

Nearly Lost... Now He's HOME

BY ROSE JONES

THE DAY BEGAN like any other Friday at the ranch. As I walked up the long drive toward the main ranch office, I couldn't help but notice how peaceful everything was at this time in the morning. Most of the main herd stood napping in the first rays of early sun. Except for Jasmine, our oldest horse on the ranch. She waited for me at the gate for her morning routine of senior feed and time on the lawn. I opened the gate and she followed me unhaltered into the barn and waited while I prepared her a pan of feed.

As Jasmine quietly ate her breakfast on the grassy hill, I checked

my mailbox in the office and casually attended to a few little chores. When I finished my work in the office, I picked up a halter and lead rope to return my old friend to the main paddock. She saw me coming and apparently decided that she was finished and walked ahead of me to the main gate and waited for me to let her back in.

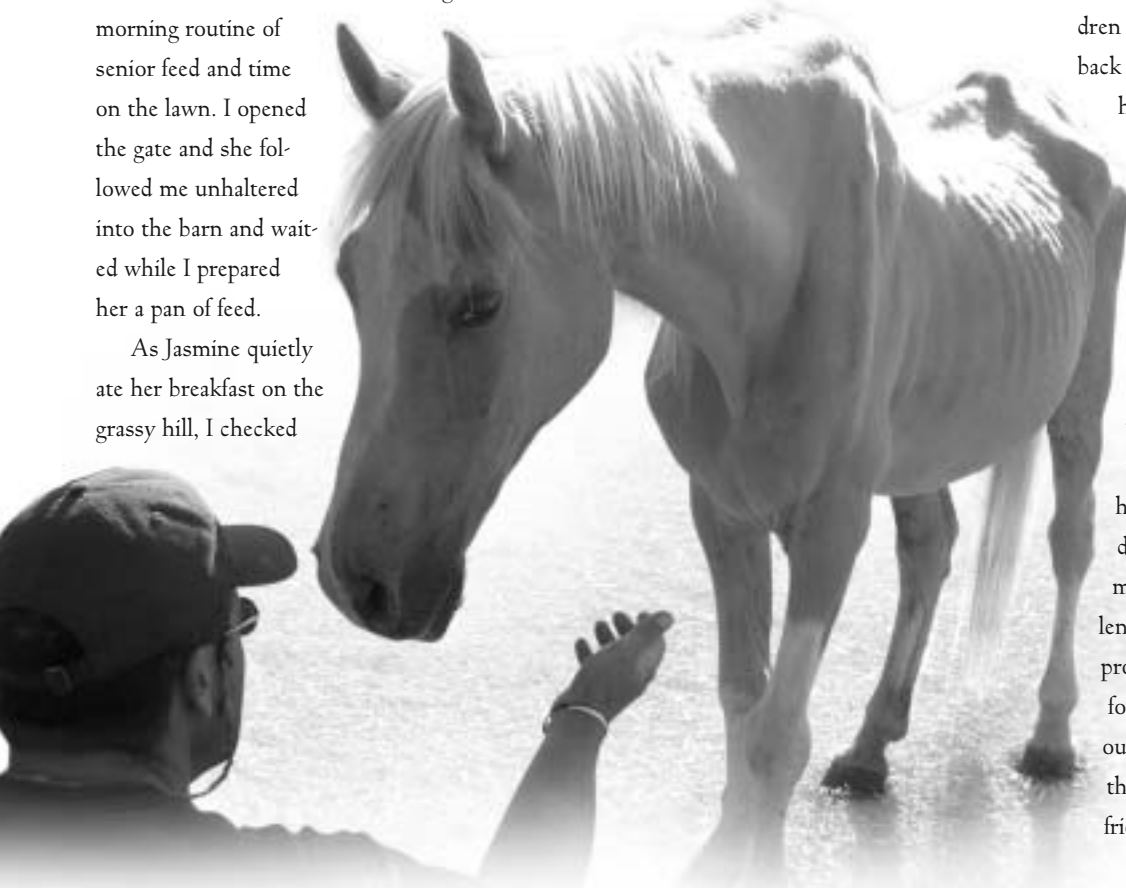
I had no sooner closed the gate behind her when a van pulled up into the main yard. A very unsettled woman emerged. She was clearly in great distress and immediately asked if Kim was home. I explained to her that Kim and Troy were out of town and that I was currently the only one on the ranch and would be happy to help her.

