082

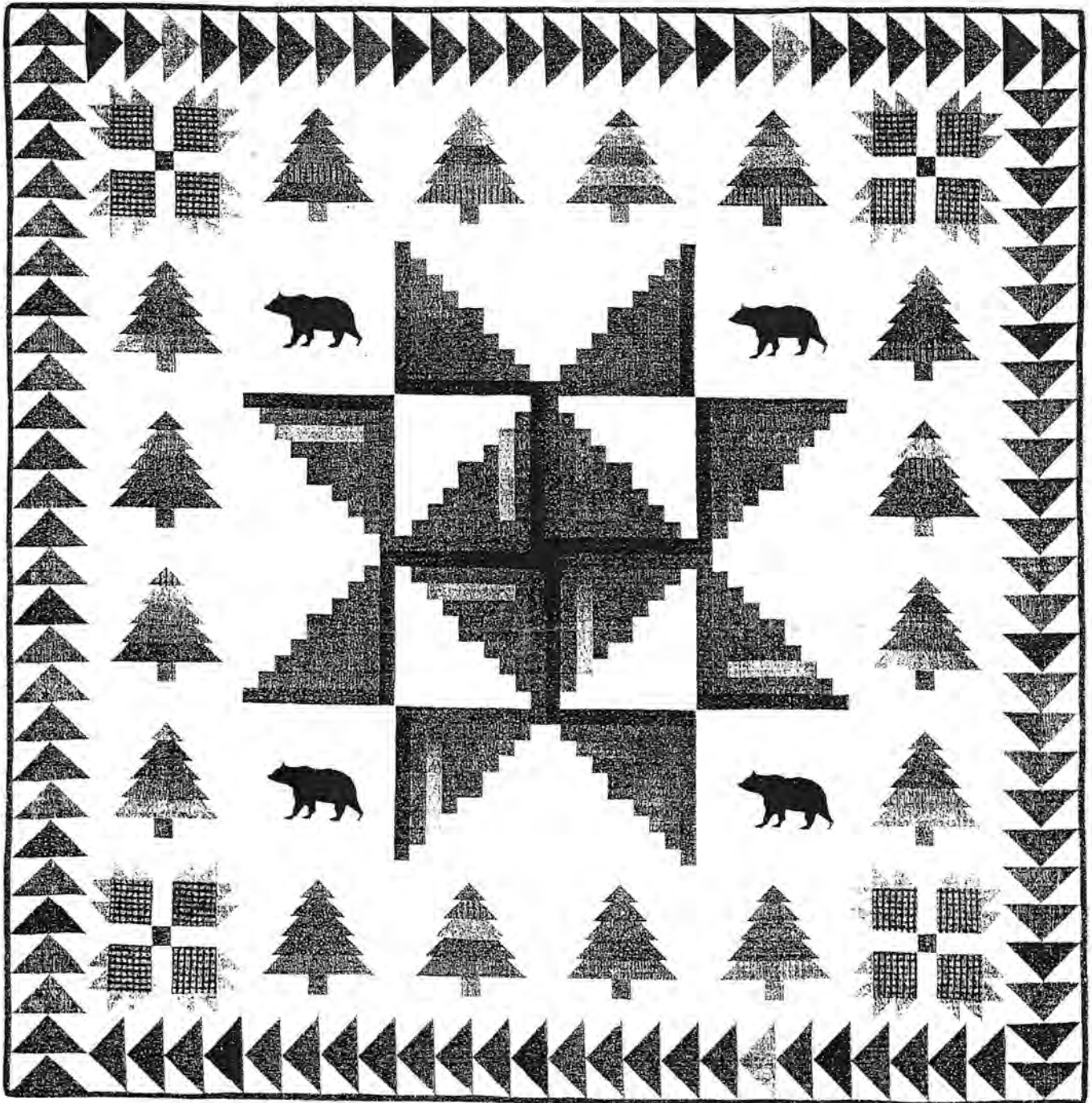
The picnic is sponsored by the Santa Fe Trail Ranch Women's Group

HORSEBACK RIDING
HORSESHOES
PHOTO CONTEST
RAFFLE
GOOD FOOD
GO SHOPPING
GAMES
PRIZES
HORSEBACK RIDING

HORSEBACK RIDING
HORSESHOES
PHOTO CONTEST
RAFFLE
GOOD FOOD
GO SHOPPING
GAMES
PRIZES
HORSEBACK RIDING

GO SHOPPING GAMES PRIZES HORSEBACK RIDING PHOTO CONTEST RAFFLE

THIS BEAUTIFUL QUILT COULD BE YOURS



Several talented women on the Ranch have formed a quilting group, *The Positive Piecers*. Their most ambitious project to date is this *Bears in the Woods* quilt which will be raffled at the POA picnic. Sue Downs, Dorothy Novakowski, Sandy Manifold, and Joyce Wolff under the guidance of Carolyn "Teach" Santoro spent well over 100 hours making the quilted piece which measures 84" x 84". It is done in a variety of blue, green, and brown fabrics on an ecru background. Raffle tickets are available at the picnic and by mail. See information on the reverse side.



THE BARE FACTS

News from the
Santa Fe Trail Ranch
Trinidad, Colorado

August 1999

Issue 15

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. We collect aluminum cans for recycling and non-perishable foods for The Pantry, at every meeting.

Visiting property owners are always welcome!

August	Cindy H. 7558 Pass Creek Court Monica Violante, Peggy Obrey
September	Peggy Obrey 35011 Alpine Meadows Gretchen Shaw, Joyce Wolf
October	Frances Purswell 35114 Ponderosa Ridge Sandy Manifold, Shari Schroeffer
November	Suzie Davis 32688 Owen Baldwin Parkway Jenni Mathews, Frances Purswell
December	Christmas Party to be announced!

More than 20 women attended the June meeting at Peggy Obrey's beautiful new home. How does she manage to shuttle back and forth from Aurora and still participate so whole heartedly in Women's Group activities? Welcome, Kristen Spinning and her mother Andrea Spinning from Tucson, Arizona, who were visiting their property and attended the meeting. And Priscilla is back. (see Ranch Bits)

GARAGE SALE

Shari Schroeffer reports that the Garage Sale earned \$860 dollars. The Women's Group will withhold 20% of the proceeds for its budget. The remainder in equal portions will go to the YMCA, specifically for their summer youth program, and to Noah's Ark Animal Welfare Association. Unsold clothing and some household goods were taken to the Women's Shelter and to Sincerely Sandi's thrift store, which gives goods away one day a week.

WE'VE BEEN REMISS

Linda Austin reminds us that we are contributing very little food to The Pantry. It's a small matter for us to bring a few items of non-perishable food to each meeting as we have agreed to do; it becomes an important matter for someone who is hungry.

THE RANCH ENTRANCE

• Dumpsters that discourage bears yet relatively attractive have been discussed and investigated for several years. The Women's Group has allotted \$1500 to help pay for a facility near the Ranch Entrance. Linda Meyers and June Stephens will work with the Road Committee. In the mean time heavy duty chain latches have been attached to the dumpsters. *Please keep them fastened.*

• Peggy Obrey and Joyce Wolff planted two barrels of flowers at the guard shack, and Walt Wolff did the "dirty" work. We understand the need to keep the entrance to the Ranch unobtrusive, so for now we will settle for these small patches of green.

PICNIC '99 REVISITED

This year the annual property owners picnic started at 11:00 am in order to beat the afternoon showers which did arrive on schedule at about 2:30, but property owners are hardy souls and many stayed on into the evening.

The Women's Group raffle produced the following happy winners. The beautiful Bears in the Woods quilt was won by Gary and Linda Allison from Muscatine, Iowa.

We owe Carolyn Santoro a heartfelt *thank you* for spending many hours organizing the quilting bees that produced the work and for quilting it. The winners have a treasure stitched with devotion.

Shad Roundy notecards	Sabrina Lukes Breckenridge, Colorado
Women's Group Cookbook	Ann Scott Albuquerque, NM
SFTR logo Jacket	Judy Anderson Santa Fe, New Mexico
SFTR logo Sweatshirt	Paul Richter Bristol, Wisconsin
SFTR logo T-shirt	Barbie Avis SFTR

Almost three dozen pictures capturing glimpses of the Santa Fe Trail Ranch were submitted for the 2000 Calendar photo contest. Gallinas Pond Reflection will be made into a puzzle for First Prize winner, Walt Wolff. Coincidentally, this particular picture will make a good puzzle because of the mirror image of trees in the water. Thank you contestants and congratulations to the four winners.

#1 Gallinas Pond Reflection	Walt Wolff
#2 Bear Cub	Walt Wolff
#3 Orange Sunset Clouds	Janice Hines
#4 Covered Wagon at Sunset	Joyce Wolff
#5 Yellow Sunset/Spanish Peaks	Janice Hines
#6 Wild Iris	Janice Hines
#7 Fisher's Peak	Joyce Wolff
#8 Fog in the Valley	Janice Hines
#9 Cows in Gallinas Canyon	Greg Beaumont
#10 Spanish Peak Sunset	Joyce Wolff
#11 Tom Turkey	Walt Wolff
#12 Fisher's Peak Rainbow	Janice Hines

Calendars should be pre-ordered from Janice Hines, SFTR, 6206 Meadow Ridge Lane, Trinidad, CO, 81082.

The 12 winning photos will be on display at the October POA meeting and calendars can also be ordered then. The calendars cost \$15, plus \$3 for postage if mailed.

Many thanks go to Janice and Byron Hines for their generosity. They have hosted the picnic on their Gallinas property for several years and Janice has been the picnic committee chairman. Byron spent hours mowing the meadow with the help of property owner, John Noard from Minnesota. The Hines make the picnic a special event each year.

Also thanks to the picnic committee; the women who minded the store, Cindy Hulstine, Sandy Manifold, Carolyn Santoro, Sue Downs and Jenni Mathews; the games organizer, Monica Violante; the folks who cooked the food, the people in the welcome tent and the people who brought food. And a special thanks to the property owners who came from all over the country. See you next year!!!

THE RANCH REVIEW

This quarterly publication keeps you up to date on the *business* side of the Ranch. Articles clarify and amplify the news from Board and Committee meetings. For a year's subscription mail \$5 to the Communications Committee, SFTR POA, P.O. Box 870, Trinidad, CO 81082.



911

In the past, residents have been encouraged to call the Las Animas County Sheriff's Office in ANY emergency. Although a 7 digit number this dispatch was faster than 911 because the 911 dispatcher was and still is located in Pueblo. The Pueblo dispatcher in turn notifies the Sheriff's Office here. However, when the new law enforcement building on east Main Street is finished, we will have a local 911 dispatch located there. In order to phase the public into using 911 the Sheriff's Office has requested that residents now use 911 for emergencies. Until the building is complete and the system is in place in Trinidad calls will still be dispatched from Pueblo. The Sheriff's Department wants to know if you encounter a problem with the 911 number. (See Directory)

FIRE CODE

The Las Animas County Uniform Fire Code prohibits an open fire anywhere in the County without a permit.

Those of us who live on the Ranch become extremely nervous when we see smoke. C.K. Morey (CSFS), Gene Downs, Paul Virscek and Carl Putz have continually tried to educate property owners about wildfire. But still this summer the Caretaker found a property owner burning illegally. We are a community in these woods and have a responsibility to our neighbors. Any property owner who sees smoke is going to call 911. Remember, any person who starts a wildfire is liable for the property that is lost.

PRIVATE PROPERTY NO TRESPASSING

Recently on a Sunday morning a Ranch resident saw a man in a car without a Ranch property owner sticker. The property owner appropriately asked the man if he was lost or needed help. The man said he just came in to drive around and have a look. The resident politely told him that it was private property and that if he was interested in looking at property he should contact a realtor. The man agreed to leave, but after the resident had driven away a short distance the man continued on into the Ranch. Our property owner, feeling this was not appropriate, followed the man and again asked him to leave. The man said he had a right to stay because the property, although marked "Private Property" was not posted "No Trespassing."

