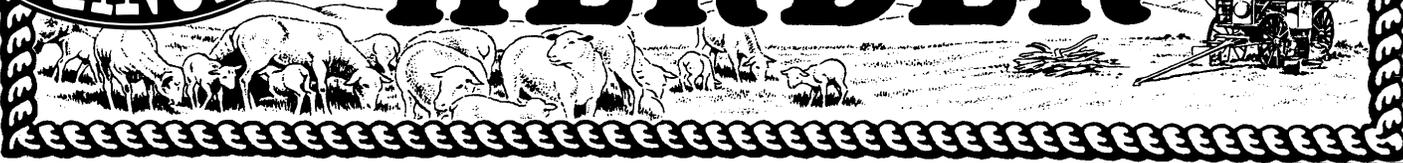




HERDER



MISSION STATEMENT

Providing family oriented Christian homes for adults who have developmental disabilities, on a working ranch.

VOL. 19, NO. 1

"Shepherding the Hesitant"

FEBRUARY 2005

MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



I am frequently asked if there will be other Special K Ranches. It was the vision of the founders that this ranch would become a model that others might follow in serving the needs of adults who have developmental disabilities. We have had many visitors interested in following this model, and we have freely shared our experiences and materials we have developed over the years.

Our board has set some conditions that they feel must be met before starting a second ranch. The first and most important is that the building needs be completed and the property debt paid off on the first ranch.

Through the efforts of a four year capital campaign we have met the primary building needs of this ranch and only \$34,000 remains on the property debt.

The theme for this years annual fund drive and dinner is "Breaking New Ground." We believe that the next ranch is on the horizon.

Burning the mortgage is a very attainable goal for this year's annual fund raising dinner.

On occasion, my thoughts go back to 1986 when a small group of men put their signatures to a document that next to each of their names said "Individually liable."

They carried that responsibility until November 2000 when the note was able to be rewritten to take advantage of much lower interest rates.

I would like to recognize those signers and extend the gratitude of the families whose son or daughter is living at SKR. Because of their action new ground was broken and today men and women who have cognitive challenges are living with dignity and self-worth as valued people in society.

Thank you: Hap Gilliland, Hugh Huntley, Harry Cuff, Thomas Lonsdale, Earl Aalseth, William Clagg, Ed Kunkel, and Jay Strever.

BREAKING NEW GROUND

You are cordially invited to attend

*The Special K Ranch
19th Annual Fundraising Dinner*

Tuesday, April 12th

5:45 p.m.

*at the Billings Holiday Inn Grand
Ball Room*

If you live close enough to attend I hope you put this date on your calendar. There will be a silent auction from 5:45 until 6:30 p.m. and a live auction later in the evening. You will enjoy a delicious dinner and conversation with other table guests. Entertainment will be presented by some very talented young vocal and instrumentalists. Several residents will tell about the program activities along with information about current happenings and what is on the horizon.

We are now in the middle of our Annual Fund Drive that will culminate with the fund raising dinner at the Billings Holiday Inn on April 12th. You have an opportunity to be named as a supporter of Special K Ranch and a sponsor of the dinner. Sponsors are recognized at four levels: Directors Club \$2,500 and above; Barons \$1,000 - \$2,499; Partners \$500 - \$999; and Herders \$250- \$499.

Your gift really makes a difference in the lives of the people living at Special K Ranch. By supporting Special K Ranch you are helping to sustain a program that does not receive government funding.

If you would like to attend the dinner on the 12th of April or if you would like to host a table and bring your friends, call 322-5520 to make reservations.

From the Program Director **COME FOR A WALK WITH ME**



Let's head down to the greenhouse. Wow! 56 degrees in February, What a beautiful day! Blue skies, snow melting, smell that fresh clean air. Look, there's Amber and Hanna feeding their new lop-eared bunny. It won't be long before the trees leaf out and the grass turns green around these houses.

Come on! Let's go into our new greenhouse office building. Smell that new paint? The ladies are sure going to appreciate these new bathrooms this season. No more heading outside in 20 degree weather to that freezing porta potty.

