

# *The Spirit*

DOWN  
of HOME  
RANCH

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Vol. 7, No. 2, August 1997



*Roof trusses about to come down*

## *Beautiful gazebo donated by Nowland family to Sara's Garden*

Since our beginnings, one family has served the Ranch in a very special way: Drs. Dan and Sally Nowland. As vets and proprietors of Springtown Veterinary Clinic in San Marcos, Dan and Sally come annually to the Ranch to doctor and inoculate all the domestic and farm animals. They do this in honor of their beautiful baby Kelly, who was born with Down syndrome. Kelly died in August 1990 following a heart operation. She was only five months old.

The Nowlands also wished to create a memorial to Kelly which would bring enjoyment to other special children and adults. Several years ago they began to plan the beautiful gazebo which now graces Sara's Garden.

The gazebo, which will be dedicated August 30, is a testimony of love to a daughter from her family. It was planned and constructed by Mike Bartz of San Marcos.

In the future, the gazebo will be the site of weddings, star gazing, hootenannies, and prayer services, or just a beautiful place to sit and watch the sun go down. Thank you, Dan & Sally.

## *We raised the roof all right!*

In the last *Update*, we asked for help in preparing the new camp center donated by Jerry and Stephanie Gregoire for moving to the Ranch. We got it!

George Dalrymple and board member Mike Paulsen planned the work days. Volunteers were: Norman Monske, Andres Martinez, Laurence Becker, Ruth Rader-Blackburn, Larry Vaughn, Carroll and Peter Fultz, J.B. and Virginia Carpenter, Dewey and Isaac Winburne, Charles Webb, and Pat Tatroe, with sons Jonathan, Paul, Josh, and Namaan. Thanks to these good friends!

The home should move to the DHR site around August 1st!



*Dan, Sally, Jennifer & Janie Nowland inspect gazebo in early stages of being erected The gazebo is a gift to the Ranch in memory of baby Kelly Nowland*



*Ranch Campers, Buddies and Staff in front of the Barn at Ranch Camp '97*

### **Third year of Ranch Camp best yet**

This year, because of development pressures, we limited enrollment at Ranch Camp to 55.

New was our Activity Director **Ruth Blackburn-Rader** of Austin, who worked hard to provide a host of engaging activities. **Gay Harris** was Camp Manager, **Jack Frerick** was the men's counselor, assisted by **Eric Lekisher**, with **Denise Goertz** helping out in the girl's dorm.

**George Dalrymple**, from Houston, and board member **Mike Paulsen** put in endless hours working on the boys' dorm, along with **Stan Hibbs** and sons. **Pat Tatroe** wired the dorm, helped by his sons. **Charles Webb** secured and levelled the porch.

Volunteers made Ranch Camp work. We are indebted to **Joan Dalrymple, RN**, camp nurse for the first session, and **Andy Evans, RN**, second session nurse, both from Houston.

**Jeff Wahrmond** and **Dorothy Gilbertson-Winburne** led the campers in drama and music.

We were blessed with help from **Officer Paul Leal**, Hutto Police Dept.; **Pat Palmer**, **Carolyn Welch**, **Caitlin & Noah Welch**, **Krista Rader**, **Fr. Rich Pedersen**, **Kenny & Dessie Pierce**, **Teresa Schane & family**, the **Carpenter family**, **Helen Paulsen**, **Deborah Curry**, **Dianne Guzman & family**, **Carolyn Frerick**, **Penny Petrich & troop**, **Diana Costello**, **Jan Meadows**, **Dina Banda & family**, **Nadine Jackson & family**, **Nancy McCaslin & family**, **Peggy Perry**, and **Dell Perry**. **Gene Harkins** let us fish in his pond.

Supplies were provided by **Joe & Mildred Sheldon**, **Ralph Comer** and the **Lyngaas, Orr**, and **Monske families**. **HEB**, **Wal-Mart**, and **Academy** stores gave generously, and **D&L Medical Supply** totally stocked our medical closet. Many thanks to all!

## **Can you help with the quilting project?**

Pat Beachy of St. Richard's Episcopal Church in Round Rock, is coordinating the construction of a beautiful "landscape block quilt" to be sold on behalf of Down Home Ranch.

We will need at least 20 people to prepare the blocks, appliqueing and embroidering the silhouette pictures. If you are interested in doing a block, call or write Judy Horton at the Ranch.

## **VESS Volunteer coming to Ranch for the year**

Down Home Ranch was selected as a VESS (Volunteers in Education and Social Service) site for the coming year. VESS is a national program of the Catholic Church.