Her emotional dam collapsed.

In a flood of words, she poured out her unfathomable story. She was injured and escaping from her violent home with her two children. She and her children had been attacked and were running for their lives. As her children slipped out of the van, we walked together back up toward the bunkhouse. I listened to

her story as we walked... it was gut wrenching. I silently prayed for the Lord to give me wisdom.

She shared that there were three horses back at her home. One was in desperate need of help. She began to tell me of a once beautiful palomino gelding that she herself had rescued from starvation earlier in the year. He had been making progress in his recovery when his companion died. He seemed to be depressed and his weight began to plummet again. The increasing domestic violence she faced and her desperate attempts to protect her children left little time for her to focus on her sad, old gelding. She asked for our help. In a short time, she realized that the very best thing she could do for her old friend would be to donate him to the ranch.



Our Divinely Chosen Equine Staff

BY CHRIS WARNER

As God has called each of us to serve at CPYR, I believe that He has also carefully chosen our equine staff. From the biggest to the smallest, the fastest to the slowest, the painted to the plain, each individual horse in our family... completes us. They give us the tools we need to minister to every person who meets them. Currently, we have 27 horses on the ranch. Among them are some of our newest additions, Boomer, Jed and Buckshot.



"That is the most beautiful horse I've ever seen," is the sentence I hear most when folks are talking about Boomer. Standing at just over 15 hands, but weighing a whopping 1400 pounds, our newest mount is as gentle as a lamb. Although his life began on a PMU farm in Canada, by God's grace alone this Belgian/Fjord cross has come to reside at our ranch. Even though he is one of the largest horses in our riding program, the smallest child still knows they are safe on his back. In the short amount of time Boomer has been at the ranch, he has proven that he belongs here and I am excited for his future with us.



His long, white mane accents his beautiful golden body perfectly as he stands on the hillside looking down at me every morning. Even when he is surrounded by horses, Jed's beauty separates him from the herd. The best is yet to be seen from this four-year-old youngster that was graciously donated to us in December. Even at his young age and with very little training, Jed is unshakeable on the trails. He is the most uncomplicated, willing horse I have ever known and I look forward to spending more time with him

in the mountains. His gentle spirit and can-do attitude is already changing those who spend time with him.