I see they have the desks in place in the new office room. Come over here and look in our new bedding plant tag room. Oh! Hi Carla, You and the girls sure have this tag room in order. It is going to be nice coming in here and finding the tags you need right where they should be, instead of hunting all over the place for them. Well done! We will see you ladies later.

Next to the tag room is our cold storage produce room. This is where we store our vine-ripened tomatoes and our European cucumbers before they go to the stores and markets.

Let's go into the greenhouse. Isn't it nice the way we connected the office building to the greenhouse complex. I see Dennis and Bruce along with their resident crews and a couple of volunteers Chuck and Darrel, are putting the final touch on the new plastic greenhouse cover for the mall area. Looks great guys!

Through this door is our hydroponics produce quad. This is where Kenny and Gary along with their resident crews grow the biggest and best tasting tomatoes

and cucumbers you will find. These guys and gals are really getting this program down. Have you ever seen this much fruit hanging from plants this big in the middle of winter? I didn't think so.

How about we go down and see the farm and ranch guys. You know it's lambing season and I'll bet they have their hands full. The sheep barn is right down this road past those two ponds with all the ducks on them. Isn't this an awesome walk? We really do have a very unique program here.

In the Bible, Paul's letter to the Philippians tells us you can't have joy ministering for Christ if you're at odds with the people who are ministering with you. So, if you want to find joy in ministry, you have to forget about yourself and focus on the people you are ministering with. Both staff and residents, it's that simple and it works.

Here we are, the sheep barn, I am sure we will find the guys right through this door. Wow! Look at all these newborn lambs. You know by the time these guys get done with lambing we will probably have 200 or better newborn lambs. Larry and Bob along with their resident crew do a fantastic job down here, and they couldn't do it without their crew.

Look at that, Bill with a newborn bum lamb in his lap bottle feeding him. Look at his face. This is what it is all about. Life giving to Life. Did I tell you how much I love my job here? We better go before we upset some of these new mommas. I hope you've gotten a little glimpse of what we are really about here, and remember Ya'll come back now! Hear!



Angela and Janna sorting in the new tag room



Gary and Bret sorting beautiful tomatoes in the middle of winter



Bill bottle feeding a bum lamb.

ANOTHER WAY YOU CAN HELP...

- Grow Lights for Tomato Houses - \$8,000
- New Cover for a Greenhouse - \$800
- Weed Mower - \$2,500

***Love each other.
Just as I have loved you, you should love each other.
Your love for one another will prove to the world that you are my disciples.
(John 13:34-35)***

Mike T. Abing

MEMORIALS AND HONORARIUMS December 2004 – February 14, 2005

We are pleased that the people memorialized and honored on these pages are part of the on-going ministry of Special K Ranch. A special thanks to those making these gifts.

Earl Aalseth Memorial

William D. Clagg
Robert & Jacquelyn Duncan
Charles & Sheri Huffard
Jim & Karen Merchant
Mark & Regan Rumans
Robert & Darleen Swain
Mr. & Mrs. Harry A. & Judith B. Cuff
Warren & Judith Frank
Mr. & Mrs. Ken Lucien
Doug & Evelyn Miller
Ralph & Vera Stenehjelm
James & Rose Ann Weverka
Mary Dugan
Scott & Sarah Holmes
Greg & Kathy Megrue
Barbara Molen
Emma Jean Stevenson
Don & Barbara Woerner

William Aggson Memorial

Carole M. Tetrault

John & Bonnie Alt Memorial

Julie Canning
Raleigh & Rachel Lawson

Claude Avens Memorial

Victor & Loretta Frank

Eileen Backman Memorial

Dan & Judy St. Don

Keith & Debbie Bakesley Honorary

Donna Beutler

Gene Barsness Memorial

William & Rose Caton

Dunk Bawden Memorial

Donna Beutler

Vivian Brooks Memorial

Debbie Brooks

Charles Burdett Memorial

Donna Beutler

Mary Carter Memorial

Jean Stone

Linda Zinne Cass Memorial

Ernest N. & Joyce Zinne

Carl Clapp Memorial

James & Carol Swanson

Chuck Copping Memorial

James & Carol Swanson

William Crtalic Memorial

Gladys Aber
Tiffany Madden
Thelma Bischoff
Merrill Meredith
John & Mary Ann Censky
Charles & Iva Thom

