

RANCH CHATTER

VOLUME 3, Number 3

LAKE ELIZABETH RANCH CLUB

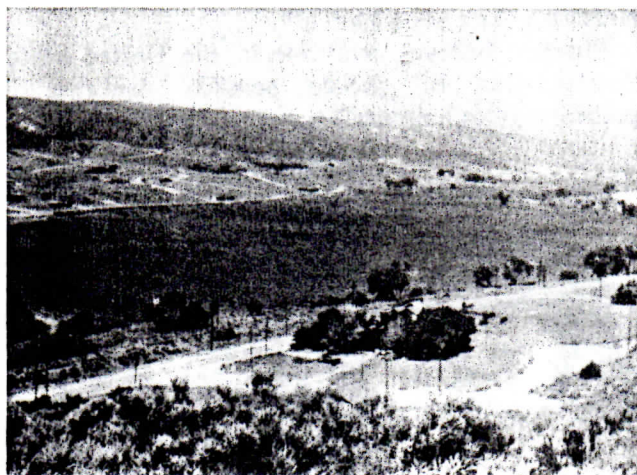
JULY 15, 1969

HISTORY OF LAKE ELIZABETH Part VII

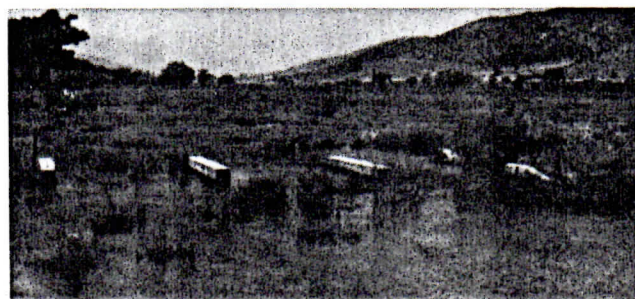
by R. T. Burnham, President

Preceding installments attempted to convey impressions of continuity spanning more than a century and a half. Yet in retrospection some of the more important elements of our running account were by passed. One especially pertinent omission has been the area in which the Ranch Clubhouse is located. Here practically all of our sources arise out of contact with people whose families and friends were for generations in intimate touch with events as they occurred. Obviously whatever is said must be treated factually in proportion to the memories of the people who shared with us their cherished recollections and family records.

Thus we find that prior to the advent of the Frakes family in the year 1865, the property was tenanted by one Francisco Lopez and his wife Rosario. They lived in an adobe house a short few yards removed from our present picnicing area. Here, too, Francisco Lopez built a small Chapel for purpose of worship when one of the good Father's came through to minister to the flock. It was also a retreat for both he and his lady. But with the passage of the years all evidence of these structures is destroyed.



A Beautiful Panoramic View of Lake Elizabeth from Russ Burnham's Lodge.

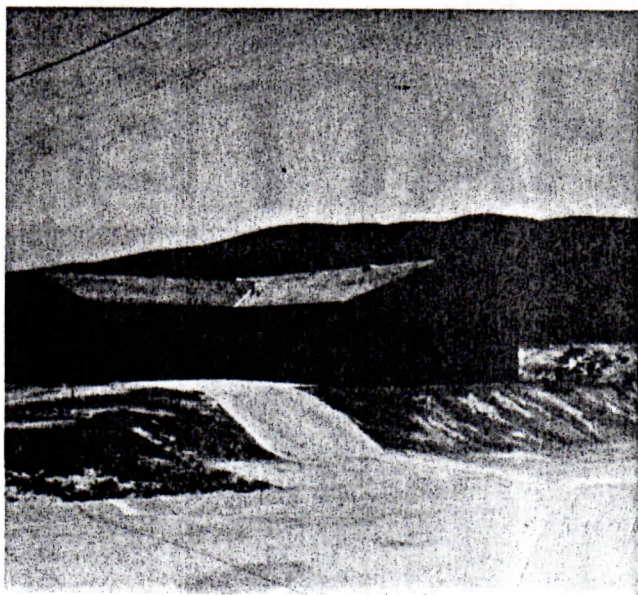


View of the Lake's Spillway as it looks today.

