

The Ecker Ranch

A FAMILY'S TREASURE, A COMMUNITY'S HAVEN

BY ERIN DAVIS

Standing on the front porch of the original Ecker Ranch homestead, built nearly 140 years ago, you can see the same view of open rangeland studded with oaks and seeped in history that Sylvester Ecker did so long ago. This view, the history of the land and the family that once lived there is exactly what J.B. Overstreet wanted to protect. J.B. married into the Ecker family in 1943, wedding Sylvester's granddaughter, Alice Ecker. When Alice passed away in 1984 she left the ranch to her husband and asked J.B. that the land never be sold. And he never did.

The ranch is located in the Coarsegold area of the Sierra foothills of Madera County, one of California's fastest growing regions of the great Central Valley. Everything around the ranch is changing and pressure from developers has been intense, but J.B. has always been intent on finding a way to protect the ranch from conversion. He found his answer in a conservation easement and worked with his community and the California Rangeland Trust to see the ranch protected forever.

Through J.B.'s efforts the Rangeland Trust received over 100 letters from the Madera County community in support of the conservation of this historical and resource-rich property. These letters, along with an application by the Rangeland Trust, garnered the needed conservation funding from the California Wildlife Conservation Board's Rangeland, Grazing Land and Grassland Protection Program.

The funding allowed J.B. to voluntarily convey an agricultural conservation easement over the 1,080-acre ranch to the California Rangeland Trust, permanently preserving its legacy as a working cattle ranch and piece of California history.

"Our office was captivated with the fantastic display of community support for this ranch and its owners. Each letter told the story of how these open and working landscapes are the fabric of our communities and create a sense of place and home for all residents. We thank Mr. Overstreet and the Wildlife Conservation Board for completing this outstanding project," said Michele Clark, transaction director for the California Rangeland Trust.

Among the authors of the support letters were: the Mayor of Madera County, Board of Supervisors, City Council members, the Sheriff, the Madera County Assessor, a reverend, the Sister's of the Immaculate Conception, ranchers and many others from the surrounding community.

"I called the folks in the community who had been out to our old ranch and asked them if they wanted to help me protect it. They said yes, people fall in love with this place when they see it, just like we did," said J.B.

The Ecker Ranch is a haven of rolling hills studded with oak trees, ponds and wildlife yet is lined with subdivision developments on its southern and western borders.

"The pressure to sell to development was



One of three natural lakes on the Ecker Ranch

immense," says J.B. "I received numerous letters over the years asking to sell, but I could never do it. I made a promise and this place means too much to us and the community."

As you approach the entrance to the ranch the pavement changes to dirt and the ranch gate appears at the end of the road. Entering the ranch is like walking through a portal to a place untouched by time. Old Native American camp sites dot the land where the rocks are riddled with grinding holes, evidence of their life among the rolling hills.

Oaks tower on top the hillsides and lean over the dirt road which traverse the winding creeks along wide-open pastures. The Ecker Ranch is the source of these tributary creeks whose water feeds the growing Coarsegold area.

Just west of the homestead on a hill overlooking the house is the treasured family cemetery. It sits under an oak tree and bears the headstones of Adel Ecker, her father Sylvester who died in 1904 and other Ecker family members. It is a reminder of the family who cherished and loved this land and cared for it their entire lives.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6

In this issue

DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE	2
CRT EVENTS	3
CONSERVATION NEWS	4-5

CRT UPDATES	6
THANK YOU TO OUR SUPPORTERS	7
CRT NEWS	8

Director's Message



GIVING FROM THE HEART

BY KENDRA WILBER

Over the past ten years, I have watched the Rangeland Trust grow from the infancy of an idea to the largest state-wide land trust in California governed by ranchers helping ranchers. Now in 2008, we are celebrating ten wonderful years of growth and achievements for rangeland conservation.

Since our inception in 1998, we have experienced only a slight growth in the number of staff but still have made leaps and bounds forward through tremendous efforts to garner funding from limited state bond dollars, educational outreach to folks within and outside our industry, development of a modern web presence and strengthening partnerships that are paving the way for more ranchland preservation throughout the state.