Judy Cuff Honorary

Mary Ruetten

Lillian Cunningham Memorial

Thomas Blankenship

Opal Cunningham Memorial

Jack & Audrey Parks

Wayne DaFoe Memorial

Jean Stone

Mildred Dawson Memorial

Harry & Betty Wright

Florence Deitz Memorial

William & Rose Caton

Luigi Diguseppi Memorial

K. Kent Koolen

Mary Donohoe Memorial

Robert & Jean Kauffman

Glenn Eastlick Memorial

William & Linda Strauch

Dallas Eide Honorary

Marshal & Gwen Haferkamp

Richard Ellingson Memorial

James & Carol Swanson

Carrie Elmore Memorial

Leroy & Norma Kappel

Emil Eschenburg Memorial

Lauren & Evelyn Damschen

Della Jordan Evenson Memorial

Betty Kuehn

Della Jordan Evenson Memorial

Lloyd & Evelyn Linger

Adolph & Hazel Favero Memorial

Lana Favero

Pete Ferster Memorial

Kenneth & Lucille Herem

Fred Feuerbacher III Memorial

Dr. Harry & Jean McLane

Janet Stickney

Fred Jr. Feuerbacher Memorial

Lorna Oversen

Ronny Forney Memorial

Samuel & Patricia Forney

Matthew, Benjamin, Samuel Forrest

Honorary

Darin & Dawn Goehner

William Frank Memorial

Warren & Judith Frank

LaRue Freund Memorial

Hank & Marj Gratwohl

Virel & Dorothy Guinn

Herm "Bud" Funk Memorial

Tiffany Madden

Judith Smith

Lee Gagnon Honorary

Gordon Nelsen

Mabel B. Beavans Geeskie Memorial

Dan & Marie Middleton

Ron George Memorial

Mr. & Mrs. Loren & Nancy Sasser

Gladys Glade Honorary

Ernest & Marilyn Schauland

Christ Goehner Memorial

Darin & Dawn Goehner

Christian & Nathan Goehner

Honorary

Darin & Dawn Goehner

Don Goehner Honorary

Mr. Todd Goehner

Charlene Wall

Larry & Joy Goehner Honorary

Nada & Nelius Ronning

Otto Goehner Memorial

Albert & Alma Schaber

Hank Gremmer Honorary

Mr. & Mrs. George Schafer

Holmes Gremmer Memorial

Walt & Elsie Holmes

Cleo Hadlock Memorial

Richard & Susan Peterson

John Hanser Memorial

Janet R. Butorovich

Mary Hauf Memorial

Mr. & Mrs. Harry A. & Judith B. Cuff

Robert Haugland Memorial

Hazel Stevens

Angeline Hauk Memorial

Ernest N. & Joyce Zinne

Mary Hawkins Honorary

Amanda Cuff

Sylvia & Hanz Haynie Honorary

Donna Beutler

John & Joan Heberly Honorary

Beth Keating

John Higgins Memorial

William & Gladys Bernhardt

Joe Hoeksema Memorial

Wayne & Linda Hodges

John & Diane Pilmer

Wilbur Holmes Memorial

Kenneth & Lucille Herem

Dr. Harry & Jean McLane

Doris Houseman Memorial

Tom & Evonne Altman, & Marie

Victor & Loretta Frank

Jim & Hilda Huck

Doris V. Houseman Memorial

Mildred Roods

Doris Houseman Memorial

Gladys Oberg

Robert Jacobson Memorial

Doug & Evelyn Miller

Ocee & Inga Johnson Memorial

Blue Rock Prod./Pepsi Co.