Our present pony ring is located on the site, once surrounded by a grove of thriving willow and locust trees, of a very large stone-lined barbecue pit which was still there as late as 1947. It was around this pit that the area families were wont to gather on Holidays and other festive occasions. Living in this bygone era was a snails pace compared to that of today, so rural people generated their own fun and entertainment even as we at the Ranch strive today to preserve many of the customs handed down to us from previous generations.

Most Fiesta days were enjoyed by roasting over a crackling fire, suckling pigs, a sizeable steer, haunches of bear, local venison and an occasional antelope. People gathered from near and far for the feasting followed by roping contests, races, games, dancing the fandango and gossip. No doubt there was also a wee bit of indulgence in the native vino known all over the country for potency. At any rate it is the knowledge of these events that led us to the planning of our own annual series of Fiesta Days.

However, all was not Fiesta and fun around our center of activity. Also we find a white fenced enclosure on the hilltop north and a little east of the Clubhouse. Here in a one acre plot are buried some of our earliest settlers. Mostly they are of the family to first arrive at the ranch in covered wagons just after the end of our civil war. They were the folks who planted many of our large trees and were those who strove to create additional beauty at the mouth of our beautiful canyon. Let us then end this time on a note of respect and admiration for these hardy pioneers.

BUILDING NEWS by BERT KOCH

WELCOME: John and Weltha THOMPSON, moved into their new home this week-end. We wish them much happiness.

NEARING COMPLETION:

The VAN DYKENS', Pete, Sue and the boys, are busy finishing the interior of their beautiful lodge on Flintstone. Nearby, the SULLIVANS', Bob and Anita, another nice home is nearing completion. Lee and Ollie BRADLEYS' lodge over-looking the Golf Course, is almost done. We are sorry to report that Lee is in St. Joseph's Hospital. Here's hoping Lee, you will soon be feeling fine again.

PROGRESSING:

Robert and Almo KANES' is closed-in and the framing of Paul and Lois HARDINS' is complete. The foundation on Lester and Ethel BIEHELS' is ready for pouring. And the KOCHS'; Florence's and my wish has finally come true. The foundation is complete on our home at Lake Elizabeth!

DO-IT-YOURSELF JOBS: Dale and Mary SCHMUDLACK and Larry and Eileen WILLIAMS homes are well on their way of becoming a reality.

LOUIE LOVELAND, our building representative, is busy with a number of plans with construction to start soon. Much of his time is spent on custom planning, proper lay-out and better financing for several of our Member's Lodges.

THINKING about your home at Lake Elizabeth? Give us a call or stop at the Club Model on week-ends and let us help you plan.

GOLF NOTES

The Hope in One Contest, held June 28th and 29th at the Lake Elizabeth Country Club was very successful. All proceeds going to the City of Hope.

Trophies won for closest to the hole on No. 6 were Dale Schmudlack and Wanda Hibbard; closest to the hole on No. 3 were Allan Mockabee, Dale Schmudlack, Ralph Prentice, Doris Burnham, Carmen Jones and a guest from Antelope Valley Country Club.



The picture above is that of our professional Allen Jones and Men's Club president, Eugene Martin.

The little beauty in the middle happens to be Julie Cobb, daughter of Lee J. Cobb.

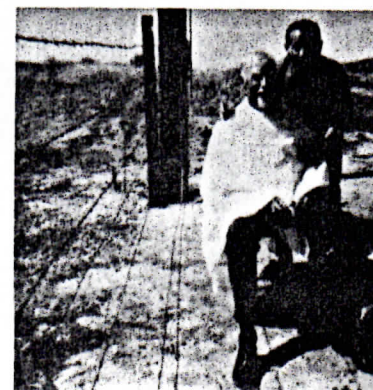
**OPEN AIR BARBER SHOP
OF LAKE ELIZABETH**

Only at Lake Elizabeth on a beautiful hilltop could you find a place like this. The barber shop is located in back of the Pecaut mansion at 14818 Ripton Road. Barbering outside here is ideal because the breeze blows the hair away, no need for those fancy electric vacuums.

The barber is Maurice Pecaut and the victim is a brother-in-law who came all the way from O'Neill, Nebraska for a *good* haircut!

Maurice believes everyone in the United States "males, that is" should beautify America by getting regular haircuts!!

Haircut anybody?