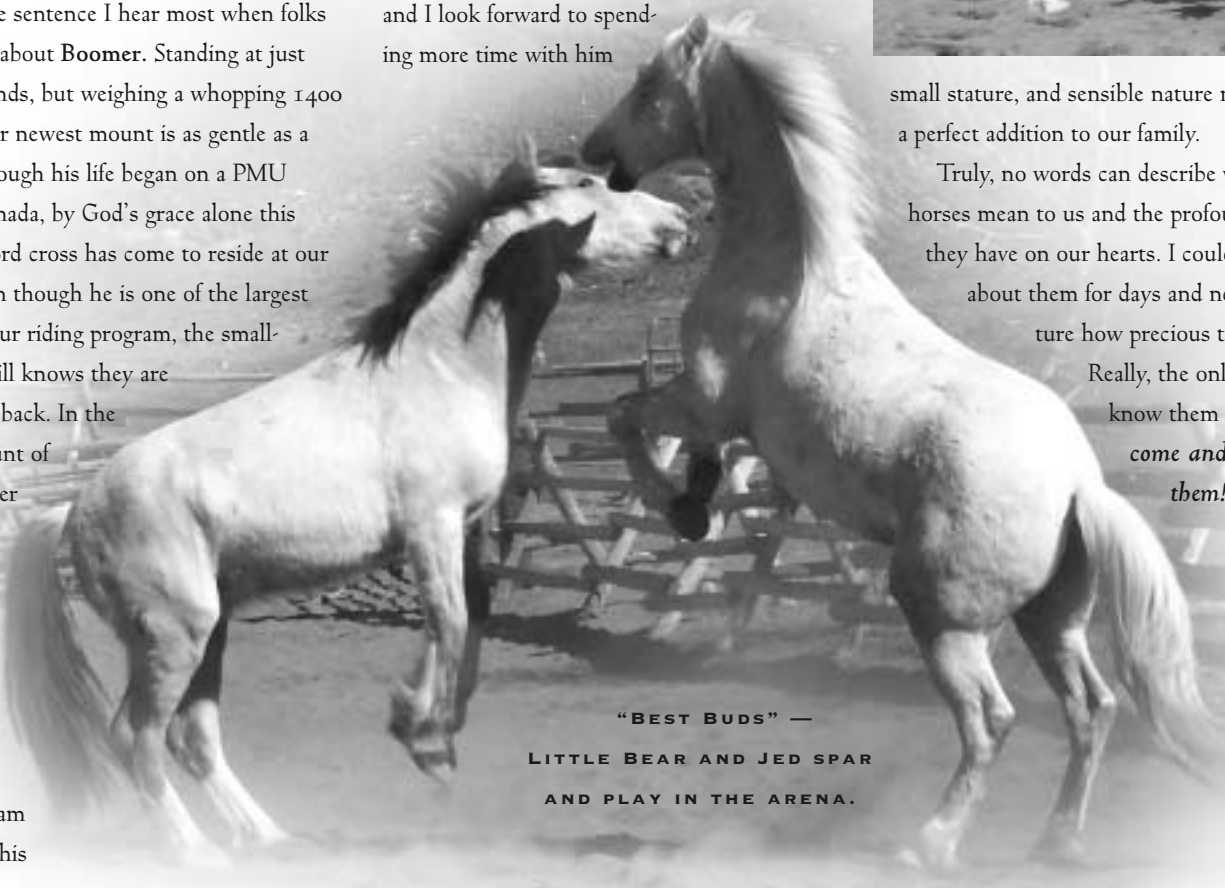
A wild clash of color, a quiet spirit, and a heart full of compassion make up our little Buckshot. This five-year-old POA reminds me of Seabiscuit – a long-shot little horse with amazing things to show the world. In the few months he has lived on the ranch, I've seen some truly remarkable things from him. He teaches children with the patience and reliability of an old ranch horse. He loves each child uniquely and individually. His strength,



small stature, and sensible nature make him a perfect addition to our family.

Truly, no words can describe what these horses mean to us and the profound affect they have on our hearts. I could write about them for days and never capture how precious they are.

Really, the only way to know them is... *to come and meet them!*



"BEST BUDS" —
LITTLE BEAR AND JED SPAR
AND PLAY IN THE ARENA.

FROM LYNAI

Lynai McCoy

EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT TO KIM MEEDER

WOW! Thank you friends for receiving me with such warmth and open arms as I grow into my position assisting Kim. It has been a privilege talking with many of you as we prepare for speaking engagements, interviews, tours and book signings. Many of these events have been quite a distance from

Central Oregon and we have enjoyed seeing new country and learning about the places you call home.

For those who have written, thank you for your patience... I am carefully working my way through the growing

stack of mail. The joy

I receive from reading your heart-felt correspondence is often so overwhelming, I sit at my desk in tears. Occasionally my little ones ask

me why I am crying. I just smile at them and say, "I'm moved by my friend's letter."

I am touched by your words and I look forward to addressing all of the letters waiting for me. My life is richer because of each of you.

The best and most beautiful things in the world cannot be seen or even touched — they must be felt with the heart.

