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# Timberlake Times

Timberlake Landowners' Association  
*A Deed Restricted Community*  
HC 61 Box 767, Ramah, NM 87321

© March 2011

Web site: [www.trnews.info](http://www.trnews.info)

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## PRESIDENT'S PONDERING

### Off the Grid...



The Board's time off over the winter (except for our snow-plowing heroes) is coming to a quick end. After a three month hiatus, we met on February 19<sup>th</sup> and compiled a list of what needs to be accomplished this spring/summer/fall. Setting project priorities usually depends on time deadlines and available or limited resources.

As I write this my husband and I have been without Internet service for ten days. Troubleshooting with India and having few choices that are monetarily pleasing and technically comprehensible, can leave one exasperated. This temporary glitch has hampered my ability to communicate with Board members, contractors, and landowners which constitute those "available resources" making the situation even more limited. When looking over the list and my current lack of Internet service, I begin to see the parody of "Off the Grid" in Timberlake.

Wikipedia defines "Off the Grid" as living in a self sufficient manner without relying on one or more public utilities, e.g. sewer, electric power, water, phone lines.

"Off the Grid" in Timberlake could mean any of the following:

- A summer evening out is stargazing on the back porch with a margarita and no-seeums.
- Eating at a fast food restaurant is a treat after cooking for three weeks straight.
- Leaving a message on a business phone; by the time they respond days later you can't remember why you called.
- Finding one or two bars for visitors means a cell phone signal – not a roadside tavern.
- Paying for UPS delivery and driving twelve (12) miles to pick up your package at the local diner.
- Appreciating the slower life and all that comes with it after experiencing big city "mania."
- County and state representatives haven't a clue where Timberlake is but tax us as if we live in an urban area with paved roads, routine garbage collection and police patrols.
- Pepe Le Pew expires under one of your outbuildings and fumigates the structure along with all that exists inside it.
- C130s using our hushed dark sky air space for night vision practice runs.
- School buses don't run in Timberlake.

- Homeland Security helicopters do flyovers – and they aren't looking for tomato plants in greenhouses.
- Two ply is preferable over four ply and tires aren't the topic.
- Rural Free Delivery means \$56 for a Post Office Box several miles away while you are put on a waiting list for one at the Fire Station.
- Getting packaged ice cream from the grocery store to your freezer before it puddles.
- Being air evacuated to an emergency room rather than taking the standard ambulance route.
- Laborers show up for work and then seem to lose the directions to your house for the next several days.
- Having a supply of Benadryl, antibiotics and prednisone for when your dog encounters a rattlesnake.
- Feeling extremely lucky when trying to get three bids for a project and settling for the one that responds, or they all want to come on the same day to look at the project.
- Having a security alarm system go off while you are away and the only footprints you find are those of a four legged mammal.
- County map office hasn't a clue why half your subdivision plat is missing.
- The "In the Hood" gang consists of coyotes, deer, fox, bobcats, cougars, bear, squirrels, chipmunks, pack rats and various reptiles and amphibians.
- Speeding is 20 mph on the BIA (Bureau of Indian Affairs) road section.

Finding humor in circumstances helps to take away that self-inflicted fatigue and angst of uncompleted tasks and looming deadlines. It makes one put things into perspective and more in tune with creating new or alternate pathways. Certain things may never be fully understood for life isn't always fair...but it's pretty darn good. "Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own."

So, for now, it is farewell from Timberlake, where the volunteers are still amongst us, the deer are good looking, and "Off the Grid" can bring a smile as it is what it is. ✓

~ Linda Pedersen

# TREASURER'S REPORT

## July 2010 – December 2010

Income: \$125,354.87  
Expenses: \$100,148.75

Please see the pie charts and spreadsheets for financial details. We are at or below budget on most line items. The Ranch House renovations are at budget. Common Land maintenance and repairs were over by \$643.00 for wages paid to contract workers.

The repair and maintenance of the grader and Zetor tractor have stayed within budget. The dump truck required new brakes and tires, and the new maintenance/dump truck had bar lights installed to aid in snow plowing visibility.

The cost of electricity increased this winter. Wall mounted electric "Econo-Heaters" were installed to prevent the yearly problem of broken water valves and pipes in the well room.

### Collections:

This fiscal year, collections have been good. The current year collections are \$125,354.87 as compared to this time last year of \$124,539.42.

The January 2011 collections were \$30,720.98. January 2010 were \$27,286.11.

Three lots have been sent to TRLA's Lawyers to proceed with foreclosure. There were twenty (20) liens in place and seven (7) more were added this past month. The owners of eighteen (18) lots have arranged payment plans with the Association.

