

# RANCH CHATTER

VOLUME 3, Number 4

LAKE ELIZABETH RANCH CLUB

OCTOBER 15, 1969

## HISTORY OF LAKE ELIZABETH Part VIII

*by R. T. Burnham, President*

Our last issue contained a brief reference to some of the activities and events centered in the area of the Ranch Clubhouse. Lack of space and time precluded specific description of some of the original structures in the immediate vicinity, an ancient tippling barn, a row of bunkhouses and a trellised grape arbor as well as the Victorian styled ranchhouse.

In late 1946 we drove up the "dusty, rutted, private road for our first look at what was to become the hub of the Lake Elizabeth Ranch Club. It was a sight to discourage even the hardiest of pioneers! As we made the last turn after coming over the hill from the lake area, the old Barn was the first thing to see. It leaned about ten degrees east and on the front was painted in barely discernable letters "Lake Elizabeth Ranch."

The contents of the Barn were not unusual. There were bales of hay, pigs, cats, goats, a couple of milch cows and perhaps a fifty year accumulation of good compost material on the bare earthen floor! We quickly concluded the place was held together by the square nails that went into its construction and the bales of hay stacked in the interior. But over all was the beauty of the huge Cottonwood trees, the Arizona Cypress, Catalpa and native locust. Reluctantly we ordered the Barn torn down because of the danger to children. This was done in early 1947.

South of the Barn and partially where the present recreation hall now stands were the bunkhouses. Once the living quarters of the vaqueros and later cowboys, chickens and ducks now roamed in and around the building. It also housed old farm machinery, various odds and ends of typical ranching equipment and a collection of oil and grease barrels. And while these quarters had been constructed of beautiful heart redwood, they too had to be removed to allow

expansion of our recreational facilities. Even today we wonder if these old buildings should not have been saved at the expense of a somewhat slower pace of development?

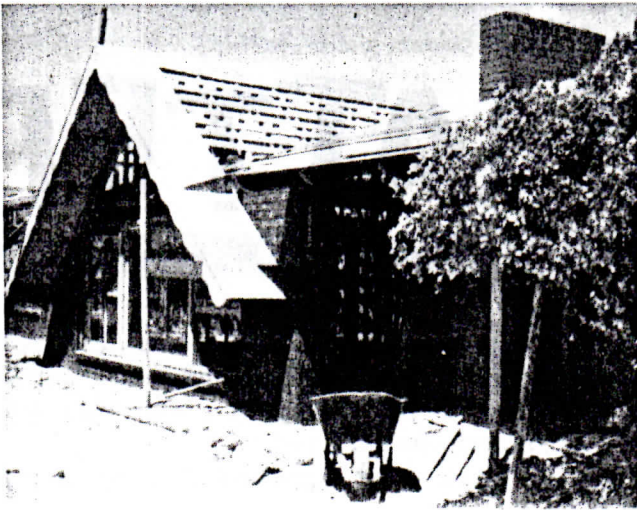
The grape arbor was located a bit east and beyond our main building at the edge of an orchard planted by the Frakes family. It consisted of one huge vine which completely covered the sizeable lattice work structure with its locked door on the front. For a time we used this place to store mowers and fire hose, but eventually concluded that in the interest of a more aesthetic appearance the big vine should be sharply reduced in size. This was a mistake because our pruning set the plant back at least a decade and thereafter it failed to produce the luscious bunches of concords originally picked each season!

In addition to the orchard of apple, plum and cherry trees were blackberry vines which grew the largest, most delicious berries to be found in the land. Also in the present picnicing area other grape vines climbed into the very tops of the tallest cypress and walnut trees. Wild celery grew here, too, creating the effect of an almost impenetrable jungle. If one walked as much as twenty feet into this location you were lost to sight from the open yard!

The main old house—constructed of heart redwood hauled by oxcart from Palmdale in the year 1885—still stands proudly resisting the ravages of time and ultimate decay. As an afterthought, our present dining room was added to the original structure in 1924. Our recreation room was built during the winter of 1950-51 with the lounging area, rest rooms and locker rooms being added in 1957.

