



# RANCH CHATTER

VOLUME 2, Number 2

LAKE ELIZABETH RANCH CLUB

APRIL 15, 1968

## HISTORY OF THE RANCH CLUB PART IV by R. T. Burnham, *President*

In this issue we return to the story, briefly interrupted by our "Memo of Appreciation," of the early years of our Club. Believing our lake to be so integral a part of the whole picture, it will be dealt with here—no pun intended—in depth.

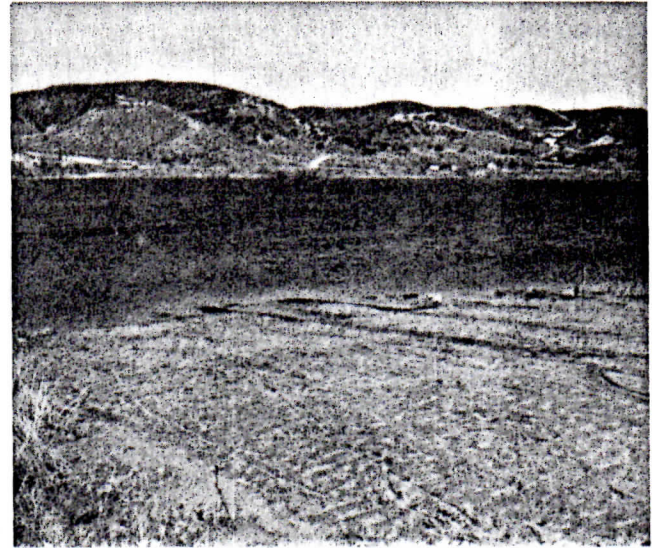
The earliest name of record was, Laguna del Diablo, or by Spanish translation, Lake of the Devil. Doubtless this unhappy characterization of our presently useable, sparkling body of water was fashioned by the superstitious, often wine-imbibing Indian, Mexican and Spanish inhabitants of the lush valley area. Obviously many tall tales were told throughout the countryside; many the kind out of which legend is born.

Perhaps the most prevalent and persistent tale was one describing the lake as the home of a huge winged Dragon whose roar could be heard echoing up and down the valley. One can hardly doubt, then, the word of a vaquero working under Mayordomo of the ranch, Senor Vasquez, that he actually encountered the Dragon late one day while moving his herd of cattle close to the shore.

Well before the gathering dusk interfered with visibility he saw the monster arise from the lake to stride toward the fringe of the herd of fine plump cattle. Quickly he devoured one cow for a late afternoon snack. Now, if ever, was a time for bravery and action most heroic. So our valiant vaquero fired his gun into the armor-like hide of the Dragon only to note that his bullets glanced harmlessly aside. It was at this point our brave vaquero gave up the unequal struggle and fled the scene to describe to all who listened the monstrous appearance of the unholy Dragon making his home in the laguna!

To most of we moderns the Indian name for our history making lake is either lost in antiquity, or at least remains unknown except to the tribes who used the old, old trails. So we must be content with our Laguna del Diablo until shortly after the middle of the last century. In this period the lake was over two miles long with no dam dividing it in the center. Quite in reason, most travelers using El Camino Viejo de Los Angeles, presently called Lake Elizabeth Road, recognized this landmark as a veritable oasis of beautiful shoreline backed up by magnificent cottonwoods and willows.

Because this restful spot was at least a days journey by horse and buggy or stagecoach, we became a most desirable stopover on the trek north to such exotic places as Fort Tejon, Willow Springs, Havilah, Trona and Death Valley.



*Beautiful Lake Elizabeth as it is today — awaiting your attention and serving your pleasures.*

A family prominently identified with the development of California came to use our shore as a suitable encampment on their own northward trips. During a first stay one small daughter called Elizabeth was momentarily unattended by watchful parents whereupon she fell into the lake. Thenceforth, the family began to call our lake, Elizabeth's Lake. Soon the name was common usage throughout the southland. Finally, the map makers dropped the apostrophe and today we have Lake Elizabeth, after which our Ranch and Golf Clubs are named.

A picture of the north shore with its white sand and beach and spreading trees is printed and captioned in this issue. The snapshot was developed in the spring of 1947. Was this the lovely location where so many weary, dusty pioneers were able to pause in restful, beautiful surroundings before continuing their respective journeys?