— HELEN KELLER



CHRIS INTRODUCES A
NEW FRIEND TO LUKE



JOB, Continued from page 1

Once Chris, our Equine program director, arrived, we loaded up the ranches old truck and trailer and headed for the rescue. When we arrived, what I saw made bile rise in my throat. He was unquestionably the worst rescue horse I have ever seen. With Chris' help, we gently loaded him into the trailer and headed back to the ranch.

After a thorough veterinary examination, his blood tests revealed that despite his emaciation, his vital systems were functioning normally. He was estimated at being in his late twenties. Although he has all of his teeth, his molars no longer meet so he has some

challenges in grinding up his hay. One would never guess this after watching him munch through bale after bale of grass hay! We monitor his diet carefully as reentry feeding can be very dangerous. Each day his food is measured to ensure his safety and progress.

Kim named him Job. Imagining all the suffering that he had endured, she thought that it was fitting. He knew immeasurable lack, now he will know restoration fueled by the ranch staff and all who come here... now he will know immeasurable love.

Now he joins Jasmine on the grassy hill for his daily pan of feed. They are content to graze side by side, our two "grown ups" delighting in



JOB & JASMINE GRAZING ON THE HILL.

their golden years. Job is progressing slowly but progressing he is! He will never be the horse he was, he will be something entirely different. *He was nearly lost... but now he is found... now he has come home.*

Incredible Acts of Selflessness

BY KIMBERLY HANSON

In a day of such violence, selfishness, and turmoil it can quickly be concluded that benevolence has all but disappeared. However, at Crystal Peaks we have been given the opportunity to witness incredible acts of selflessness on a daily basis.

As "Hope Rising" has voiced the ranch stories throughout the country and to parts of Europe, Africa, Canada and Australia, we have suddenly been discovered by a remnant of good hearts. We're just a tiny ranch on a 9 acre parcel of land... but from everywhere people have heard our cause... and have not just listened... but have taken action.

In just a few months we have met so many who have chosen to follow the example of Christ and give of themselves without expecta-

tion. A mother and daughter, who came from Washington, gave their whole spring break to work, weed and irrigate.

While reading "Hope Rising" as a class project, a group of youth from an alternative school was moved to action. After raising their own funds, the team

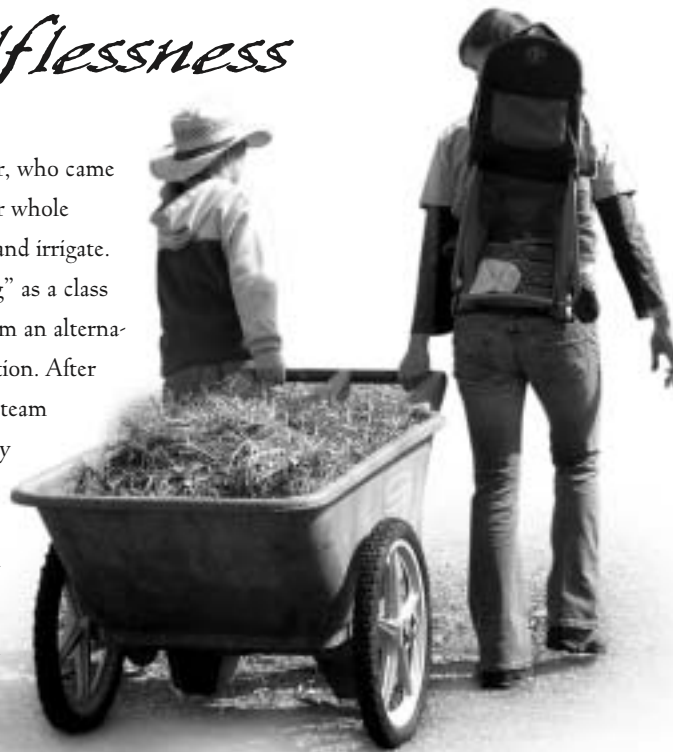
traveled hundreds of miles by van to spend their school trip building fences, spring cleaning, and doing a variety of other ranch chores. A

woman from South Carolina traveled thousands of miles to serve the ranch. To make her trip affordable, she opted

to sleep in a tent at a campground during one of the rainiest springs on record. She then commuted with a borrowed bike over twelve miles each day. A mother and daughter from Missouri spent their personal savings, set aside for a fun vacation, to fly out to the ranch and help. These inspiring

volunteers are just a few of the many who have sacrificed to help this little ranch.

