
◆ The 777 Ranch Report ◆

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SUMMER YOUTH HORSEMANSHIP CAMP GRADUATES

Our all-girls camp held the beginning of June went very well, ending with **Elisa** of UT and **Lauryn** of NV receiving their silver buckles. (Lauryn has already been back during a few days of camp to help and is itching to come back again next year. That's what we love to hear!) Two other girls, **Malorie and Lydia**, both from CO, received their buckles at the end of Horsemanship Camp II. The silver buckles represent many years of hard work, starting when some of these girls were just twelve years old and now they are in college. (Hang in there, campers!!) Each girl had to give a speech, with one telling how the program had given her confidence while another was helped with 4-H competitions. All thanked the staff for investing in their lives. Thank you, parents, for your investment and trust. Congratulations, girls!

We would like to thank each of our chapel speakers for the time and energy they put into preparing and presenting each message. Camp is fun, and there's much time spent with horses; but the day wouldn't be complete without time around God's Word, learning what He has done for us and what He expects from each person. A special blessing were the decisions made for Christ, especially the three who became part of God's family by accepting the gift of salvation provided by Christ on the cross.

A big thanks to each of our summer staff—the George family from SC (kitchen, Shack time, maintenance, and program); Anna from CA, Hannah from OH, Sierra from AK, Sarah from UT, and Patrick from CO (Shack time, horse time, cabin inspection, farming, livestock feeding); Rachel from CA, Sattler from SC, Bethany and Sarah from IN, and Tina from SC (counselors), as well as our resident staff families and volunteers. It takes many serving hands, many willing hearts, and many dedicated team players to make a great summer camping season!

Update on our Horse Family

It's not often you get two patriotic babies in one season! Evalina had a filly on Memorial Day weekend, and Sophie had her filly on the Fourth of July. They are such fun to watch racing around the pasture. Sometimes their moms dutifully follow closely, and other times they just ignore them and keep on eating. The babies definitely provide entertainment for all our campers and visitors. Oh, yes—they're both sorrels at this point., but they haven't yet been named. You know how that is around here. . . .

Just a week before the second filly was born, Smokey (the mother, grandmother, great grandmother, etc. of many of our horses,) died. It was a sad day for me and my family. My daughter Brenda (who was here visiting at the time) put the first ride on her during horsemanship camp at Ironwood Camp in CA where we used to serve. Katie rode her in riding club when we first moved here twenty-two years ago, and our sons Brad and Tye rode her, too. She was a good horse and an important part of our breeding program. She has a special burial place near the outdoor grandstands where we run our Great American Horse Race at the end of each week of horsemanship camp. Speaking of horsemanship camp, check out the slide shows newly posted on our facebook page. You just might see someone you know!

Calgary Outreach

Camp Hope's Day Camp in Calgary, Canada, begins in just two weeks. We'll be leaving soon to get horses and tack transported from Bethany Homes to the location where we'll be holding camp. Most of these kids have never been exposed to horses. In addition, their exposure to the Bible and God, in many cases, has only been in Hope Mission's Kids in Action clubs held after school during the school year. Please pray for safety and for the story of Christ's gift of salvation to be clearly given.

REMAINING CAMPING EVENTS

The summer camping season is winding down with adult horsemanship camp to go, along with some retreats. Someone asked recently when our camping season begins and ends. This year it began in April and it will be over the end of October. Someone else asked if we get bored when there are no campers. No, we really don't. There is livestock to care for, horses to train, camp scheduling with speakers to be planned, correspondence to keep up with, cattle to round up, brand, and ear tag before being moved to the winter range on the desert, along with things to do at home that we're behind in. (Thrown into the mix will be my second reverse shoulder surgery in November.) We were also asked if we do retreats in the winter. We have done a couple of retreats in November and as early as February, but it gets too cold to do any outdoor activities most years. Be watching our website for next year's schedule so you can be sure to get a spot in camp or a date for a retreat. Thank you so much for your interest in this ministry and for praying!