At our recent "A Western Affair" in June, we celebrated our tenth anniversary, our seventh successful annual fundraiser and the first annual presentation of the Conservationist of the Year Award given to Lt. Governor John Garamendi. Jim and Sue Coleman of Vintage Angus Ranch and Tim and Kara Coleman of Sierra Ranch Modesto were our gracious hosts and while enjoying their beautiful grounds that evening, I was reminded of just why the Rangeland Trust is here. Now after seven years as the committee chair for this event and the Board's fundraising committee, I see a new horizon emerging for rangeland protection.

The next frontier for the Rangeland Trust is to build stronger relationships with our

donors and to help them connect with their personal reasons for contributing to our organization. *Giving* from the heart means many things to different individuals based upon their individual passions, interests and causes, but the end result is the same, giving makes a donor feel good about their role to make a difference in our society. As we all face the rapid loss of precious ranchland in California and a treasured piece of our Western history, we must find new ways to communicate to more Californians to become informed about and involved in our mission to protect our state's beautiful landscapes. Hopefully, this education will mean more donors who will give from their hearts because they cherish their precious environment. With this support, the survival of the rangelands will not only benefit the ranchers and caretakers that are now managing the land but will be a direct benefit to all who depend on our state's natural resources.

Why give? We give because we want to help make a difference, a change for the good, and because the intrinsic value of giving touches us to our core as humans. Giving to a non-profit can fulfill that desire to contribute towards a greater need and it can encompass many forms such as contributing money, volunteering time, or donating goods or services to help this cause. Giving in one of these ways repeatedly over time is what makes one a philanthropist.

For me, personal giving started within my community. That is where I think change begins. Participating locally ushered me into participating at the state level. My family and I are active in California Cattlemen's, California Rangeland Trust, California Beef Council, California State Fair and I am part of my local women's league.

Over those years, I have come to realize that if you contribute your resources to the viability of the working landscapes,

you are preserving the foundation of our communities. These communities reflect who we are and shape our lives. The land is the basis of all those communities and our rangelands are becoming an endangered habitat along with the rancher who cares for them and the communities we have formed together. Each day, I am reminded of the rapid growth and pressure this has placed upon our lives just by taking a short drive from the surrounding communities towards Tracy to see the permanent loss of open ranchland.

It seems to me that land stewards, like ranchers, come from many different backgrounds, but together they share a common respect for the land. I have found that you can be a land steward, even if you do not live on the land, in important ways such as supporting legislation that keeps working landscapes intact, giving your time to organizations like the Rangeland Trust that conserve these habitats and donating your resources to help further their efforts.

To increase *Giving* from the heart by a variety of donors and ultimately preserve more of California's ranchland, it is our responsibility to become better spokespeople for rangeland preservation and raise the public's awareness about the essential need to protect the future of our state's most precious resources. Preserving our rangelands means safeguarding our water supply, helping clean the air, keeping food production local and keeping wildlife corridors uninhibited.

As stewards of the land, we are also stewards of our own future destiny and of those generations to come. It is the next logical step to, in turn, become stewards of the Rangeland Trust by protecting the sustainability of ranching and the vitality of our rangelands. *Giving* from your heart is a gratifying way to express your personal passion for the land and to also share some of the rewards it has provided you. This could be your greatest gift to our children to be able to enjoy our beloved land forever.



Kendra Wilber, Abbie Nelson and Bill Lefty celebrate 10 years of conservation at the "A Western Affair"

PHOTO: CORNERPOST PUBLICATIONS © 2008

CALIFORNIA RANGELAND TRUST CELEBRATES 10 YEAR ANNIVERSARY

BY ERIN DAVIS

On Saturday, June 14 the California Rangeland Trust joined with over 200 friends and supporters to celebrate 10 years of rangeland conservation at their annual fundraiser "A Western Affair" hosted by Jim and Sue Coleman, Modesto, of Vintage Angus Ranch and Tim and Kara Coleman, Modesto, of Sierra Ranch.