HOT LINE

Because it is important to all Members owning boats, we believe it is not too early to announce that starting the first day of next year the Club will make a charge for all private boats using our lake. Permission must be requested by writing our Glendale Office, setting forth the size of craft, horsepower of motors and all pertinent information. This move is necessary to help defray the cost of Feather River water, which we believe will help to keep our lake at a maximum usable level in the years ahead. Charges will be moderate!

The transfer fee on any type of Ranch Club membership is now (\$75.00) seventy five dollars. In the event of such transfer we request that the selling member bring any prospective purchaser either to the Glendale Office, or to the Ranch Clubhouse to facilitate such transfers. We would also advise in this connection that all transference of membership is subject to complete approval of the Board of Directors. Without such approval no transfer can be affected.

We are pleased to announce that Bingo is scheduled every Friday evening. All you have to do to join in the Fun is bring a one dollar prize. At the conclusion of the party there will be a blackout game for all participants. So far we've had excellent response to this added attraction. Get better use out of your Club by joining in on all scheduled events.

Other arrivals have taken place since our last issue, our new greens superintendent at the Golf Club, Ben Swinney, his lovely wife and little girl. The Swinneys spent nine years in San Luis Obispo during which time Ben worked for the President of the Greenskeepers Association. Let's all make these fine people a part of our growing family with a hearty welcome from all. Also among the newcomers is Bud and Angel Houghtaling, as fine a pair of Square Dance callers as you'll likely find anywhere. Bud has new ideas he'd like to put into practice and we are looking forward to some stimulating months ahead.

FACILITIES AVAILABLE TO MEMBERS

Archery / Badminton / Basketball / Baseball / Barbeque / Croquet / Ping Pong / Horseshoes / Handball / Hiking / Hunting / Fishing / Volleyball / Riding / Tennis / Golf / Trap Shooting / Dancing / Swimming / Picnicking / Shuffleboard / Water Skiing / and many more.

HORSEBACK RIDING

Nothing provides more healthy enjoyment than horseback riding. The trails at the Ranch Club provide the finest riding anywhere and no view is more exciting than from the saddle of a horse. We have horses for beginners and experts.



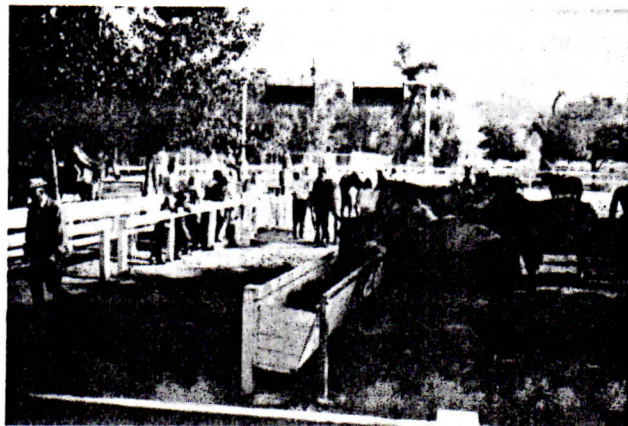
Green Superintendent of the Golf Club, Ben Swinney with his darling wife.



Toward a better understanding, we wish to remind people of guest privileges, so once again allow us to include a remark or two: guests are entitled to visit the Club only once annually, excepting visitors from out of the State, or single persons with one companion, male or female. More frequent attendance may be accomplished solely through the acquisition of Membership. If your friends like our Club well enough to keep coming back, sponsor them for enrollment. We are sure good people have no desire to become freeloaders!

There is a lot more work ahead to repair all the storm damage, but we are making orderly progress. Our Trap Shoot is operational and all the horse trails are in good condition. Work is going forward to repair and improve our corrals and the entire playground area. If it is still a bit dusty here and there please be patient. At least, we seem to be moving a bit faster than the County! Wonder when the boys will get around to some of our badly damaged streets?

Perhaps you have noted that in past issues we've included letters from members. Any contribution you elect to mail will always be given very serious attention. Get the pens and typewriters busy for better all around communication!!



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

To the Editor:

Glenn and I would like to express our appreciation to the following people who were so helpful and sincerely concerned during our daughter-in-law's recent mishap.

Dick Ohnstad, C. M. Rick, Bert Koch and Jerry Brown really were friends in time of need and we'll always be grateful to them.

We think this club and its members are really great, just like one big family.