I called the Sheriff's Office for advice. A Deputy told me that the "Private Property" posting should be honored, it's all that is necessary, and that the man should have left. However, to enforce a charge of trespass in court, it would be advisable to also post private property, "No Trespassing." That indeed makes it clear that intruders can be prosecuted. (The appropriate sign should be installed soon.) He also advised that an intruder who appears to be suspicious should not be confronted. A call to the Sheriff's Office will bring a Deputy who can issue a citation. Always try to get a license plate and description of vehicles and passengers.

RANCH BITS

- Stan and Peggy Obrey's annual Fourth of July picnic was again delightful. This year the sizeable crowd (It's an open invitation to all property owners you know.) moved uphill to the front of the house where the extensive front landscaping, which includes a future fish pond and waterfall, is "in progress." Stan's grilled hamburgers and links and the plentiful and delicious potluck dishes, in typical Ranch fashion, provided a feast. It appears that this great affair is the official kick off to the rainy season. And although it didn't rain steadily as it did last year, picnickers scurried for shelter when the rain shower began. Thank you for a wonderful time! (And we needed the rain.)

- Welcome back Priscilla and Ray Opper, who were property owners several years ago, then sold their property to Ray's brother and his wife, and recently repurchased it. (It's hard to deny the lure of the Santa Fe Trail Ranch.) Priscilla and Ray both work at the Trinidad History Museum where Priscilla is in charge of volunteers. Anyone who has ever worked with her appreciates her cheerful supportive attitude and her ability to get the job done.

- Paul and Judy Anderson were here one minute and gone the next. They have relocated in Santa Fe and have bought a home there. We are sorry to see them go and will miss them, but they remain property owners and we hope that they will visit the Ranch frequently. We were happy to see them at the picnic where Judy won a SFTR logo jacket. Hope that prize is meaningful in their future plans.

- Paul and Barbie Avis have a new baby girl, born on 24 July.

- Byron and Janice Hines became Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation Habitat Partners in appreciation of the newly acquired Division of Wildlife Bosque del Oso at

Weston. Janice was recognized at the recent Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation banquet. An individual, family, or organization can become a Habitat Partner by contributing \$2,500 to the program. Monies collected locally are spent locally.

?Que Significa, bosque del oso? (bose kay del oh so) Now let's not always see the same hands. If you read an earlier issue of The Bare Facts, you already know that "oso" means bear. "Bosque" significa woods or forest. Bosque del Oso, Forest of the Bears.

WILDLIFE MATTERS

By Joyce Wolff, D.O.W. Volunteer
Reviewed by Bob Holder, D.O.W.

As I write this, the D.O.W. has set a trap for a bear in the north end of the Ranch after a resident complained of damage. A second resident wanted the bear removed just because he was concerned. The bear, also wandered into the Wolff's property for a photo op and nature lesson for four enthralled grandchildren. He was relatively small, sleek, slender, and black with a golden streak of hair running the length of his back. Officer, Bob Holder, said he is probably two years old. We hope he lives long enough to grow into those BIG feet. It seemed strange that he seemed so unwary of humans. If captured he will be relocated in the mountains around Westcliff.

This bear now has one strike against him and should he return, which is likely because bears do "go back," he will be destroyed if there is a second complaint. The first complaint sets the bear on the road to destruction. When lodging a bear complaint please make sure the complaint is serious enough to issue his death warrant. An oft stated pleasure from living on the Ranch is wildlife, which is already less abundant because of our presence. We need to bear some responsibility for their well being. And if that argument doesn't count consider the cost to the Colorado sportsman for time and transportation plus claims for damage. All these expenses come from fishing and hunting licenses.

To discourage bears put away bird feeders, at least at night, secure your trash so a bear can't get to it. It only takes one successful raid and the bear will associate food with humans and their habitation forever. Keep lower doors and windows closed AND latched.

There is a semi-happy ending to an unhappy incident which occurred last spring. A female bear (sow) was shot on the Ranch by a property owner. She had three tiny, nursing cubs who had escaped to the top of a Ponderosa. Bob put the dead mother in the trap to lure in the helpless babies. They found her body and tried to nurse. Oddly enough the plaintive cry of a baby bear sounds like, "mom, mom." The cubs were taken to a wildlife rehab center in Pueblo where they were cared for until late winter of this year. One cub didn't survive. Bob took the remaining two to the Bosque del Oso where he put them in a false den made of straw bales. Here they spent the rest of the winter in hibernation. By doing this they were not imprinted on humans and had a better chance of survival this spring. We hope they did.

The Stephens, on the other hand, are enjoying their frequent bear sightings along with a doe and new fawn

struggling to get its earth legs. And speaking of fawns or any wildlife baby, including birds, LEAVE THEM ALONE. The mother has not abandoned its young, "only humans do that." (A Holderism lifted from Bob's presentation at the Park this summer.) She will be back. Recently a resident found a fawn on a Ranch road, took it home, and called the D.O.W. Bob advised them to quickly return the fawn to the spot they had found it. They did and in a short time the baby had disappeared surely reunited with its parent. (Thanks, my friend, for sharing.) We are well meaning in our concern for these forest infants and most of us are trying to learn how to live with our wild neighbors. Wildlife rescuers say that most of their orphans are not, and should have been left in the wild. It is not true that the infant will not be accepted by the parent if it "smells of human"; the parent can get it cleaned up in no time.

Unless it's an *emergency*, wildlife problems should be directed to Holder on his cell phone number, 680-1410. He returns his calls promptly if he is not available at the moment. In an emergency call the State Patrol at 719 544 2424. They will contact a D.O.W. Officer by radio. The D.O.W. doesn't have an office in Trinidad and Bob works from his home.

GIMME A BREAK

One of the stated goals in Will Potter's Property Owners Guide is to be "good neighbors." So why not apply the brakes when you see a bit of debris in the road, toss it in your car (keep a few of those ubiquitous blue plastic bags in the back seat) and dispose of it properly. By recent reenactment it takes one minute max.

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	to	JULY	Day
Temp Mean	68°	--	71°	--
Temp High	96°	26	99°	2
Temp Low	43°	13	53°	10
Wind Spd. Average	6.5 mph	--	4.9mph	--
Wind Spd. Hi	56 mph	2	43 mph	2
Rain	.6"	--	3.58"	--

Trinidad Reservoir rose 33 vertical feet between April 30th and May 13. On July 7th it reached an all-time high of 6230.19 ft. The lake continues at a high of 6229.23ft. as of 27 July.

Since the boat ramp is underwater it has been difficult to launch larger boats and fishing from shore has been almost impossible. The shore line has advanced into trees and shrubs. The coniferous trees will not live long if their roots are under water because they obtain oxygen from their roots. They will drown.

The good news the lake is now clear and fishing should improve shortly.

WOMEN'S GROUP INTRODUCES

Dorothy Novakowski

Joyce Wolff

In the last issue of *The Bare Facts* we profiled Janice Hines: a long overdue introduction. This one is as well.

Most property owners have already met Dorothy and have enjoyed her gracious hospitality. This chipper friendly woman was the original Ranch hostess. She and Ted, as practically the first residents on the Ranch, have opened their beautiful log home to countless visitors driving around the Ranch with an eye to relocating here or buying property. The Novakowskis were always willing to spend time showing their home and answering countless questions from prospective buyers. I frequently hear, "Oh yes, we know the Novakowskis; we stopped at their house." And when some of those stays lasted too long and some of those questions had been asked and answered dozens of times, they remained endlessly gracious. If you didn't meet Dorothy while touring, you have probably found her on Owen Baldwin Parkway, rain or shine, walking miles with the yellow Lab, Brandy.

She was born in Mansfield, Ohio, and attended Marian College in Indianapolis. While she was in high school and when she came home periodically from college she worked part time at Sears, which she thought was more interesting than working with her father in his store down the street. And at Sears she met Ted. (Those catalogues carry just about everything.) They were married; he continued to work for Sears, and they moved from Chicago to New York/New Jersey and back, throughout the next thirty or so years.

During these years Dorothy was a homemaker and became mother to two boys and two girls. One of her six grandchildren (the most recent arrival, James, born this spring.) is T.J., who comes to visit each summer and is a third generation Theodore Joseph. Dorothy has just returned from her annual trip east to care for two grandchildren while the parents vacation.

Dorothy and Ted, knowing that they wanted to move west, had been visiting Colorado for several years to find the perfect place to retire. After seeing the property advertised in the *Wall Street Journal*, they chose the Santa Fe Trail Ranch. Circumstances allowed them to move here sooner than they had hoped. After living in a Trinidad motel the final weeks of house building they moved to their log home, "Bear Canyon Ranch," with views, that Ted finds more grand than the one from his office on the 50th floor of the Sears Tower.

Dorothy has a straightforward and sensible attitude about living on the Ranch: an attitude some of us find harder to adopt. The aptly named, Bear Canyon Ranch, sits on the edge of a canyon: home to bears who visit the property - sometimes daily. Dorothy enjoys watching their comings and goings, not making a fuss over their occasional annoyances, like ripping off the slider door screen. When she found a rattlesnake in the road, she simply said, "He warned me." Dorothy remained calm when lightning struck a large dead tree a few feet from the house and flying debris shattered the large plate glass window in the next room. When the roads are snow packed and muddy they just stay put.

Dorothy seems unaware of her many talents. She loves working with her hands and creates beautiful needlework. The cross-stitch projects, little paintings, and quilted pieces that decorate her home demonstrate her skill. She began quilting last year with *The Positive Piecers* here on the Ranch and worked for hours on the "Bears in the Woods" quilt that was raffled at the POA picnic last month. She is a volunteer for the Trinidad History Museum.

Having dinner at the Novakowski's is a treat. The food is so delicious and so generous that we don't eat at all the following day and the third day we enjoy what she has sent home with us.

You will never meet a more cheerful heart than Dorothy. She is always there when she is needed and if I'm ever in trouble, I want her on my side. We know there is a "For Sale" sign on your property - you're ready for new things, but if and when you do leave, the Ranch will not be the same. Thank you, both, for your generosity and grace.

Joyce Wolff, Editor
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* 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.

DIRECTORY

COLORADO DIVISION OF WILDLIFE

Officer Bob Holder (719) 680-1410

CSU EXTENSION AGENT

Las Animas County Courthouse (719) 846-4257

email: lasanima@coop.ext.colostate.edu

COLORADO STATE FOREST SERVICE

County Forester, C.K. Morey in La Veta (719) 742-3588

email: csfslv@rmi.net

SAN ISABEL ELECTRIC

(719) 846-2287

SHERIFF'S OFFICE

(719) 846-2211

TRINIDAD ON LINE

www.trinidadco.com

SHOPPER'S PAGES

WOMEN'S GROUP CANOPY is available for rent for \$20 per day. It is 20' x 10' and easy to put up. We also have three heavy folding banquet-type tables, three for \$5 per day. Call Sue Downs.

