

RANCH CHATTER

VOLUME 3, Number 2

LAKE ELIZABETH RANCH CLUB

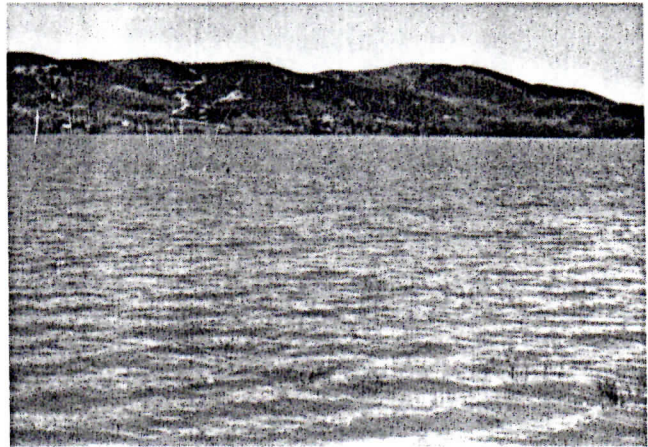
APRIL 15, 1959

HISTORY OF LAKE ELIZABETH

by R. T. Burnham, President

Once more we feel it necessary to part from our continuing story of Lake Elizabeth in the olden days to deal with history in the making and to pay tribute to our Club personnel headed up by our fine General Manager, Jerry Brown, who with his devoted wife and wonderful people comprising the entire staff all worked to a point beyond exhaustion to cope with the effects both good and bad, of our recent winter storms!

On the plus side of the ledger we can report that not a single dwelling on the entire ranch suffered even the most minor damage. This despite the knowledge of terrible devastation in other areas of California. While our normally little Amergoso Creek became a raging torrent, spilling out of its banks to deposit new soil on fairways seven, eight and nine and in the Golf Pro Shop! We also acquired a lake over two miles long!



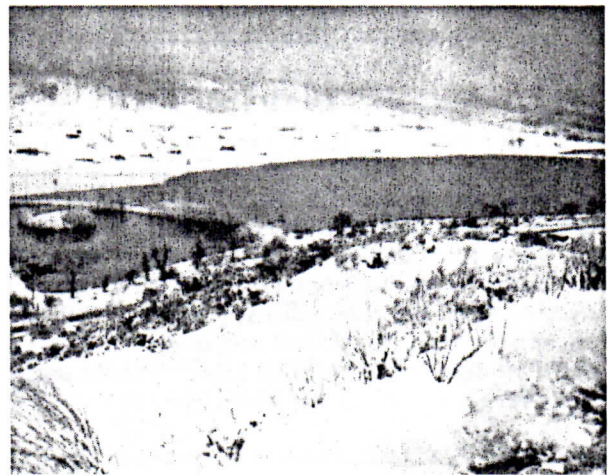
The "New" Lake Elizabeth!

There is no question that our severe series of storms have exceeded those of any period thruout the last one hundred or more years. In a very few weeks mother nature deposited about forty inches of rain and snow in our valley. A natural result—on the minus side—was that a part of our big valley in back of the Ranch clubhouse simply moved into all the recreation hall, rest rooms, offices, patio and dining room in the form of mud about four feet deep.



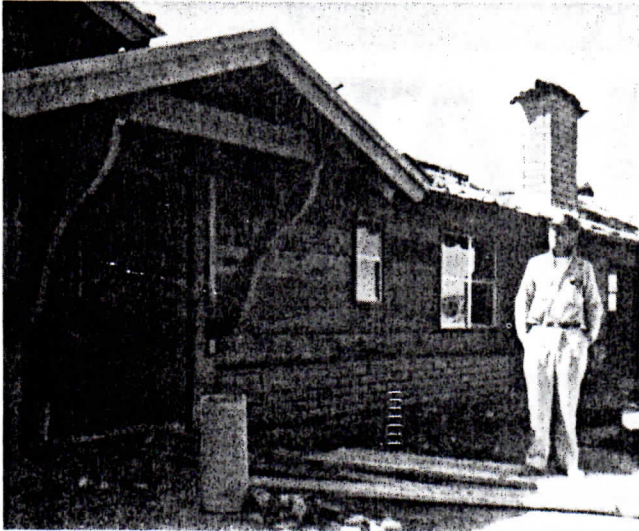
North end of dam after cut. Soon to be restored.

