

September, 2002

.... From the President's Corner

Jeanne says she has nothing new to report at this time.

On-The-Scene Report

Dave and I were "on the scene" for several weeks this summer, so I'll tell you what we saw.

Wildflowers

The July meadows were the most beautiful I've ever seen. A rainbow of colors and forms, the wildflowers and grasses seemed to reach their peak of beauty then. The weather was hot in July, just right for us! We get little summer heat here in the Seattle area, so we enjoy the change (at least I do, since on hot days I like to take a refreshing dip in one of our pristine little lakes).

Wildlife

We saw a bull moose come out of the Olson's woods one morning in July. That was a treat! We also saw deer, antelope and elk, and enjoyed the large variety of birds that we see every summer – owls, woodpeckers, herons, cranes, hawks, eagles, the gorgeously colored Mountain Bluebirds, Western Meadowlarks, as well as many other species I can't identify! We heard rumors of bears and cougars, but saw none firsthand.

Happenings

Dave broke his finger one day right after I had left for town. He really shouldn't be left alone. Luckily, Linda Strickland was home and served as "ambulance driver," then found me in the Ennis Laundromat to tell me that I could collect him from the Emergency room. He got his finger fixed up nicely, and we became acquainted with the small but competent emergency department in the Ennis hospital.

Also on that same trip, our dog, Mimi, ran away. Since she's a herding breed and seldom lets us out of her sight, we thought she had been hurt and we'd never see her again. She did come home on her own about 12 hours later, a little nervous but no worse for the wear, but not before the neighbors mobilized the Search and Rescue! The Hoolans brought their German Shorthair dogs to take up the trail (which they did with gusto!), Pat Toalson and his daughters started searching on ATV's, and everyone else was on the lookout. It was wonderful to see how everyone did what they could to help, and we REALLY appreciated it!

Neighbor News

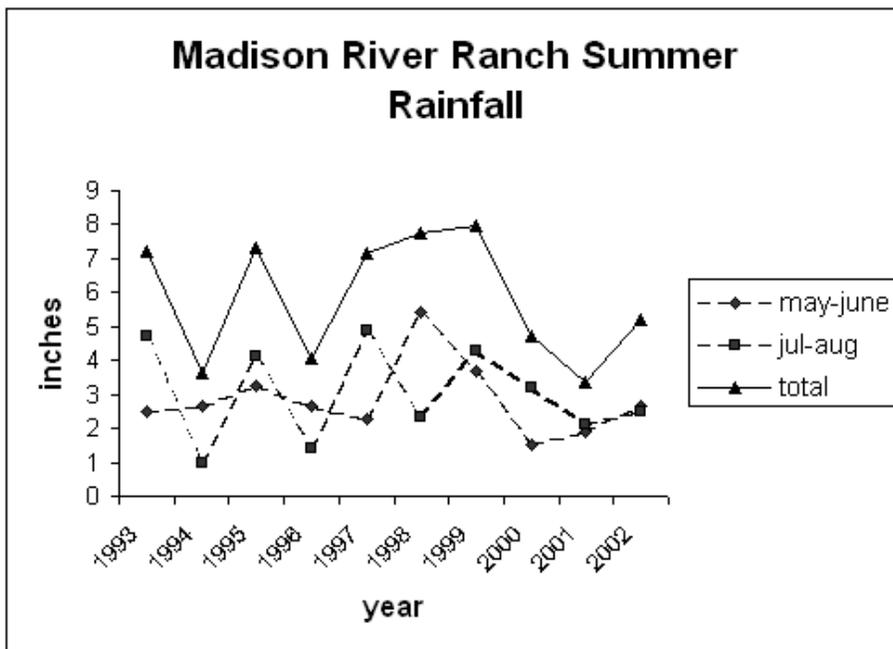
Tim Barksdale (Lot 124) and Sherri Aman were married on August 31st beside the Madison River at the Campfire Lodge. The reception was held at the Lakeview Restaurant, and it sounds like everyone had a wonderful time. Tim is Linda Strickland's son, and Ray and Linda hosted a houseful of guests that weekend. I know everyone visiting must have enjoyed spending time in our beautiful area. We wish the happy couple a long and loving married life.

Weather

Gene Welch was kind enough to pass this graph and report along to us:

These precipitation values were recorded usually from mid to late May through the first or second week in September. They are underestimates in some cases, because of evaporation from the gauge for periods of two weeks or so and different start times - late versus mid May.

Evaporation from the gauge could be a few hundredths of an inch on a warm day. May-June 1994 precipitation was not measured so was taken as a mean of 1993, 1995, 1996 and 1997. Nevertheless, the record



shows a couple of interesting patterns; 1) there were five wet years (~ 7 inches) and five dry years (~ 4 inches), and 2) precipitation is as apt to come in Jul-Aug as in May-June. Without the 1.13 beautiful inches September 5-6, 2002 would have been nearly as dry as the driest – 1994.

Snowmobiling

Now, if you can shift gears from thinking about summer and look ahead to winter, Bill and Sandra Hoolan very nicely researched snowmobiling for you:

SNOWMOBILING ON THE RANCH;

For those of you interested in snowmobiling on the ranch or in the surrounding areas, I have talked to Gary, the owner of Yellowstone Rentals, and he has offered a discounted package for Madison River Ranch owners. For example, a long track machine, capable of carrying 2 people, all necessary clothing and helmet, with the machines delivered and picked up at the parking lot in front of the ranch: \$165 for the first day and all following days \$125. Phone 1-888-646-9377.