We are so humbled that they would choose to give so greatly while expecting nothing in return. Their impact on the ranch is seen everywhere, but no place more than in our hearts. They have come as an answer to a longstanding prayer for help. Even though their stay with us was brief, they have become a special part of our family. They also remind us that the benevolent, though at times overshadowed by the selfishness in this world... are still faithful and strong.

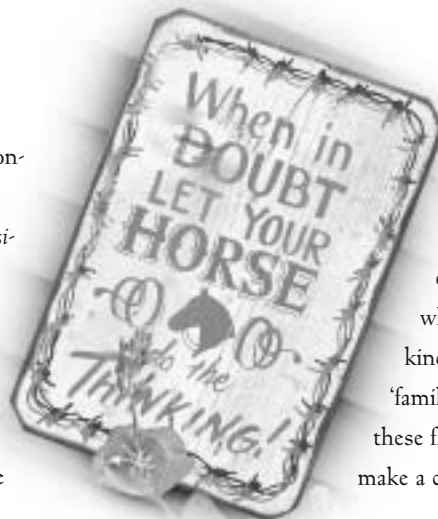


A FEW OF OUR MANY DEDICATED STAFF & VOLUNTEERS CATCH THEIR BREATH BETWEEN PROJECTS.

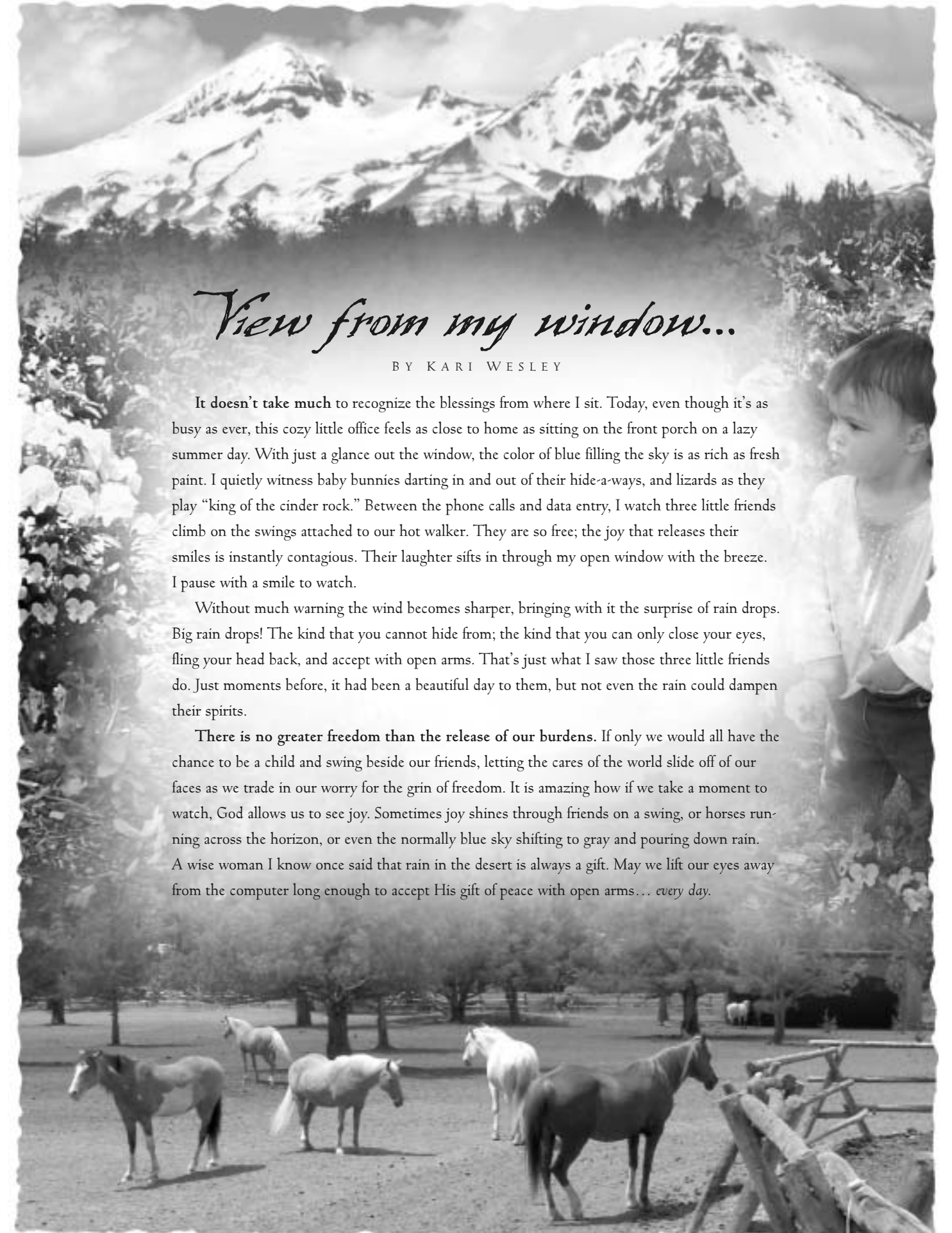
Information Clinic

As the ranch is becoming more known, we have been contacted by countless folks who have all shared a resounding theme "You are living my dream. I didn't know that it was possible until now... will you show me how to do the same thing?"

We answered that request by hosting our first "Information Clinic" in May. Because of the size of the ranch, we thought that we could comfortably host about 40-50 participants. Yet, in a few short weeks the registration for the clinic exploded to nearly 100! Participants came from 23 states and Canada!



Everyone at the ranch worked hard to be an encouragement and blessing to those who had invested much and traveled so far. Once again, WE were the ones who were blessed over backwards by the kindness, enthusiasm and support of our new 'family' and friends. Please join us in prayer for these fledgling ministries as they too, seek to make a difference in the world they live in.

A black and white photograph of a young child looking out a window at a snowy mountain range. The child is on the right side of the frame, looking towards the left. The background shows a large, snow-covered mountain range under a cloudy sky. The foreground is slightly blurred, showing what appears to be a window sill or a ledge with some plants.

