

RANCH CHATTER

VOLUME 5, Number 3

LAKE ELIZABETH RANCH CLUB

JULY, 1971

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

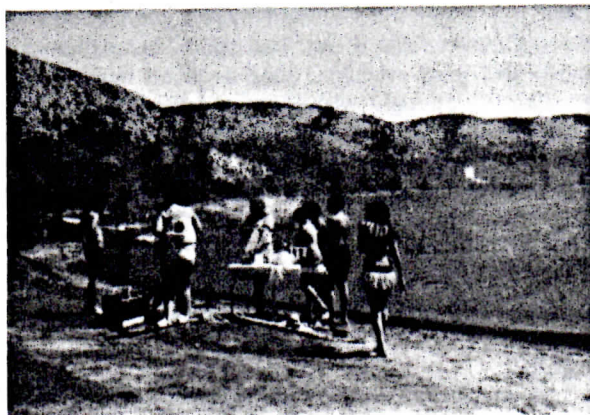
For many years we have been intrigued by the numerous reports of longevity in the valley and vicinity of Lake Elizabeth. An example comes to mind of one of the first men employed by the Club. He was a plumber who could out-work and out-think people less than half his age. In his youth he had been a contestant in six-day bicycle races.

When Mr. Ellis moved into our valley it was said by several doctors that he could not long survive—his illness was incurable and of long standing. Oddly, when he came to help us with our early problems he was in his middle eighties and had lost the sight in one eye as the result of an accident. Quote Mr. Ellis in early 1947, "Nobody ever dies in this country. They just eventually dry up and blow away."

Subsequently we became aware of many more of the old timers who cherished the same viewpoint, but seemed at a loss to account to others a reason, or reasons, for abounding good health, sturdy physiques, two-fisted ebullient attitudes and a keen interest in the contemporary scene despite advancing years.

Suddenly, our own quarter century of background at Lake Elizabeth, coupled with the sage observations of Mr. B.C. McCabe who arrived and owned the original property from 1924 until our purchase in 1947 (and still has his own hideaway at Lake Elizabeth), began to create a thread of logic and a burgeoning of substantial accountability. Two important factors emerged immediately to be followed by others in rapid succession.

Notable was the information in the public prints of a consortium of doctors who went to Yugoslavia to determine why, in one area, it was not uncommon to find people living beyond the age of one hundred and twenty years. Their study proved that this phenomenon occurred only at elevations above sea level approximately our own average at Lake Elizabeth, namely, 35 to 45 hundred feet!



Club members enjoying a beach picnic along our lake shore.

Moreover, the water supply was of purest quality, completely unpolluted and free of chlorination or other additives. Also, climatic conditions were found to be variable, seasonal, but not extremely hot or cold. Some light snow in wintertime and delightfully moderate during the springtime, summer, and fall.

Does this sound rather familiar? It should, since within limits the comparison is remarkable. We, Too, have clarity of atmosphere minus the devastating effects of smog! The water out of our deep well in the valley south of the Ranch Clubhouse was tested by Los Angeles Testing Laboratory and found to be of the purest quality they had encountered in years. In short, we should probably bottle it for marketing purposes!

Conclusion. What has Yugoslavia and other similar areas throughout the world got that we can't match in cards and spades! How can you fine members find the time to stay at home when all this and much more is found practically at your back door!

President and Founder
Russell T. Burnham



THE HOT LINE

Boat permit fees will drop to one half the usual annual charge as of August 1st. Decals may be secured at the Glendale office. This price reduction also applies to all owners of Ranch Lodges. Bear in mind that all such permits are issued only to qualified members of the Club.

Cocktails are now available at the Golf Professional Shop lounge and bar. To patronize this new facility you must present a current membership card and may be accompanied by guests. While open to all Ranch Club Members, as well as golfing members, no person under twenty-one years of age is permitted to enter the lounge.