This same tremendous flow of water into the lake made it imperative to cut a portion of the dam at the north end, since the spillway would not accommodate the overflow. Had this not been done the entire dam might have been lost. Now will you believe a lake presently over two miles in length with water on both sides of the dam at exactly the same level! This is a much larger body of water than we had back in the winter of 1946-7.



A herculean task was performed to rehabilitate our entire facility in just a little over one week! We extend our unbounded appreciation to the many members who became a shovel and wheelbarrow brigade, to our entire staff for such devotion and especially to the children of the Club who suddenly became very tall and very dear to our hearts and minds.

But enough from this corner. Lets just go on to another page to let Phyllis Brown and Schultzie, alias Jeanie Mann tell it like it was.

BUILDING NEWS by BERT KOCH

VAN DYKEN lodge and our builder Mike Hyland.

Thanks to Mike Hyland and his years of experience in building, we weathered the storms without damage to the lodges. The heavy rains did slow down construction. After many delays Glen & Betty Hodge have moved into their new home. Welcome neighbor!

Now for the progress report: John and Weltha Thomsons' lodge is closed in, Lee and Ollie Bradleys' home has the foundation, grading and sewage is completed on Bob and Anita Sullivans' and Robert and Almo Kanes', in plan check are Paul & Lois Hardins' plans and there are many more on the drawing board.

The current publicity on cost of money and construction may be misleading. For the real answers, stop at our Model Home on the week-ends and find out for yourself. Lou Loveland and myself are there to answer your questions. With spring and summer just ahead, now is the time to build that Ranch Lodge at the Club.

PHIL BROWN'S DIARY of a STORM!

FEBRUARY 21ST . . . Today was the beginning of a week to try the souls of men! The rain had no let-up. Then the power went off. We were in the Snack-bar trying to keep warm, discussing the narrow escape of Charlie Soos. The big tree (where Mr. Burnham parks) blew over only seconds after Charlie was in the very spot. It hit the back of his car. Margaret Jarrett, our chef, and I said in unison, "the Gods must be very angry." It was so cold in the dining room, I shut the big door and feel today it helped keep the mud out of our dining room. The power was off 4½ hours.

FEBRUARY 22ND . . . Today we had snow. The Ranch was white as far as the eye could see and very beautiful.

FEBRUARY 23RD . . . Another cold day and more rain, marking the beginning of a bad storm.

FEBRUARY 24TH . . . Jerry's birthday and the last carefree time any of us were to know for days. Again a power failure.

FEBRUARY 25TH . . . This day will live in our minds forever. The dam had been checked every hour on the hour

until 12:00 PM. At 5:00 AM water was going over the dam. The call for help was met by only a handful of men. A decision had to be made within a matter of seconds. Right or wrong, it was Jerry's responsibility. All the available men worked 12 hours straight trying to save the dam. They knew it was hopeless but still they worked on. Finally the dam had to be cut through to relieve the pressure. At 5:00 PM covered with mud, wet, cold and hungry they quit.

But still the day was not over. By now the phones and power were off. Telephone and power poles fell, wires snapped, trees fell and still the rain came. The Club had to be checked and the animals fed. Mud in the recreation hall was ping pong table high at the rear. The rest rooms and hallway had five feet of mud. There was mud, water and debris everywhere. 'Tana' (a horse) was ready to foal, so we took her and put her under Dick's house. It was decided whatever colt she had the name would be "Disaster". After such a trying day, the breaking point came. Because we are the working part of the Club and take pride in accomplishment, we felt no shame when we saw tears in the eyes of our fellow workers. We could do no more until the next day.