The 2011-2012 budget for next year will be put together in the coming months. For a detailed look at the spread sheets, please go to the Web site: [www.trnews.info](http://www.trnews.info) and look for the addendum to the treasurer's report.

Thank you for paying your dues in a timely manner. Please call or E-mail me if you have any questions or need to set up a payment plan. Contact information is located on the Board of Directors 2009-2010 page. ✓

Eileen Domer, Treasurer

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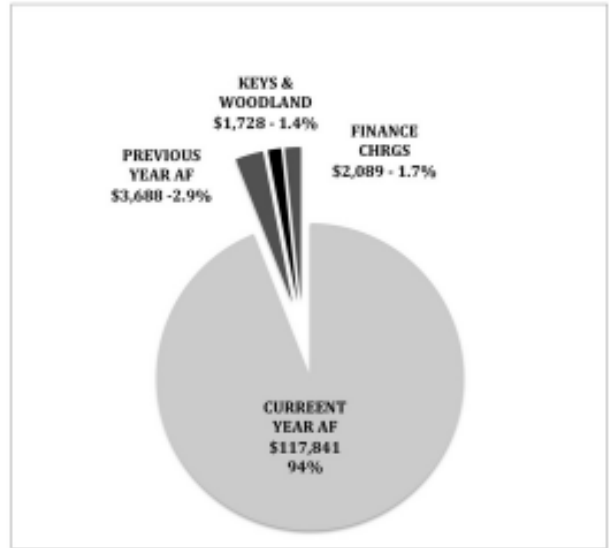
## Timberlake Alerts

On occasion Timberlake Alerts are sent electronically to inform resident landowners of situations that can impact their safety or awareness such as lost or found pets, etc.

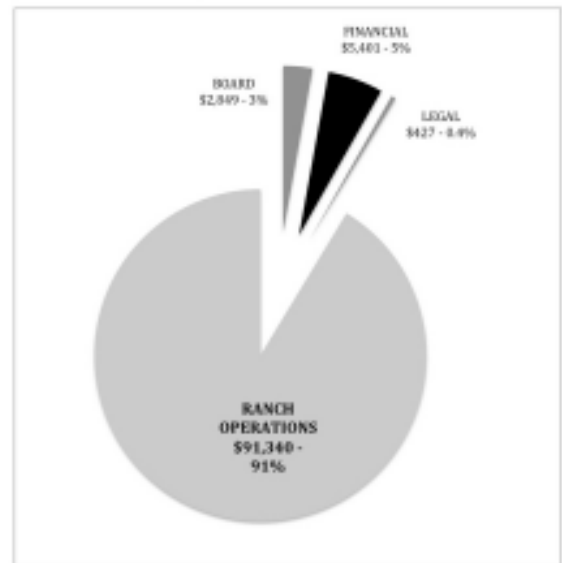
If you are not on this E-mail group and wish to be, or want to be removed from it, please notify by E-mail:

- Linda Pedersen:  
[pete137@juno.com](mailto:pete137@juno.com) or
- Mary Jo Wallen  
[mrsdw19@aol.com](mailto:mrsdw19@aol.com). ✓

**TRLA INFLOWS FY 2010-2011  
JULY - DECEMBER**

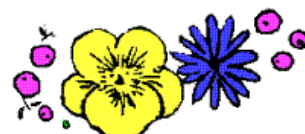


**TRLA OUTFLOWS FY 2010-2011  
JULY - DECEMBER**



**RANCH OPERATIONS**

Insurance	\$5,316	5.3%	Equip & Fuel	\$32,600	12.6%
Employees	\$4,846	4.8%	Roads	\$54,235	54.2%
High & Land	\$13,147	13.1%	Utilities	\$1,196	1.2%

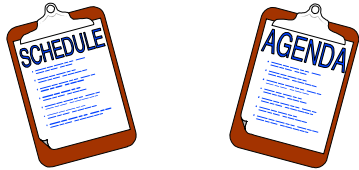


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## Board Meeting Dates and Policy

There remains one more TRLA Board Meeting on April 16, 2011 and the Annual Timberlake Ranch Landowner's Meeting on Saturday, May 28, 2011, before the new Fiscal Year starts on July 1, 2011.