The Chairman of the Board, Devere Dressler, Gardnerville, Nevada, welcomed guests as they sat to eat and spoke about the organization's history and recognized how far rangeland conservation has come. "Today we celebrate the bridges we have made and partnerships forged as exemplified in groups such as the California Rangeland Conservation Coalition or the many easements we have collaborated on with groups such as American Farmland Trust, Trust for Public Land, the Nature Conservancy or the Department of Fish and Game to name a few. To date the Rangeland Trust has worked with ranchers and partners to conserve over 183,000 acres of rangeland in California."

Special guests at the event were several of the past Livestock Men of the Year and the present recipient, Hank Stone of Yolo Land and Cattle Co., Woodland.

These individuals were recognized as part of the celebratory program highlighting rangeland conservation and were honored for their outstanding commitment to the viability of the livestock industry that is inextricably tied to the health of our State's rangelands. The group included: Ed Biaggini, Morro Bay, 1980, Joe Russ IV, Ferndale, 1987, an original Director of the Rangeland Trust, Don Jackson, Oakdale, 1990, Ellington Peek, Shasta Livestock, 1993, Marden Wilber, Clements, 2003, Jim Coelho, Fremont, 2005, and Hank Stone, Woodland, 2008.

This year's event was also special because the organization announced its inaugural recipient of the Conservationist of the Year Award, Lt. Governor John Garamendi, for his long-time commitment to the environment and rangeland conservation. As the Rangeland Trust celebrated its 10 year anniversary, it commemorated its history acknowledging their first conservation easement donated in 1998 by the Garamendi family on the Touch the Earth Ranch, located in Calaveras County.

"To be selected as conservationist of the year by my ranching colleagues is an honor I never expected to have. I am deeply grateful to all ranchers who love the land and who want it preserved for future generations. They are the true conservationists," said Lt. Governor Garamendi upon receiving the award.

"The Rangeland Trust wants to preserve open space, rangeland habitat and California's Western legacy; and we want to allow that opportunity to be there for future generations. The Lt. Governor John Garamendi shares this vision and exemplifies sincere dedication to advancing these values," said Nita Vail, executive director, who presented the award with Devere Dressler.

The Conservationist of the Year Award is the highest and most prestigious award bestowed by the Rangeland Trust. The recipient of this award exemplifies true dedication to the advancement of the environment and rangeland conservation in California and preserving the ranching industry's Western legacy.

"The Rangeland Trust wants more than open space, we want to preserve a way of life and allow that opportunity to be there for future generations. Lt. Governor John Garamendi is being given this award because he shares this vision and has continued to work with us over the years to see rangeland conservation continue to be successful," said Devere Dressler.

During the cocktail hour and after dinner guests had the opportunity to visit an information booth about the Rangeland Trust and to visit the country store provided by Bobbi Faria of Yosemite Hide Co., Merced. To wrap the night in melody a bluegrass trio named the Campbell Creek Gang, Clements, filled the afternoon and evening with their wonderful sounds. These three young men were a hit as they meandered among the crowd.

A delicious steak dinner was served by Copper Spur Bar-B-Que, Modesto, and drinks were poured at the hosted bar by Harry's Affairs. Each table was treated to Gallo Family Vineyard Wines graciously donated by Jim and Sue Coleman.

The highlight of the evening began as Bill Lefty, Roseville, took the auction block. The lively



Lt. Governor John Garamendi is presented the 2008 Conservationist of the Year Award, along with his wife Patti, from California Rangeland Trust's Board Chairman Devere Dressler and Executive Director Nita Vail

PHOTO: CORNERPOST PUBLICATIONS © 2008

auction was a huge success with the help of announcer Bob Fox, Auburn, and ringmen: John Dickinson, Dickinson Marketing, Col. Jon Dolieslager, Tulare County Stockyard, Logan Ipsen, American Angus Assoc., Matt MacFarlane, California Cattleman Magazine and Ellington Peek, Shasta Livestock Yard, Jerry York, Western Livestock Journal.