FEBRUARY 26TH . . . Ranch Club Road from Sandrock to the upper curve had gaping holes. The road into the Club was water and mud, door high. Without Mr. Quinn's jeep we could not get to the Club. Phil, Tana and Maggie would call the Club and Jerry would come in the jeep to take us across. But this AM we started to dig out, so to speak. Maggie, Tana and I kept the coffee and chocolate hot and the crew fed. It was a cold damp job. The men and children were mud from head to foot. I took some pictures, even though I didn't want a reminder of the unholy mess. By 6:00 PM we were a dirty and tired bunch.

FEBRUARY 27TH . . . Our first question of the day was, "Has the colt arrived?" To date no 'Disaster'. Maggie went to town for food. Tana and I cooked and kept the crew fed.

There seemed to be no end to the mud and all had to be taken out by wheelbarrow. It was a back breaking job. Other troubles developed and it would take a book to list them. Dick was worried about his horses. It had been four days since they had been able to lie down. He took all the saddles out of the Tackroom and put as many horses in as he could. And so ends another day.

FEBRUARY 28TH . . . Today we can see the floor of the recreation room and most of the mud is out except in the rest rooms. We are beginning to feel good, but the Rain gods have no mercy. It has started to rain again. We are all praying our work will not be in vain. Jerry rented a mudpump to suck the mud out of the rest rooms, but it wouldn't work. Oh yes, Jerry's truck broke down yesterday when Dick went in to pick up another pump. He had to leave it in town, so Carl went in to pick up Dick and the pump. They get back with both trucks.

Jerry had to move Louie Loveland's car and breaks the muffler; moves it again and dents the back end. The car just three days old! Louie is on the 'cat' and hits a water line. He and Jerry get soaked. Jerry fixes Louie's car so he can get home. All in all it has been one awful day and you can quote me for all of them.

MARCH 1ST . . . The rain has stopped we hope for a good long time. The mud is still carried out of the Club-house. Louie worked the 'cat' and Virge the grader today.

The grader broke down. Some of the members are up to check their houses. Maggie, bless her soul, served in the snack bar today!

MARCH 2ND . . . After six days of backbreaking work, we decided we needed a rest. That is all except my husband who doesn't know the word. 'Disaster' still not here.

MARCH 3RD . . . The crew are taking the mud out of the rest rooms. We are beginning to look like a Club again. Jim Gordon has been sleeping at the Club every night. He and Jerry Bichsel washed every piece of furniture in the Club House. They wish to inform the members there are 858 legs, and that is a lot of legs. A slight earth tremor this AM coupled with another snowfall.

MARCH 4TH . . . No 'Disaster' as yet. The mud is out of the rest rooms. Our patio outside the dining room has mud up to the windows. We still have a long way to go; Jerry's office, the employee's rest room, the snack bar, the front offices, but now we can see daylight.

MARCH 5TH . . . It is a most beautiful day. The sun is out, it is fairly warm, no wind and we are all happy and pleased.

MARCH 6TH . . . I am beginning to think Mother Nature is going to stay angry. We are having more wind and angry skies. It reminds me of the wind, just before the flood, two storms, heavy snow and another slight quake. Power is off again. Jerry gets stuck on the old horse trail at Kiptree. Charlie took the boys down to #12 pump on the dike, to save the pole controlling the power to the well. Jerry says the 'ocean waves' on the lake are eating it away. From March 1st at 5:00 PM to March 5th at 5:00 PM the lake has raised six inches, 5 million 880 thousand cu. ft. of water.

Bert Koch is back from vacation. His comment, "I can't be gone on a vacation without the whole place going to pot", ending in his well-known laugh.

MARCH 7TH . . . Another day, and we are ready for Members. We are real proud of all who worked night and day to make the Club presentable. We hope you will overlook the many things yet to be done. We feel that a tremendous job has been done in just 12 days. I have tried to remember everything that happened and know that many things have been left out. It is not intentional, only a tired mind.

THE FUNNY SIDE OF OUR 12 DAYS

We caught 160 cat fish on Sandrock Drive. It was raining cat fish. Phil and Dick's bathtub is full of catfish!

Lois Thomas got stuck on Sandrock and was kicking the mud with her foot because she had no shovel.