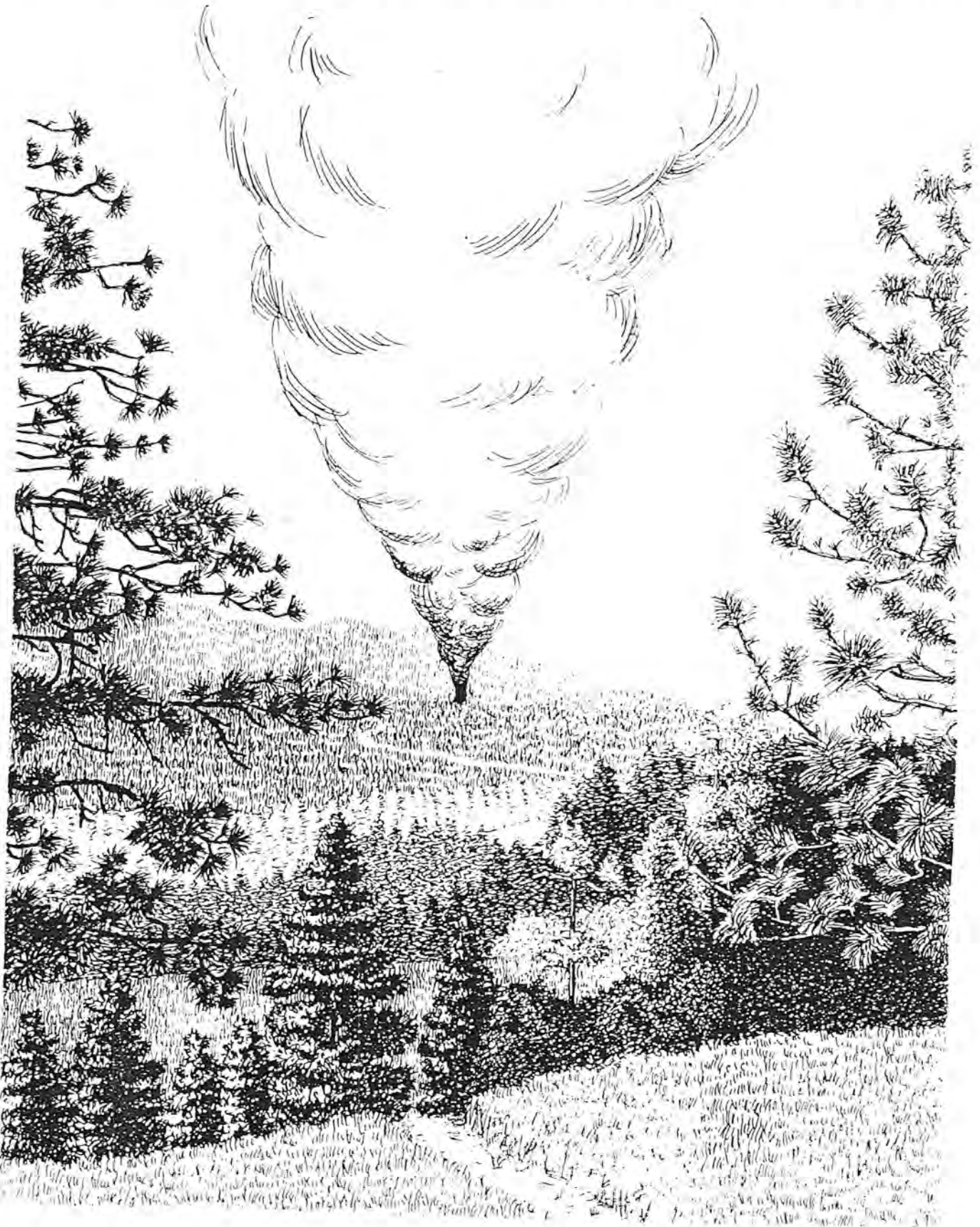
WOMEN'S GROUP 2000 CALENDAR should be preordered from Janice Hines, SFTR, 6206 Meadow Ridge Lane, Trinidad, CO, 81082. (See Picnic '99 Revisited, page 1) \$15 plus \$3 postage.

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 must for new property owners.

SANTA FE TRAIL RANCH LOGOWEAR

A wide variety of logowear can be purchased by mail and will be available at the POA general meeting in October.

“I thought it was out”





THE BARE FACTS

News from the
Santa Fe Trail Ranch
Trinidad, Colorado

October 1999

Issue 16

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. We collect aluminum cans for recycling and non-perishable foods for the Salvation Army, at every meeting.

Visiting property owners are always welcome!

October 23 Frances Purswell
35114 Ponderosa Ridge
Sandy Manifold, Shari Schroepfer
Celebrating Francie's new home!

December 11* Suzie Davis
32688 Owen Baldwin Parkway
Jenni Mathews, Frances Purswell

**PLEASE NOTE THAT THE NOVEMBER MEETING
HAS BEEN MOVED INTO DECEMBER**

December Christmas Party to be announced!.

From now on the minutes from the Women's Group meetings will be available in the POA information box on the gatehouse.

AUGUST MEETING Visitors at the August meeting were Harriet Vaugeois from California (her second meeting) and Karen Miner from Texas. In an earlier issue we mentioned that the Miner's daughter had been seriously hurt in an auto accident earlier this year as the family returned to Texas. We are happy to report that she is doing very well, has a positive attitude, works hard at her therapy and has returned to work part time, according to Simone Potter.

SEPTEMBER MEETING Special guest, Paul Vircsik, southern California firefighter and property owner, spoke about fire prevention. He is on the Ranch till 3 October. (See Wildfire Words from Paul next page.)

RED CROSS CHAPTER FORMS

A local Chapter of the Red Cross has been organized. They are currently addressing problems that may occur with Y2K and will offer a disaster training session in October. For more information call Karin Gieske

NRA HAND GUN CLASS

The NRA through Trinidad State Junior College is offering a college-level handgun class in October. For more information call 846-5631.

HOSPITALITY

• The Hospitality Committee asks that the Women's Group bring cookies to the Town Meeting on Friday, October 15 at 7:00 p.m. or to the General Meeting on Saturday, October 16 at 9:00 a.m. We will serve refreshments in the foyer of Massari Hall.

• The Women's Group agreed to help the Trinidad History Museum (THM) with refreshments this year in honor of the Santa Fe Trail Museum. The THM is having a Halloween Special Event. Here's what Paula Manini says.

"A Night of Fright: Ghosts, Murders and Hangings from Trinidad's Past is a Halloween program in the Baca House and Bloom Mansion. Storytellers dramatize legends and real-life events from Trinidad's dark side. Mary Sue Mangino is putting it all together. Performances are October 29 and 30, at 4, 6, and 8 p.m. Tickets for volunteers and a guest are \$8 (vs. \$10). Seating is limited, so call to sign up to help. This program is not recommended for young children or the faint of heart! We need volunteers to serve refreshment and bakers for seasonal treats."

Mary Sue Mangino was the creator of the outstanding Christmas program, "A Trinidad Christmas 1873," performed in the unfinished SFT Museum in December 1997. She wrote and directed that play and played a role as well. The Halloween event promises to be one of those "gems" that we find more and more often in Trinidad. Don't miss it!

If you can bake a "seasonal treat" or help set up or serve please tell Joyce, Sue, June or Priscilla Opper at the Museum. There will be a sign-up sheet in the information box at the Ranch entrance.

THANKS

Thank you, Paula Manini, at the THM for saving us the aluminum pop cans from the Friends of Trinidad annual picnic.

TOWN MEETING

Jim Davis explains that the purpose of the Town Meeting is to give property owners the chance to raise questions and address issues about Ranch matters. By covering this ground on Friday the Saturday meeting can proceed on schedule with fewer interruptions.

YEA OR NAY, BUT VOTE

He also reminds members to mail in their vote or appoint a proxy if necessary as soon as possible. In order to conduct some orders of business that day property owners representing 60% of all the properties on the Ranch must vote. When or if you attend the meeting and want to change your ballot you can always retrieve it anytime prior to the ballot counting.

YEAR 2000 CALENDAR

The Y2000 calendars, commemorating, in 12 photographs, life on the Santa Fe Trail Ranch will be available for purchase at the October General Meeting. Janice Hines arranged the photo contest held at the Annual Picnic in July when the winning photos were chosen by ballot. Calendars cost \$15 and can be mailed for an additional \$3.20. You can preorder from Janice at 845-9867, or by mail, 6206 Meadow Ridge Lane, Trinidad, CO 81082.

ERROR

My apology to Greg Beaumont, who submitted Orange Sunset Clouds. He was not given credit for his photo which placed third in the calendar photo contest. He also won ninth place with Cows in Gallinas Canyon.

THE RANCH ENTRANCE

Linda Meyers, who is working with the Road Committee, reports that the bear-proof latches on the dumpsters are working well. (As long as they are latched.) The Ranch is growing so fast that more dumpsters will soon be necessary and plans to improve the area are not firm yet. The Women's Group decided to rescind its offer of \$1500 until the money is needed at a later date. The bulletin board behind the mail boxes is under construction and will be a helpful addition.

TRINIDADIO BLUES FESTIVAL

The highlight of the Trinidad summer season was the First Annual "Trinidadio Blues Festival and Cultural Fest," beautifully orchestrated by our own POA Board Member, Neil Sexton: in real life co-owner of Colorado Card and Curiosities.

Neil put together an impressive program of well known blues musicians from around the country. Over 800 tickets were sold to the event co-sponsored by the Trinidad Arts Council and the Main Street Group, both non-profit local civic organizations. One hundred and fifty VIP tickets, provided added privileges for those ticket holders, including a special welcome at the Mitchell Museum which also benefited from the Festival.

Audrey Forcier organized the Cultural Fest and invited nearly 20 artists and artisans to display their wide spectrum of work including studio jewelry, sculpture, woodwork, textiles and glass.

The day long event was held outdoors at the Elm Street Station Restaurant which sits pleasantly beside the Purgatoire River. Festival food included a special menu served in the restaurant's beer garden, and fare from the Main Street Bakery booth.

The attractive building built in 1924 was originally the C&S Railroad Depot and later the Burlington Northern Station. The Trinidad Trolley driver used to point out that the then vacant and rundown building was a Trinidad treasure waiting for someone to renovate it. He must be delighted to see his wish and prediction come true. Hurray, the little Trolley was running again toward the end of this summer.

And remember, the Trinidadio Blues Festival and Cultural Fest is the first annual; it's already on the calendar for Y2000. Until then you can satisfy your blues craving by tuning in to Neil "Trinidadio" Sexton every Wednesday

evening on the Trinidad radio station, KCRT (92.5 FM) at 7:00 p.m. when the man plays the blues.

Thank you, Neil, Audrey, and the many supporters for providing this musical treat which has received rave reviews from everyone.

It's exciting to live in Trinidad* and watch the rebirth of this delightful little town. Santa Fe Trail Ranch property owners are contributing substantially to this happening.

*?Que Significa, trinidad? Trinidad means trinity, but so far no one knows why the trail town was named that. In the Santa Fe Trail Museum there is a panel titled History Mystery that offers some possibilities. One is that a cowboy named it for his girlfriend, Trinidad, and although that is a romantic idea it probably is the least likely. Another is that it was named for Trinidad founding father Felipe Baca's daughter, but the Bacas didn't have a daughter named Trinidad. He did have a sister with that name. A third explanation is simply that, since southwest villages and settlements were frequently given religious names, someone just suggested one hot dusty day to call the town Trinidad. You can choose your favorite version.

CLICK ON THIS

Allen Beal, a teacher at Trinidad State Junior College and website designer, is justly proud of his website that you can use as an excellent start-up page. He continually updates, upgrades and recently added 50 new links any of which you can reach with just a click. He has designed websites for several Colorado clients. And the music is guaranteed to cheer you up, pep you up or calm you down.

www.bewellnet.com/allenbeal/

THE RANCH REVIEW

This quarterly publication keeps you up to date on the business side of the Ranch. Articles clarify and amplify the news from Board and Committee meetings. For a year's subscription mail \$5 to the Communications Committee, SFTR POA, P.O. Box 870, Trinidad, CO 81082.



Editor, Carol Rawle needs help!

WILDFIRE WORDS FROM PAUL

Southern California firefighter and property owner, Paul Vircsik, owns a consulting business called, Firescape and frequently writes for The Bare Facts. He responded to the news in the last issue about illegal fires on the Ranch. He investigated Colorado's provisions for liability and explains that it extends far beyond the value of the destroyed property. Here is what he writes.