The live auction was organized by event co-chair Kendra Wilber, Clements, and the silent auction was organized by Carole Silveira, Firebaugh with help from Melinda Koopmann, Sunol, and Karen Sweet, Livermore. A special thank you goes out to Kendra Wilber, who has been the chair of this event for seven years.

In addition to the committee's dedication and generosity, the California Cattlemen's Association's Young Cattlemen did an outstanding job as volunteers. Thank you to the Young Cattlemen who helped make this event possible: Ryan Nelson, Fresno, Callie Borrer, Gerber, Brie Witt, Clovis, Courtney Mills, Fresno, Jimmy Blase, Clovis, Laura Barnes, Fresno.

An event like this is not possible without the generous support of corporate and private sponsors and this year's event had outstanding support from new and old donors alike. Listed on these pages are the Silver, Bronze and Cowboy Sponsors of this year's event.



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Livestock Men of the Year honored at the "A Western Affair" includes (L to R): Joe Russ IV, 1987, Ed Biaggini, 1980, an original Director of the Rangeland Trust, Don Jackson, 1990, Ellington Peek, 1993, Marden Wilber, 2003, Jim Coelho, 2005, and Hank Stone, 2008, pictured with Rangeland Trust Board member Dan O'Connell.

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CONSERVATION EASEMENTS, CRITICAL TO OUR FOOD SUPPLY AND OUR NATIONAL SECURITY

AN INTERVIEW WITH JIM SINTON, BY ERIN DAVIS

The accelerated rate at which agricultural land is being converted to non-agricultural uses means that we are fast approaching the inability to feed our own citizens. A key component to being a world leader and a world power is the capacity to feed your own people. Jim Sinton, a third generation rancher in Shandon, California, shares with a number of ranchers and economists a growing concern that if we do not do more to protect our food producing land that we will become dependent on foreign producers. This dependence could compromise our security, food safety and the availability of healthy local products.

Jim has been concerned with agricultural land conservation since just after World War II. Back then, Sinton was appointed to an advisory committee to the San Luis Obispo County Board of Supervisors to address the problems with zoning in the county. Sinton remembers giving a talk on these same food concerns 50 years ago. Today at age 91, he sees public officials wrestling with the same issues - should land owners have the right to have their agricultural zoning changed simply to secure higher prices for their property when they sell.

Although once Vice-President of the California Cattlemen's Association and having served on many National Cattlemen's Beef Association committees, he has at times been at odds with some cattlemen who maintain that private landowner interest is paramount to public benefit and one should be able to do whatever

he or she wants with the land. Sinton believes that you are only entitled to use the land as it has historically been used and zoned, and that any change in the allowed use is discretionary with the county government. That discretion-

"We pay taxes on the land and we take care of it, but we will only be here so long. The land is here forever and we must provide for its long term health and ability to feed the country."

ary authority is held **for** the public interest and any zoning change must reflect that the change is **in** the public interest. Jim feels that private landowners are the custodians of the land they have during their lifetime. "It is in the public's best interest to preserve agricultural land, which includes rangeland for food production," says Sinton. He says keeping the land in food production trumps all other uses in most cases.

"Conservation easements, such as those through the California Rangeland Trust, keep the land in agriculture and productive," he says. "We pay taxes on the land and we take care of it, but we will only be here so long. The land is here forever and we must provide for its long term health and ability to feed the country."

Sinton cites the Hearst Ranch easement project on the Central Coast as an example of public benefit from a conservation easement. The project consists of 80,000 acres of land that will remain as a working cattle ranch forever and a mile of coastline donated to the public. "The Hearst family was paid for the development rights that they sold to preserve their ranchland, but the price paid is much less than what they gave up. Who can put a value on a mile of pristine California coastline or the view east of rolling hills that will never change?"

In Shandon, Sinton with his wife Norma, along with their children and grandchildren, run their two cattle ranches and grow wine grapes. His grandson, 5th generation rancher Daniel Sinton and son of Steve Sinton, a founding board member of the Rangeland Trust and winner of American Farmland Trust's 2005 Steward of the Land Award, share his grandfather's views on preserving California's rangeland for future generations.