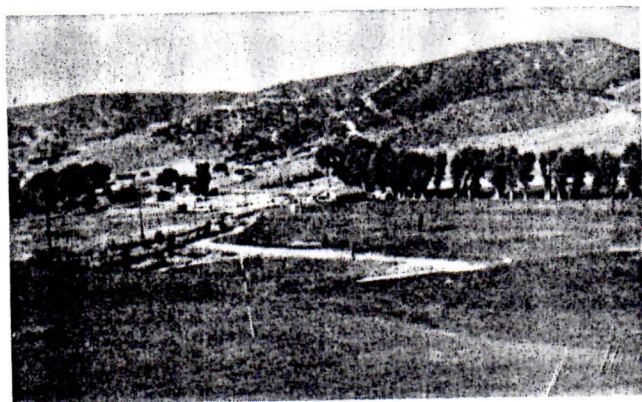
Our landing strip on the south shore of the lake was not intended to be a beach or picnicking area. The probability of accidents arising out of this practice is extremely high. We have now opened the north shore beach for this kind of activity, so please use it instead of our airstrip!

Several weeks ago the Intercontinental Airport was dedicated by a clutch of high City and County officials. It will not only be the world's largest airport, but is very apt to bring about an influx of thousands of new families in the Palmdale area. While only about sixteen miles away we are not, underscore the not, in the flight pattern!

continued on page 5



GOLF NEWS by Annie Dutton



The weather has been getting steadily better. As a matter of fact the week-end of fourth of July was nearly perfect. The breeze kept it from being too hot. The golf course is doing a brisk business at this time of the year. A very nice tournament is coming up the week-end of the 10th.

Of course by the time you read this, it will be all over. It is to be a member guest tourney. The management is donating the greens fees and the Men's Club is giving the dinner. All the golf members wish to thank both donors.

We also have a new bar at the club. They just laid down a new carpet. It matches the bar stools and paneling great. We sure are getting fancy around here.

Our golf pro has been ailing. Hope he gets to feeling better soon.

There are several new members and welcome to them. I hope they enjoy our company as much as we enjoy having them.

There seems to be more and more Ranch Club members coming over the hill to play around our little corner of the world. We are delighted to see more members from the high knoll coming around.

Since most of you members drive a considerable distance it might be to your advantage if the rules of the golf club (or pro-shop) are reviewed for you. We don't want anyone denied the pleasure of playing golf. No bare feet allowed in the area at all. Blue jeans, bathing suits, hot pants and mid-riffs are taboo. Shirts are required at all times, tee shirts are a no, no. Golf shoes are preferred but tennis shoes or soft soles are acceptable. No high heels ever (we must protect our greens).

There are a few rules on the course. Spectators are verboten on the course for safety reasons. If you plan to walk the course you must have a set of clubs and pay greens fees. Not long ago I was hit in the mouth with a flying ball and take my word for it, that ball stung. Now that we have everything in line this will save you from being disappointed after driving such a long way.

We have several new lady golfers (called quivering quail here), and they are having a ball. Hackers is held the last Saturday of the Month. If you are interested stop in and get the details. It is a fun type of thing.

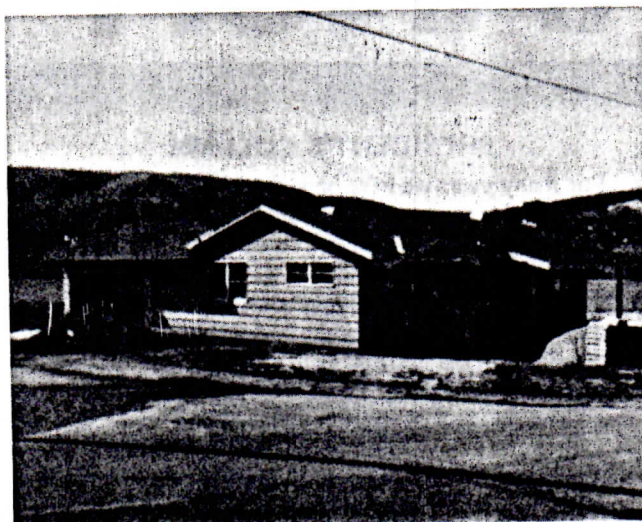
If you are a hacker, duffer, golfer or just plain interested in becoming one stop in and start talking and show that you are considering it and someone will steer you on the right course. Keep your head down and follow through.