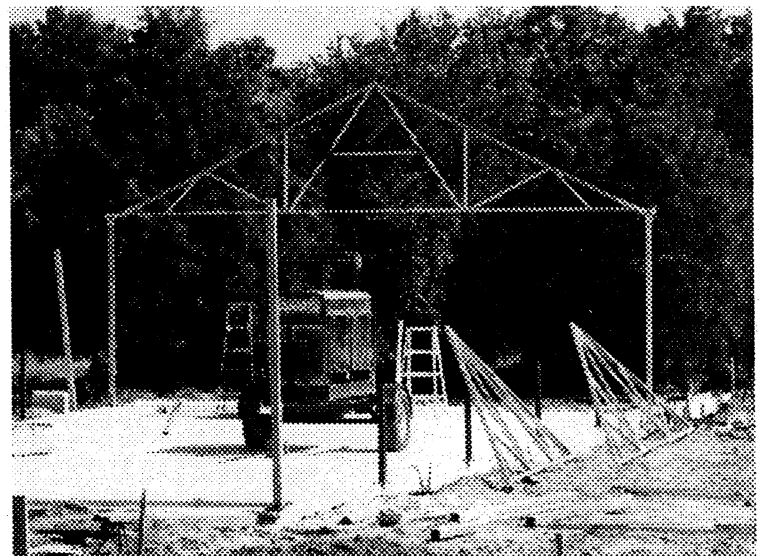
Our VESS volunteer is **Carie Brahan**, of Derby, Kansas, who will help out with administration, finance and fund raising. (Of course we were careful to inform Carie that "other duties as assigned" is a broad category at the Ranch!)

Carie will arrive in late July, and attend orientation in San Antonio in early August.

Following the August 16 Board of Directors meeting there will be a reception at the Ranch to welcome Carie. It will be from 3:00 - 5:00 pm. All are welcome to come and meet the new member of the DHR team.

## **Remarkable! Don't forget**

DHR is getting a small trickle of donations from those who remember to get and use their Remarkable Card when shopping at Randalls. Our Good Neighbor Number is 3227. Don't forget. Help turn a trickle into a stream.

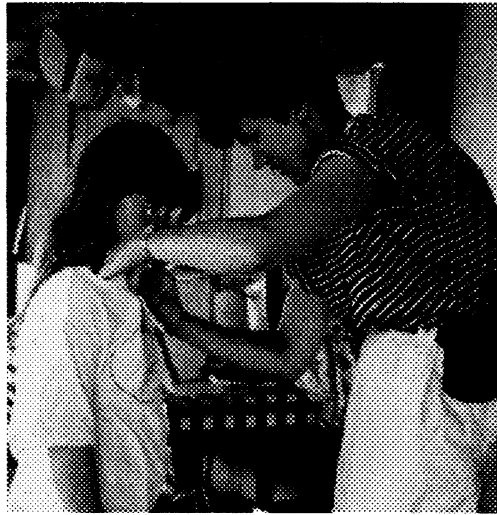


*First trusses going up for new greenhouses*

## My experience at Ranch Camp '97!

by  
Carolyn Welch

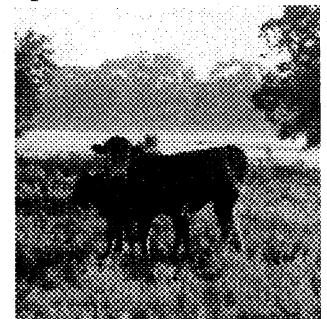
As Kelly Horton's oldest sister, I've watched Down Home Ranch evolve over the past several years with keen interest. When I agreed to volunteer for the first session of this summer's Ranch Camp, I thought I knew pretty well what to expect. Though I'd never been around during camp, I'd heard *lots* of stories!



## Wishes fulfilled!

Thanks to . . .

- Dan and Sally Nowland, D.V.M.s, for the beautiful gazebo
- Jerry and Stephanie Gregoire for the new (to us) three-bedroom Ranch Camp Center
- Williamson County Equipment Co. & the Rinderkenecht family for loaning the flatbed truck
- Frank Ginzle of Colorado City for donating Lightning the Limousine bull
- Jim & Betty Newman for the word processor
- Mike & Daisy Keppler for the household goods for our VESS volunteer
- Boy Scout Troop 154 of St. Richard's Episcopal, Round Rock, for cleaning the camp center site
- *Six Flags Over Texas* - for the donation of tickets to treat our camp buddies for their hard work



But I was in for a few surprises. **Kelly Horton & Carolyn Welch**  
Surprise No. 1: Ranch Camp is really *important* to the campers. It was clear that many spent their whole year in anticipation of returning to camp. Having friends who can travel through the day at their pace—with activities planned for their needs and interests—is touchingly gratifying to them.

Surprise No. 2: while our society has done a good job of emphasizing what people with disabilities can accomplish, I admit to being surprised by how much support our campers required. I found they need *much* more help than I'd have thought with health concerns and daily living skills—adults as well as children— plus great amounts of patience, reassurance, and guidance.