*A view of Lake Elizabeth's north shore as it was in 1947.*



**BUILDING NEWS** *by BERT KOCH***LODGE CONSTRUCTION** *Rancho Sierra*

Gene & Audry Martin's house-warming was well attended. A nice get-together with everyone enjoying the party and seeing their beautiful new home.

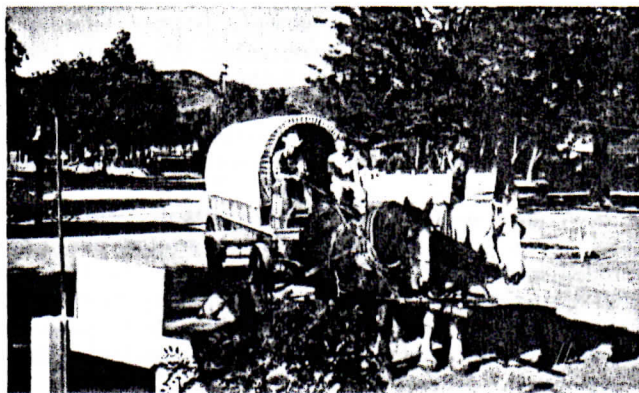
Jim & Charlotte Farinash will introduce their New Lodge to everyone this month.

Keith & Nancy Heese are moving into their new Lodge. Welcome Neighbor to Lake Elizabeth.

Under construction are Lodges for Thayer & Pearl Cooley and Dale & Muriel Priest. Other lodges are in the planning stage.



The above picture is **FORREST & VIRGINIA LLOYD** and their new lodge. They are busy landscaping and planting. Welcome Neighbor!



Westward Ho! Our Club Pioneers are ready to hit the old trail in our authentic Covered Wagon.

**Bereavement**

**MR. THOMAS R. MATHEWS**, one of our first stockholders whose dedicated loyalty to our Club never wavered, passed away on the 3rd of last month. He is survived by his wife and family whose many visits thru the years never failed to brighten our days at the Club. Tom was truly a wonderful person whose exemplary life should serve as an example to all. His funeral was attended by your B of D's whose sense of loss of an old friend is deep and abiding. God rest his soul.

**THE HOT LINE!**

You all ain't seen nuthin' like the hangin' taking place at the ole corral. Be it a rustlin' hombre or a stage robber our vigilantes manage to capture the varmit an' get him strung up proper by 2:00 p.m. most every Sunday!

\*

A note to the horsey set. Gymkhanas are scheduled by our hoss wrangler, Dick Ohnstead, and one or more of his cowpokes to take place each Sunday after our Moonlite Trail Ride. A reminder will be posted on the bulletin board. Ribbons and Trophies awarded to the winning contestants.

\*

Our Gen'l Mgr., Jerry Brown, assures us we will have the trap shoot ready for use by late spring. Dirt to move and bird house has to be built. We will stock shells and a few firearms, or you may bring your own muskets. Yes, there will be the usual charges made as at other such facilities.

\*

A suitable boat ramp is now installed on the south shore close to the dam. To use your boat on the lake annual permission from the Board of Directors must be applied for and granted through the Glendale office. All fishermen must limit their catch to the following maximums; six catfish, three bass and fifteen bluegills. Violation of these rules may result in expulsion from the Club, or revocation of all lake privileges!

\*

In a move to increase weekly activity in the horse department, the Board of Directors are pleased to announce that rates have been lowered from Monday through Friday to \$1.25 per hour. The \$1.75 per hour rate for horse rental will still be applicable on all holidays, and on any day preceding a national holiday.

\*

Since we now have excellent fishing in the Lake, the former fishing lake is being renovated and deepened to ultimately be incorporated in our Western Village area. We trust that in the years to come this will become one of the popular beauty spots at the Ranch.

\*

Our popular and accomplished square dance caller, Gayle Crouse, is scheduling square dancing on the first Saturday of each month. This schedule will be followed as long as attendance justifies its continuance. To those with little or no square dancing experience be assured that Gayle is a very accomplished and willing teacher.

\*

Water skiing and sport cruising will henceforth be restricted to the hours between 10:00 a.m. and 4 p.m. daily. This will give fisherman the early and late hours, though there will be no restriction extended governing fishing except those set by the Dept. of Fish & Game. A license to fish issued locally or in your nearest sporting goods or hardware store is still a requirement.