### Open Board Meeting Policy

- All Timberlake Landowners are invited to attend.
- Attendees are to observe the business meeting and not to interrupt with their opinions unless recognized by the floor.
- Any suggestion that a landowner wants considered should be submitted in writing before the meeting.
- Comments will be heard from the attendees after the business portion of the meeting is complete.
- Non-landowners may submit a suggestion in writing two (2) weeks in advance of the scheduled board meeting and will be discussed at that meeting..
- Non-landowners must request in advance to attend if they wish to be recognized by the floor.
- Non-landowners will not be allowed entry at the door without expressed permission of a quorum of the Board. ✓



### A Note of Thanks

- Thank you so much ... to those heroes who plowed snow off the roads – Jeremy St. Charles, Dick Wallen (with Mary Jo riding shotgun), Jerry Toellner, and Jack Mansperger.
- ...to all those who stopped and helped their neighbor or stranger get their vehicle unstuck.
- ...to Frank Lambert for his donation of a K Fire Extinguisher for The Community Center (TCC) Ranch House kitchen along with other usable accessories.
- ...to Steve and Nancy Wills for helping transport acquired material from Tucson to Timberlake which will be used in the TCC kitchen and historical room.
- ...to the selfless stewardship souls who are defying snow and mud to pick up litter along the roadside. ✓



### TRLA Board of Directors 2009-2010

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## Architectural/Maintenance Report

No building plans have been submitted for 2011.

Five oversized structures without residences, two unpainted silver metal buildings and three abandoned foundations remain as covenant violations.

There has been correspondence with seven (7) of the landowners thus far with positive feedback from three who plan to comply and bring their lots into compliance.

The lot owners with abandoned foundations will be contacted next.

The Board plans to apply common sense decisions following the Amended and Restated Bylaws to resolve the existing violations where possible. ✓

## TRLA Annual Meeting and Board Position

The TRLA Annual Meeting will be held on May 28, 2011, at the Community Center.

Applicant(s) wishing to run for a vacant three year Board position should contact L. Pedersen: [pete137@juno.com](mailto:pete137@juno.com), or call 505-783-2465).

Applicants must be landowners and members in good standing. Please submit resume before April 15 deadline. ✓



## Timberlake Neighborhood Volunteers Annual Yard Sale

Timberlake Neighborhood Volunteers (TNV) would like items for their annual yard sale this summer. If you haven't used it in two years, do you really need it? Would you consider donating the item(s)?

Proceeds from the yard sales in the past years have made the following possible:

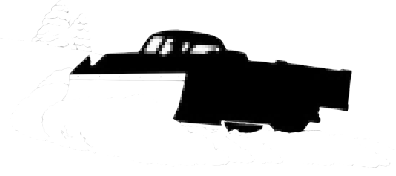
- Community Bulletin Board by the Volunteer Fire Station
- Flag pole and flags for the Community Center
- Book Room shelving and carousel cabinet for DVDs/VCRs, tapes
- New stove for the Timberlake Community Center (TCC) kitchen

If you have items that you wish to donate for a good cause, call 505-783-2465 or 505-783-4207 or leave on the porch at the TCC Ranch House. Sorry, we can't take large appliances. ✓

## Roads Report

Jerry Toellner, Tom Merritt, Dick Wallen, Jack Mansperger and Jeremy St. Charles worked hard this past fall to maintain the side roads, and this winter to keep all of the roads passable.

McKinley County graders were out three times to plow snow. TRLA equipment and crews were out two (2) days in December for a total of 29 hours, three (3) days in January for a total of 9½ hours and one (1) day in February for a total of 8¼ hours. A total of 38 inches of snow was reported in the northern end of the Ranch.



### Heavy Equipment expenses:

- The Ford Truck was outfitted with amber warning lights and a light bar. Two sets of chains were purchased (\$1243.16). In addition, installed lumbar for side rails on the dump bed, and added a fire extinguisher (\$103.39).
- Grader: Routine service twice at JRL to replace hydraulic hose, repair tire, mount tire and install chains (\$1,045.00).
- Zetor Tractor: Clutch/brakes serviced, mower drive shaft maintenance and general maintenance (\$631.00).
- Fuel: Price of dye diesel increased by \$0.52 since July.
- Purchased 435 gal. (\$1404.00)
- Regular fuel for trucks: \$1015.00
- Last fall the Brush hog was refurbished (drive shaft repaired) and used to clean up dead weeds and dried up sunflowers along all the side roads where possible.

