

The Ridgway Reporter

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THE RIDGWAY
REPORTER



ELK CREEK RANCH
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***CHRISTMAS GREETINGS
AND RANCH NEWS***

***From Elk Creek Ranch
and the Ridgway Family***



E. Chester "Doc" Ridgway (1908 - 1984) in his old sheepherder's hat with his favorite horse Nugget on Elk Ridge, 1962.

God bless thy year
Thy coming in,
Thy going out,
Thy rest, thy traveling about.
The rough, the smooth
The bright, and dread.
God bless thy year!

"Will the Circle be unbroken"

Melissa Widmark Ridgway born September 18, 1984.

AN INDIAN PRAYER

Oh great Spirit,
Whose voice I hear in the winds
and whose breath gives life
to all the world
Hear me.

I come before you,
one of your many children.
I am small and weak
I need your strength
and wisdom.

Let me walk in beauty
and make my eyes ere behold
the red and purple sunset.

Make my eyes respect the
things you have made,
My ears sharp to hear your voice.

Make me wise
so that I may know the things
You have taught my people.
The lesson you have hidden
in every leaf and rock.

I seek strength, not to be
superior to my brothers.
But to be able to fight my greatest enemy —
myself.

Make me ever ready to come to you
with clean hands and straight eyes,
so when life fades
as a fading sunset,
My spirit may come to you
without shame.

Chief Yellow Lark



Dillon and MaMere taking Annie for a stroll.



SHOSHONE WILDERNESS STUDY

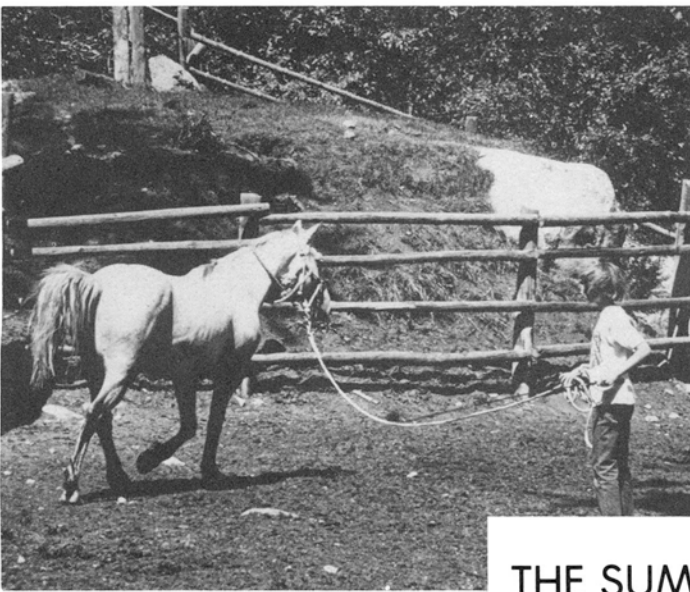
Something new in Sunlight:

Trekkers: Henry Dykema, Annie Woodard, Bobbie Williams, Will Pereira, Tim Carney, and Todd Stearne pioneered our newest Trek, a thirty-day backpacking ecology course accredited by Kimball Union and Proctor Academies.

First Elk Camp . . . biotic community study of the pond at the head of Rattlesnake Creek . . . Second Elk Camp to Trout Creek Basin, hawk pellets and soil surveys, and elk . . . coyotes howling, more elk "barking," an immature bald eagle . . . species variation and the feeding habits of elk and mountain sheep . . . Trout Peak to Damnation Basin to Big Creek, with its high winds and shaggy mountain sheep . . . on to Shangrila and more elk . . . over Elk Horn and into Gravel Bar, impromptu reunion with the trekkers (a ragged lot), and the forest fire area . . . unscheduled resupply for Sitka . . . biotic community study and a wick-i-up . . . Russell Peak and the black bear . . . Marvin's Ridge and the resupply . . . on to the Beartooths and Island Lake . . . back to Wall Lake and Albino Lake . . . missed the Cloverleafs (iced over) and ended up at Lynx Lake . . . big cut-throats at Crystal Lake, on to Queer Lake . . . solos in the rain and the thunder . . . carrying capacity experiment at Farley Lake . . . plaster molds of deer, elk, and marmit tracks . . . Lake of the Winds . . . it continues to rain . . . Russell to Fossil to Medicine to Upper Aero (with its huge fish) . . . Broadwater to Kersey Lake and back to civilization.



Henry and Annie's classroom.



THE SUMMER OF 1984 . . .



. . . Thach "Jesse James" Winslow's, stage robber extraordinaire, successful attempt at finally scaring someone during the infamous ambush . . . Rumor has it Jody is planning her revenge with her own "Annie Oakley - Belle Starr" routine.

. . . Earth Mamas One and Two.

. . . Tina's special counseling for young teens.