Many tales may be told of the hopes, aspirations, births, deaths, marriages, of going away and of returning to the old house whose Victorian facade extends greeting to us all on our frequent, or even on our infrequent, visits to this part of California history—. In our next visit should we say a few things about our local gold mines?



**BUILDING NEWS** *by BERT KOCH*

*Bert & Florence Koch's home under construction.*

Welcome neighbor to Lee and Ollie Bradley, Bob and Anita Sullivan and Robert and Almo Kane, much happiness to you and your families in your new lodges at Lake Elizabeth.

Nearing completion is Paul & Lois Hardin's and Lester & Ethel Biehl's lodges are closed-in. Les & Ethel are now living at the club, they have rented another lodge until theirs is completed. Our place is closed-in, with finish started in the inside. Come-on Mike, Florence is about to "Bust a Button or something."

Grading and foundations have started on Neil & La Vergne Christianson's lodge on Monacan Dr. near the lake and Dick & Lillian Bender's lodge off Montello Drive overlooking the Golf Course with more to come.



*Full water recreation now available on Lake Elizabeth.*

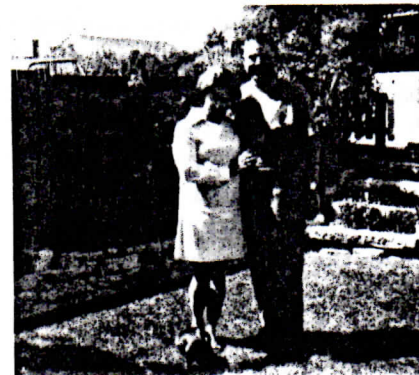
**GOLF NOTES**

Summer is over, and it has been a real fun year! The Club championship was decided in September, and for the second year in a row, Wayne Murphy came out in first place. Congratulations to 'Sweet Swinging Murphy'!!

This year was filled with many fun events. We had Home and Home events with Kern Valley Country Club and with Rancho Golf Club. Many of the men members went on Pro-Am Tournaments with our golf professional Allan Jones. During the summer, Tuesday and Thursday afternoons were filled with fun matches with many of the Men's Club members. Getting together for pot of beans and corn bread dinners after the matches were over. Plans are underway to start next year off with many fine events and tournaments. Nobby Jost, with the help of Jack Rutherford, plans to start the Jr. Golf Program off to a big start beginning in January.

Allan Jones and Jack Rutherford, with the help of amateurs, have been holding gallery matches for the benefit of the tree fund. These events have been a real lesson in how a golf ball should be hit and a golf course played.

All of these events and many more are planned for next year. By early Spring, the golf course should be back in top condition, and the coming year should be even bigger and better than the past one.



*Gene & Audrey Martin outgoing president of Men's Golf Club. Thanks Gene for excellent job.*

**OUR LUCKY DAY**

On August 16th we received a wonderful gift from the Bob Janssen family of Encino. It seems as if several years ago the Janssen's bought a colt from the Ranch and named it Lucky. In time Lucky had a beautiful colt. Both of them were captured on canvas by an artist friend, and now we have Lucky and the colt back. If you look real close, there is also a portrait of their dog. Thanks Bob and Jean.



## HOT LINE

Better mark all calendars! Ralph Story's "Los Angelus" will tell the Lake Elizabeth story on his half hour program scheduled for 6:30 P.M., Sunday eve, Nov. 23, and will be repeated the following Saturday evening in the same time slot. The show is in natural color on C.B.S. Channel 2.

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During the winter months our Golf Club will be closed every Monday. If you wish to play please make arrangements for any needed equipment on Sunday or during the previous week. Incidentally, we have four different plans now completed for our back nine holes. Studies are still in process to guarantee that the best plan will be put in effect.

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Our new chef, Don Leasure and his wife Camille, wish to announce that our dining room will be open every evening from Wednesday through the weekend. If you haven't tried the food lately, better get on the bandwagon. All comments have been highly favorable both as to the food and service. Let's all support our new schedule!