View from my window...

BY KARI WESLEY

It doesn't take much to recognize the blessings from where I sit. Today, even though it's as busy as ever, this cozy little office feels as close to home as sitting on the front porch on a lazy summer day. With just a glance out the window, the color of blue filling the sky is as rich as fresh paint. I quietly witness baby bunnies darting in and out of their hide-a-ways, and lizards as they play "king of the cinder rock." Between the phone calls and data entry, I watch three little friends climb on the swings attached to our hot walker. They are so free; the joy that releases their smiles is instantly contagious. Their laughter sifts in through my open window with the breeze. I pause with a smile to watch.

Without much warning the wind becomes sharper, bringing with it the surprise of rain drops. Big rain drops! The kind that you cannot hide from; the kind that you can only close your eyes, fling your head back, and accept with open arms. That's just what I saw those three little friends do. Just moments before, it had been a beautiful day to them, but not even the rain could dampen their spirits.

There is no greater freedom than the release of our burdens. If only we would all have the chance to be a child and swing beside our friends, letting the cares of the world slide off of our faces as we trade in our worry for the grin of freedom. It is amazing how if we take a moment to watch, God allows us to see joy. Sometimes joy shines through friends on a swing, or horses running across the horizon, or even the normally blue sky shifting to gray and pouring down rain. A wise woman I know once said that rain in the desert is always a gift. May we lift our eyes away from the computer long enough to accept His gift of peace with open arms... *every day.*

GOD'S RANCH

Dedicated to Troy & Kim, and each leader who makes Crystal Peaks a spiritual safe haven!