. . . Jeff Pierce and Chris Newman introducing ping-pong as a contact sport. Our insurance company is considering a helmet requirement for those who wish to partake in the Second Annual Dueling Paddles Tournament.

. . . Sam Devore, in his best Red Sox form, literally stealing second base . . . and third base . . . and home plate.

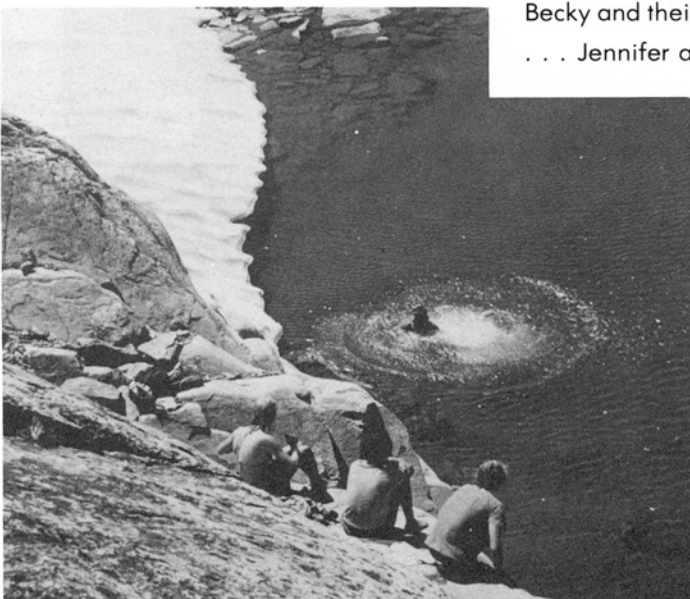
. . . the First Annual Sunlight Open: antique wooden clubs, a bag of "range" balls, sixteen "scratch" duffers, shovel handle pins, "groomed" greens, shotgun shell tees . . . even the picket pens looked perplexed.

. . . Emily Forster's "biting the bullet" surgery on the Absaroka Trek.

. . . Dave, Chay, Phoebe, and Shandy — why were you so tired the last day?

. . . the Lakes Region reunion of Elk Creekers: Hap and Susan from Kimball Union, Amy leading the Proctor field hockey team to victory (ably encouraged by Becky and their parents), and Gordon Scott running cross-country for Holderness.

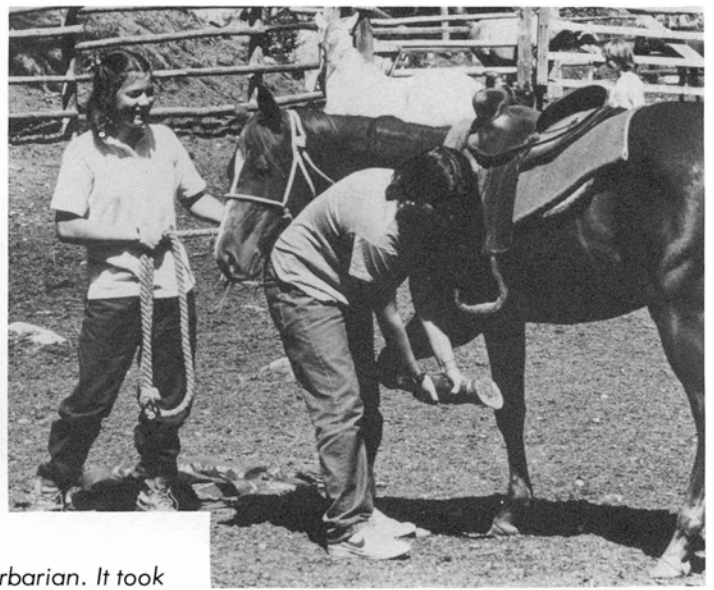
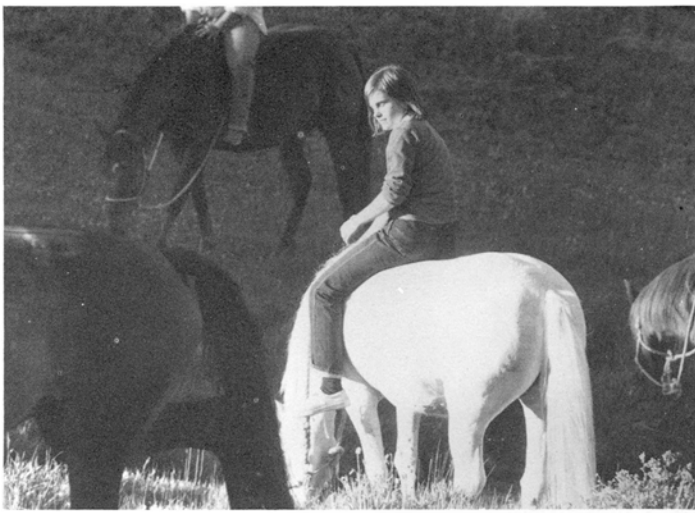
. . . Jennifer and Brooks' wardrobe exchange.