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Thanks to new equipment and the efforts of Jerry Brown we've managed to keep the weeds in the lake pretty well under control this summer. The water skiers seemed to have a ball as did the fishermen. However, the water is now pretty cold for aquatic sports; that is unless you're a Polar bear!

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Let's not forget our new trap shooting range! The only reason it's more-or-less out of sight is for safety purposes. We've also added a small bore and pistol range in the same locale. If you're interested just head due east on the old back road about 1/4 mile. Drive through the parking lot.

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We're sure happy to see Smitty White lending his talents to the golf course. And now that big Jack Rutherford has returned to work with Allen Jones, Ben Swinney and Smitty our cup runeth over. Keep that grass coming, gents!

## WINNERS OF LABOR DAY BEAUTY CONTESTS

### MISS WADING POOL

Michele Laycock  
Father — Harry Laycock  
R.A. expires May 1, 1970  
3119 1/2 Los Flores  
Lynwood, Calif.

### MASTER WADING POOL

Kenny Davis  
Father — James Davis  
Life Member  
1243 Lawrence Circle  
Simi, Calif. Phone (805) 527-4037

### MISS LAKE ELIZABETH

Karen Eggert  
Father — Norman Eggert  
Life Member  
8850 Remick Avenue  
Sun Valley, Calif.



*Left to right: Kenny Davis, Karen Eggert, Michele Laycock.*

### 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.



### BEAR FACTS by "SHULTZIE"

JULY 4th WEEKEND . . . Friday—nice group of members here at the Ranch and Golf Club—weather is delightful—the pool is full, and so are the "tummies" full of good Bar-B-Que beef served in the picnic area.

Saturday—a mite on the cool side, but the golf club Hackers are at it again. Las Vegas night with play money to be made and lost on the golf course and more "loot" to be made on the gaming tables. Beef-K-Bobs again by "Chef" Gayle Dillenbeck. A party later at the Gene Martins.

Sunday—Hey! its cold—look at that haze—is this summer? or is winter on the way? Weather man says "coolest July 6th on record". Of course to a bear, it feels good.

JULY 12th . . . Mid Summer Dance and Bar-B-Que—This is such a nice event to break into the summer—the beef is so tender, Charlie Soos, (who is someone it would be impossible to replace around here) again added the gourmet touch to that beef. The Gold Coast Four again played for the dancers. Try to make this one next year.

JULY 26th . . . Moonlight Trail Ride night—Isn't it beautiful out here under the stars? A guitar picker, named John, who is a camping square dancer is doing a wonderful job. Nice group of dancers indoors. Friday night Bingo nights have been well attended, also the swim parties have been fun for the teenagers. The men's golf club had a stag event at the home of Clem Carlson. We are sorry to say Farewell to Eve and Claude Ballard who have been retired up at the ranch for several years—they have moved to Desert Hot Springs. Come back and see us, please? We've had a wedding of two of our Ranch people. Gil and Shirley Gilbert were given an old fashion "chivarree"—that's so old fashioned I don't know how to spell it! We've also had two new babies—Phil Ohnstad's mare had a beautiful colt & our deer family had a new fawn. Did you hear about the fishing disaster of Jerry Brown, Paul Shultz and Eddie De Vore? Forget their oars, the motor quit, and they drifted until rescued by Mr. Kennedy. Then Jerry discovered he had lost his wallet—can you believe it? He found it again, in the lake?

AUG. 2nd . . . Hackers again for the golfers. Saw a new dance in front of the Pro Shop—Elmer Dutton, Flo Koch and Rod Bisset had long sticks and wiggled a lot. Until everyone wound up a string, very strange, these golfers.

AUG. 8th. . . . The bingo party is really going good—everyone brings a one dollar gift in a paper sack and they play until all the gifts have been won. Then they play "Blackout", you'd better come check that out.

AUG. 9th . . . First Bar-B-Que for our new Chef and his wife, Don and Camille Leasure. Welcome to you and your daughter Vickie. Today is a busy one—Last Fiesta day for the year—the second Saturday means Square Dance night (it's been changed from the first Saturday). Men's club had a Partner's Best Ball Tournament, Alex Martin and Bill Mann were the "Sandbaggers"—second place taken by the White boys, Smith and Tom. Did you know you could get a hair cut at the corral? Just ask Tim "Skinny" McGauhey—We won't say his hair was long—but—the boys at the corral gave him a little trim!!