### Gravel:

- Placed 515.07 tons on Buttonwood, Sunflower, Copperweed and Wolf Roads.
- 37 tons on Fox Road
- 60 tons Cottonwood Loop
- 19.57 tons on Pinetree
- Total: \$26,219.00

Two landowners were sent letters in October 2010, advising them that their driveway culverts were causing road erosion and that no gravel would be placed on the road until proper sized culverts were installed. ✓

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**“Posterity — you will never know how much it has cost my generation to preserve your freedom. I hope you will make good use of it.”**

—John Quincy Adams

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## Horse Pasture and Common Area located in Cloh Chin Toh

In the November newsletter we asked for input concerning the Horse Pasture and Common Area located in Cloh Chin Toh (CCT). Five landowners responded with similar concerns about the usage for these areas. The consensus was that we should leave this beautiful area alone as an undeveloped area, a sanctuary for wildlife, and occasional horseback riders and hikers who want to explore the area. We appreciated receiving all of your opinions. ✓



levels, which allows excellent internet connections and cell service (any location inside their home and 30' from the Cellantenna equipment).

Two landowner's comments concerned the safety of people working around the Ranch, especially during the winter while plowing snow. Although service isn't available in all locations around the Ranch, workers do have radios with them and can call if they need assistance. ✓

### Annual Meeting (Extra Activities)

We'd like to know if your expectations during the Annual Meetings are being met. This year's date is May 28. Would you like to participate in some extra activities on Sunday, May 29?

Groups could meet on Sunday at 10 a.m. at the Ranch House for the following:

- Hiking opportunities (to the waterfall, CCT Ruin area or to other areas around the Ranch)
- Horseback riders (to the lake, waterfall, horse pasture or forest areas)
- Volunteer's meeting: New volunteers and ideas would be appreciated.
- Library (normally, open every Tuesday)
- Other?

Please contact a Board Member to share your ideas and the number of people who might plan to attend any of these activities. ✓

### Internet/Better Cell Service

Six landowners responded to our questionnaire about providing Internet service at the Ranch House. Everyone agreed that this service is not needed and it would be too hard to monitor the system. However, the need for



better cell service did create some interest. Verizon has indicated that they understand the Ramah area has poor service issues and that at some "future date" they will investigate the possibility of constructing a tower closer to us. Right now, Verizon's tower is in the Zuni cutoff area. The tower that is located in Ramah is CellularOne.

The Cellantenna (repeater) system that Mary Jo and Dick Wallen installed last summer continues to operate without any problems. Several landowners have talked to them and Dick will be helping at least one landowner install a similar system this summer. Signal strength continues to be at maximum

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## Mountain Lions

© Fran Barbano



Wildlife thrives in Timberlake and there exists the possibility of encounters with large predators and bear. The largest predator that lives here is the mountain lion. This is a thumbnail sketch.

In my research on mountain lions over the years, the discovery has been that they are one of the most feared, least understood and most maligned creatures of our time. Known by many names including catamount, panther, puma, and cougar, the big cat is commonly called a mountain lion in the Southwest.

It is important that we learn as much as we can about the creatures that inhabit the areas in which we live, visit, or play.

We should have some knowledge of what-lives-where, how it behaves, and to be alert to the ever-present possibility of interaction with wildlife. We should try to live in harmony with all other living creatures, large or small, and have some idea of how to defend ourselves or our family should it become necessary. We should have a healthy respect for all wildlife and should not stop enjoying the outdoors because 'bad things might happen,' but instead, be cautious and learn how to handle potentially dangerous situations before they occur.

Mountain lions are loners, preferring the solitary life.

... Cont'd on page 7



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## Continental Divide Electric Cooperative Communiqué on Tree Trimming in Timberlake

The Board received the following from Continental Divide on February 11, 2011.

“GRANTS, NM – A company that Continental Divide Electric Co-op (CDEC) contracts with for tree trimming service will include the Ramah area in its early spring efforts this year to clearing power line right-of-ways.

“Each year, the co-op budgets thousands of dollars to have trees trimmed throughout its 2,700-mile service area, creating safety zones to ensure branches and limbs don’t sway into power lines during heavy winds.

“We try to trim individual areas every three to five years, depending on moisture and growth,” CDEC spokesman Mac Juarez said. The co-op contracts with Asplundh to perform the tree trimming work.

“While we’re required to keep at least 10 feet of potential hazards in all directions of power lines, we can clear a wider swath, if there’s the chance that tall trees in the area could collapse and fall into the lines,” Juarez said.

As a courtesy, CDEC and Asplundh try to alert residents who live in clearing areas, even though notification isn’t required. “If any consumers have concerns, they can call us and we will try to accommodate them,” Juarez said.

The reason notification isn’t required is because residents – at the time they sign up for service – are required to give the co-op permission to access their property in the event of repairs, maintenance or upgrades.