Mary Ann Jones Memorial

James W. Jones

Frank Kampschror Memorial

James & Carol Swanson

Alex Klee Honorary

Jack H. Klee

George Klingberg Memorial

Fenna Klingberg

Linda Koncilya Memorial

Donna Beutler

John Lampton Memorial

Fred & Gaynell

Doug & Jane Larson Honorary

Donna Beutler

Robert Lefler Memorial

Bobbie Lefler

Leo & Bernice Lesnik Memorial

Peggy Joki

Annabel Lombard Honorary

Min. Ross

Axel & Hazel Lundring Memorial

Kirsten & Karsten Lundring

Mary Lyga Memorial

James & Carol Swanson

Lisa McJunkin Memorial

Donna Beutler

Kathy McJunkin

Mary Menello Memorial

Patrick & Helen Mullaney

Bob & Betty Saxbury

Jeanne Menke Memorial

James & Carol Swanson

Marian Michaelis Memorial

William & Rose Caton

Mary Jo Milne Memorial

Charles Milne

Brock Mjolsness Memorial

Beryl & Sylvia Mjolsness

Florence Moore Memorial

William & Irene N. Hergett

Bertha Neville Memorial

Robert & Rebecca Tirrell

Phil Nieman Honorary

Julie Canning

Jennie & Leander Nesseth

Eva Jean Noack Memorial

Charles & Joyce Peterson

Clair & Ardy Peterson

Walter & Betty Sauther

Harold Nordahl Memorial

Reginald & Kathleen Brewer

Paul & Vicki Nunberg Honorary

Donna Beutler

Mike Oberg Honorary

Craig & Liane Wright

Marabelle O'Dell Memorial

Mr. & Mrs. Tony Hruska

Mary S. Potts Memorial

Marvin & Kay Kappel

Herman & Joy Sian

Mary Owen Memorial

Fred & Gaynell

Koefeldt Parents Memorial

Vincent & Cleo Koefeldt

Elvera Peterson Memorial

Mr. & Mrs. Gary & Judy Hadlock

Doris Poppler Memorial

William & Rose Caton

Steven B. Quilling Memorial

Mr. & Mrs. Loren & Nancy Sasser

Bruce Remmich Memorial

Kari Deck

Marilyn J. Jones

Kathy McJunkin

Jerry & Jo Rensvold Honorary

Donn & Joyce Lorash

Bill & MayBelle Rittal Honorary

Donna Beutler

Jimmie & Mae Rittal Honorary

Donna Beutler

Lois Rockhill Memorial

Bob & Paula Snelling

Donna Rose Memorial

Bobbie Ostrum

Katherine Schlager Memorial

William & Rose Caton

Al Schnurr Memorial

Fred & Barbara Wennemar

Cliff Schultz Memorial

Duane & Lora Schultz

Paul Shille Memorial

Gene Wasia

Gary Smith Memorial

Judith Smith

Karen Stahlecker Memorial

Mr. Winston Stahlecker

Roger Steffanich Memorial

Margaret & Leslie Frank

Judith Stene Memorial

Steve & Janis Barrett

Louis & Virginia Gauthier

Sue C. Peterson

Reginald & Kathleen Brewer

Kent & Diana Curtiss

Doris Holten

Edna Violet Leland

Connie Weiler

Judy Stene Memorial

Betty Kuehn

Elmer Quanbeck

Art Stephens Memorial

Jack & Audrey Parks

Illa Strand Memorial

William & Rose Caton

Homer Strever Memorial

Clayton & Lori Fiscus

Clarence Thaut Memorial

Dorothy Thaut

Matthew Thayne Memorial

Mrs. Shirley Andrews

Jeanette Winter Tilley Memorial

Mrs. Alice Ryniker

Gloria Todd Memorial

Layne & Myrna Rolandson

Daryl Trangmoe & Family Honorary

Donna Beutler

Albert Vix Memorial

Stan & Lois Witt

Elizabeth Weed Memorial

Mr. & Mrs. Wallace Blain

Kenny, Sue & Family White Honorary

Jay & Lisa Forseth

Don & Darla Zier Honorary

Donna Beutler

RANCHERS OF THE MONTH

Laurie Bogrett has been at Special K Ranch since May 1996. She was the first female resident and is very proud of that distinction. Laurie frequently mentions in her prayer at devotion, her gratitude for the ranch and the opportunity to be living here.