Betty and Glenn Hodge

June 12, 1969

Mr. Burnham:

Today I received the channel catfish and took them to the Lake. I put them at the north end for I see there is a break in the dike at the south end. I hope our fish don't all escape to the other lake. These fish I planted will spawn a year from now and if you tell the members about them in your literature, please ask them, if they catch one, to please return it to the lake to give them a chance to get started. I also planted clams and frog tadpoles and three or four kinds of snails.

You mentioned in your letter of contacting a hatchery, with no reply, I will send you a catalog under separate cover from my source. Do not return it.

I might add that the fish and clams were in good condition and very lively.

Thanks for your courtesy,
Robert E. Trentham

June 16, 1969

Dear Mr. Trentham:

First of all, allow me to thank you for your thoughtful contribution to our fishermen, their ladies and children. Almost since our Club started, we have had members like yourself who unselfishly made contributions to the Club and all of its fine people.

Your catalog arrived this morning and on examination we find it very probable that our lake could well accommodate additional varieties of fish life that in my experience are only present in the fresh waters of the middle West and East. With your able assistance and continuing interest, we hope to make Lake Elizabeth one of the outstanding fishing lakes of the Southern California Area.

Thank you again and with the most cordial regards from myself and the Board of Directors, I remain

Sincerely,
R. T. Burnham

BEAR FACTS by "SHULTZIE"

APRIL 5th . . . First Saturday of the month means Square Dance Time at Lake Elizabeth — Gayle Crouse calling the tips for a nice group of dancers that braved the rainy weather.

APRIL 6 . . . Easter Sunday — Weather was uncertain, sun, rain, hail, sun again, but cold. Nice enough for our young people to hunt colored eggs on the back lawn. This was followed by the dress parade and the "Hokey Pokey". A delicious Ham and Sweet potato dinner followed, with the tables all decorated with bunnies and colored eggs. Nice day.

APRIL 19-20 . . . The Golf Club is hosting about 50 golfers from Kern Valley. We introduced them to our "Hacker" Tournaments and Steak Bake and on Sunday showed them how to play Golf. Red Zapf, Roy Holtz and Nora Wright winning beautiful trophies, and Audrey Parker, Mary Schudlack and Marion Bartel winning golf balls. Our Men's team also kept the plaque for our Club. The weather was perfect, and so was the Ham dinner. Nice people from the Kern Valley. Saturday was also the Wild Flower Dance. Another wonderful buffet with that good cook, Maggie. The Gold Coast Four again supplied the sweet music. Then our youngsters entertained us with a talent contest. The judges, Dr. Moehler, Mr. Pasek and Mr. Turner selected as first place, Sally Miller, on the Piano, Russell Moulton, on the accordion as second, and Frank Dobuicke on the piano won the third place trophy. Our own Miss Lake Elizabeth, Peggy Miller again was on hand to award the trophies. Nice to see ex Lake Elizabeth Representative, Vic Smith and his lovely wife, Martha enjoying the dance.

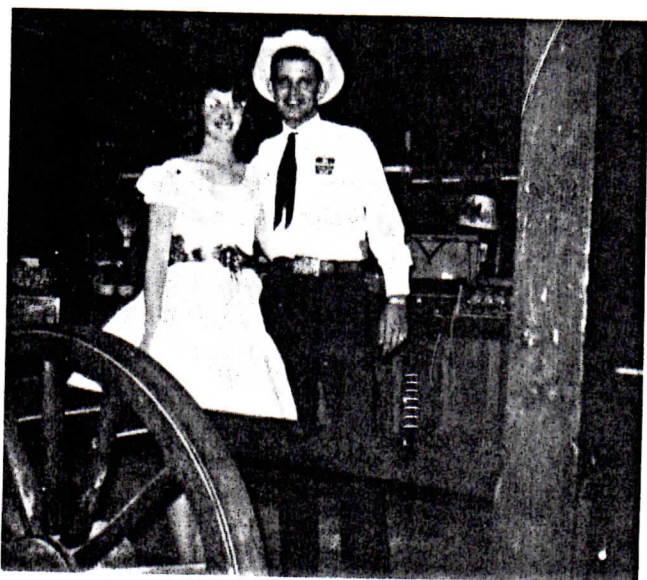
MAY 3rd . . . First Hay ride of the season, and if you guessed it rained, you're right. It was cold too, and Lake Hughes had snow. Where is Spring? The "Hackers" were busy also with a Bar-B-Que and fun games. Dick Ohnstad, our wrangler, is in the Hospital with an infected nerve, but is coming along slow but sure. Ask ol' Virge DeVore, our school teacher to tell you about his Math class, and their victory in a contest of Matheletics. He's bursting his buttons. Two of our year round residents were married this week. Joan Mockabee and Robert Lupica. Best Wishes to you both. Bob works for the Club. He's the one with the curley mustache. The colt that was born during our mud flood was named "Mr. D" "D" for disaster. We are saying good-bye to Vonnie and Gayle Crause, and are welcoming back Paul Shultz, (I'm named for him you know.)