If the fire is caused by carelessness, arson, intentionally set, or while breaking a law or ordinance, the guilty party can be held responsible for all costs incurred for putting the fire out. That includes firefighters,

equipment, engines, aircraft, management, and support needs (food, medical, housing, etc.). An engine company and engine can cost an average of \$500 an hour, an aircraft \$1000 an hour and \$1000 for each load of retardant. One fire can cost \$100,000 a day and can cost millions by the time the fire is put out. To fight a large fire (500 acres and up) requires a small town's worth of management, manpower and equipment. Thousands of people will be involved.

Paul has arranged with Bill Black, at Fire Etc., 266 - 11th Ave., San Diego, CA 92101, to sell property owners (no profit to Paul) a fire fighting unit (portable or not as you choose) that allows you to pump water from a water source like a cistern. Paul points out that similar units have adequate pressure but not enough volume or adequate volume but not enough pressure. This unit provides enough of both to fight a fire on your property or in your home. (Three hundred gallons of water will last about ten minutes.) It comes with 100 ft. of hose and will direct water about 50 ft. as demonstrated this summer by Paul at the Gallinas pond. Will Potter, Jim Davis and Walt Wolff have each bought one of these units and can provide more information. The portable unit is easy to lift into a truck bed and along with a water tank creates a fire engine.

The pumps are delivered by truck to Trinidad on pallets so buyers can save shipping charges by going together on an order.

Paul feels that most property owners don't realize how long it will take a fire truck to arrive at your home. It is imperative to be prepared to fight the fire yourself, at least in the first and critical stages. (See next story.)

Paul will visit your property and make an assessment of your needs to help prevent the loss of your home to fire. He will also tour your house, study floor plans and make suggestions. His fee for this is very reasonable. He is on the Ranch until 3 October and you can find him on his property: the only driveway on Currant Court. Paul is passionate about keeping us educated and we should take advantage of his expertise.

SPEAKING OF FIRE - OR

*if your friends ask you over for
leg-of-lamb...don't go.*

In August Francie Purswell and Paul Montoya had a fiery close encounter. "We really had a barbecue," Francie said, when guests, Merle and Dot Prestwood's 1998 Oldsmobile mini-van which was parked directly next to the house, caught fire. Paul saw smoke coming from under the engine as he was showing the Prestwoods and the Downs how his five new kittens follow him around like puppies. Had he not been showing off his precocious new babies the car would have been on fire and would certainly have ignited the brand new 5600 sq. ft. log home while guests enjoyed leg-of-lamb, unaware that there was much more cooking outside.

After its discovery the fire progressed very fast. The heat from the smoldering fire had already burned the wires to the hood latch so the hood could not be raised.*

*If you suspect that your engine is on fire pop the hood release immediately.

Merle was in the car when it burst into flame but he was not hurt. Paul and his son, Steve, a firefighter from Aquilar, hurriedly towed the burning vehicle away from the house. By then the car was enveloped in flame. (Paul Vircsik points out that a vehicle in full flame, as this one quickly was, cannot be extinguished with a garden hose.)

Steve used his radio to call the Trinidad dispatcher, who happened to be Carl Putz. Carl was able to provide the Fisher Peak firefighters with directions to the fire and they were on the scene in less than 45 minutes. Considering that it takes at least 30 minutes to travel from town to that section of the Ranch; they made excellent time. A fire truck can weigh 30,000 pounds and travels relatively slowly. Try to imagine waiting helplessly for 30-45 minutes until help arrives: a lifetime! It points out the need to be prepared.

Meanwhile Steve and Paul went to Carl Putz's home for the Ranch fire truck, by the time they returned, the car was still flaming but completely destroyed. David Hulstine saw the smoke from his home on Overlook Drive and called the dispatcher for more information then arrived with a professional fire fighting extinguisher. By then all that could be done was to keep the surrounding area free of sparks and flare-ups in the trees and brush. Shattered glass was thrown over the house and for yards in all directions and the closest trees were scorched.

Fortunately the gas tank didn't explode. Merle had filled it that day. Paul explains it's the vapor in a gas tank that can explode, not the gasoline. When the gas line burns through the leaking gas adds fuel to the fire. The only thing left of the car was the charred gray frame so it was impossible to tell what started the fire.

RANCH BITS

- Happy birthday to who? Well, Al Tucker thought it was Stan Obrey's birthday but Stan and the rest of us knew it was really Al's Big 50. The Obreys had a surprise birthday party and the Ranch was invited. Peggy and Stan are host and hostess to the max.
- Bob Santoro, and his passenger, Carolyn, won second place in the "Cars 1950 - Newer" category in the Las Animas County Fair parade, held on Labor Day. His winning entry was a 1953 Willys truck completely restored, in California by their son, Michael.
- Edith Lind is off for Florida once more, to pursue a new treatment for her particular kind of macular degeneration. The procedure, developed in Europe, may be approved by the FDA this month, although that may not happen until next year. Edith is a courageous, uncomplaining woman with a remarkable attitude. She is an inspiration. Our prayers go with you, Edith.
- Priscilla Opper will be the Volunteer Coordinator again next summer at the THS. She and Ray both work there and encourage volunteers.
- Sue Downs finished her first year as a volunteer at the museum. Oh, and by the way, we hear that Sue is eligible to start collecting Social Security. Oh you kid!

**FOUND: A PAIR OF MEN'S PRESCRIPTION
SUNGLASSES AT THE PICNIC - CALL JANICE
HINES 719 845-0868**

WILDLIFE MATTERS

By Joyce Wolff, D.O.W. Volunteer

That rat-a-tat-tat you hear hammering away on your house is probably a flicker (a woodpecker), a common year-round resident of the Ranch. As a number of you have already learned he has a bad reputation because of his instinct to drill holes in your wood siding.

In early spring the male is probably drumming to attract a female (he can't sing) and if he happens to be drumming on your down spout he gets your immediate attention. The trouble begins when the pair decides that they will excavate a cavity (This bird is one of many species called cavity nesters.) into your house and set up house keeping.



Sketch courtesy of Patricia Stein from *Atlas of Breeding Birds of Los Alamos County, New Mexico*, Los Alamos Pajarito Ornithological Survey, Los Alamos National Laboratory 1992

In the fall flickers begin to excavate roost cavities, especially if there are no snags available. I've known for years that all this carpentry upsets people a great deal and causes a lot of frustration because these guys are persistent and destructive. The macho homeowner has been known to "blow him away," but that is extreme and illegal. Try a gentler approach.

Diane Rader shares an entertaining and informative website, (See Directory) that provides good information about northern flickers and suggestions for discouraging them. If you are bothered by flickers and don't have access to email I will share my copy with you.

One suggestion is to build the birds a nest box, distracting them from your siding and saving them the trouble of building their own. It works. Walt built a flicker box many years ago and although we have never had a family reared there, we have flickers in and out continually. The box is in a tree outside an upstairs window and we have a perfect eye level view of their comings and goings.

Fall is the time to build nest boxes in order to get them in place for spring. Several species of birds are already getting a jump on spring by investigating Walt's newly built bluebird house (7558 1/4 Overlook) on our gate post. They also prefer their houses weathered a bit. In my

experience birds are not attracted to cute little gingerbread chalets. Those are fun to look at but will probably only serve as a decoration for your tree.

A roost box for a particular species of bird is built to the same specifications as a nest box. Only the position of the entrance is different: high in the box for nesting and low for roosting. Dowels are put in the roost box. Many local birds readily use boxes. A bluebird nest box is popular with many species. In past years on the Ranch, our nest box, built to bluebird specs, has housed three families of chickadees, and last spring, bluebirds. In this same box in previous years in New Mexico an ash-throated flycatcher and a Bewicks wren reared families. Different species can be fussy about the size of the box, especially the diameter of the entrance, so it's wise to build it according to particular specs. Call me for more information.

- Please note the addition of Operation Game Thief to the Directory. 1-800-332-4155
- Snakes and bears are everywhere. Bring in the dog food and bird feeders and degrease the barbecue. An ABC morning show guest says bears don't like the smell (Who can blame them.). Try leaving an ammonia saturated cloth in a can on or near the barbecue, but don't put it on a surface that will be damaged if it gets knocked over. Let me know if you think this works.

OCTOBER 3RD IS WORLD ANIMAL DAY.
CELEBRATE WITH KELSEY GRAMMER ON THE
ANIMAL PLANET CHANNEL

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	to	27	SEPTEMBER
		Day	Day	Day
Temp Mean	69°	--	61°	--
Temp High	87°	28	84°	72
Temp Low	43°	4	40°	22
Wind Spd. Average	5 mph	--	4 mph	--
Wind Spd. Hi	38 mph	14	37 mph	1
Rain	6"	--	1"	--

Have you noticed that the meteorological term scattered showers is well demonstrated here on the Ranch? It may be sprinkling in the front yard but not the back, or in the canyon behind the house, but not in the valley in front. Fisher's Peak will disappear in mist while the sun is shining then reappear with only its top visible above a fog bank. The rain and fog patterns, as they move along Highway 12, up hill and down, over and around the foothills, have captured our imaginations with their caprice.



WOMEN'S GROUP INTRODUCES

Frances Purswell

Joyce Wolff

We're catching up on introductions to women who have been constantly on the scene and involved in Ranch activities for years. Francie has been the guardian angel, problem solver and friend to many grateful property owners since she arrived in Trinidad. She has fed us, housed us and kept up our spirits with her cheerful attitude and engaging giggle.

Francie was born in West Virginia and lived there until she graduated from high school and decided to see the country. She lived in San Diego then moved to Craig, Colorado and on to the Denver area. She was looking for a special place to build a Colorado home when she found the Santa Fe Trail Ranch advertised in USA Today. She was one of the first owners, buying her property in the late eighties, and lived in her fifth wheel trailer in town when she visited her property. When the Denver company where she worked downsized she knew it was time to move to Trinidad. But first she passed the Colorado Real Estate Boards, which a Land Properties Inc. (LPI) friend had encouraged her to do. With that accomplished she started a new career in real estate and went to work for LPI. After a few years she left Land to buy the well established Higbee Realty, which she owns and operates.

She soon met Paul Montoya, a lifelong native of southern Colorado; they became "an item" and still are. Paul and Francie own PM Quality Homes and Paul so naturally built their own beautiful log home.

They began by creating defensible space. They and surrounding neighbors are grateful given the recent close call. The location of the house on the lot proves that the view from Fisher's Peak to the south end of Raton Mesa is one of the best and the decks that surround the house take advantage. Paul and his crew finished the house in just two years; a remarkable feat since Paul was working full time building other people's homes as well. He was set back last fall with a serious health problem, but he has regained his strength, looks wonderful: the old Paul. His many friends are most grateful.

The Purswell-Montoyas moved into their large comfortable home last month. Francie has a knack for creating comfortable space filled with interesting and tasteful touches like the little child's wagon filled with toys.

Francie is an excellent cook, collects cookbooks and will always share recipes and cooking secrets. Now she has a dream kitchen to play in. The interesting cabinets are hickory and each drawer front is carved in a southwest pattern. Not only did she contribute numerous recipes to the Women's Group cookbook) but spent days typing the recipes (as did several others) for submission to the publisher.

Always generous and involved with the project and, she offered the use of her Higbee office for preparation of the cookbook, provides desk space for folding and stamping The Bare Facts, and allows use of her telephones for property owners who pop into her downtown office. Each fall we use her office to plea long distance with property owners to vote on issues at the annual general POA meeting. We love you Frances!

Joyce Wolff, Editor
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 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.

DIRECTORY

COLORADO DIVISION OF WILDLIFE

Officer Bob Holder (719) 680-1410

CSU EXTENSION AGENT

Las Animas County Courthouse (719) 846-4257

lasanima@coop.ext.colostate.edu

COLORADO STATE FOREST SERVICE

County Forester, C.K. Morey in La Veta (719) 742-3588
csfslv@rmi.net

FLICKERS www.picapro.com/picapro/flickerfacts.htm

SAN ISABEL ELECTRIC (719) 846-2287

SHERIFF'S OFFICE (719) 846-2211

TRINIDAD ON LINE www.trinidadco.com

www.bewellnet.com/allenbeal/

SHOPPER'S PAGES

"Looking for Stocking Stuffers?"