February rancher of the month Laurie Bogrett

The rancher of the month is announced the first Wednesday of the month at our singing and devotional gathering. Kenny White has a wonderful way of praising and encouraging each nominee when he names the one selected for this special recognition. He then invites comments from staff and residents. It is very heartwarming as you listen to the uplifting comments.

Here are some things said about Laurie. "When I first came to the ranch I got off to a bad start. I owe Laurie a debt of gratitude; she really helped me." "She was my first friend when I came to the ranch and she showed me around." From a staff person, "Laurie and I are about the same age and we like to get together once in a while for just some girl talk. I really enjoy those times. We get down from time to time and we've kind of figured out together what is important and what are some things that aren't worth getting in a knot over."



February rancher of the month Hank Gremmer

Hank Gremmer is from Laurel Montana and was on the waiting list shortly after the ranch opened. His father had passed away and in the fall of 1991 following his mother's death there was an opening and Hank moved to SKR. Some comments made to Hank by his peers were, "Hank is the oldest person on the ranch, 66, and I'll bet he is the strongest." "He is a good worker." "Sometimes you have to tell him to take a break and come in from the cold." "I love his dancing blue eyes." "He's a good skier. The first time he went his sister couldn't believe he went up on the chairlift." "He dances with me." "He can play the spoons." Hank's response, "Yeah with a polka on the piano."

SKR FOUNDATION Charitable Gift Annuities

A gift annuity can provide you:

- A lifetime income for one or two people
- A significant tax deduction (Montana residents, an additional tax credit)
- Attractive, fixed interest rates for your lifetime
- A gift legacy that will help to improve the lives of people who have developmental disabilities

EMPLOYER MATCHING FUNDS

Does your employer match charitable contributions? Please ask and help us double the value of your gift.



Greg's first year skiing



Debbie with her Eagle Mount ski partner



CORRECTION

There was an error in the December "Herder" memorial listing. Fred Feuerbacher, Jr. should have been Fred Feuerbacher III. Our sincere apology to the Feuerbacher family.

STAFF REFLECTIONS

Our journey to Special K Ranch and Hawkins House has been a unique one. A year ago, during lambing season, I visited the ranch for the first time with Ann Solie. Let me back up a little further here... I'd become acquainted with Bob and Ann Solie several years ago when their son, Jeff and our daughter, Dana, dated while attending Billings Senior High School and University of Mary in Bismarck, ND, but hadn't had contact with them for approximately seventeen years. During those years a very special milestone occurred... Gary, and our marriage in 1988. Jeff and Dana reconnected and were married last April.

I had heard of Special K and knew where it was located, but that was about the extent of my knowledge. After meeting the Whites, home advisors at McCormick, and the girls, and spending sometime at the lambing barn and greenhouses, I went home and told Gary I wanted to live there. A couple of weeks later Gary joined us during another visit and he also felt drawn to the ranch.

The reason he wasn't able to join us the first time was because of his employment. He was on call approximately every third weekend. Gary had worked at Interstate Diesel for thirty-three years. The job had become very stressful and I was very concerned about his health. I had been in the insurance industry since 1978.

We thought weekend relief might be something we'd be interested in doing in order to learn more about the workings of the ranch. We were very impressed with the dedication of the staff members. The residents sincerely believe they are privileged and honored to live at this special, wonderful place. We soon learned that there was an opening for home advisors. We received a call

from Mr. Dooley three days later offering us the position. We gave two weeks notice at our jobs, sold our house (in one day), and reported to Special K on April 29, 2004. We now believe that those two weeks of total chaos saved our lives. A very special bond has been formed with God, the staff, and the residents. All of these ingredients combined are our heaven on earth.

Our family couldn't be happier for us, and they've all become very attached to Special K and enjoy visiting every opportunity they have. Jeff, Dana, and Dana's son Taylor visited last summer and had a great time. (Jeff is a former member of the Board of Directors of Special K Ranch). Daughter Jodi lives in Billings and teaches at Castle Rock Middle School and comes out when she can escape the "big city." Son Cory, who lives in Helena with wife Sarah and kids, Emmy and Shale, coordinated a special visit last fall at Open House. He is in the Army National Guard and his crew brought a "Hewey" helicopter and landed out in the field. It was so awesome. The residents still talk about it. We are also fortunate to have my parents in Billings and Gary's in Broadus. All four grandchildren can't wait to come and visit this summer, and we can't wait to have them.