AUG. 23rd . . . Trail Ride tonight—The weather is perfect for a moonlight ride—nice group of Square Dancers dancing to Bud's calling—sorry to hear his wife Angel is not feeling up to par tonight. Our new Chef Don is really putting out a great prime rib dinner and his "semi-retired" wife Camille is busy baking pies and cakes—makes one mouth water, doesn't it?

LABOR DAY . . . The day to pick our new "Miss Lake Elizabeth", Miss Wading Pool and Master Wading Pool. Our judges, Chuck Cunningham, Woody Hoskins and Allen Zenson listened to the applause of the members sitting on the back lawn and instructed our former Miss Lake Elizabeth, Peggy Miller to place the crown on 3 year old Michele Laycock and 4 year old Kenny Davis. Sally Miller, Dee Dee Darrah and Julie Maulten were the beautiful contestants that Karen Eggert, our new Miss Lake Elizabeth had to compete against. Congratulation to Michele, Kenny and Karen. This was the conclusion of our Labor Day Weekend. We had nice weather for all the members that spent all, or part of the weekend with us. Have you noticed the two youngsters swimming several nights in the pool? They are a local boy and girl training for the Olympics and are doing a real job of practicing. The friday night bingo party is now being proceeded by a "all you can eat fish fry", sounds yummy—The age limit for Bingo, is 18 years, the youngsters have been going to the pool. Sounds like a real fun night. We've had some hospital patients among our members. Verge De Vore and our electrician, Ben Gerardi had a session in AV

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Hospital. Also Lois Thomas had surgery on her shoulder. They all are on the mend now.

Did you get a chance to see the horses get new shoes? a new machine was used that after strapping them in place, laid them on their sides, and their hoofs were in perfect position to receive new shoes. The record time for two men is 17 minutes. Wow!! We had a fine guest square dance caller on Sunday. Dave Hoffman from Lompoc.

SEPT. 12th . . . . Our biggest Bingo turnout 39 members enjoying the fish fry and then Bingo. Sue Lupica won the "Black Out" prize—Sue and Howard also have a new daughter—Welcome little Lupica. Welcome home too, to Betty and Carl Hagstrom who have returned from a trip to Sweden to visit Carl's family.

SEPT. 13th . . . . Excitement on the Golf Course, both men and women have started their Championship Tournaments. The women had a "Kick Off Breakfast" up in the canyon after a delightful ride on a hay wagon. After the sausage and pancakes it was a little hard to swing a golf club. Second Saturday is also Square Dance night. Don't forget it has been changed—Bud and Angel are eager to teach too, so come on up. *We're going to be on Television!*—November 23rd on the Ralph Story show—The cameras were up at the Lake this week, so try and remember to watch for it.

SEPT. 20th . . . . Last Trail ride of the season, and the night is "nippy". We had a fine guitar picker Cecil Cook, playing and singing around the campfire—Had five squares dancing up a storm in the club house. There was also a party at the home of Ralph and Jean Laws, celebrating their 34th anniversary. They were presented with a very green putter from their fellow golfers. Congrats to you both.

Did you know we have three more full time residents? The Wellings who bought the Elam Lodge. The Paseks, George was finally transferred to Lancaster, and the Biehls—We are getting to be a real community—

SEPT. 28 . . . . Big doing at the Golf Club today. Last day of the Men's Club Championship Tournament. "Sweet Swinger" Wayne Murphy is our champ for the second year—Chris Christenson was runner-up—Darrell Lambert and Rod Bissett and Tom White and John Soltis were winners in their flights—Nice going fellows!! This was climaxed by

a Steak Bake prepared by our Chef Don and his wife Camille—mmm—good—

Have you seen our new baby?—A pony colt was born this week—What a cutie.