SALE SALE SALE SALE SALE SALE SALE SALE

"WE'VE COME A LONG WAY," the Women's Group cookbook, is a collection of 300 recipes from property owners around the country. But we overstocked and will sell them for \$7 a savings of \$3. This little cookbook makes an excellent gift for your Ranch guests. Still costs \$3 to mail 1 or 2 copies.

SALE SALE SALE SALE SALE SALE SALE SALE

WOMEN'S GROUP CANOPY is available for rent for \$20 per day. It is 20' x 10' and easy to put up. We also have three sturdy folding banquet-type tables, three for \$5 per day. Call Sue Downs.

START THE MILLENIUM WITH A

WOMEN'S GROUP 2000 CALENDAR. Order from Janice Hines, SFTR, 6206 Meadow Ridge Lane, Trinidad, CO, 81082. (See Year 2000 Calendar Page 2) The calendars will be on sale at the October 16 General Meeting, \$15 (plus \$3.20 postage).

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 must for new property owners, and those of us who still get lost.

SANTA FE TRAIL RANCH LOGOWEAR

A wide variety of logowear can be purchased by mail and will be available at the POA general meeting in October.

NOTE CARDS BY SHAD ROUNDY

The beautiful notes cards shown below will be available for sale at the October general meeting or by mail. They were drawn especially for the Women's Group by Denver artist, Shad Roundy: Joanne and Vaughn's son. The pen and ink cards are black on a cream background, each with envelope. They are suitable for framing and cost \$10 for 10, plus \$1.25 postage per package. A fifth sketch is St. Aloysius church, now in ruin at Morley, the ghost town that adjoins the SFT Ranch.



Order these fundraiser items from Sandy Manifold, 407 N. Commercial, 719-846-3910 (The Country Cobbler) or Cindy Hulstine, 719-846-3500 (David's Construction).

A HEARTFELT THANKS TO OUR ADVERTISERS

CONGRATULATIONS VIVATIONS

"Vivations Salon and Day Spa," is ready to pamper you and meet your every beauty need. Vivations owner, Lena Abeyta, Brenda Baca and Mary Grace Tamburelli-Wilson have closed the doors of The Mane Event and moved to 916 Arizona with a completely newly furnished and decorated salon and spa. Your friends on the Santa Fe Trail Ranch, Carolyn Santoro, Sue Downs, Francie Purswell, Joyce Wolff and Walt Wolff have given you a one year ad and subscription to The Bare Facts.

The best of luck!

Now Open

Vivations Salon and Day Spa

Owned and operated by Lena Abeyta
916 Arizona Avenue
846-9201

Offering Private Parking and Extended Services

- ♥ Hair
- ♥ Nails
- ♥ Pedicures
- ♥ Body Massage
- ♥ Body Waxing
- ♥ Electrolysis
- ♥ Facials
- ♥ Skin Care
- ♥ Body Wraps
- ♥ Tanning
- ♥ And Much, Much More!

Introducing

Stylist, Corring Guara

Massage Therapist, Henrietta Butler

Electrolysis, Susan Lang

They join the same great stylists

Lena Abeyta

Mary Grace Tamborelli-Wilson

Brenda Baca.

846-9201

For appointments Monday - Saturday 9:00 am till ???
Evening Appointments Available Walk-ins Welcome!

Southern Colorado Builders Association (SCBA)

Local builders and associated businesses have formed, SCBA, a new chapter of the National Association of Home Builders. Frances Purswell and Paul Montoya, property owners who own and operate PM Quality Homes, are members of the organization)

Member associations and businesses must conform to rigid standards in order to qualify for membership. All builders must be bonded. The SCBA not only includes building contractors, but real estate agencies, banks who provide construction loans, businesses who sell appliances and finishing needs, and crafts including electricians and plumbers. SCBA provides access to reputable, dependable businesses and associations in Southern Colorado.

For more information call Francie at PM Quality Homes. (See PM Quality Home ad on the next page.)



THE BARE FACTS

News from the
Santa Fe Trail Ranch
Trinidad, Colorado

December 1999

Issue 17

WOMENS GROUP NEWS

WOMEN'S GROUP MEETINGS

Meetings are held once a month at 9:30 a.m. on the third Saturday of each month. An announcement is posted on the Ranch Bulletin Board behind the mail boxes.

We collect aluminum cans for recycling and non-perishable foods for the Salvation Army, at every meeting.

Visiting property owners are always welcome!

December 11	Suzie Davis 32688 Owen Baldwin Parkway Jenni Mathews, Frances Purswell
January	Sue Downs 35311 Elk Ridge Trail Joyce Wolff

DECEMBER FESTIVITIES

3 December Sue Downs and Carolyn Santoro are planning the Ranch Christmas Party. This year there is no admission cost. Rental for the Mitchell Museum will be paid by the Women's Group. Please bring an hor d'oeuvre or dessert. They ask that you bring an unwrapped toy for distribution to underprivileged children. If you'd like to participate in the gift exchange, which is a lot of fun, please bring a wrapped gift per person costing no more than \$5. Everyone is WELCOME!

Please see enclosed flyer for details.

3 December The First National Bank of Trinidad provides community members with a delightful gift calendar each year. From 9am - 3pm at the Bank on corner of Commercial and Main, Bank personnel will distribute the calendars and provide a reception for the artist and authors. The artwork is always appropriate to the area and the calendars become historical keepsakes as well. The Women's Group also thanks the First National for its support of The Bare Facts. (see advertisement)

9 December A Christmas Carol at the Shuler Theatre in Raton.

11 December Women's Group meeting (see above)

11 December Suzie and Jim Davis are hosting a farewell party for Ted and Dorothy Novakowski. This is an opportunity to say thank you, good bye and offer best wishes.

Please see the enclosed flyer for details.

Christmas Bells

The Salvation Army has asked the Women's Group if anyone can spend a few hours ringing the Christmas Bells at Wal-Mart during the Holiday Season. Call Linda Austin for complete information.

Hometown Holidays

June Stephens and Barbara Sandgren did some power shopping by turning the Women's Group allotted \$50 into dozens of little gifts for Santa to give away during the Main Street Group sponsored Hometown Holidays. Barbara, June, Janice Hines, Janet Woods, Sandy Manifold and Joyce Wolff helped Mrs. Claus by wrapping over 200 gifts including some donated by other organizations.

Y2000 Calendars

Janice Hines will have the Y2000 calendars at the Christmas Party, 3 December, and at the Women's Group Coffee, 11 December. The calendars contain 12 scenes from around the Ranch taken by property owners. They'll make wonderful stocking stuffers for family and friends back home. You can also order them from Janice (\$15 plus \$3.20 to mail) 719 845-9867, or 6206 Meadow Ridge Lane, Trinidad, CO 81082

Positive Piecers

*Old Pass Gallery in Raton recently asked Carolyn Santoro to display her beautiful quilting in their special show titled, "The Art of Fibre." (Just ended) She submitted several pieces including two pieces that served as models for seasonal wall hangings which her Ranch students have made: the Valentine's Day "mystery quilt" and last fall's scarecrow. This holiday season the Piecers made snowmen. Carolyn is also teaching quilting classes at the Cloth Caravan in Raton

*The charming little Old Pass Gallery was built in 1910 as the Wells Fargo Express building. Stage coaches pulled up to load goods and merchandise was loaded from here onto the train. The train depot is just behind. In addition to being an art gallery it serves as the cultural hub of Raton and offers a wide variety of art-related events.

No Borders


Kristen Spinning, our energetic new Women's Group member from Tucson, was listed last month as a contributing editor to a delightful little local publication called No Borders. She designed the September centerfold. No Borders, a regional magazine, is produced by Steve Wharton, Warthog Productions, with an office in the El Dorado Hotel on Main Street. Watch for copies around town or ask at Warthog Productions.

NEW RANCH BULLETIN BOARD

David Hulstine contributed materials and labor and built the new Ranch bulletin board, in place behind the mail boxes, with help from Denny Manifold.

And the guy on the ladder applying a coat or two of stain was Vaughn Roundy, volunteering his time as well.

The bulletin board is in the charge of the Communications Committee, specifically Carol Rawle. She and Joyce Wolff arranged things a bit and have improvements yet in mind. Kristen Spinning is working on some professional graphics to enhance the board. We've tried to arrange information so that the information you



Santa Fe Trail Ranch
Christmas Party

With things to sip
and stuff to dip
And lots of conversation!

Friday, December 3
7:00pm
at the
A.R. Mitchell Museum

Please bring Hors d'oeuvres or Dessert
Punch will be provided

Bring \$5.00 gift for exchange and
a new, unwrapped toy for under-
privileged children. (If desired)

Sue Downs 859-0416
Carolyn Santoro 845-0877

seek will be easier to find. We suggest that you add your name and date to material you post so we can keep the information current and pertinent to Ranch needs.

THE RED CROSSES

There are eight emergency medical supply packs located strategically around the Ranch: seven of them at homes where an occupant has medical training. The driveways to these homes are clearly identified by a short section of tree trunk marked with a red cross routed into a white background constructed and painted by Walt and Joyce Wolff.



The emergency supply boxes are on the porch and are marked with red crosses for easy identification. They are located at the residences: Martinez, Minion, Putz, Davis, Tucker, Chatelain, and Gieske.

THISTLE WHACKERS WANTED

Property owners in Colorado are responsible for eradicating certain noxious weeds on their property. For the past several years the POA has hired the thistle spraying done on the Ranch. In order to save money and to do a more effective job the Road Committee is looking for enough volunteers from the Ranch community to do it ourselves. There are several needs and jobs: people on foot to use backpack sprayers, people to go off road on ATVs and vehicles to pull a trailer to transport equipment. As you remember from Kenn Lutz's talk at the General Meeting, the noxious weed threat is real. If the committee gets a positive response to doing the job "in Ranch" the POA can buy the equipment and herbicide from Big R in Trinidad. Carol advises that volunteers should first call Denny Manifold, The Country Cobbler, 846-6635 for questions and to sign up. He needs your name on the list now so plans can get underway for spring. Secondly, please pick up an application for obtaining a sprayer operator's license to become certified. There is a test BUT if you suffer from test panic, don't, because the pages in the reference book where the answers are found appear on the test AND it's take-home to boot. After Carol passed the quiz and made application her license arrived in about a week. There will also be a sign-up sheet on the Ranch bulletin board.

HOMER'S TAIL....ER....TALE

It's well known that cats have nine lives but it's clear now that some dogs do too. Ranch mascot to many, Homer (Putz), has clearly shown that he has several. Two years ago Homer, the almost German short-hair, suffered a herniated disc and underwent major surgery on his spine but soon learned to walk and chase chipmunks again. This fall he went through a second surgery for the same disorder; this time the surgery was done through his throat in order to repair a disc in his neck. And again he is doing well.

Homer had lived four years in Chicago when his owner decided to move to California to seek his fortune. Plans for the future did not include Homer. In Trinidad his master stopped to visit his parents who were friends of Carl Putz. Ah, cliché, "the rest is history." Carl describes the then chubby Homer as the original chow hound who could catch a pizza winging through the air as far away as anyone could toss it. Homer has won more hearts and has more friends than anyone on the Ranch; he is people you know? His friends are relieved to see him on his paws complete with punk hair cut, and again digging up Oso's carefully hidden bones. But he did give us a scare!