We have found the best snow to be in Jan, Feb and March. On occasion, the snow gets so deep it even covers the fences. Some of us get together a few times a year and travel to the high country from the ranch, it's great fun and very exciting, if you ever want to come with, give us a call. Bill and Sandra Hoolan, 406-682-4334.

For Sale

Joe Young said someone bought his water tank which was advertised in this space last time. Don't forget to send me information if you have anything for sale which you think might interest your neighbors, from real estate to just general stuff.

Ranch Recipes

Stick-to-your-ribs Savory Pork Chops

- 4 pork chops
- 1 onion, chopped

½ lb. fresh mushrooms, sliced
¼ cup beef broth (I make mine from a boullion cube)
Heavy cream

Sprinkle pork chops with Lowrey's Seasoned Salt and pepper. Brown well in a little vegetable oil and a few drops of sesame oil. Remove from skillet.

Add onions and mushrooms to pan and sauté until they're well browned and not juicy.

Take onion and mushroom out of the skillet, put pork chops back in, and top with onions and mushrooms. Add beef broth and simmer, covered, for 1 hour. Add a bit more liquid if it gets too dry.

Before serving, remove chops and most of veggies to warm platter, then turn up heat and add about ½ cup of heavy cream. Bring just back to boil, spoon over chops and veggies.

Thought for the day:

"I generally avoid temptation, unless I can't resist." Mae West

Book Pick

I recently re-read an old favorite, The Dog Who Wouldn't Be, by Farley Mowat. If you haven't ever read this, it's a charming and entertaining little book that should not be missed! It's still in print, but I had to order a copy from the bookstore (it was only about \$6 in paperback), or I'm sure your library would have it too.

Hoolan's History

So many of us enjoyed Bill Hoolan's information about the history of our area a couple of newsletters ago. I asked him for another installment and he sent me enough for a couple of issues, so the first is a piece written by his friend, O.J. Taylor, who is in the process of writing a book about our valley's history:

Madison Valley

By; O.J. Taylor

When the first white trappers came to the Madison Valley, prior to 1863, they found numerous Indian villages scattered throughout the lush grasslands of the basin. At the mouths of many creeks, such as Jack, Indian and Wigwam, they found the Bannack Indians who were led by Chief Tanahanca, sometimes referred to as Tanka. On Blaine Springs creek, and also near the head of the Madison valley around the West Fork area, the Tukua Rika or Sheepeater Indians were found. The Tukua Rika were the only permanently settled tribe of the valley, all other tribes lived in the valley primarily in the fair weather months, traveling over the Gravelly mountain range to Idaho often ranging as far south as Nevada during the winter months. A few other scattered tribes were found to inhabit the valley on occasion, such as the White Bear branch of the Bannacks, but all were sub-tribes of the greater Bannack tribe which in turn was a subculture of the Shoshone. By far the largest tribe was that led by Chief Tanahanca.

Tanka's Bannack tribe usually ranged from the Three Forks area southward, all the way up the Madison drainage to what is now Yellowstone Park. Their hunting grounds to the South terminated by the geyser basin and the tribe would not enter into this area of the spirits. On many occasions, Chief Tanka, and later his son Tendoy, would take parties and whole villages up trails, such as is found in the Hyde creek drainage, to the top of the Gravelly range and would set up camp at what is now known as Tepee Basin, near Marmot mountain. Chief Tanka's band was as familiar with the Gravelly range of the mountains as they were with the Madison valley. It was their tribe which named this area "the land of the shining mountains."

In those days, there were more Indians living in the Madison valley than there are now current residents. Game flourished upon the tall lush grasses of the bottomlands, lands which would make good farmland. In May of 1863, there were only a few trappers living in the Madison valley when the Fairweather/Edgar party was on their search for gold. This party, in their quest for the golden fleece, were captured on several occasions by the Crow Indians in the Gallatin area, and after several escapes headed back for Bannack (where gold had been found the previous year) and safety. On their last escape from the Crow Indians they headed up the West Fork of the Gallatin and crossed the divide to the Madison using the old Bannack Indian trail and came out on the east side of the Madison River about 20 miles east of the present Alder Gulch. They forded the Madison river where there was an island to help them cross, then went up Squaw gulch to the top of the Gravelly and down into Alder Gulch, so named because of the trees growing there in abundance. They went down this gulch to a point about a mile above where Virginia City now stands and made camp about 6:00 on the evening of May 23, 1863. They noted the presence of Indians in the Madison valley and didn't waste time in getting through the valley and to the safety of Alder Gulch. That evening, Bill Fairweather went down to the bar and scooped up a pan of dirt, leaves and grass and washed it out in the stream. The result obtained from this first pan of dirt washed in Alder Gulch was 32 cents in gold. The rest in history!

For next time, Bill has provided a poetic eyewitness account, written 100 years ago, of when the Indians left the Madison Valley.

Many thanks to all who contributed. As always, please send or email me anything you think would be of interest to your neighbors, whether it's family news, reports from the ranch, stuff for sale, letters to the editor, etc. I really enjoy hearing from you!

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