It’s important for consumers to understand how the co-op categorizes trimming needs by type of power line: Primary and secondary. “Primary lines deliver power to hundreds, even thousands of consumers. Secondary lines deliver power to only a few consumers. Trees too close to primary lines receive first priority.”

Above all, consumers need to understand that trees are trimmed for “safety’s sake, not for aesthetics.”

“That’s not to say our contractor is going out there willfully butchering trees. They are trained and do try to take into consideration what a tree or row of trees in a line’s path will look like when they are done. But again, they are thinking safety first,” Juarez said.

“Trimmers do try to take into consideration the height and health of the tree. If it appears the treetop has been struck by lightning, sometimes the trimmer will top the tree – especially if it’s a dying tree. On the other hand, if the tree is big and healthy, they try not to top it, unless it’s absolutely necessary for line safety’s sake, CDEC Manager of Operation Mark Bahl said.

“The trimmers chip the small limbs and leave the larger pieces, stacked below the cut tree, Bahl said.

“On Forest Service and land managed by the Bureau of Land

Management, the co-op and its trimmer work with those entities to meet their requirement for each area.

“Finally, trimmers typically won’t enter an area if roads are wet, because they could tear up roads or scar right-of-ways and adjacent land. When possible, CDEC will try to notify landowners in advance, to ensure they will have access to the property,” Bahl said.

CDEC does not recommend homeowners take tree trimming into their own hands. The risk of electrical shock is extremely high. Residents can call Continental Divide at 1-505-285-6656 to report areas they believe need cleared. CDEC or Asplundh will assess the area and determine whether tree trimming is necessary. If it isn’t and the landowner wants the tree trimmed, he or she has to consult with private tree-trimming contractors. ✓



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### Pepe Le Pew

Skunks are not usually a problem in Timberlake, but their numbers can ebb and tide and some resident landowners have had to deal with the after effects.

What to do if a pet is sprayed? The touted tomato juice, spraying with lemon or orange citrus, or masking agents like perfume or Febreze® techniques do not work well at all. The following “secret recipe” works according to Myth Busters.

Mix the following:

1 quart 3% hydrogen peroxide  
¼ cup baking soda  
1 teaspoon liquid soap or dish detergent

Once ingredients are mixed, immediately bathe (shampoo in or rub down) the sprayed victim thoroughly. Do not save any unused portion after it is created as it is unstable if not used right away. Rinse with tap water afterward, and repeat if necessary. ✓



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## Gnats!

Tim Amsden

Some call them gnats, some call them no-see-ums, and some call them #X@%s. They are the little nasties that come out in the late spring, whine in your ears, and leave angry welts that itch for days. They are Cedar Gnats, members of nine or so of the thousands of species of biting midges that occur worldwide.

As you might suspect, Cedar Gnats live their lives in and around cedar trees. They lay their eggs in the fissures of cedar bark and after the eggs hatch the larvae crawl around in the bark all summer eating plant debris. Then they overwinter in the fissures and in the spring transform into flying gnats, and they make life miserable during the daylight hours for humans, cattle, horses and other vertebrates.

Most of them are actually innocent little things, beneficial in their way, flying around eating nectar and pollinating flowers like bees, hummingbirds and sphinx moths. But some of them, the females, are like female mosquitoes. When they mature they turn to the dark side.

Because female Cedar Gnats need a blood meal to have protein to make eggs, they use their mandibles to saw a hole in your skin. Then they spit anticoagulant into the wound and suck up the pooling blood. And here's a line directly from one of the Twilight vampire books: mating often occurs at the site of a blood host, shortly after the female has fed.

Doesn't that just creep you out? You are out in the garden pulling weeds when you hear an annoying high whine, followed by a series of red welts that begin to appear on your skin. And you know what is happening—a group of almost invisible vampire bugs have descended upon you, gnawed holes in your skin and fed upon your blood, and are now involved in an orgy that curses you to becoming again next year... a blood host.

### Mountain Lions

cont'd from page 5

Predominantly nocturnal, the big cats will hunt in the day if prey is scarce. Their favored food is deer and it is estimated that a lion will kill one or two deer a week. While they are opportunistic predators and do, in fact, take sick and weak animals from the herd, healthy deer are their mainstay. In addition to deer, the lions eat elk, bighorn sheep, wild burros, rabbits, porcupines, peccaries (javelina), rodents, skunks and bobcats. Much to the ranchers dismay, domestic animals such as cattle, horses and sheep, sometimes make up part of their diet, with sheep being taken more than other domestic animals.