"For the past 28 years, conservation has been engrained into the way I live because of my grandfather and fathers guidance. The importance of proper ranching and maintenance of our land is fundamental to the preservation of our quickly dwindling open space. Without this and the help of organizations like the Rangeland Trust, my generation and the generations that follow could quickly see these resources disappear," says Daniel.

Jim Sinton has been a financial supporter of the Rangeland Trust since its inception. Not only does Sinton feel happy to give, he sees it as a necessary means to get land preserved for agriculture. "Giving to the Rangeland Trust is a way to protect our lands. The Rangeland Trust cannot do their work without money. So that is why I give. People need to eat, but population growth and development is fast out stripping the available productive land."

With 80 landowners, representing over 440,000 acres, willing and waiting to permanently set aside their property as working landscapes, the Rangeland Trust has the opportunity to protect more rangeland than any other land trust in California. The ability to protect these ranches is dependent on financial support of our mission to conserve the open space, natural habitat and stewardship provided by California's ranches.

It is with the help of donors like Jim and Norma Sinton that the California Rangeland Trust will continue to make significant strides in conserving working ranches for the public benefit and keep private landowners as stewards on the land.



Jim Sinton, on the right, rides on his ranch in Shandon with his son, Steve Sinton, and his grandson, Daniel Sinton, center.

PHOTO CREDIT: STEVE SINTON

MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN TIMES OF CHANGE

BY ERIN DAVIS

Ranchers have evolved with changing climate conditions and shifting economic scales for the last 200 years, just the same as the plants and animals of our treasured landscapes. Ranchers have no choice but to adapt to the environment where they set down their roots and work in concert with nature to deliver the bounties of the land to the people of our nation.

But the rate of change in California has outpaced their ability to change with the times and still meet the increasing demands of a thriving and hungry country. The race is on to protect California's threatened rangelands and the stewards who care for them. Much of California and its Mediterranean climate consist of our precious rangelands and more species diversity than the rest of the U.S. combined.

These lands and their careful stewardship are threatened because the concentration of species is also amidst the highest concentration of human population in America. Now is the time for Californians to adapt to the challenge facing our imperiled rangelands and give to support their sustainability. If we don't act now, poorly planned development and pavement may cover these nutrient rich lands and squelch our ability to feed ourselves, breathe clean air and see the open vistas we know so well.

Challenges as Opportunities

Did the climate really have to show significant signs of change before we realized that we were able to change what we were doing all along? Dominique Bachelet, lead climate change scientist for The Nature Conservancy said in a recent issue of their magazine, "the media always focus on the negative of climate change. People forget, opportunities for adaptation do exist." People must seize this opportunity to change.

This adaptation must happen within all of us, the people who live on the land and the people who benefit from the land. This direction of change must lead to our realization that it is our responsibility to care for the places and people that provide our food source and care for our threatened habitats.

The California Rangeland Trust is one of the most well positioned land trusts in California that can actually make a huge impact right now by saving as many as 400,000 potentially

threatened acres of rangeland from permanent extinction. There is no other land trust, state- or nation-wide, that has the immediate potential that the Rangeland Trust holds with more than 60 pending easement applications waiting to be funded. This cannot happen without the help of its residents, those who love the California landscape and lifestyle and everyone who cares about the plant and animal species that depend on our rangelands for their survival.

Accessible Giving

Up until recently the term philanthropy designated an act of charity by wealthy individuals or companies able to provide large sums of money towards worthy causes of their choice. But the modern sense of philanthropy now extends its reach to include those in the above groups and many other committed folks who regularly invest time, services or money, in a manner that is compatible to their personal giving. As of late, donating, volunteering, supporting and giving are all terms that are used to define a person's social consciousness and philanthropic motivation. While only a few of us can give large sums of money, we all have something worthwhile to contribute.

At the core of philanthropy is a desire to change or enhance things for the better in the most direct and effective way an individual person can to make a positive impact.