Gary & Linda Jones
Home Advisor/Vocational Advisor



Home Advisors
Gary and Linda Jones



Grandpa Bob and Dallas

MEET GRANDPA BOB

Three years ago Bob Solie volunteered to work our team of horses and spend a day with the residents handling and riding the horses. He was 65 years old and looking for something "fun" to do in his spare time. Bob fell in love with the residents and soon became known as "grandpa Bob." He frequently says, "I haven't had so much fun in my life."

Bob loved being at the ranch so much that he took on the job of weekend relief houseparent and then when the maintenance person left, guess what? Yup, he put

on another hat. Because he can't fix everything, he has introduced a lot of wonderful friends to the ranch who have found out that they were volunteering but more importantly, enjoying the company of the residents. During lambing he is a big help to the farm crew taking the day shift.

The residents all love having a grandpa who brings hugs, laughter, care, and a sense of humor. They all help him keep track of things and it is a general consensus that he is our MVG – most valuable grandpa. Bob's wife, Ann, who teaches school, soon found that if she was going to see much of him she would have to spend some time at the ranch. Like so many others she has fallen in love with the residents and looks forward to her weekends at SKR. Thanks Bob for being our Special K grandpa.

YOUR WILL A Way To Help Others

A will is the simplest form of a planned gift and it affords everyone the opportunity to help others and have a living legacy. Consider naming Special K Ranch in your will for a percentage, a specific amount, or as the sole benefactor. Special K Ranch could also be named as beneficiary of a life insurance policy, your tax-deferred IRA or other retirement plan. The blessings you have received will continue to bless and help others. (Check with your attorney for the proper legal forms and wording.)



P.O. Box 479
Columbus, MT 59019
406-322-5520

www.specialkranch.com
E-mail: skr@wtp.net



*Ron and his Eagle Mount
ski instructor*

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Tell your friends about our website at www.specialkranch.com

THANK YOU FOR SPECIAL ACCOMMODATIONS

What do you do on the weekend or when you have some time off from work? For most people that means time at your own home surrounded by your personal things.

The home advisors at Special K Ranch have a somewhat different situation; they have to leave their home and personal things when they have time off from work.

To help accommodate for this inconvenience a 5th wheel camp trailer was donated to the ranch for the staff to use. We also have two guest rooms and a kitchen in the Wommack Center office/multipurpose building that are used.

In addition friends of the ranch graciously provide lodging for our staff to get away and relax at. We would like to recognize and thank the following motels' support and encourage your patronage.

- | | | | |
|-------------------|---|-----------------|-----------|
| Super 8 | Columbus | Howard Johnson | Billings |
| | Big Timber | Cherry Tree Inn | Billings |
| | Billings | Ponderosa Inn | Billings |
| | Laurel | | |
| | Billings Hotel & Convention Center | | |
| Rimrock Inn | Billings | Rimview Inn | Billings |
| Fairfield Inn | Billings | Hampton Inn | Billings |
| The Pollard Hotel | Red Lodge | Lupine Inn | Red Lodge |
| Comfort Inn | Red Lodge | Quality Inn | Billings |
| Best Western | Billings | Boothill Inn | Billings |
| Holiday Inn | Billings | Sheraton | Billings |
| | Smith Funeral Home apartment in Red Lodge | | |

CONSIDER A GIFT

- Feed Grain and Hay
- Corral Panels
- Dishwashers
- Washers and Dryers
- Livestock,
- Calves & Sheep
- Portable Generator
- Arc Welder
- Hand Tools
- Vehicles to be Used at
Ranch or Sold

These are some items that Special K Ranch could use. If you have any usable items you would be willing to donate, please give us a call. We can turn your surplus items into tools for ministry. Call us at 406-322-5520