The mountain lions range once was one of the largest of any mammal, extending from the northern United States to the southern end of South America, and from the Pacific to Atlantic oceans. It was eradicated from the eastern United States before 1900, but the mountain lion is alive and well in the western United States and throughout western Canada and

Here are facts and folklore about the wee beasties, all jumbled up. First, the gnats don't come inside houses, appear in big cities, bother you when you are moving quickly, or when it's windy. That's because they are weak fliers and generally don't go over 300 feet or so from their hatching tree.

Gnats appear early to mid June, and they are usually gone by the Fourth of July. Some years they are horrible and some years there are almost none of them. Many people say that a good rain will end their reign of terror.

They won't bother you before 9:00 or so in the morning, and they will leave you alone after dusk. They love to bite you in tight places such as around the tops of your socks and your belt. They will bite you in your ears and in your hair, so one of those dorky mosquito net hats is a good idea.

The gnats probably won't leave you with lasting damage but they can seriously hurt cattle, horses, and wild animals because they transmit several pathogens to them. Grazing animals are vulnerable to a disease they carry called Bluetongue (don't ask—you don't want to know). Horses sometimes suffer an allergic reaction to their anti-coagulant that causes a condition known as "Sweet Itch," which can result in severe skin irritation and hair loss.

There are repellants that hold them at bay—some tout Avon's Skin So Soft. Local folks make and sell healthy repellants that will do the job. Jessie Grey sells a spray at the farmer's market that has a faint pleasing smell and works especially well. There is disagreement as to whether commercial ones containing deet do or do not work.

Finally it's good to remember this. Most places have biting bugs throughout the warm season and sometimes throughout the year. The gnats come briefly, and we're pretty much home free. ✓



Alaska. Although it's listed as endangered in the eastern United States, it is represented by a small population in Florida, called panthers.

Statistics indicate that in New Mexico, mountain lions can reach 9 feet in length from nose to tail, and weigh up to 220 pounds. It is the third largest predator in the Southwest, exceeded only by the jaguar and bear in size. It is more agile than either and is capable of jumping 20 to 30 feet, can sprint faster than deer, climb trees with ease, and can break an elk's neck with a single, fast-running lunge, flipping the elk in the process. The mountain lion is considered a big game animal and managed as such; a license and tag are required to hunt a mountain lion. ✓

... To be continued in future issues.

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## The Dent (Cloh Chin Toh) Ranch Stories and Conversations with the Past

In the November 2010 Timberlake Times, we sequenced the Timberlake Ranch area deed transfers from 1886 to 1926. Louis L Dent bought 18 sections (11,250 acres) for the sum of \$15,720 on February 26, 1926. Mr. Dent was from Dallas, Texas and knew Col. E.A. Carr, President of the Cebolla Cattle Company, whose headquarters were in the Box S.

According to Geraldine Tietjen in *Ramah, a Documentary History 1930-1995*, Evon Vogt came to the Ramah area with Carr Sheep Company and later managed the Atarque Sheep Company. It was he who interested the Dents in buying land. She stated that the Dents bought 27 sections for \$40,000. The discrepancy may be that Mr. Dent bought an additional 11 sections from Evon Vogt in addition to the 18 sections due to Mr. Vogt's financial difficulties following the horrible 1931 Big Snow when thousands of sheep died.

Perhaps Mr. Dent was able to see into the near future when he divested himself in the late 1920s. He sold his ownership in the movie theaters throughout the Texas area in 1929 before the stock market crash on October 24, 1929, which triggered the Great Depression.

Many people worked for Mr. and Mrs. Dent during the 42 years of ownership in the Cloh Chin Toh Ranch. Unfortunately, stories from some of these individuals are now lost due to their deaths, but others have been recorded through one on one interviews in recent years.

### Cloh Chin Toh Ranch in the 30's & 40's

Luella Clawson is 90+ years young. Her husband Cal was employed by Mr. Dent as foreman of the ranch along with Cal's twin brother Al, and later his younger brother Kirk. Luella, her daughter Carmen, Kirk and his wife Flora, recounted their memories of Timberlake in the late 1930's and 1940's.

Mr. Dent lived in Dallas, TX. He and other partners owned ranches in Atarque (about 40 miles south of Ramah) and Colorado Springs. The Atarque ranch had both cattle and sheep whereas the Cloh Chin Toh Ranch ran about 100-150 head of cattle. The brand consisted of two elongated C's with a T under them.