See you around
Annie Dutton



BUILDING NEWS by Bert Koch

Welcome neighbors to Clyde and Elsie Jensen and much happiness in your new lodge at the Club. You are most welcome to our community of fine people.



Clyde and Elsie Jensen's Lodge.

Nearing completion is the lodge of Ernest and Louise Howard on Ranch Club Road, nice and yellow, and looking good.

Others will start soon when plans and financing are finished.

Now is the time to build. Financing has improved and rental demands are good. Take advantage of income property with its tax write-off possibilities.



THE PARTY LINE, "MANN"ed by Jean

April 11 Easter Sunday...

The Easter Bunny really was a nice rabbit and served us up some good weather. A big crowd of members brought the children up for the egg hunt on the back lawn—some youngsters had sharp eyes and found the prize egg—and such is life, some came away empty handed, but the front desk always makes it better with their little Easter baskets. Ollie, our wonderful chef had a good, good, good Ham and Sweets dinner, and if you had room, her delicious home made pies were available. Nice weekend here at the club, starting Friday night with Bingo and the Fish Fry. This was a record turnout for Bingo with 76 players. This is such a fun night, if you can ever make it up on a Friday, bring a \$1.00 prize for each of you in a paper sack and join the fun. If you don't care too much for fish, Ollie always has a meat dish too on the buffet. See you there?

We have some new peacocks strutting around the grounds, they were a gift from Mr. McCabe.

April 17

All we can talk about today is the weather. Would you believe Snow? Started out with rain, that turned to hail, that turned to snow—then came the sun, then some snow,



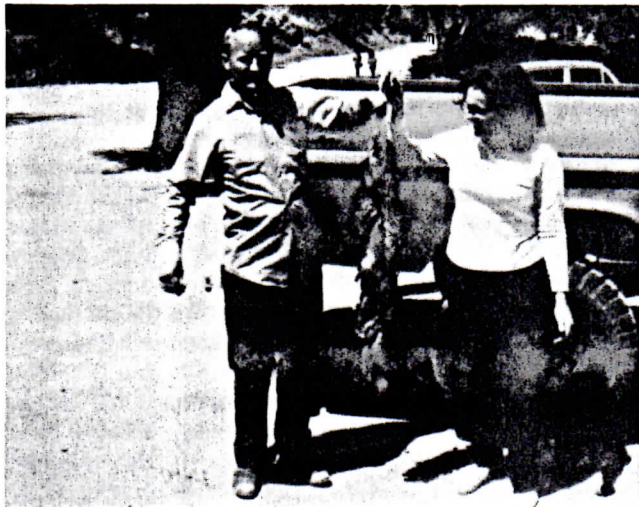
Big Smiles and All Winners—Wildflower Talent Contest.

then some sun and repeat, repeat and repeat. This sure didn't help the attendance at our Wild Flower Dance, but the people that braved the storm enjoyed the performances of your young people in the talent contest. The judges were Larry Taylor, Bert Torrey and Dale Schudlack, and they had a hard time in their job, but the winners were, Vivian Cook, guitar picking and singing, first, Russell Moulton, accordion, second and Laura DeVore and Carol Newhick, guitar duet, third, and runner up was Nora White who performed a humorous pantomime. The Gold Coast Four were in good form, and Ollie's Buffet was super...

We were saddened by news of the death of Claude Ballard, one of our Charter members. Eve and Claude just recently sold their home here at the Ranch and had moved to Desert Hot Springs. Our sympathy and much love going out to Eve, in her loss, and our own personal feelings on loss of such a grand person. Hope Heaven needed another fine person and musician.

May 1st.

First Trail Ride—are you brave enough for this cold, cold night? The hardy ones had a great time on the trail, and then the char-broiled hot dogs and marshmallows hit the spot. Cotton Henry played the guitar and sang out at the fire ring and he will be here for each Hayride. He is a



Richard and Roxy Shoulders proudly display a typical one day's catch. When she's not fishing, Roxy works at our Glendale office.

professional entertainer, at one time playing with the "Sons of the Pioneers". He's great—so come on out and listen to him perform, and join in the community sings.