RANCH BITS

- Sue Downs completed her SECOND year of volunteer work for the Trinidad History Museum not her first as I mentioned last issue. At the Volunteer Luncheon held in October, Museum Director, Paula Manini, announced that Sue had the worked the most hours of all volunteers. She won an overnight visit for two at the Chicosa Bed and Breakfast. Congratulations! Are you going to take Gene?
- It's official, Suzie Davis has joined P.A. Michelle Minion and Dr. Bob Carlyle at Trinidad Medical Associates. Suzie's enthusiasm and smiling face will make a trip to the doctor a little easier to bare (Oh dear, a lowly pun.)
- Regarding Edith, there's good news, bad news, and hope. In October Edith Lind was approved for the new treatment for her particular kind of macular degeneration. The procedure now approved by the FDA in this country was developed in Europe and recently described on TV by Tom Brokaw. The bad news is that she does not qualify according to current FDA guidelines until early next year. She will spend Christmas with daughter Candace in Florida and has an appointment there with her ophthalmologist on 10 January. So she still has her Ranch friends holding their collective breaths.
- June Stephens always puts her sewing skills to good work. The Trinidad Catholic High School has asked her to teach quilting to the Senior class and that includes the boys. Even if the boys don't take up quilting, they'll know how to put up an ironing board and use an iron. Then after she taught several Ranch ladies to make patchwork Christmas socks she taught that same project at the Cloth Caravan in Raton.
- My apologies to General Motors. The car that caught on fire (last issue) was a Chrysler NOT an Oldsmobile.

A FAREWELL

Well, it's finally happened, Ted and Dorothy Novakowski have sold their Ranch home and are moving Notre Dame, Indiana, Ted's alma mater. (Eat you heart out, Regis Philbin.) They will be joining other Notre Dame retirees in a new development being built on property owned by the Congregation of the Holy Cross. The order bought a vast property in 1843 and established, among other schools, Notre Dame. The development adjoins the ND campus and residents are entitled to attend classes, sport events and participate in University activities. (Interestingly enough the latest AARP Bulletin describes this fairly new concept in university-linked communities: one of the first built 15 years ago by the University of Indiana.)

The Brother guiding the Novakowskis through the move told Ted that since this was a new venture for Notre Dame and its new residents Ted and Dorothy would be pioneers in the process. Ted thought, "Been there. Done that." But we know that after they are settled Ted will be contributing again.

Ted and Dorothy are eagerly looking forward to this new life and we are happy for them so why do I feel I'm writing a eulogy? Because we and the Ranch will miss them terribly. They have been our dear friends since Ted and Walt discovered they are fellow Notre Dame alums. Walt graduated the year Ted began and they have great times reminiscing and trying to remember who the prettiest girl at St. Marys was. (They can.)

I stayed in their home for three weeks in 1994 while they traveled and we worked on our cabin. Brandy took me for walks and I fell in love with the peace and solitude of Bear Canyon Ranch. (And by the way - to those who complain these days about Ranch roads - the roads then could be nearly impassable as they were that May when it rained for three weeks and I couldn't travel from their place to ours.)

Dorothy and I share our love of craft projects and laughter, which is one of the gifts that Dorothy offers others, a lot of laughter. She will be sorely missed by her fellow quilters who have become good friends. We have shared Thanksgivings with them, a holiday in Las Vegas and a tour of the Nevada Test Site. Ted and Dorothy share a love of history and the dawn of the nuclear era has always interested him.

It's accurate to say that Ted Novakowski is the most respected man on Santa Fe Trail Ranch. Presently he is one of three members on the Metropolitan Water District Board. He was active for years on the Water Committee and was elected to the first POA board, serving as president in the absence of the developer and then elected president. He, as well as his successors in that office, have been the whipping boys and have suffered abuses from a few property owners whom Ted once charitably described as "mean-spirited." While he has strong opinions, he is able to look at adversities philosophically with perspective and quick incisive humor. ("Yeah, right," I hear Dorothy utter.) Carol Rawle and I profiled him in one of the first Ranch Review. Well, by now he is harrumphing over all this humbug: so enough.

Their new home is under construction and they saw the walls going up when they visited and attended the Navy-Notre Dame football game last month. It may be

available for them in February. Dorothy worries that it's a bit smaller than they are accustomed to but then Ted won't need to take his oversized TV to watch the Fighting Irish because he'll be attending the games in the new Notre Dame Stadium. We will be visiting them for a football weekend next year if Ted can get the football team straightened out.

When I reminded Dorothy that they would miss the peace and quiet of the Ranch (I harbor hopes they won't really go.) Dorothy explained that the development has a quiet campus atmosphere and there is a woods across the street for Brandy to take Dorothy on those walks they both love. (I think it's a done deal!)

Seriously, we are happy for you. Thank you both again for your friendship, selflessness and major contributions to making this Ranch a good place to live for those you leave behind. Naturally we expect you to return periodically to see how we're faring and to soak up a few *Sangre de Cristo sunsets. We heap blessings and good wishes on you but most importantly we wish you "the Luck of the Irish."

With love, Joyce

BUT don't worry property owners, the neighborhood isn't going to the dogs. The new owners of Bear Canyon Ranch are Betty and Jerry Withington, Michelle Minion's sister and brother-in-law, who have owned the lot adjoining the Novakowskis for several years. At present the Withingtons own and work their ranch near Limon, Colorado, where Betty is the Postmistress. They will eventually retire to the Ranch but 'til then they plan to enjoy their new home periodically, making their visits more comfortable than staying in their camp trailer as they have been doing.

WELCOME!!

* ?Que Significa, Sangre de Cristo? Sangre de Cristo means blood of Christ. The range of mountains that constitutes our western view extends from what we see to the north down to just south of Santa Fe. The name comes from the fact that at certain times of the year, usually spring and fall, and in cold temperatures the peaks turn a deep glowing red at sunset and occasionally at dawn.

CONDOLENCES

We sadly learned that Ray Opper's brother, Ken, (45) died in an automobile accident in October. Ken and his wife Susan owned Ranch property for a time. Ken, Susan, their young daughter and her friend were in the car when Ken suffered a massive heart attack. Fortunately their daughter is mending from her injuries, and her friend was not badly hurt.

In early November, Bob Holder's father, Ralph died of a heart attack in Canon City, Colorado. Bob is District Wildlife Manager for Las Animas County and well known to the Ranch for his hard work, cooperation and response to our needs.

Lee Kirkwood's father died in Trinidad in October. Lee and Terri, who own The Digital Entertainment Store, have been helpful to property owners and have faithfully supported the Women's Group by their continuing advertisements in The Bare Facts.

Our hearts go out to you all.

WHAT HAPPENS WHEN YOU FEED WILDLIFE

Carol Rawle

It's always a thrill when we get to see a wild animal up close, so it follows that we might be tempted to entice that animal to come in close by offering it food. After all, it's only one more step beyond putting out birdfeeders, and what's the harm in that? Just a little dog kibble left out and we might just get to see a bear or coyote or porcupine or raccoon right outside the living room window.

At the desert park where I used to work we had a large population of raccoons. These creatures can be very entertaining because they quickly lose their fear of humans when offered food just like bears do. And just like our bears, they come to feel they deserve the free handouts and will be very persistent about trying to get access to human food after they develop the taste for it. So campers were sharing their food with these cute, funny animals.

After a while the raccoons in my park went beyond being entertaining. I started getting reports of the animals snatching food away from children, climbing onto picnickers' backs while they were eating and grabbing food, and ripping through tents and trailer screens to get to food. I was noticing that whole families of raccoons were besieging the campground each night, the babies being even more aggressive and fearless than the adults. It was becoming scary.

I knew I needed to do something before a small child was attacked and badly hurt, especially since rabies was a potential risk. But after inquiring with the state wildlife officials about trapping and relocating the animals, I was told that because of the rabies problem, no animals could be moved outside their area; I would have to trap and kill them.

The county loaned me some traps and I laid in a big supply of Kentucky Fried Chicken. I set the traps right in the middle of occupied camp sites so that I would only catch raccoons that were causing the problems. After a week I had caught nine adults and seven babies. Each morning I had to take these animals, who were otherwise healthy and normal, to a spot away from the park visitors and shoot them. Their only crime was accepting handouts from people and then becoming accustomed to it. If you ever had to shoot a baby raccoon while it was looking back at you with cute brown eyes and wiggly nose, you would probably become as depressed and angry as I was. It occurred to me at one point, that I didn't have a raccoon problem; I had a people problem. There was nothing I could do about the raccoons who had become corrupted by the people feeding them, but I could try to educate the people so they wouldn't ruin any more animals lives.

And if you think that putting out bird seed for the birds is not harming them, you're wrong. Just as putting out dog kibble for the bears and other mammals will cause them to become dependant on those feeders. When you are gone, they have nothing to eat because they've forgotten how to forage for themselves. When people think they are helping the wildlife by feeding them, they are, in fact, doing those animals the greatest disservice possible. They are taking away that animal's ability to find food to feed itself. What is even worse, just as it was with the raccoons in my park, the parent animal will then teach their

young that the bird feeder or the dog kibble is what wild animals are supposed to eat. And when it's no longer there, the animal starves.

If you love wildlife, DON'T feed it!

WILDLIFE MATTERS - another point of view

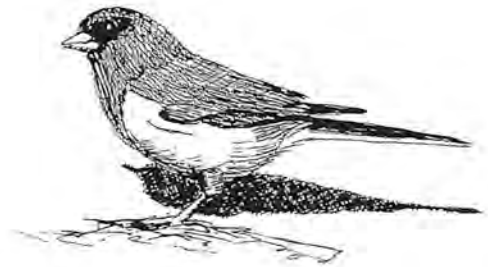
JJW

Ed. Note: I had planned to suggest what and how to feed wild birds, but Carol's article raised an important issue. Next newsletter I will describe the nitty gritty of bird feeding.

I've been feeding and watching birds since I was a little girl; an interest born of my father's love of the outdoors. Carol's thoughtful article gave me pause to reevaluate my habit and I write this with her blessing. She agreed to my presenting another view and the reader makes a responsible decision.

I agree that wild animals other than birds should be left to forage naturally for the reasons she has described. Her article forced me to do a little research which left me feeling better about my life's habit. Let me give you some thoughts about feeding birds that come from The Audubon Society and the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology, who encourage it.

Birds rarely become dependant on one food source. When the sunflower heads are gone they move on. When the field has been picked clean they move on. Lack of food forces some species to migrate south. Some birds will move only a few miles.



This dark-eyed junco is a common winter visitor on the Ranch. He will readily come to your feeder although they prefer to feed on the ground. They are especially active during a snow storm. Sketch courtesy of Patricia Stein from Atlas of Breeding Birds of Los Alamos County, New Mexico, Los Alamos Pajarito Ornithological Survey, Los Alamos National Laboratory 1992

Some of our juncos, who arrive in the winter, have spent the summer in Canada, some have traveled only from the relatively close Sangre de Cristos. Cornell stated that not feeding birds at all for their sake is extreme. One type of food, i.e., seeds will never be a 100% replacement for their food needs. Most birds continue to forage for natural foods.

Evidence from bird banding shows that in the east some species have extended their range because of wide spread feeding; considered second only to gardening as the great American hobby. Small birds like juncos can die during an extended or extremely cold period. Feeding

them, especially high-protein sunflower seeds, can give them the energy they need to survive the night.

There are important factors to consider to avoid harming birds. Irregular feeding is the most harmful. Birds who supplement their diets at your feeders can suffer if food is removed and there is no other source for instance if the ground is covered with snow. A simple solution to prevent birds from becoming overly dependent is to feed only a prescribed amount each day. When it is gone they must forage.

Keep your feeders clean. Decaying material can host harmful bacteria. Place your feeders 8 - 10 feet above the ground to prevent your cat from snacking. Even well-fed kitties cannot overcome their instinct to bring you a little feathered and lifeless gift.

We are gradually destroying wild bird habitat. It seems to me we can help some species survive a little longer by providing improved habitat for them with our feeders. Feed birds if you choose, as I will continue to do, BUT, do it responsibly.