Luella and Cal, along with their 3 year-old daughter Carmen, lived in a house about ¾ of a mile north of the Timberlake Community Center (TCC ) Ranch House when he started working for Mr. Dent. Around 1945, a man from Atarque arrived in March to buy bulls from Cal. It was cold that day and when they stoked the wood stove, which was converted from the Bloomfield Sawmill firebox (the sawmill at one time was located on the southeast side of Ramah Lake), the flue evidently overheated and caused a fire on the second floor. Cal

ran into the burning house to save his War Bonds and exited a different direction causing one of the young ranch hands to run screaming thinking the roof had collapsed on Cal. This wasn't the only time fire consumed something precious as Luella said she accidentally burned Cal's \$45 Christmas bonus check (Cal only made \$45/mo.) and thereafter she was blamed for anything missing.

Luella, Carmen, and Janice (Luella's youngest daughter) were the only ones who didn't lose all their clothes in the fire as Carmen was staying in Ramah with her cousin, and Luella and Janice were visiting in Mesa, AZ. Cal was left with only the clothes on his back, except for a Pendleton suit and two shirts Mr. Dent had bought for him as those were at his mother's house in Ramah. Luella, Cal and daughters lived temporarily in two rooms of a barn until Mr. Dent had a 560 square foot adobe addition built (now referred to as the Rock Room) for their new residence.

Two large adobe corrals for the horses were located to the south and northeast of the TCC Ranch House. The walls were about 5 feet tall and 16 inches thick. Large flagstones topped the walls and Carmen recalls how she and other children would run on the flagstones. All the horses had to be broken and some of their names were called Breeze, Bobby, Jeff, Zephyr, Joey, Blonde, High Pocket and Peanuts. Corn and chickpeas were grown to the east of the corrals and the barns as additional feed for the cattle.

The adobe blocks used to build the additions that are now referred to as the Rock Room, Workshop, and Well Room along with corrals, and later the upper ranch house (currently owned by Ted Broderick) were made on the ranch. Kirk recalled making 700 blocks each day and told a story about the old mule that was attached to an adobe mixer with a jockey stick. One of the ranch hands

(according to Kirk not one of the smartest people in the world) would walk behind the mule as he tended to slow down towards the end of the day or when on an uphill grade and the ranch hand would hit him on the rump with a shovel. He wasn't paying attention after one of these swats on the rump and the mule came up behind him, startled him with a bump and he turned around and hit that old mule over the head with a shovel.

Well – that ole mule broke his jockey stick and tore off down the flats with the adobe mixer behind him. Kirk stated that one





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## The Dent Ranch, cont'd

can still find the stone structure on the hill by the lower falls near the McGaffey Road where they burned the limestone to get the lime for the mortar.

Highlight for many of the Dent employees was branding time. Mr. Dent had brought registered Herefords from England, and named them after Luella's daughter, Carmen. Luella and Carmen remembered how they tattooed the inner lip of the Herefords rather than the usual branding method and how the men would throw the Rocky Mountain Oysters into the fire for a "blackened" culinary delight.

The cattle drive would start in Atarque and go north to Ramah around the point on the north end of Ramah Lake. They would move as many as 600 head over the mountain to Thoreau. There the cattle were loaded on railroad cars and taken to a location about 50 miles outside of Colorado Springs for summer pasture and sale in the fall.

According to Luella, Mr. Dent was a wonderful man. He was kind and conscientious especially to the hired help. Kirk and Flora also confirmed his generosity. After the war Kirk made a trip with Mr. Dent to Colorado Springs.

Kirk discovered a saddle-making machine, but he couldn't afford it. Mr. Dent bought the machine for Kirk and had it shipped to Cloh Chin Toh Ranch as he recognized Kirk's talent with leather. Kirk made between 2500 and 3000 saddles with that machine during his lifetime.

Mrs. Dent came only in the summer and would bring a companion lady by the name of Angeline, her personal maid and secretary. One or two local people would do chores such



as the laundry. Luella said it was a big thing to be invited to dinner at the Dent house – "one had to mind your manners."

The interior of the house was not overly elaborate with fancy furniture as was the house in Colorado Springs. There was no running water or indoor plumbing. It was stick built and did not have the stucco surface we see today. The Dents would be supplied with cream, butter, eggs, and meat by the ranch help. Luella and Flora said the house had only 4 large rooms which were built by Duane Hamblin. Luella remembered that in March of 1941, when the lake water had backed up so high from the dam, it almost entered the ranch house.