It's "Aloha" to Florence Trout and Margie Ballinger leaving for a trip to Hawaii this week. Know they will have a wonderful time. Wayne and Ann Johnson visited the islands this summer too, had a wonderful time.

OCT. 4th . . . . The day of the big match—Our Champ, Wayne Murphy and our assistant pro, Jack Rutherford are playing against our pro, Allen Jones and Clem Carlson—the gallery paying a fee, which will go towards buying some trees to replace some we lost during the storm. It was an exciting event with Allen and Clem taking the lead, Jack & Murph almost caught up, but Allen and Clem won on the 17th hole. A Steak Bake followed.

This was Square Dance Round-up night and we had a nice group of dancers for our guest caller, Harley Slatter from Long Beach. Some of the clubs were Aces and Deuces from Lancaster, Howdy Partners from Van Nuys, Silver Squaws from Glendale, Lonesome Eights from Sylmar and Paws and Taws from Canoga Park. A nice buffet was served in the Dining Room and the first fire of the season in the fireplace—So the summer ends and I'm looking forward to the fall season.

### HAPPY TRAILS

*by Bertha Blakely Weston*

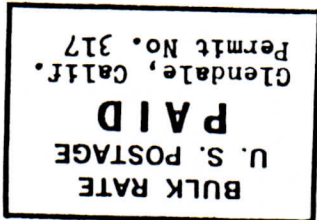
I love to ride on Happy Trails  
Beneath the veil of stars;  
The freedom from all daily cares  
Brings forth good songs, guitars.

We ride along on happy trails  
Where families play together;  
The recreation offered here  
Is keyed for any weather.

We hike or ride on happy trails  
Or square dance, golf or swim;  
The fellowship o'er all the ranch  
Gives life a new-found vim.

We tell our friends of happy trails  
Where families take their guests;  
Soon friends belong the same as we,  
And cabins line the crests.

The hayrides on these happy trails  
Bring back the days of yore;  
And happy families leave the ranch  
To come back soon for more.



LAKE ELIZABETH RANCH CLUB  
319 North Central Avenue  
Glendale, California 91203

## SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

We've all had a lot of fun this summer with the Moonlight Trail Rides, Fiesta Days, Breakfast Trail Rides and plenty of good weather for Swimming and Picnicking. Now, with the shorter days and cooler nights, we begin our Winter Season. We have planned a schedule that we believe everyone will enjoy, especially if you participate! The following are the highlights of our program and we are looking forward to seeing you.

**October 25th**

### **HALLOWEEN COSTUME DANCE**

The Halloween Dance is one of the favorite events of the year. We'll have trophies for the best costumes and a good band playing for your dancing enjoyment from 8:00 to Midnight. It would be a good idea to reserve a lodge for the evening and really make a night of it!

**November 15th**

### **HARVEST MOON DANCE**

This is the formal Dance of the year. We've scheduled a fine dance band and will have our Annual Waltz Contest with trophies being awarded to the winners.

**November 27th**

### **THANKSGIVING DAY**

Thanksgiving Day has traditionally been a Day of Feast in the company of good friends . . . Where else could you find a nicer group of friends than at the Club? The chef is already placing his orders for the finest turkeys to be found in Southern California. Don't fight the cooking problem at home — bring Mom to the Club and let her enjoy the Holiday, too.

Dinner is served from 12:00 Noon to 7:00 p.m., or until the last tummy is filled!

**December 20th**

### **CHRISTMAS PARTY**

This is a wonderful event to bring the children to. After a full day of fun, we pass out the song sheets at 7:00 p.m. and gather around the piano for some old-fashioned carol singing. Santa Claus shows up at about 9:00 to talk to the children and pass out some fruit and candy. For the parents, we'll have coffee, punch and cookies being served in the Dining Room.

**December 31st**

### **NEW YEAR'S EVE**

Ring out the Old and Ring in the New at Lake Elizabeth! Yes! the whole gang will be at the Club celebrating New Year's Eve with Hats, Balloons, Noisemakers and Good Cheer. We'll sing Auld Lang Syne at Midnight and dance our way into 1969. All the fun starts at 8:00. Be there!!