May 10

This was the 20th Anniversary of Catherine DeLay of the Glendale office and a party was held at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Burnham. Guests included most of the working members of the ranch club. Jim and Cleo Price supplied about 100 trout for the fish fry, and everyone else brought a goody for a super duper pot luck. Felicia, also of the Glendale office baked a cake decorated in yellow and white for Catherine for 20 years of service. Real nice party for a real nice gal.

May 15

The weather was perfect for our first Fiesta Day and everyone really had a wonderful time. A beef Bar-B-Que was served in the picnic area all afternoon. About 100 pounds of meat that just melted in your mouth; ranch beans and the whole dinner was something to smack you lips about. The contests were fun and the winners in Shuffleboard were Polly Johnson and her husband Ken, also Linda Everett. Croquet was won by Vivki Gemmill, 2nd Mike Blackman and 3rd Joe Gemmill. Horseshoes was won by Jay Foreman, 2nd Gary Everett and 3rd Mike Blakman and Bob Jacobson in a tie. The Jr. Ping Pong contest was won by Eddie DeVore, 2nd Darlene Martin and 3rd was Mike Whitford.

This was followed by leg races for the young set, with many winners, and then to the back lawn for breaking of the Pinatas, with goodies for the children. Everyone looked like they were having a ball.



Fiesta Day contestants on the run.

Memorial Weekend

A first—in 24 years, this was the first Hayride that was ever cancelled—you wouldn't believe the fog that rolled in from the hills. All the lodges were filled, and people were looking forward to a great 3 day holiday, but someone didn't tell the weather man. The whole Southland was miserable, but we all made the best of it. Cotton Henry sang and played the guitar, and Doug Morgan, our square dance caller joined him in some pickin' and singin', so we had some great entertainment. I think I missed summer, somebody told me it was two days ago...We have really had a cold spring, but I really believe the weather has got to get better.

June

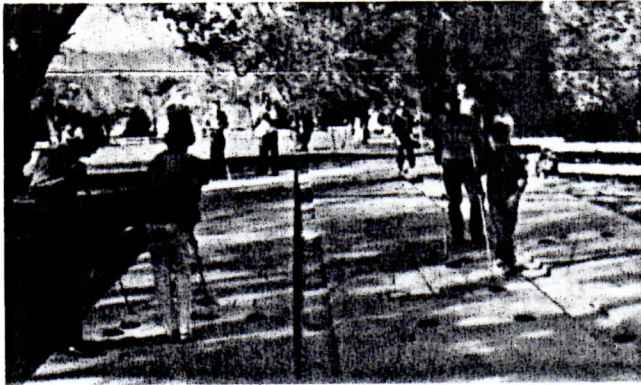
Hey, I take it all back, June is busting out all over, and it's summer all over the ranch. Welcome back.

June 12

I don't believe what I see, are those Hawaiian maidens out on the golf course? Yes, those active women golfers had a Luau today, everyone dressed for the party that featured pork roasted in banana leaves, oriental type noodles, pineapple, of course, and all to be eaten without benefit of silverware. What fun. Betty Dahle took first place as best dressed Island girl, Marge Godward was second and Annie Dutton was third. A kookie tournament followed with Patty Jost taking first place. Bernice Prentice and Mary Schudlack are to be complimented on a very enjoyable day.

June 13

This was such a nice day at the Ranch Club, as we were surrounded by dancers. Mr. and Mrs. Stefan Arth, members of the Ranch Club brought a group of their friends to dance for all of us. They are members of the D'Oberlander, Schumplatter Verin Dance Club. These are Bavarian Dancers. The men were dressed in the short leather pants, covered with embroidery, they also wore large hats with huge feathers and plumes. The gals wore peasant type dresses, white hose, and white aprons. They were so good, everyone wanted them to do some more. The men do a lot of solo dances, with much slapping of the soles of their shoes. When they rested, Doug Morgan's youth group, called the "Sun Dance Kids", danced some fancy square dances. This is a group from Lancaster, and Doug has every reason to be proud of them. They have new matching outfits in green, and looked so darn cute.