Luella recalled a sad day when there was a drowning in the lake. Cal and Al had warned a young Navajo ranch hand boy that if he somehow got off the road and into deep water to 'hold onto the horse's neck and he will bring you to safety.' Cal and Al had gone fishing together and then separated. Al saw a Stetson hat floating on the surface of the water and at first thought it was Cal. Sadly, it was the young Navajo boy who was still clinging to the horse's neck. They had both drowned.

During the winter Carmen said they would go down the middle of the lake on a sleigh pulled by two big horses to get to Ramah. There were always complaints about the creaking and cracking sound of the ice and the possibility of falling through. Al would cut a hole in the ice to show how thick it was to make them stop whining. ✓

... *To be continued.*

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## Commons Report

### Ranch House:

- The major renovations have been completed. The final touches will be completed this spring.
- This will include having insulation blown into the ceilings, refinishing the floors, installing a light over the kitchen sink and stove, and installing deadbolts keyed to one key. The locks on the office, work room and well room will be keyed to a separate key. Volunteers plan to install a handicap ramp off the back of the Ranch House.
- Old documents have been mounted and framed for display in the historical room.

### Bath House:

- We are still waiting for bids to upgrade the furnace,

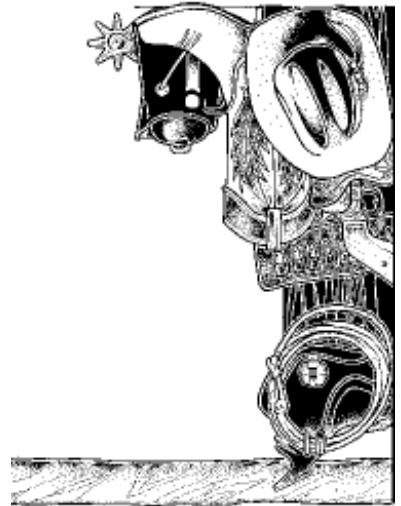


plumbing and install a vent in the men's bathroom.

- The bath house will be reopened in April.

### Common Grounds and Ranch House Lawns:

- Don Parry plans to clean up excess vegetation and trees along the south gate road and mow the parking area on the north side of the lake. We would like to install horse pass thru's at the gates on both sides of the lake. They would be designed to prevent ATV passage.
- We will also be checking possible installation of a storage building near the present buildings to store our expensive heavy equipment and protect it from the elements. ✓



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## Black Bear Are Back

Actually, the bears never left, but went into hibernation for winter, awakening this month (March), the females and their cubs are, or will be, coming out of their dens.

Beware that if you see an adult bear, quickly scan around for cubs, then slowly back away (never get between a female and her cubs). An otherwise docile bear that feels her cubs are threatened will attack in a heartbeat.

While walking, make noise. Sing, talk, wear bells, whatever it takes to make your presence known. Bears are shy but hungry and very protective of their young. You may want to consider carrying a bear spray in case of an attack. ✓

## Be Skunk Aware

Any of various common omnivorous black and white New World mammals (especially genus *Mephitis*) of the weasel family that have a pair of perineal glands from which a secretion of pungent and offensive odor is ejected. They are nocturnal and generally we smell them but don't see them unless they trip a security light on the premises.

Some literature indicates that a skunk's spray is accurate to 10 feet; fairly accurate to 15 feet; and slightly accurate to 20 feet. One gardening book declares: If you see one face to face, know this: a skunk can flip his derriere over his head and spray you while he's looking at you. ✓

## Abert Squirrel

Squirrels intrigue us as we watch their silly antics while they chase birds out from under the feeder. The grey/silver squirrels with the pointed ears and bushy tails that delight us are called Abert squirrels. Living in pine forests of the Southwest, this squirrel is active year round and doesn't store food.

Diet consists primarily of inner bark, seeds, twigs, buds and pinecones. In summer months bugs and mushrooms are added to their diet, and whenever antlers and bones are discovered in the wild squirrels gnaw on them to access the minerals.

Their nests consist mainly of twigs and dwarf mistletoe, and are lined with dry grass and other soft material. The squirrel is a rodent of the *Sciuridae*, the squirrel family. Its main predators are birds of prey, and especially the Northern Goshawk. ✓

## Wild Turkey

Occasional sightings of wild turkey over the winter, as they wandered in quest for food delighted residents of Timberlake.

Turkeys are a large North American gallinaceous bird (*Meleagris gallopavo*). Inhabiting open woodlands they can also be seen along river bottoms occasionally.

Turkeys are intelligent, wary, and adept at hiding.

Roosting in tall, mature trees at night their mainstay in diet consists of nuts, berries, grass, insects, and fruit.

Primary predators are coyote, bobcats, and racoons. ✓