continued from page 4

MAY 17 . . . First Fiesta Day and the weather is great! What a Bar-B-Que! What GOOD BEEF!! Games were played and the Horse Shoe pitcher "exordinaire" was Bill Mowery 2nd place, F. M. Collins, who was also first in Shuffleboard 3rd place Rosemary Johnson. PingPong was overwhelmed by Jean and Mike Trader, with Randy Crouse coming in third. Don and Betty Stover came in second and third in Shuffleboard. Prizes are chicken dinners, horseback rides and free swims. Come on you Sports, enter in the fun.

MAY 24 . . . Women Golfers are having their Spring Luncheon with a crazy hat tournament. What fun they are having. Hostess was Jean Laws, with wonderful salads whipped up by Doris Burnham and Florence Koch. Pat Jost, Jean Laws, and Marian Barthel took prizes on their hats, and Marty Zapf, Mary Jane Schmudlack and Nora Wright won merchandise in the three club tournament. After a nice buffet at the Ranch Club the entire golf membership had a meeting with "Mr. B", Bert Koch, Alan Jones and Gene Martin telling how it is, and what's in the future for our golfers.

MEMORIAL DAY HOLIDAY . . . Three days of wonderful weather up here at the Ranch. Nice group of members playing golf, swimming, horseback riding and several boats on the lake. Saturday night, a great Hayride, the moon was real romantic, "all you young lovers, where ever you are." We are welcoming a new Square Dance Caller, Bud Houghtaling, and his wife, Angel, who joins him in duets and also calls on her own. I think you'll like them.



Club Square Dance Callers: Bud & Angel Houghtaling.

That Virge Devore now has been awarded the Bulletin Award for his Newsletter in District 401 for the Lions Club.

JUNE 5 . . . "Hackers" again for the golfers. It was rather cold, but those brave souls seem to survive. Sunday, darn Rain again. This means another Chuck Wagon Breakfast ride had to be cancelled. Try July 27th. O K?

JUNE 13 . . . We are trying something new here at the Ranch on Fridays. A Bingo party. Everyone to bring a dollar gift, everyone over 17 years of age is welcome. The Ranch is going to also supply a special prize. Come on up and play Bingo.

JUNE 14 . . . Fiesta Day again, and you couldn't ask for a more beautiful day. Nice group of members up for the day. The Ping Pong experts were Jim Turner, 1st—Ernest Deluis 2nd and Ralph William 3rd. Shuffleboard winner was Madalene and Eleanor Neal, Neil and Joan Corbett and Nancy Corbett and Tim La Painte. Horseshoe winners were—Bob powell, Shirley Stalke and Bill Riefil. A wonderful out door Bar-B-Que in the picnic area. This is wonderful day for the whole family.

This was also Member-Guest day at the Golf Course. The Pro Shop was really buzzing. The men's club had a partner's best ball tourney, and the proudest man was Elmer Dutton, he and his guest really had a beautiful round. "Nobby" Jost was another proud winner. The Gals gave out trophies to Wanda Hibbard and Florence Koch. The Men's club put on a wonderful Steak Bake with Vic Park wearing the chef's hat. This is a yearly affair and really a big day—

See you at the next Trail Ride, July, 26th—
Hope the weather will be fine.

MILITARY NOTES

Our charter members, Larry and Eileen Williams' son Jay, who was serving aboard the carrier Essex, received special leave after being away in service for 3 years.

The Williams were thrilled to have Jay and his wife Jeanne spend two weeks at the club, enjoying horseback riding and the many other activities available at our Ranch Club.

Jeanne especially enjoyed indulging in our "Southern Fried Chicken", which being from New York, had never tasted.

