

All The King's Horses Children's Ranch



THE TRAIL RIDER

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The accumulation of property is no guarantee of the development of character, but the development of character, or of any other good whatever, is impossible without property.

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1840 - 1910
Amer. economist

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NONE OF THE PLUNDER

Each time I'd visit the property, my heart wept the same way it weeps for the children we help. Our promised property has been broken; abused; neglected. I could practically feel the land grab my knees in a childlike embrace pleading, "You're coming back, right? You're going to help me, aren't you?"

In mild shock I stared at pile after pile of old bed springs; washers; dryers; rusted refrigerators; piles of broken glass; broken beer bottles; and filth everywhere. And I wondered how the Lord would redeem this place while I read in Joshua, "Be of good courage and go possess the land".

On the third Saturday of April, Benson had a free Dump Day. What a blessing to The Children's Ranch. First thing in the morning several pick-up trucks showed up and about a dozen willing helpers. One after another pick-up hauled tons of waste and broken appliances off the land to the city dump. Eleven loads in all. It encouraged my heart to see so many folks throw themselves into this dirty project. All ages helped. Even Susan's sister, Jan, who was here from Mississippi on vacation was there with her gloves on - some vacation!! There are still many piles left; but we know now it is manageable.

That morning I had awakened to the Still Small Voice admonishing me three times, "Take none of the plunder; take none of the plunder; take none of the plunder". With obedient heart, we returned as much merchandize as possible to Katherine; and some to the dump.

But what of the dilapidated double wide itself? And the single wide next to it? Were these plunder or were they to be redeemed, like the land itself? While we pondered this question, Larry Lane, of Widow's Mite, came to inspect the mobiles. Widow's Mite is interested in helping us build. Larry's advice: "Everything is possible; but the mobiles are in such severe need of repair that the time and expense would not be justified."

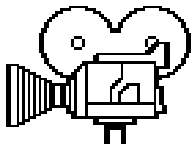
It is no small thing to try to and get old trailers removed. Ever try it? Only one land fill in Tucson would even consider it; and it would cost The Children's Ranch \$23.00 a ton; we would have to transport them and be responsible to have them weighed at the truck stop. A salvage place said we could bring them in at our expense and he would give us a penny a pound. I was on the net; on the phone; and finally, on my knees in prayer. That is when the answer came. A man called and, at his own expense, is going to move the mobiles to his land where he will spend the time necessary to rebuild them. Praise the Lord. I best stay on my knees. This is the Lord's work and it sure saves a lot of frustration when I just let Him do it! (big smile here).

Now we are on our knees praying about a dwelling. It is my hope we can move out of this home by June 1st. Will you please join me in faith-filled, praise-filled prayer to our Sweet Savior for what He has done and what He will do? What a lively hope we have, aye?

TIDBITS - ON THE LIGHTER SIDE

Plans for summer camp are underway. Last week I 'paid' a visit to Broken Arrow camp and made a deposit to confirm our commitment. Besides the local

children you sponsor, we will also be transporting some Angel Tree children to camp, too! The last week of July is camp – and it will be here before we know it.



Last week a couple called from Colorado. They have heard of The Children's Ranch and want to do something special. As far as I understand it, they want to do a video of the work and send it around. Today several children will be here to say how they feel about The Children's Ranch.

A generous neighbor donated a trampoline to us. The children love it. I even gave it a try when no one was looking. I bounced up ... and then for a *l-o-n-g* second it seemed only my bones came back down. Was my loose flesh just gonna hang up in the air forever??? But within a second my skin fell back to its usual shape: to the under parts of my skeleton. I sheepishly climbed off the trampoline. I am nine years old in my heart.

And that's the only place I am still a child, aye?

Cochise Terrace RV Park is a winter refuge to the sweetest bunch of folks ever!

This summer they donated over \$1,500 to our work. They are such encouragers. Just yesterday one of the folks called to see if we wanted a very nice

table and four chairs: free & delivered! Wow!!

Every time they call, it brings a big smile to our faces. Thank you Cochise Terrace!!

STARTING THE ALUMNI?

One of my foster sons had been here for over two years. He returned to his mom a couple months ago. He called last week to see about coming for a weekend visit. His mom gave her permission. This is a miracle! The mom had not liked me or trusted me. But now she said it was fine with her. So this past weekend my foster son was here in person! What a delight. And with his mom's knowledge and permission, he asked if he could come for a two-week visit this summer. The children were happy to see him. And my heart sang as he stood beside me in church Sunday morning!

Do the blessings ever end? I don't think so. Do you?



TIDBITS – ON THE SOBER SIDE



One of the vans, Sissy, blew the engine. We got her three years ago. Sissy is an '86 Dodge van. The \$500 we paid for her was an excellent investment. So now, we are down to one van. Bubba is a '90 Dodge Caravan and runs well. But we'll need another van soon. Hopefully before camp.

Father knows.

The Children's Ranch got a serious call last week from someone about a hundred miles from us. (Our reputation is growing, thank God.) Someone had picked up a little girl along the highway and taken her to the police station and could we please help her? Come to find out, this 10-year old was along the interstate holding a sign that read, **'HOMELESS & UNWANTED.'** I tried to investigate her whereabouts; but to no avail. No doubt the police put her in the system right away. And being in the neighboring county, I had no friendly contacts to help me find her. Will you join me in prayer for this young girl who faces a traumatic childhood?



DRIVE BY BLESSING

A special thanks to Jesus Hands' Ministry who include some of our children in their youth programs. The last Saturday of each month, their youth group - affectionately called The Yute - has an event called RAK: Random Acts of Kindness. The Yute descended on a Benson citizen's property from 8:00 am till noon and overhauled; trimmed up; cleaned up; picked up; and cut back the landscape for a lady we all love who is in a wheelchair. They did a great job!! Good goin', youngens. And thank you, Jesus' Hands, for being just that: Jesus' Hands!!