Bathing on the Beartooth Trek . . . "On the Rocks."



Brooks, didn't you try this last year?



. . . Steve Kaplan's nearly perfect impersonation of Conan the Barbarian. It took Suzette "Wonder Woman" Coffin to save his cabin from complete and utter destruction.

. . . Pat's continuing search for his practically perfect pancakes . . . and his continuing frustration.

. . . Wyoming Gus finding the bear's paw . . .

. . . T'was the night before barrels and without even a hitch, the ranchers pulled off the great cabin switch.

. . . Brooks' new rendition of "Goin' to Make Noise" . . . How does it feel, Cuz?

. . . Chlo-Type-E. . . or was it E-Type-Chlo. . . or was it Type-Chlo-E. . . or was it. . .

. . . Dianne's gymnastic classes . . . and Katy's Jane Fonda sessions.

. . . Jenny Hollingsworth and Woody's sudden interest in backpacking.

. . . Generals Mueller and Crimmins fight against the Picket Pen Infestation. Rarely have so few done so little to so many. The senior counselors attempt to capture the Sage Brush War in their skit. Rarely have so many done so much to so few.

. . . Pat and Thach cleaning up their acts, and their cabin (think of it!), for special visitors.

. . . Richard's David Letterman Show . . . or David's Richard Claflin Show.

. . . "Where have all the Sprinklers Gone" . . . Maria, did Dan P. teach you that song? . . . Speaking of strange music, what about the David "Bow Wow" Bowie argument? Will it ever end? . . . the "answer is Blowin' in the Wind."



Sunlight's very own version of "Splash."

You should have seen the one that got away!



ABSORAKA TREK

Trekkers: Rob Merrifield, Brooks Emeny, Jennifer Russell, Ashley Mattoon, Todd Day, Rob Shaw, and Emily Forster Crandall Ranger Station to Hoodoo Creek and the Tyrolean Traverse . . . map session, hanging food, Rob and Todd's "bear-icade" . . . Brown Bear Spring to Papoose Creek . . . three spike elk in velvet . . . Rob's "Sears Specials" . . . Hoodoo Peak and a snow camp . . . glisading and hacky-sack in Hoodoo Basin . . . Bump-in-the-Tree and Rob Shaw's Merrifield Special Cake . . . Ashley and the bear tracks on the way to Hardy Cabins . . . bathing for resupply . . . steak dinner . . . the Lee City river-crossing ordeal, Todd's hypothermia, and Emily's surgery . . . Mut and Jeff getting up in the morning . . . cutting steps up the Galena Pass glacier and into Hughes Basin . . . Solo Day and Brooks' sneak visits . . . Silvertip Basin to Grinnell Meadows, running into NOLS, and back again . . . Stinking Water Peak and back to Hardy Cabins . . . resupply at the Caves and on to Huff Gulch . . . up Elk Horn, rendezvous with the Shoshone Wilderness Study, and into Shangrila . . . into Big Creek and Damnation Basin, mountain sheep and all . . . Trout Peak! . . . Trout Peak Basin . . . the walk-out to Dead Indian Meadows and on to Emily Pass . . . the final half-mile to the Ranch.



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BEARTOOTH TREK

Trekkers: Rob Merrifield, Alex Dykema, Susan Crimmins, Aaron Albright, Chay Donnelly, Dave Fishman, Becky Emeny, Jorie Peters, Ted Hamann.

Departure from Island Lake, Becky turtles, and Rob's first map-reading lesson at Greyling Lake . . . Aaron's bushwhack to Hidden Lake and Alex's fishing lessons . . . Alex's "caviar" . . . into the Cloverleaf Lakes and the ABC glisading competition . . . across the boulder field to Queer Lake . . . Castle Rock Mountain and the mountain goats . . . Big Butte Lake and Alex's "jumping mouse" story . . . bushwhack to Farley Lake but where are the resuppliers? . . . Rob's first aid talk and the nosey Boy Scouts . . . solos at Fossil Lake . . . Aquarius Lake and Jorie's fish stew . . . Chay's birthday, Broadwater, and resupply at Chief Joseph Campground, "Ralph from Canada," all topped off by Becky and Susan's German Chocolate Coconut Pecan Birthday Cake . . . Broadwater Meadow and Chay's gargantuan greyling . . . Dave and Chay's "heavenly dinner party," hors d'oeuvres and all! . . . the long day into the Aero Lakes . . . 41 degree water! . . . Rob, Ted, and Aaron make the first ranch ascent of Granite Peak . . . Walkout!



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"Out with the Old" — the Sunlight Hilton being relocated as a new trekkers cabin . . .



. . . "in with the new" — three year's work producing the Sunlight Plaza for senior counselors.