Our power went off and on so much, it was like a kid playing with the lights. We had to re-set the clocks several times a day. Jerry and I ate by candlelight. Also, the chefs cooking by candle-light at the club.

Maggie, Tana and I slipping in the mud as we walked from the Club to our parked cars beyond Quinn's house.

Jerry and I in and out of bed like 'Jack-in-the-box' because members were calling about their lodges.

Rick trying to thaw his feet out.

Jerry and Louie getting a bath from the broken pipe.

Don and Jerry trying to pull a telephone pole from the Pro-Shop to the dam.

Ask Jerry where he was the night of the earth tremor and Don Thomas about his prowler the same night.

Picture us crawling over the mud to take pictures.

Me going to town in the rain with window-wipers not working—no vision.

Tana, Lois and I taking chili to the men working on the dam.

FROM JERRY "Thank You"

I have many thanks to give to my fellow workers and to the members who live on the Ranch for their patience and understanding. To our members who will never know what these people gave of themselves, I can only say, "Be thankful we have such people." I have only praise for the children living on the Ranch who worked their hearts out. Thank you, Jim Gordon and Jerry Bichsel for the many hours of work you gave. To Virge, Carl, Louie, Don and Lois for helping without being asked. To Mr. Quinn for the use of his jeep. I do not like to single out any one person, but feel a special thanks be given to our personnel for work they did beyond any realm of their 'duties' and especially those who gave of themselves nite and day in response to my call for 'help'.

Again, thank you.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Friends:

We were saddened when we saw the mud in our beautiful club house. The young men were surely pushing dirt around and so we felt we should just get out of the way. One thing happy was that there was no one hurt.

Our house was just fine when we arrived Saturday March 1st. The gutters and down spouts were all installed and two of the screens. We are coming up March 5th also and our two sisters and their husbands will come up Sunday.

Ti and Maurice Pecaut

Dear Sir:

Find enclosed is my \$1.00 for Ranch Chatter. I was interested in your article Xmas Tree Club Drive. I would like information on the cost of a tree. My husband passed away June 19, 1968. And it was a thought, maybe a tree in his memory?

I'd appreciate some information if possible.

Sincerely,
Mrs. Rose Haberstick

SPECIAL NOTE

This spring should bring to view the most beautiful expanse of Wildflowers in several decades. Plan a trip to the Club to bask in the grandeur of the countryside. Bring your cameras!

Remember our "Wild Flower Dance".

BEAR FACTS by "SHULTZIE"

JANUARY—All I can say about January is weather, weather, WEATHER—What's this white hair coming on my paws? It looks like I'm becoming a polar bear—RAIN, RAIN, go away. This storm has done some damage, but, really we are luckier than most people who live near hills and streams. The golf course and pro shop were hardest hit, but all just water damage.

I forgot to tell you about the Christmas Party at Flo Trout's. I hear Howard Snudden was the best Hula dancer of the whole bunch but Charlie Soos would have given him a contest, except he couldn't stop giggling. That Flo throws some party.

Such good news about Plummer Watson Jr; after serious heart surgery, he was able to be home for Christmas. Keep up the good work "Doc".

FEBRUARY 1ST, SATURDAY It's cold, but those "Hackers" are out on the golf course. This was followed by a good dinner, cooked by those excellent cooks from the Ladies Club. They had a white elephant exchange. I've never known a white elephant, but I've met a few grey ones. Where did they have room for those elephants in the Pro Shop? Meanwhile at the Ranch Club, Gayle Crouse, our caller was calling the "tips" for the square dancers.

FEBRUARY 8TH Did you happen to hear Jim Cochran from Walnut, California playing the "squeeze box"? Had our members really dancing up a storm.

I have some sad news, Roy Talbot, an old friend of the Ranch Club, and the gate guard for many years, passed away, Sweet Dreams, Roy. My news gets sadder; Charter and Golf member, Jim Farinash passed away on February 7th. Charlotte and Jim have such a beautiful lodge up on the hill. We join you in your sorrow, Charlotte. Farewell Jim, Keep those drives straight and long.

Gil Raddatz, our Santa Claus, has also suffered a heart attack, but he is feeling much better. Take it easy, Gil.