THE WEATHER REPORT

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	to	19 NOVEMBER	
	Day		Day	
Temp Mean	53°	--	52°	--
Temp High	79°	1	73°	11
Temp Low	24°	30	24°	22
Wind Spd. Average	5 mph	--	3 mph	--
Wind Spd. Hi	35 mph	2	39 mph	18
Moisture	* 1.1"	--	0	--

* including 10" of snow on the 16th - 18th October

In November we had record high temperatures along the Front Range and no moisture to date. Highway Conditions for Colorado and New Mexico are listed in the Directory along with points of contact for Ski Resorts in the area.

WOMEN'S GROUP INTRODUCES

Cindy Hulstine

JJW

Cindy and David H. reenacted a story that is familiar on the Ranch. They bought their property on speculation with plans to retire here and ended up moving here from smoggy Riverside, California sooner than planned.

Cindy became a California girl, moving with her parents and sister to Palm Springs when she was 13 years old. They arrived via Pennsylvania, where she was born, and Ohio. Cindy fits the Beach Boy description, blonde, slender, and pretty with a happy and sunny personality.

In Desert Hot Springs, she met David in a hardware store. Cindy tells his version of their meeting: David says he went in for a 2 x 4 and came out with a ball and chain. But, we know the true story - he got lucky. They recently celebrated their sixth wedding anniversary with a two week trip to Hawaii where they had spent their honeymoon.

In 1995 they saw the Ranch property advertised in Pam and Jim Haggin's advertisement in a Thrifty Nickel-

like flyer. They came, they saw, they bought a resale in Unit 1. So the traveling began, back and forth to visit their property. On one of those trips David's Construction Company contracted to build an addition to the Budget Motel on Santa Fe Trail.

Once David was established here, Cindy realized he wasn't coming back. But they were ready to leave southern California with its red-air smog days, and knowing what waited for them here, Cindy closed up shop.

The Hulstines bought and refurbished a Corazon de Trinidad (Corazon significa heart.) building, formerly Frank's Family Billiards. Part of the building is David's Construction office, the other will be converted into rental storage as soon as the appropriate permits are given to remodel a historically protected building.

The Hulstine's home tucked away in the Pines is happily named "Purple Cow Pines." Purple because it's David's signature color and Cow because of Cindy's fondness for decorator cows...Hulstine - Holstein. Get it? This fall the Ranch cows accepted the invitation and while Cindy was relaxing in the Hawaiian sun, they enjoyed eating and destroying her successful garden, leaving non-purple cow pies in return.

In California Cindy took technical classes that enable her to better manage their business. She keeps the books and draws the blue prints for their construction projects. She is presently taking two sociology classes at Trinidad State Junior College and plans to continue her education. David is also back at school working on his engineering degree. Cindy oversees the business in the morning; David in the afternoon.

But that's not the end of her activities. Cindy has a quiet passion for all life and demonstrates it by her work with Noah's Ark, the newly formed animal welfare effort. The group is small; she is a board member and spends countless hours transporting unwanted animals to Pueblo or Boulder where there are organizations that can place them. Unloved animals seem to find their way to her door like the hobo network (kind woman lives here) and her own dogs and cats are all strays. She even shows a refreshing tolerance for those little leaf-footed bugs that frustrate the rest of us.

This year she finishes her second year as co-treasurer and logowear keeper in the Women's Group. Thank you Cindy for your faithful work. You're a bright spot.

Joyce Wolff, Editor

Santa Fe Trail Ranch

7558 Overlook Dr., Trinidad, CO, 81082

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

719-680-1813 (cellular)

---Where there is hatred let me sow love; where there is injury, pardon; where there is doubt, faith; where there is despair, hope; where there is darkness, light and where there is sadness, joy.

Grant that I may not so much seek to be consoled as to console; to be pardoned as to understand; to be loved as to love; for it is in giving that we receive; it is in pardoning that we are pardoned. Saint Francis

MERRY CHRISTMAS AND AN EXCEPTIONAL
NEW YEAR!



THE BARE FACTS

News from the
Santa Fe Trail Ranch
Trinidad, Colorado

February 2000

Issue 18

WOMENS GROUP NEWS

WOMEN'S GROUP MEETINGS

Meetings are held once a month at 9:30 a.m. normally the third Saturday of the month. An announcement and this schedule are posted on the Ranch Bulletin Board behind the mail boxes.

**We collect non-perishable foods for the Salvation Army, at every meeting.*

Visiting property owners are always welcome!

February 19	Peggy Obrey 35011 Alpine Meadows Barbara Sandgren and Carolyn Santoro
March 25	Carol Rankin
April 15	Peggy Obrey and Suzanne Davis Janice Hines 6206 Meadow Ridge Lane Priscilla Opper and Francie Purswell
May	Jenni Mathews 4139 Turkey Creek Lane Karen Miner and Linda Austin
June	Karen Miner 3390 Owen Baldwin Parkway Karin Gieske and ??
July 22	<u>SANTA FE TRAIL RANCH</u> <u>PROPERTY OWNERS PICNIC</u>
August	Cindy H. 7558 Pass Creek Court Sandy Manifold and Janet Woods
September	Barbara Sandgren 32700 Timber Ridge Janice Hines and Jenni Mathews
October	Frances Purswell 35114 Ponderosa Ridge ??
November	Simone Potter 3215 Owen Baldwin Parkway Sandy Manifold and Janet Woods
December	Suzanne Davis 32688 Owen Baldwin Parkway ??

Please note that not all the hostess jobs are filled, which simply means helping with the muffins. Call Suzie.

We no longer collect aluminum cans for recycling but hope you will recycle your own at the recycling bins in town.

THIS IS THE LAST BARE FACTS

JJW

This is the last issue of The Bare Facts. I have been the editor since the Women's Group initiated the newsletter three years ago and I want to spend that time on other things. At present there is no one to take on the task.

Many thanks to Sue Downs who faithfully printed, folded, stamped, and did lots of drudge work. Preparing 380 newsletters each June was an especially big job. Thanks to you who helped her. It was Sue's idea to profile Ranch women and she did a number of them. Judy Anderson, now of Santa Fe, also profiled. Thank you, Carol Rawle, Editor of the Ranch Review, for your excellent nature articles. Paul Vircsik wrote numerous articles about fire safety. Heartfelt thanks to Walt Wolff, who with endless patience helped at every turn and saved our computer from serious abuse on several occasions. He also faithfully kept Ranch weather records for his weather report. Linda Austin coined the name, The Bare Facts, and wrote some early bits. Thank you June Stephens for always being helpful. Bob Holder and C.K. Morey provided me with information, answers and advice. And our advertisers - it's been fun getting to know you. Thanks for your support.

\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$ PLEASE NOTE \$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$

We have a problem to resolve concerning unexpired subscriptions and advertisements. Please look at The Bare Facts label to see if this concerns you. We offer a solution. If you will donate the amount that we may owe you to the Women's Group we will make a donation, in kind, to a local charity. The Women's Group continually contributes to worthy causes in the area. If you wish a refund please contact me by March 1st. My address is on page 5. We are sorry for this inconvenience.

But this week, as I was mentally saying goodbye to The Bare Facts, along came the latest issue of The Ranch Review. With an expanded version filled with contributors The Ranch Review will more than fill the void and is required reading for any concerned property owner.

The Ranch Review keeps property owners informed about Ranch business matters. Issues are explained in detail by Board and Committee Chairmen and progress reports are made on Ranch projects. The newsletter is prepared after each quarterly POA Board Meeting. It provides an avenue for questions, answers and opinions.



To subscribe to The Ranch Review for one year mail \$5 to SFTR POA Communications Committee, P.O. Box 870, Trinidad, CO 81082.

THE GHOST OF SEASON PAST

A serious snowstorm (see Weather Report, page 4) caused the cancellation of the Ranch Christmas Party and found party goers eating hor d'oeuvres and desserts in their snowed in homes instead of at the Mitchell Museum where the party had been planned. The party was cancelled when snow began to accumulate during the morning amounting to several inches and still falling by party time.



Dorothy and Ted Novakowski

But dozens of well-wishers braved snow packed and slippery roads to attend the Farewell Party for Ted and Dorothy Novakowski. Jim and Suzie Davis hosted the fun-filled evening in their gorgeous log home, filled with interesting mementos, any one of which might evoke a well-told story from Jim. Naturally the bar with those crazee bar stools was the main attraction. Seems everybody likes to belly up.

And then there was the smashing New Millennium Party at Stan and Peggy Obrey's beautiful new home, perched atop a wooded hill on the south end of the Ranch. The celebration included a ten o'clock buffet with dish after dish of tantalizing food coming from the kitchen and spread on a long table decorated in silver and white: the pièce de resistance, ah, mon dieu the noble pig cooked to perfection on the outdoor rotisserie.



Ringin' in the New Century at the Obrey's

Year 2000 was seen in with balloons, party hats, noisemakers, leis and more food. From the deck we could see fireworks from Pueblo and enjoyed the rotating red beacon flashing Happy New Year (the electricity did not go out) from the housetop.

The Obrey's son, Steve, in graduate school at Rice University, was home and Stan's sister and brother-in-law from Ohio were house guests. What a wonderful Ranch memory!
*Mahalo!

* ?Que Significa, mahalo? It means thank you in Hawaiian, y gracias en espanol.

RANCH BITS

Connie Tucker's Arcana chickens lay beautiful blue green eggs. In addition to eating them you might try blowing some for a pretty addition to your Easter basket. Poke a hole in each end of the egg with a needle and start blowing. The "innards" come out more readily if you poke the needle deep into the egg to pierce the yolk. You will probably end up enlarging the holes little by little as you start to hyperventilate, but you can always fill the hole with a dab of spackling compound after the eggs are dry.



Karin Gieske is a member of the Resource Development Council of the newly formed Spanish Peaks Branch of the Red Cross.

Welcome, Brittany Irene, born at 4:30 a.m. on December 30. The Ranch millennium baby is the daughter of Jennifer and Joe VanderBrink and granddaughter to Janice and Byron Hines. Janice naturally shared pictures of this tiny dark haired beauty at the January coffee. The family is delighted with Brittany who weighed in at 7 lbs. 7 oz., 19 1/2 inches long and appears to sleep a lot. But then she needs to rest up to live in this busy, energetic and happy family. (see Women's Group Introduces, page 4)

Our sincere sympathy to Sue Downs whose mother just died in Oklahoma. She visited Sue and Gene through the years and had many friends here.

PREPAREDNESS CORNER

Paul Vircsik
Paul is our firefighter property owner from southern California, who frequently contributes to The Bare Facts.

Now that Why Two Kay Day has come and gone and you are reading this (which means that the computers are still running) it is time to look forward. Why? Because another year of acting fire safe and watching out for your neighbors is just good karma. Besides, it gives you something to do while eating all the canned food and energy bars you stashed for the millennium disaster. Wash the dog in the bottled water and go out and enjoy the sun.

When I sat down to write two things came to mind. The first was a tragedy that recently occurred in my district. An elderly woman lost her life in a house fire after her husband disconnected the smoke detector. They were tired of hearing that annoying beep every time the back-up battery went bad, so there was no alarm when the house was consumed with both in their beds. He got out, she did not. Many homes on the Ranch are now old enough to have used up the standby battery life. I suggest you

change them spring and fall with daylight time changes. Isn't it worth the 2 bucks?

Secondly, at Women's Group meetings, parties or just road side meetings, while talking about near misses that occur on the Ranch, discuss ways the accidents could have been averted. Talk about different ways to handle them, what not to do, what you should do, and tuck the best methods into your brain for the next time. O-Kay?

I will be out again when the snow melts (wearing shorts in the snow is just wrong) and hope to see you soon.