Shuffleboard is enjoyed by all ages at the Ranch Club.

June 19

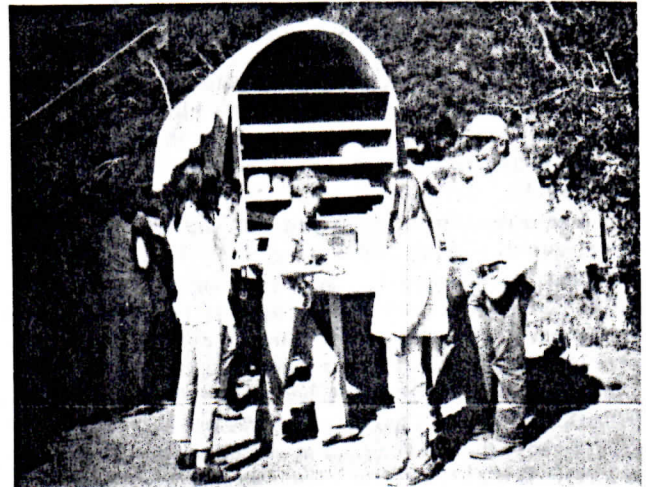
This was Fiesta Day, such wonderful weather. The Bar-B-Que was excellent, and the games were well played. Croquet was won by Mr. Wheeler, 2nd place went to Barbara Jacobson and 3rd was Dennis Marshall. The Horseshoe contest was a double event, 1st place Bob Snow and Jerry Bischel, 2nd Bob Ville and John Brewer, and 3rd Bob Jacobson and Mike Blackman. The Shuffle board contest was won by Robert Conkien, 2nd Jean Pressley, and 3rd Lynn Blackman. The Adult Ping Pong was won by Jim Scharer, 2nd was Linda Jensen and 3rd place was Joe Jensen. The children's contest was won again by Eddie DeVore, Steve Lupica was 2nd and Cindy Schaefer was 3rd. This was followed by the foot races and then of course the breaking of the Pinatas. This is such a nice day for the whole family, try to make the last one of the year which is August 21st.

This was also wedding day for two of your young people. Cindy Martin was married to John Holtz. Their parents are both Golf Club members, and Cindy was practically raised here at the Ranch. They had a lovely

church wedding in Lancaster followed by a reception at the Ranch home of Gene and Audrey. Our own Alex Martin was the soloist, and also sang the Hawaiian wedding song for them before they left on their honeymoon. They will be at home here at the Ranch in the little white house that has been getting such a face lifting. Much happiness to you both.

We have a beauty queen in our midst. Gale Arnold, another of your young people, growing up here at the Ranch, was elected Miss Lake Hughes for 1971, and will compete for Miss Antelope Valley at the Antelope Valley Fair on Labor Day. Congrats, Gail and good luck in the next contest.

We want to thank Nick Sarilo from Tehachapi for being Guest Square Dance Caller. We all enjoyed his calls. Don't forget that we square dance every 4th Saturday, every Trail ride night and every Sunday afternoon 2 PM to 5 PM. Doug is willing to teach anyone interested in trying to learn.



"Come and get 'em while they're hot", is the cry at the Chuck Wagon Breakfast.

Don't forget either the Chuck Wagon Breakfast rides held on the 2nd Sunday through September. Leave the Club house at 8 AM.

Another summer event now taking place is the Gymkansas for the young cowboys and cowgirls. This is the first Saturday of every month beginning at 10 AM.

Sorry to report our Pro, Allan Jones is in the hospital undergoing tests, so hurry up and get well, already...

July 4th Weekend

This started off with a bang!, no pun intended. Bingo had 80 fun loving members, bingoing all over the place, content after the fish fry, which was as always, delicious.

Saturday was the Trail ride, and it was a beautiful night, just a light sweater was all that was needed. Cotton Henry was singing up a storm down at the fire ring. All the lodges were full, and this time we really had great weather. Sunday was square dance day, and this is always fun to watch, even if you think you have two left feet. We almost had a tragedy on the lake this weekend. Our Lancaster Representative, Jerry Bischel was driving across the dam, when he noticed a small child floundering several feet out from the shore. He dove in, clothes and all and rescued this three year old from drowning. Mom had turned her back for just a minute, and that's all it takes, but thanks to Jerry, all is well.