**HAVE YOU SENT IN YOUR \$1.00?**

Your \$1.00 for this quarterly publication is due. Please remit by return mail and don't forget the ZIP CODE. (If you have already sent the \$1.00 in, please ignore this notice. We are working hard to bring our list up-to-date.)



## GOLF COURSE NEWS

### GOLF MEMBERS, RANCH CLUB MEMBERS

Course is open 7 days a week but the Pro Shop and Coffee Shop are closed on Mondays.

### NEW GREENS FEE RATES:

Ranch Club Members

\$3.00 Weekdays, \$5.00 Weekends

Guests

\$3.00 Weekdays, \$5.00 Weekends

(Prices above are an all day rate, as many holes as you wish to play. After 3 PM, half price.)

### DRIVING RANGE OPEN:

The driving range is available to all Ranch Club Members and their guests. We have 50c buckets and \$1.00 size range balls with clubs for you to use free of charge. Come down and sock a few.



*The Juniors of today, the Pros of tomorrow, practicing their golf swing.*

The busy season at the golf course has arrived. The Junior program got underway in March with over thirty juniors signing in. They will be having tournaments during the summer months.

The Mens Club has been real busy getting ready for the summer season with our first Big Tournament, Partners Best Ball, set for April with thirty-eight of forty-five Mens Club members signed in.

Harry Smith, Allan Jones and crew have been doing a fine job in getting the golf course in top shape for the summer. With over 700 trees planted and new sand in the traps the course really is looking beautiful.

Those Ranch Club members that enjoy the game of golf should come up and see for themselves — you are all welcome.

Gene Martin  
President, Mens Club

## Anniversaries

Wesley and Marilyn Tuttle, accomplished entertainers in the folk and western field, recently celebrated their 22nd wedding anniversary by joining our Club. Mr. Tuttle is now a Christian minister. We welcome Wesley and Marilyn into our family with open arms.

Kenneth and Margaret Anderson of Arleta celebrated their wedding anniversary on February 16th by attending our Valentine's Day Dance. They had friends in attendance whom they invited to become members. Happy Anniversary, Kenneth and Margaret!

## MILITARY NOTES

Recently, Craig, son of Mr. and Mrs. Wilson Coley, returned on the carrier *Enterprise* to San Francisco, after extensive service in the waters off Vietnam. Craig has been reassigned to the *Bon Homme Richard* and has once again returned to the Vietnamese scene. He was able to spend several weeks at home with his parents, appearing each weekend at the Club.

David R. Arnold has become a Machinist Mate in the Navy and during a recent furlough and transfer to another station, was able to spend several weeks with his mother and father, Mr. and Mrs. Melford I. Arnold, who have long been residents of our Club.

We are extremely proud of these young men and of the sons of our fine members who are engaged in protecting this great country of ours.

## HORSE SENSE

Mr. Dick Ohnstad, horse wrangler extraordinary, has spent his entire lifetime working with horses. When only nine years of age, Dick owned his first two-year-old stud and before that was the proud owner of a pony.

At thirteen years of age, Dick started training horses and we need add, very effectively, until the present day.

He was born and brought up on a South Dakota farm where such experience was certainly not uncommon. Progressively, and prior to his happy marriage, he combined studies in college with the art of roping and horse management.

In 1960, Dick moved to California where he secured employment at the Kingsley Stables prior to employment at a ranch near Barstow, California. He then became manager of a pony farm in Palmdale, following which he worked for and studied the veterinary medicine for over a year. His next stopover, and we hope it will be for a long time, brought him to our Club.



*Wrangler Dick Ohmstead, a man with true horse sense.*



**BEAR FACTS**

by Shultzie

January

A month of delightful sunshine and unbelievable warm weather, until the rains came and then turned into a wet snow, which was beautiful, but, didn't stay with us for a long enough time.

February 3

A most interesting golf meeting, with talks by Russ Burnham, Allan Jones, Gene Martin, George Sullivan, and Jack Rutherford. We were full of good food, another one of those wonderful buffets, rustled up by our chef, Margaret. This was after good company provided at the Jones'. What was that rumor about Bernice Prentice's long johns? Bert did what?