WILDLIFE MATTERS

JJW

Here are some ideas I've gleaned from my 30 or so years of feeding wild birds. If you do feed, and after reading the last issue of *The Bare Facts*, you will take on the hobby with a sense of responsibility. There are countless books and brochures about the subject but the essentials below are all you need.

Many people only feed in the winter; I feed all year. In spring, summer and fall, natural seed and insects are available but I attract birds to enjoy their company. When they forage only in the surrounding woods you see them only occasionally, usually flying and harder to identify. Walt and I watch birds at almost every meal because our feeders are placed within view of our windows.

By feeding birds in spring and fall you may see a variety of migratory birds that are looking for a restover. The activity around feeders attracts other birds as they identify a Quick Stop from high overhead. Once the migratory birds have passed through the winter birds will remain the same and rarely will you see a new face.

The winter residents that frequent feeders here are chickadees, two species of jays, two species of nuthatches, and juncos that come in a wide variety of feather patterns. Grosbeaks and finches appear occasionally and in a snow storm you are likely to see our beautiful resident rufous-sided towhee with his intense orange eyes.

These complicated bird names sound unfamiliar but they are quite common birds despite the funny names. I've discovered that although birds are everywhere most people can only identify perhaps robins or blue birds, and even then they haven't identified a real bluebird at all. There are five or six species on the Ranch that are blue. We have counted dozens of species of birds at our home and many more throughout the Ranch. (With a handy field guide you can too, but that's another story.)

Water is a sure way to attract birds but it's difficult in winter. There are ways to do it if you are dedicated. We have a pond with trickling water arranged primarily for the birds. Birds like robins and flickers that do not come to seed feeders are readily attracted to water to drink and bathe.

By far the most popular seed for seed feeders is black sunflower. Jays, juncos and doves (in spring and summer) eat corn. In northern New Mexico our birds liked white millet, but here in southern Colorado they don't. Our birds here did not like milo at all (we lived in an urban neighborhood) and here they will eat it only if the sunflower seeds and corn are gone. In commercial seed mixtures red milo and millet are less expensive fillers but if those seeds are not readily eaten it's a waste to buy it. If you pop for niger, an expensive thistle seed, you will make

your siskins the happiest birds in the world, but they will empty a tube type feeder in a day.



Pine siskin (Cornell Lab poster)

Siskins are happy little noisy birds that we love to have around, but at our house they don't get niger seed (not a noxious weed according to National Conservation and Resources Service [NCRS] Kenn Lutz.) Kenn suggests buying good quality seed to avoid noxious weed seeds. Read the label to be sure. All these seeds can be purchased individually at Martys and Big R.

We have used several types of feeders through the years but because we've grown lazy we now only use shelf feeders or scatter seed on the ground. In fall and winter jays can empty a hanging feeder in hours. Juncos and doves are "ground feeders" and prefer feeding from a flat surface. Keep the feeders clean and drained of rain or melted snow.

There are zillions of recipes for suet and peanut butter cakes. I've tried them all. A hungry jay population will finish off these cakes as fast as you can hang them so I don't whip up those treats any more. In the winter I sometimes hang chunks of beef suet in suet feeders and if the little commercial cakes are on sale I buy them. Bird books recommend providing fruits and raisins to birds that don't eat seed, but I've never had much luck. Orioles and finches will come to hummingbird feeders if there is a perch.

Once the holes are painfully dug in our rocky earth you can provide natural food sources by planting for the birds. John Knopf's book on xeriscaping is one of the many books that suggests what does well in our arid area.

Lastly, hummingbirds. I've seen sugar-to-water ratios from one-to-three to one-to-nine (suggested by Audubon). Keep the solution weak for two reasons. A strong solution will falsely satisfy the little bird's appetite so that he will not forage for the tiny insects he needs in his diet. And The Audubon Society says that the bird's system cannot process the sweeter solutions. This point returns to responsible feeding. The sugar solution need not be colored red or boiled. Commercial feeders are trimmed in red which attracts the birds. Cornell Lab says the commercial nectars contain ingredients that the birds don't need. DON'T feed honey. It contains a harmful bacteria. Keep the feeders clean. Discourage ants with a bit of Vaseline rubbed around the tops but learn to love the wasps (some feeders have bee guards). Don't worry about the little red hummer (rufous hummingbird) who arrives in July to take control of the feeder. He is exasperating but that's nature's way and it all works out. Your hummers will not be encouraged to stay too long if you leave your feeders out in the fall. Instinct moves them on for more reasons than lack of food. And by leaving them in place a little longer you provide food for birds that are still migrating

and need a little fix before they fly those thousands of miles to Costa Rica.

Hummingbirds are birds of habit and return to the same location every year. One April in a blinding snow storm I saw a hummingbird buzz up to the empty space under the rafter where the feeder had hung the previous year then dart away.

Place your feeders with care. It's important to remember that bears LOVE bird feeders including seeds, sugar water and suet. Bring your feeders in at night if bears are around; another reason to have portable shelf feeders. *We hear the same words preached again and again; human intervention causes problem bears.*

And problem turkeys love to clean up fallen seed from feeders above flower beds and in so doing nibble crocus buds and other budding greens as well as scratch away the protective mulch. Seeds falling from these feeders will sprout in your flower beds, which is pesky unless all your weeds are wildflowers.

You can get involved with Citizen Science (as Cornell Ornithological Lab calls them) bird projects. Observing birds and keeping notes adds to knowledge which is becoming critical in coping with our losing battle to save our natural resources. Any body want to help me count pigeons in Trinidad?

THE WEATHER REPORT

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®

	DECEMBER		to	27 JANUARY	
	Day			Day	
Temp Mean	33°	–		40°	–
Temp High	63°	29		67°	16
Temp Low	6°	5		6°	4
Wind Spd. Average	5 mph	--		5 mph	–
Wind Spd. Hi	35 mph	3		43 mph	21
Snow	18"	3 – 4		3"	2 – 3
	6"	13 – 14		3"	27 – 28
	3"	21 – 22			
Moisture	not recorded – a chipmunk dropped a pinecone in the rain gauge				

The heavy wet snow of December 3rd and 4th, accompanied by high winds drifted 3 to 4 feet at our location. Deeper drifts were reported on the south end of the Ranch. Some residents were snowed in; one woman was stranded in her car over night.



WOMEN'S GROUP INTRODUCES

Barbara Sandgren

JJW

As The Bare Facts ends it's interesting to note that we have written about all but one of the women who attended the first Women's Group meeting and who have contributed steadily to our many successes.

That remaining woman is Shari Schroepfer, who organized the two successful garage sales that earned over \$3000 for the Women's Group budget. I was planning to profile Shari in this last column but found that she is included in Carol Rawle's article, Profiles in Ranch History – David Schroepfer in The Ranch Review. But we must add a heartfelt thank you, especially to Shari, from all of us, for her hard work and dedication for the Women's Group, the Ranch, and Trinidad.

Barbara Sandgren is the other half of the Ranch sister duo; her sister is Janice Hines and both were Women's Group pioneers. As you recall from Judy Anderson's profile of Janice last summer, the girls' family moved from South Dakota to southern California in 1956; five girls and one boy.

Eddie Sandgren and Barbara met when they were young teenagers. Sister, Janice says, "We've known Eddie since he was 14 years old." The two were married after Barbara graduated from high school in 1971.

Eddie was a professional truckdriver with Allied driving locally with his brother. When Eddie took on an East Coast - West Coast route Barbara decided to join him on the road. This pretty blonde slip of a girl got her Commercial Driver's License and helped Eddie drive an 18-wheeler for seventeen years.

It's apparent they love to travel and enjoy vacation cruises. They went to Mexico last year and have another cruise planned this March. Many of us dream of seeing more of the United States, but the Sandgrens did it in a most unusual way. They took time off from truck driving and toured the country on their Harley Davidson motorcycle for nine months.

In 1991 Barbara and Eddie came to one of the first property owners picnics with Byron and Janice who had just purchased their property on the Ranch. That picnic was held on a property for sale which the Sandgrens ended up buying for their dream mountain home. And it's turned out to be exactly that. They left two homes in California to move here, one a mountain retreat in Big Bear.

While their home on the Ranch was being built Barbara gave up her co-pilot job while Eddie continued to drive. They moved their motorhome to Trinidad where Barbara lived and worked for Budget Summit Motel before getting her Real Estate License. She then joined Janice at Land Properties, Inc., where she is still a realtor. We miss her at too many Women's Group meetings when she handles the weekend duties.

Each Christmas Eddie's gift to Barbara is something she will need when she owns her own horse one day. That will make Heidi, the Australian shepherd, happy because then she'll have something really big to herd. We wish you happy riding, Barbara. Thank you for your friendly, smiling personality.

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

DIRECTORY

COLORADO DIVISION OF WILDLIFE

Officer Bob Holder (719) 680-1410

CSU EXTENSION AGENT

Las Animas County Courthouse (719) 846-4257
 lasanima@coop.ext.colostate.edu

COLORADO STATE FOREST SERVICE

County Forester, C.K. Morey in La Veta (719) 742-3588
 csfslv@rmi.net

FLICKERS www.picapro.com/picapro/flickerfacts.htm
 (for ideas to discourage woodpeckers from ruining your wood siding)

HIGHWAY CONDITIONS

New Mexico 800 432-4269

Colorado 303 639-1111

(SORRY, NO 800 NUMBER, BUT THEY TALK FAST.)

SAN ISABEL ELECTRIC (719) 846-2287

SANTA FE TRAIL RANCH www.santafetrailranch.com

SHERIFF'S OFFICE (719) 846-2211

TRINIDAD ON LINE www.trinidadco.com

www.allenbeal.com

SKI RESORTS

Angel Fire, NM 800-358-0350

www.angelfireresort.com

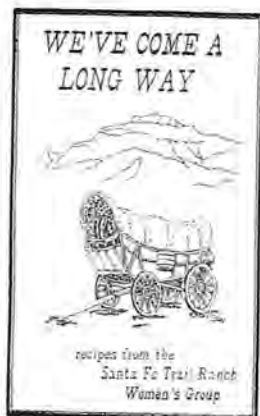
Cuchara, NM 888-CUCHARA or 888 282-4272

Taos Valley Resort, NM 800-473-1000

SHOPPERS PAGES

WOMEN'S GROUP 2000 CALENDAR. Order from Janice Hines, SFTR, 6206 Meadow Ridge Lane, Trinidad, CO, 81082. They cost \$15 (plus \$3.20 postage).

• **"WE'VE COME A LONG WAY,"** the Women's Group cookbook, is a collection of 300 recipes from property owners around the country. But we overstocked and will sell them for \$7: a savings of \$3. This little cookbook makes an excellent gift for house guests. Still costs \$3 to mail 1 or 2 copies.



• **LAMINATED RANCH MAPS**
 11" x 14", cost \$10 plus \$4 postage and mailing tube. Plain ones are \$5.50 (includes postage). A must for new property owners, and those of us who still get lost.

• **SANTA FE TRAIL RANCH LOGOWEAR**
 There is a wide variety of logowear available.

• **LAMINATED RANCH MAPS**
 11" x 14", cost \$10 plus \$4 postage and mailing tube. Plain ones are \$5.50 (includes postage). A must for new property owners and those of us who still get lost.

• **SANTA FE TRAIL RANCH LOGOWEAR**
 There is a wide variety of logowear available.

• **NOTE CARDS BY SHAD ROUNDY**
 Beautifully drawn notes cards especially for the Women's Group by Denver artist, Shad Roundy: Joanne and Vaughn's son. Choice of mountain lion, bear, coyote, elk and the old church ruin at Morley. Can be assorted on request. The pen and ink cards are black on a cream background, each with envelope. They are suitable for framing and cost \$10 for 10, plus \$1.25 postage per package.



ORDER WOMEN'S GROUP MERCHANDISE FROM
 Cindy Hulstine, P.O. Box 199, Trinidad, CO 81082



We Are
TOTALLY
Gone



Will Be Back At



JJW