Don't forget the Mid Summer dance on the 17th of July, See you there?

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Mr. Burnham,

The Neff Band Members would like to express their appreciation to you for making the trip to Lake Elizabeth enjoyable.

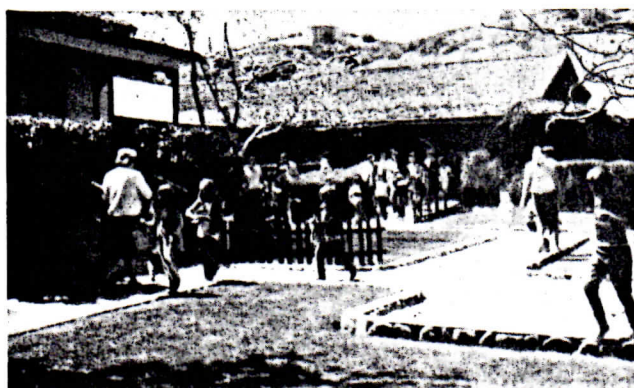
Thank you for making the facilities of the club available to us. We also thank you for taking the responsibility of having all of us use the club.

We had a wonderful time. Thank you again.

Sincerely,
Barbara Stephens
(Neff Band Secretary)
La Mirada, California

Dear Sirs,

We have been members—Life Membership— of Lake Elizabeth Ranch Club for over 7 years. Though we have not been active, we have made at least one trip a year to the Club, and have been impressed with what you have done in the way of improvements over the years. Everything you promised to do seven years ago, you have done—and done very well.



Enjoy as many days as possible at the Ranch this summer—it was never more beautiful.



continued from page 1

Hot Line

We are still working very closely with the Antelope Valley East Kern agency to solve our water problems affecting the lake. There seems more than a little daylight down the road. Water is expected in the east branch in the fall of this year!

Last week-end we brought the members of our small Trailer Club to the Club for a tour. They were most impressed with the facilities and all of them expressed a wish to join the Club.

We will become more active in the Club in the future and are anxious to see the completion of the Trailer facilities that we understand are to begin later this year. The addition of trailer facilities will make Lake Elizabeth just about as complete as any one place can be; and we know it will be done in as fine a style as all the other facilities on the Ranch.

Yours Truly,
Robert & Barbara Grabendike
Ventura, California

Dear Mr. Burnham,

Imagine my delight and surprise when I opened the Ranch Chatter to find you had so kindly reprinted the California Beauty. There is nothing which delights a native Californian more than to have others share his love for his state.

You have been so gracious to me and I have no way of showing my gratitude other than expressing it poetically. As I read through the Ranch Chatter I could not help but recall an April several years ago when we brought our family up to the Ranch during the Easter vacation. Although we encountered rain we also found the Spring to be the most captivating time we had ever enjoyed. The trees and flowers were floral masterpieces.

As I remembered that day I wrote the enclosed poem for you with my very special gratitude for your thoughtfulness to me. It is a joy to be able to share with others my love for this land of ours.

I was very interested in your note about the California history connected with Lake Elizabeth. Do you know of any books which I might obtain which would tell a little more about the background of the area? I would enjoy trying my hand at a few quatrains concerning various points around the Lake area, just for fun.

Please forgive the handwritten copy of the poem but my typewriter is at the shop temporarily.

My sincere and best wishes to you and deepest appreciation.

Poetically yours,
Zelma Dennis

Allure of April

Young April danced on rainbow feet,
And gaily swirled her cloudy skirt.
Her lilac perfume wild and sweet
Betrayed the presence of this flirt.

She ran across the emerald hill
And tossed bouquets from silver hand.
She teased the moody lake so still
Then laughing shook the trees on land.

This April lass who stole my heart
Brings every year a rendezvous
Upon a hill when Spring will start
And mortals find this love anew!

At Lake Elizabeth

To Mr. Russell T. Burnham with deep appreciation for your kindness in printing California Beauty

April 1971
Zelma S. Dennis