February 10

*Love and Kisses* was the theme for the Valentine Dance. A yummy buffet, why don't they invite someone hungry as a bear . . . (like me!) The music was supplied by the Kings Five - wonder where the Queen of Hearts was? We had a contest which was won by a pair of clowns, Jean and Bill Mann. Jean was giving out candy hearts, and Bill was giving out valentines, handed to him by an animal - I think that animal was a friend of mine. Cindy DeVore looked like a Valentine Sweetheart and was awarded the second place trophy. Mel and Ella Brown dressed like a pair of swinging smoothies received the third place trophy. The children of Wayne and Ann Johnson were awarded consolation prizes. A real nice dance, a good time for everyone.

February 12

We celebrated Lincoln's Birthday with a nice group of people enjoying the club. The weather couldn't make up its mind - sun, rain, or just cold . . . so we had a bit of each.

February 24

There must have been at least 70 Lake Elizabethites at the housewarming for Gene and Audrey Martin. Such a fun time! An autograph game turned up some interesting facts. Jim Farnmash wears wild green socks, Marge Kurth's middle initial is "H", and of course Bob O'Rear was the Man of the Hour being a twin. I wonder why Les Parker thought he was a cracker?

March 2

Can you believe this wonderful weather? Spring must be here! Those golfers are having one of their famous Hacker's today. I can smell that Bar-B-Que way up here. The Siever's were the winning team on the golf course, but Marge Spriet won the mostest desired white elephant. The baby pictures of the golfers seemed to be a big puzzle to figure out. Maybe golfers were never babies!

March 9

What happened to spring? Shut off that cold, I must have become a true thin-blooded Californian - I want that warm weather back! A nice meeting of the Mens and Womens Golf Clubs. What did they say about keeping your eye on the ball? Suppose I could learn that silly game?

\* \* \*

**RIDING LESSONS**

3 Group Lessons — \$10.00, including horse rental.  
Private Lessons — \$5.00 per hour, including horse rental.

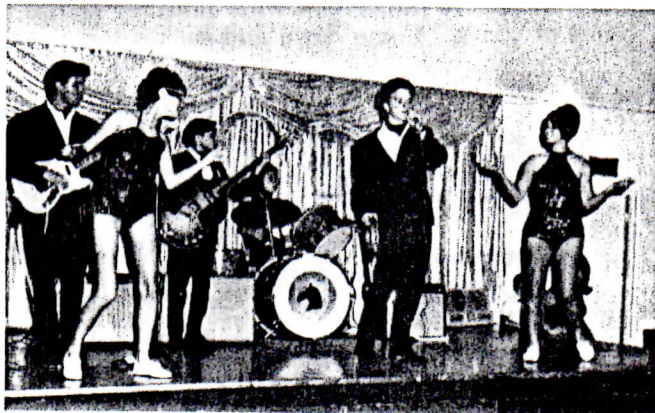
**BY POPULAR DEMAND**

Arrangements have been completed to have the "PRECIOUS PILLS" from Simi Valley play for us on "Fiesta Day", May 25th. Music from 8 p.m. till?

All you young people, and the young at heart, are finally going to have YOUR day.

The Combo, including rhythm dancers, is comprised of our good members Dale & Sandy Dyer, Mike & Wayne Cook, Bob & Nancy Malone and Doug Gabbert. This is a great combo. They have played for dances at the California Orange Show, Oxnard U.S.O. (six times), Terminal Island Naval Base, Norton A.F.B. and many private bookings.

Let's make this a BIG night and give these wonderful people a rousing Lake Elizabeth welcome. Don't forget the date. Fiesta Day, May 25th.



The "PRECIOUS PILLS" and the lovely "Rhythm Dancers."

**What About JOE PRONTO?**

Joe is the fellow who provides guitar music for moonlight trail rides - that's *who*, but that's not all. Joe Pronto is a man of many talents.

At age 15, Joe left school to join a traveling carnival as singing cowboy. Five years later he put the guitar in mothballs to become an accomplished stuntman. He was the number one stuntman in "The Unsinkable Molly Brown," in New York, staying with the show until it reached San Francisco.

He has appeared in many of Red Skelton and Danny Kaye's shows in this capacity and is currently appearing in the N.Y.P.D. TV series as well as the Streets of Laredo, series. He did "fight" scenes with Paul Newman in "Harper" and Doug McClure in "King's Pirate." His first acting role in movies is the newly released "What's So Bad About Feeling Good?" starring George Peppard and Mary Tyler Moore. In June, you'll be seeing him in a fight scene with Kirk Douglas in "Lovely Way to Die."