FEBRUARY 15TH Would you believe, more rain. Really our lake is so full, we should have wonderful boating this spring. We had a yummy buffet and a swinging dance. The Gold Coast Four were at their best. How about their rendition of "The Saints Come Marching In". The weather cleared and the stars were out—Nice evening, we all had fun.

Our wrangler Dick, really had a day. He entered the March of Dimes Benefit Horse Show, e.t.l. Corral #7. He only won the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place ribbons and a beautiful silver tray with a trophy for the Rescue race. Nice work, Dick.

Gayle Dillenbeck of the Real Estate division and his wife, Lorraine have a new grand daughter—Their son Danny is the proud Daddy. Congratulations to all!!! Nice to see Bob Bobbitt on his feet. He was involved in a head on collision several months ago and pretty badly injured but is looking fine, altho still using a crutch.

FEBRUARY 21ST Nice group of members at the Club to celebrate Georges' birthday. Cold, but would you believe before the night was over we had snow. It was a quick blizzard that really snuck up on everyone. There was enough snow on Saturday for many snowmen, but Saturday night came the rains. When is this going to stop?

Monday night the storm reached it's peak. The crew and some of the year round residents all worked many hours to save the dam, but finally decided to cut a trench and release the water. Can you imagine a 2 mile long lake? In the meantime the sand up above the Ranch decided to make a journey and ended up in the Ranch Club. A solid beach about 4 feet deep in the Recreation Hall and Patio. The mop up crew deserve a standing ovation for the marvelous work they did.



Our St. Patrick's Gala Dance. The Winners!

MARCH 15TH All cleaned up for the St. Patricks dance and hard time costumes. The buffet was Irish Stew and corned beef and cabbage and of course green salads. The Gold Coast Four were playing for us again. Times must be pretty good, as most of our members looked good but the Charles Schoiremans, and daughter Jean looked bad enough to take the first place trophy. Bill Mann as a trash man and his wife, Jean as a Carol Burnett scrub lady took 2nd place and Imogene and Chuck Mohler were handed third place by our lovely Miss Lake Elizabeth, Peggy Miller. The judges were Mr. Snudden, Mr. Miller and Mr. Holdsworth.

Several of the golfing members are up at Kernsville this weekend playing in a Home and Home Tournament. Jack and Lelia Rutherford, a former asst. Pro at Lake Elizabeth is now the Pro at Kernsville and it was a happy reunion and a wonderful time for everyone. Our Gal golfers lead by Audrey Parker really swept the field. We are looking forward to having them return the visit on APRIL 19 & 20.

MARCH 23RD Our weather has finally become Spring! It's beautiful, beautiful, beautiful.

See you next time.
Shultzie

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Serve the finest SHISH-KEBAB BUFFET to be found anywhere in the U.S. Ask any member who has tried it. Who is Omar Kahyam?

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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.)

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SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

April 19th

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.

CHUCK WAGON BREAKFAST RIDES

Leave 8 A.M. every 2nd Sunday from May thru to September. Have the time of your life. Take the Stage or go cowboy on a fine horse.

May 3rd

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 17th

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.

May 31st

MOONLIGHT TRAIL RIDE

June 14th

2nd FIESTA DAY

June 28th

MOONLIGHT TRAIL RIDE

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.

| 1969 APRIL 1969 | | | | | | | 1969 MAY 1969 | | | | | | | 1969 JUNE 1969 | | | | | | |
|-----------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|----------|---------------|---------------|--------------|----------|---------------|-----|-----|-----|----------------|-----|-----|--------------|----------|---------------|-----------|
| SUN | MON | TUE | WED | THU | FRI | SAT | SUN | MON | TUE | WED | THU | FRI | SAT | SUN | MON | TUE | WED | THU | FRI | SAT |
| | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | Full Moon | Last Quarter | New Moon | First Quarter | 1 | 2 | 3 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 |
| 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 |
| 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 |
| 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 |
| 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | | New Moon | First Quarter | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | 29 | 30 | | Last Quarter | New Moon | First Quarter | Full Moon |