

# All The King's Horses Children's Ranch



## THE TRAIL RIDER

Nov, '04

Volume 5 issue 5

Behold,  
the Lord thy God  
hath set the land  
before thee:  
Go up & possess it,  
as the Lord God  
hath said unto thee;  
fear not,  
neither be  
discouraged.

Deuteronomy 1:21

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### Donations

No donation goes for  
personal gain.  
We are a 501c3  
non-profit corporation.  
Your gifts receive a  
tax-deductible receipt.

## TREADING TO THE NEW LAND

*"Spit, sputter, swallow, cough, cough, gasp."* It was as though I was treading water day after day as the necessary events unfolded to allow the donated single wide to be moved onto the property. How much longer could I tread water, waiting for my feet to once again rest firmly on solid ground?

August Susan and I stayed with a woman who opened her home to us. Across the street I saw some of my young friends, *"How's the land coming, Miss Ana?"* With a quick and happy response, I smiled, *"Any day now. We're working' on it."* I'd only begun treading.

September came. Sue & I had to find shelter elsewhere. A dear friend let me reside in her motor home in her backyard (thank you, Karen). Susie stayed in a small camper behind her daughter's (thanks Deb). When school started the Baptist Women-On-Mission donated supplies (thanks Charlene). I stowed the precious gifts into the trunk of "Chip" and visited the children. One young boy lives with his grandma who has Alzheimer's. The situation is crescendoing and I pray does not lead to an ugly outcome. A 12-yr old girl is with her sister whose husband who has no control of his temper. They live in fear of his violent reactions. Two other girls live in a home where, last I heard, a live-in was being hunted down with death threats because of drug activity gone wrong. *"How's the land coming, Miss Ana?"*

*"We're still working on it"*. I tried to sound cheery. And kept treading. Later I sat & wept on the dirt of the property picking up broken glass left behind by vandals. *"How is this helping the children, dear Lord? This is pitiful. I am not quite sitting in sackcloth and ashes; but in rags and glass. Help me, Father. Humble me under Your Mighty Hand."*

October came around and still I homelessly treaded water. Each day saw another demand fulfilled of the never-ending rules and regulations required to move the used mobile; often to see another requirement raise its head to take the place of the one we completed. But amidst the rules and regs, the children were not forgotten. When the Benson rodeo came to town hosting nationally-known cowboys and cowgirls, the Rodeo Committee left twenty free tickets for us at the local Safeway market (thank you, Benson Rodeo!). I rounded up a passel of youngens and we enjoyed a night at the rodeo. *"How is the land coming, Miss Ana?"* What could I say? My standard answer was less enthusiastic as I wearied with water-treading. *"We're workin' on it."* It was the truth.

Then October Seventh dawned a new day. A fresh day. The day of The Move. The mobile was hauled off the old site; driven along the road; and came to rest at 543 South Grapevine Loop! I quit treading water. My feet rested once more on solid ground. And may I say, until I stepped back on The Solid Rock, His everlasting arms were underneath the entire time to keep me afloat, encouraged, strengthened.

## Angels Unaware

The first night alone on the dark (no electricity) and unpopulated ninety acres could have been frightening. But sheer exuberance and exhaustion afforded me a deep sleep. And the next day the Lord sent two angels so I'd not be alone. They dropped right out of heaven (also known as Colorado). Don and Sue Zentmeyer dry docked their 5<sup>th</sup> wheel some fifty feet away and turned on their self-generated outside light.

I cannot even begin to describe all the comfort, support, love and smiles the Zentmeyers have shared with this work and with me. But you can just imagine – how else would angels act?

They fixed the well; cleaned up and planted grass where only desolate, abused earth once stood; they work tirelessly from sun up to sun set. Now tell me, they're angels, right?

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### *THE VERY ROCKS CRY OUT*

The desert is dirt until it rains; then it is knee-deep, slippery, quicksand-like, mud. Who would want to give toward gravel when we are to be helping children? But the Lord sent someone! I am still amazed! As the gravel was being laid down, I thought, "*This is not just a gravel driveway. This is the road to salvation for youngsters. These very rocks bring glory to God.*"

Thank you, Ruth, for loving this work enough to see us remain on solid ground. Your thoughtfulness is humbling, dear friend.

### **UP TO THE CHALLENGE?**

Anonymous givers desire to kick off the next phase of this exciting work: gathering building supplies and equipment to prepare some land to welcome volunteer workers. They have offered to match your gifts up to \$8,000.00 until February first. In the meantime, your faith promise is all they need. With your pledge they will purchase the needed supplies now.

## LAST SATURDAY – FIRST WORK DAY

The last Saturday of each month will be a WORK DAY here at the Ranch. Primarily we want to clear and trim trees; stabilize the single wide (repair broken windows; leaky fixtures; paint over the tar; coat the roof; put on skirting, etc.); design the first house; get the survey done; submit an on-site plan to Cochise Planning and Zoning; and come together for prayer, fellowship and praise to Him Who has called us to labor in His field.

This coming week will be the first such Saturday and I am excited to know this tradition will be started with the aid of the Dragoon Baptist Church youth!

Thank you, young people!

Please mark your calendars for the last Saturday of every month to join us if you can. However, you are always welcome; any Saturday; any week day. The door is open. Hugs are ever ready. A cold drink or a warm meal is easily had. Drop by and see for yourself *“How The Land Is Coming”*.

It will put a smile on your face, methinks.

(See directions to property on last page of this newsletter)

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### KEEP YOUR EYES PEELED

**Here’s a list of things we could use. Next time you stop at a yard sale or happen upon one of these items, please give me a call. Thank you all so much.**

**Trailer** – to haul stuff around the property

**Tractor** (at least 50 horse power)

**Tractor blade, disk, bushhog**

**Ditcher**

**Building supplies** – lumber, roofing, paint, etc.

**Flagpole** (we have the flag ready to hike up)

**BIG Bell and tower** – to ring when a child comes to live here

**Golf cart(s)**

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### ***How’s The Land Coming?*** – Soon To Be Released

The Zentmeyers are making a video of the Children’s Ranch ministry. They interviewed some children, community professionals and volunteers who make up the total picture. This 10-12 minute video will bring folks up to date with where we are and let the people of God know what is happening in this part of His Creation. I will be glad to send you a copy as soon as it is available. Hmmmm... what could such a theatrical experience be called? How about: *“How’s The Land Coming?”*

Expected release date: January, 2005.

# OUTSIDE CONCERT

My sister-in-law, Teri Griffith, will perform an outside concert on the property with my brother, Jerry, as her sound man ..... **Saturday, November 27<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 p.m.**

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**Take Hwy 80 south out of Benson a mile or so until you come to Country Club. Turn East. Take Country Club to the stop sign. Turn left on the dirt road along the tracks: that is Grapevine. Go one mile to 543.**

See you there? Hope so!

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## PRAYER NEED

DES comes next month to inspect our two-bedroom single wide. Susie wants to stay in the camper so we can have one bedroom available for children. It is a start. A new beginning. A new beginning not only for us, but for a child who will find a loving welcome and praying hearts.

**....Be strong and of a good courage; be not afraid, neither be thou dismayed: for the Lord thy God is with thee whithersoever thou goest. Joshua 1:9 pp**

Yes, Lord. We're workin' on that.  
Thank You, Master Builder, for working on us.

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