Surprise No. 3: The message that "God loves you" is as important to the campers as food and water. Our campers are challenged every day by things most of us don't think twice about. (My sister still struggles to tie her shoes, and she's 12.) In a society that values what you do more than who you are, our campers take some pretty hard blows to the ego. Yet they *are* equal before God, something they need and love to hear, which they do at camp.

My other sisters--Martha Adams and Janis Vasquez-- and I have watched Down Home Ranch develop, and we are very aware of the tremendous amount of work and sacrifice that has gone into it, not just on our parents' part but by the board, the volunteers, the friends of the Ranch, and other parents hoping for a home for their child. At times the progress has been so slow, and the path so steep, that we wondered why on earth our parents didn't just lay it down. From a distance, it's not always easy to see the magic. Oh, the greenhouse is great, the animals are fun, and the gardens are lovely, but you can find those things in a lot of places.

But this summer I was privileged to *experience* the magic. I saw campers trooping off to put up the flag, so full of importance they looked like they'd burst. I saw a lady who was terrified to even touch a horse win the horsemanship award. I heard a camper give a testimony on John 3:12 that nobody--but nobody--could have done better. I was touched in a million different ways, and I came to understand things about my baby sister's life I had never suspected.

And that's when I saw how all the work, prayers, and support of so many people is bearing the most lovely fruit in the lives of people who need a place like Down Home Ranch. Somewhere that really is "a special place, a different pace." A place of their own.

*Carolyn Welch lives in Lawrence, KS, with her husband Bryan and their two children Caitlin and Noah, who also helped with Ranch Camp 97!*

## If Wishes Were Horses...

Looking for . . .

- A functioning 4-wheel drive Jeep
- A reliable pickup truck that can haul
- Back copies of *Texas Highways*
- Hoses and sprinklers
- Hand tools: hammers, saws, pliers, sockets, etc.

**No one is worthless whom  
God has created, and for  
whom Jesus died.**

*The President's Commission on the  
Sanctity of Life, Lutheran Church,  
Missouri Synod*



**Ranch Camp '97! Buddies during Orientation Weekend.**

### How 'bout those Buddies!

If there's one question that was asked 100 times this summer, it was, "Where did you find those fabulous young people!?"

The questioners were referring to our camp Buddies, most of whom put in two-week stints, helping campers with everything from mealtimes to shooting off rockets.

With deep gratitude for their gifts of service, we salute **Vanessa Carpenter, Virginia Carpenter, Casey Charleton, Amber Craig, Mary Paul Gray-Lewis, Denise Goertz, Ann Harris, Braxton Hibbs, Zach Hoover, Eric Lekisher, Michael Lyngaas, Ruth Anne Pedersen, Kelly Rader, Rebecca Smith, Jonathan Tatroe, Paul Tatroe and Christine Wahrmond.**

(By the way, we found them at church, in the neighborhood, and at home.)

### Calling all Scouts

If you have a scout troop or other youth group, and would like a service project for them, remember Down Home Ranch! In preparing for the expansion of our camping and retreat facilities, we have a great need for labor.

You can bring the troop, spend the night under the stars (or in tents if you prefer), hike and help the Ranch.

We also have major projects appropriate for scouts pursuing Eagle rank.

Call Judy to schedule.



**Michael Lyngaas and bass**

### Board of Directors

Carroll Fultz, Austin ..... President  
 Michael Paulsen, Taylor ..... Secretary  
 Kevin Tracy, Austin ..... Member  
 Peggy Perry, Rockdale ..... Treasurer  
 Jim Crosby, Austin ..... Member

### Advisory Board

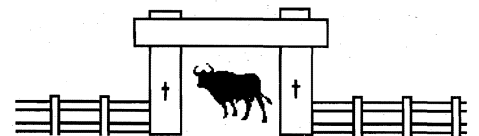
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 The Rev. Al Rodriguez, Longview  
 Mario Sanchez, Ph.D., Austin  
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### Staff

Jerry W. Horton, Ph.D., Director  
 Judy Horton, Steward & Dir. Ranch Camp  
 Mickey Harris, Trainer

### Mission

*Down Home Ranch seeks to be faithful to the Christian mission to provide for those in need. Its mission is to build a rural community for adults with developmental disabilities, offering training, housing, recreation and dignified employment, as well as opportunities for growth in mind, body and spirit.*



### From Camper to Buddy

Houstonian Michael Lyngaas came to the very first session of Ranch Camp back in '95. He was a terrific camper, and returned in '96 as ranch hand and camper.

This year Michael decided to serve as a Buddy, and we were both lucky and pleased to have him.

Michael is especially good and patient with younger campers, and Kelly Horton claims him as an honorary brother!

He's also a great fisherman.

Michael works for HEB in Houston when not helping out at Ranch Camp, and hopes to make the Ranch his home some day.