Joe loves to do slapstick comedy and stunt work. Many of us will remember his stair fall and other stunts and particularly his Charlie Chaplin performed for us at the Ranch Club. We can attest to his genius in these fields.

Mr. Pronto has volunteered to do shows in Viet Nam, Korea and Japan for the armed services for ten weeks and there is also a possibility of his going to work in Israel for Israeli Productions to impart and teach his many talents to others. So be sure you get to the Trail Rides this summer to enjoy Joe Pronto's fine ability as a crowd pleaser. It may be a while before Joe's back again.



**BIG OAKS LODGE****AUTHENTIC SHISH-KABAB BUFFET**

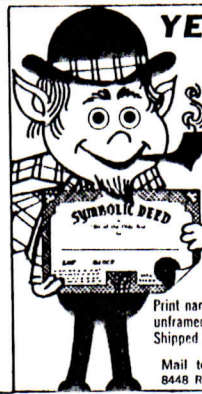
Served Every Fri., Sat. Evening and Sun. Afternoon

**COCKTAILS • DANCING**

FOR RESERVATIONS

**(805) 259-1984**

33101 Bouquet Cyn. Rd. - Saugus

**YE'D BEST BE QUICK—ere I disappear!**

Ye'll not find a warmer gift anywhere for family, friends, or loved ones. This colorful 9x12 Symbolic Deed (Lot and Block number County Tipperary, Ireland) hand inscribed with your name... an inch of Erin for only \$1.95. Send today. Money back guarantee.

Print name(s) to appear on "Deed", send \$1.95 for unframed "deed", or \$3.50 framed. No C.O.D.'s. Shipped prepaid. (California residents add 5% tax).

Mail to: **TIPPERARY DOWNS, Inc.** Dept. E  
8448 RESEDA BLVD., NORTHridge, CALIF. 91324

**SCHEDULE OF EVENTS****April 27th****WILD FLOWER DANCE**

Talent Contest — enter and win a prize and have fun too. Dancing from 8:00 p.m. to Midnight with the Club Band. A Ranch Club Special Buffet Dinner served in dining room.

**April 27th****RANCH & GOLF MEMBER GOLF TOURNAMENT**

Check in at the Pro Shop, join in the fun and meet some of your fellow golfers.

**May 11th****MOONLIGHT TRAIL RIDE**

First of the season — There is nothing like a Bright Moonlight Night in the Country.

Ride the haywagons and sing along the trail or if you're over 12 years old, join one of the groups riding horses. 1st ride out 7:30, other rides are out approximately every hour during the evening. Outdoor wiener bake, singing by the fire pit and dancing in clubhouse. A real Western Ranch Party the entire family will enjoy.

**May 25th****1st FIESTA DAY**

This is family day, bring friends and join in. A true Outdoor Western Barbeque served in the picnic area, from noon until evening. Games and contests all day starting at 11:00 a.m. with prizes for winners, climaxed with the Pinata for the children. A lot of fun for everyone — regular Saturday night schedule in the Club House.

**June 8th****MOONLIGHT TRAIL RIDE****June 22nd****2nd FIESTA DAY****July 4th****INDEPENDENCE DAY**

Western Outdoor Barbeque — a real treat — Beef Roasted in our outdoor pit to perfection. Beans baked in the large cast-iron Kettle Ranch Style.

APRIL							MAY							JUNE						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6				1	2	3	4							1
7	8	9	10	11	12	13	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
21	22	23	24	25	26	27	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
28	29	30					26	27	28	29	30	31		23	24	25	26	27	28	29

**JOHN M. BARNES****STRATA-SÖNIC CORP.**

PARTS MADE TO SPECIFICATION  
AN - MS - NAS - JIC  
FLUID FITTINGS AND FASTENER HARDWARE

4573 ARTESIA BLVD.  
LAWDALE, CALIF. 90260

FR 0-7496

\*\*\*\*\*

Display and Classified Advertising space available .....

Classified Rates:

5 lines \$1.80

Additional lines .30 each

Display Ads:

1 column inch 5.50

Additional inch 4.50  
per issue

\*\*\*\*\*