Crystal Peaks is a special place
To come and warm your heart,
To let down your troubled hair,
And get another start.

It wasn't always like this you know,
It began as a place to dread;
just a hole chock full of cinders,
That seemed like it was dead.

Then along came two visionaries,
To give this place a new lift,
a hard working Troy Meeder,
And his whirlwind of a wife.

Kim "M & M's" is a miracle,
And a mother to one and all;
She is sure enough a rancher,
And always an angel you can call.

To some she might seem to be
A fool and a dreamer,
But to the abused and neglected,
She is a God-sent redeemer.

Ask "her kids" or her horses,
They know what she is made of;
Two boots full of gristle,
and a heart full of love!

Yep hope is rising,
Out of Dispair;
It's those kids on their ponies,
With the wind in their hair.

DICK HANKINS 01/30/05



ENGEL MIT VIER HUFEN *(Angels with Four Hooves)*

Hope Rising has been translated into German and is making its way across Europe. Please pray with us that the message of hope in Christ will be clear, received and shared amongst our new European Family.

Truck Update

Thanks to everyone for your faithful prayers and support in our efforts to locate a truck for the ranch. Because the Lord loves to make us laugh, a truck has been donated to the ranch... in a very 'round about' way. Blessing landed squarely on the shoulders of Troy's landscaping partner who, at the time, was driving an old Dodge that belonged to Troy. Troy's associate was able to buy a new vehicle, which meant that he no longer needed the beloved old truck. When the old truck drove up the driveway, it was clear that the Lord intended it to stay. Troy gave the truck to the ranch the next day. Because of many generous donations, we were able to give the truck a thorough and much needed tune-up to make it safe and sound for all to drive. Again, thanks to all who shouldered with us for this need. We are looking forward to having that old Dodge, once again, chug up the driveway "full of carrots."



CPYR Abroad

Yahoo! What is impossible with man... IS possible with God! For all those who have made financial, tack and miscellaneous donations to the ranch, we hope that you will be pleased to know that portions of your gifts have now been sent out to support new, similar ministries in Slovakia and South Africa! Truly, the Lord is multiplying your gifts like "loaves and fishes"! *Thank you Friends.*

Yes! I would like to help Crystal Peaks Youth Ranch fulfill their mission

Please use my donation for:

- Where it is needed most
- Future Property Purchase
- Endowment Fund
- For the children
- For the horses
- Ranch Equipment
- Staff education
- Volunteer program

Payment Method:

A check payable to Crystal Peaks Youth Ranch
CPYR for \$ _____

Credit cards are accepted at:

www.crystalpeaksyouthbranch.org

Send donations to: Crystal Peaks Youth Ranch,
19344 Innes Market Road, Bend OR 97701.

You can also make your donation at
www.crystalpeaksyouthbranch.org

Our current wish list is also available at our website

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

e-mail (please) _____

My Gift is _____ in memory/honor of

Please send acknowledgement to:

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Phone _____

e-mail (please) _____

Summer on the Ranch

BY ROSE JONES



This summer has been outstanding! Every day seemed to be better than the last. The ranch was full of kids from 9am to 6pm every Monday until Thursday.

Twice weekly on Mondays and Wednesdays tours were given. Each of those tours lasted an hour and a half to two hours. Every tour was customized to the group that arrived.

This summer one of my best memories is of when the

BOOMER SHARES SOME OF HIS LOVE WITH OUR GUESTS.



PHOEBE, LED BY JENNA, READILY ENTERS THE BARN TO GREET VISITORS ON TOUR FROM BEND VILLA RETIREMENT CENTER

Bend Villa Retirement group came to the ranch and brought bagged lunch. While they enjoyed lunch in our main barn, we gave them a “tour” and brought the horses to them for show and tell. They loved meeting some of our “equine counselors.” In fact they enjoyed it so much they already have plans to return next year.



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