

# WRANGLIN' NOTES



EATONS' RANCH ♦ Wolf, Wyoming ♦ Spring 2018



It's hard to believe another year is behind us and at the time of this writing a new season will be here before we know it. Many have said it's as if time stands still at Eatons', but in reality it does not and we're a little late getting out our annual Wranglin Notes. We had a fulfilling year with numerous highs and along with those highs there were some lows as well. We lost a number of people this past year who have had a long history with Eatons' and they will not soon be forgotten. Let's start out with the high points of the past year.



Here on the Ranch, one knows what's ahead just by looking at the calendar. Every January the Dude Ranchers' Association holds its annual convention and in 2017 it was in Tucson at the Tanque Verde Ranch. The Ferguson's all traveled south as did Mary Eaton. Typically they get to enjoy some warmth and sunshine while away, but on this trip they had cool weather, rain and even some snow up in the mountains. Besides the weather they had a good trip and productive meetings.

February moves kind of slow and how much one can get done outside besides feeding cattle and horses is weather dependent. Exciting news in February came Amy Pierson (Martin), husband Nick, and kids Landon and Jory, welcomed daughter Marin February 25, 2017. Jim and Wendy are as proud as one would expect grandparents to be. The Bill and Karen Ferguson became grandparents again in March. Their daughter Amanda, husband Luke Esch and son Holden welcomed a new addition to their family. Josephine Diane Esch was born on March 16, 2017. Karen timed her retirement well and was able to spend an extended period of time with Amanda in Cheyenne after Josephine was born.

We were able to open up our Bed & Breakfast and offer dinner and brunch from January through Mother's Day. Our talented chef Sam Bayliss stayed on through the winter and spring and the locals were very happy that we were once again open for business. We had around 200 people join us for Easter and Mother's Day brunch respectively. After Mother's Day we were just weeks away from opening day.



The horses made their annual trek up from Echeta led once again by Nate Schmeiser and his crew which included Tommy Alderson, Jr., Ty Schmeiser, Sam Davis, Levi Gorzalka, Justin Hammerich, and Stephen Yellowtail. No Rob Cagnina this year on the trip. This was the first trip Rob has missed since 2007. Nate had noted that 2017 was the best trip he has ever lead, but he couldn't put his finger on what was different. The ground crew was headed up by Mary Eaton and with Kate Hammerich, Kelsey Hanson Ferguson and Kitt Laidlaw assisting. The horses and crew made it home safe and sound. Next up, opening day!



We are so thankful to all of you, our guests and friends who were able to join us in 2017. There are so many people to recognize and thank for their support, that we wouldn't want to leave anyone out, so instead of mentioning names we just say "Thank you!" to all of you who were here this past year. June began as usual, slow and steady and we began the season with the wedding of John Leslie and Sarah Gargus. It was a beautiful spring wedding. It seems to work out well that we sort of ease into the season as our returning staff gets back into the swing of things and our new staff gain some much-needed experience.

July kicks off with the 4<sup>th</sup> of course and the annual July roping. The week after was the Sheridan Wyo Rodeo. Every year the rodeo along with the carnival and week of events gets better and better. If anyone has yet to experience Wyo Rodeo week we highly recommend it!



Every August we see many familiar faces as numerous people plan their annual trip here around the Annual August Calcutta and Roping. The past few years Mary Eaton has added another event around that time, Staff Olympics. This year the trophy winner was the team captained by Kim Ferguson. The event is a lot of fun for all of the staff participating and the guests spectating. After the first full week of August our guest numbers start to drop a bit as families are getting ready to head back to school. We also begin to lose some of our summer staff as they too have to get ready to start their semesters at college.

We manage to stay more than occupied with regular guests and weddings as our shoulder season begins. The first wedding of the shoulder season was Bill and Karen's son Will's and Kelsey Hansen's. It was a beautiful wedding and reception and a wonderful weekend! The following weekend we hosted Jamie Smith and Mark Soldat's wedding. The Ranch remains very popular as a wedding site with our available dates typically booked at least a year in advance.

September is a great time to join us here at the Ranch. Early in the month the weather is normally still very summer like and there is just a more relaxed feel to the place as there are fewer people here. Between regular guests and specific functions, those of us still here remain busy. If anyone can get away for a long weekend, Labor Day is a good one to shoot for. Don King Days takes place every year on Sunday and Monday of Labor Day weekend. It offers polo, steer roping and saddle bronc riding. It's the season ending event at the Big Horn Equestrian Center and always a lot of fun. This year we welcomed an artist's group after Labor Day. We had the Brush Works Society group here, led by Mary Croft Ferguson, and they took part in painting workshops and participated in regular ranch activities as well.



Following the artists group, we had Clare O'Neil's photo workshop here again. In addition to our regular September crowd, we welcomed local financial management firm, Frontier Asset Management back after a four year hiatus.



We didn't have any hunters this year so some of us had an opportunity to do some ourselves, which was nice. After we shipped our calves in early November, things really quiet down for us. We had a large group for Thanksgiving here at the Ranch. Most of the Ranch family was here, but Will and Kelsey traveled to Helena, MT to be with her family and Jeff, Jennie, Garrett, Vivian and Marley road tripped to Newport Beach, CA to be with Jennie's family for Thanksgiving.

In December, we opened for our bed and breakfast and dinners for a few weeks. Our chef Sam was back for another winter season, along with Caroline Wilson and Korina Weatherson. We hosted a number of Christmas parties, which got our winter season off to a good start. Christmas here at the Ranch was not snowed out this year. Many family and friends gathering here on Christmas day. All of the Ranch family was here, except for the Way's, who traveled to CT to be with Patty and C.B. Kaufmann.



### In Memory of....

This past year we lost a number of people who had a history and a friendship with the Ranch. Some visited the Ranch for the first time as children and returning with their children and grandchildren. Some met their future spouses here, while others joined us later in life with their friends and family, but regardless of when these people first visited us, they all are remembered and missed by those of us here at Eatons' Ranch

Gretchen Graham passed away on February 7, 2017. Gretchen met her future husband here at Eatons' and were married in 1957. She and her husband, Leonard, along with their children Margaret and John were neighbors for many years residing on the Little Tongue Ranch. Ann Young passed away, peacefully, May 21, 2017. While still in college, Ann first visited the Ranch, where she met her future husband Bots Young. Ann and Bots continued the Young family tradition at Eatons' Ranch by bringing their children Kent (Raina) Young, Terry (Roger) Vandewater and the late Tripp (Daphne) Young and grandchildren Anthony, Kegan and Cooper Young, Sam and Ben Vandewater, and Courtney Young to Wyoming for the next five decades. Ann will be missed dearly by all who knew her and she will forever be a part of Eatons' Ranch.

We lost Al Wells September 30, 2017 surrounded by family. According to our records, he first visited Eatons' winter ranch at the time, Rimrock, in AZ as a child in 1931 and continued vacationing here at the Ranch over the next 80 plus years. Our thoughts are with his wife Bess and all of their children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Other friends we lost this past year are Jake Dikkeboom, Jim Munger, John Milne, and Tim Graham. We wish all of their families well and we are thinking of you. To all of those who lost loved ones in the past year our thoughts are with you. For anyone we failed to mention we apologize in advance.