Land preservation on the grand scale that we are talking about cannot happen via one group or one person alone. It must be the collective that recognizes the need, understands how to help and adapts their everyday norm to meet that need. This can be as simple as shifting your paradigm to one of awareness of this growing crisis, to telling others about the devastating loss of our working ranches or making significant financial contributions to an organization that is dedicated to keeping these places intact.

Ways to Give

Earlier this year a study was released in the journal *Science*, reporting that people are happier when they spend money that specifically goes towards others, such as through a charity or non-profit, rather than on themselves. This study underscores what we have known all along, giving is the gift itself. But little feels as

Supporting the Rangeland Trust helps to permanently conserve ranches like the Ecker Ranch pictured here. Read the Ecker Ranch story on our cover.

good as a gift that gives forever. Through helping to protect our working landscapes you create a living legacy of land stewardship that will continue to benefit future generations perpetually.

Rapid protection of more rangeland is the greatest measurement of our philanthropic success rate at California Rangeland Trust, but the rest of our business is about the people making it happen – people like you. So, what will your contribution be to the lasting survival of our ranches and our source of food, fiber, clean air, a healthy water supply and home to countless threatened creatures and their habitat?



Ways to Give to the California Rangeland Trust

- Donate immediately online through our secure donation form, click on the Donate NOW icon located on every page.
- Use the donation envelope inserted in this newsletter to make your gift. You may choose to make your donation in honor of or in memory of a loved one or friend.
- Support the Ranchland Protection Fund- you have the opportunity to help us reach our \$1million goal by the end of 2009 and protect the 440,000 acres in application for conservation.
- Join the Rangeland Trust Heritage Society by including the Rangeland Trust in your will or estate; please call our Development Office to learn more.
- Make a donation of real estate or property; please call our Development Office to discuss how we can meet your needs.
- Become a corporate sponsor- visit our website's Friends of the Rangeland Trust page and learn about our event sponsor levels or give us a call and we will design a tailor-made sponsorship for you.
- To learn more about these giving opportunities and to discuss how the Rangeland Trust can meet your philanthropic goals please call our Development Office: 916-444-2096, speak with John Vosburgh or email him at jvosburgh@rangelandtrust.org



HOLIDAY GIFT IDEA THAT SUPPORTS CONSERVATION

The California Rangeland Trust wants to help you give a gift to honor someone of your choosing with a donation made in their name through our special holiday donation opportunity. You can simply make a gift to the Rangeland Trust in the name of family members or friends, an organization or a company you would like to honor this season and we will send them a beautiful, original holiday greeting card informing them that a donation has made in their name which supports the conservation of California's precious rangeland.

Please go to our Donations page at www.rangelandtrust.org for further details about this unique holiday giving program or call our Fund Development office at (916) 444-2096 for more information. Just imagine how special those chosen to receive this charitable gift made in their name will feel when they receive an acknowledgement from the Rangeland Trust of their holiday present in a beautifully designed card featuring the landscape of California's rangeland.

AVENALES HUNT CLUB DONATES PROCEEDS

For a third consecutive year the Avenales Hunt Club along with Avenales Cattle Co. has donated a portion of the proceeds from their annual elk hunt raffle ticket sales to the California Rangeland Trust. The Rangeland Trust board members and staff help sell the raffles tickets each year and received \$4,600.00 as share of the proceeds. The California Deer Association, another non-profit, also shares in the benefits of this raffle drawing. The Rangeland Trust is deeply grateful for the support from the Avenales Hunt Club and wishes to extend our gratitude for their continued dedication to the conservation of our state's rangeland resource.

HEARST INDUCTED INTO STATE FAIR HALL OF FAME

George R. Hearst Jr. was named one of this years inductees into the California State Fair Rodeo Hall of Fame during Cattlemen's Day at State Fair on August 27, 2008. An honor given to outstanding men and women that help to keep California's Agricultural Heritage alive, Hearst was honored along with John W. Jones Jr. and John W. Jones Sr. Mr. Hearst is a major supporter of the California Rangeland Trust and we wish to congratulate him on this honor.

GIVING BACK TO YOUNG CATTLEMEN

Each year at the Rangeland Trust's annual fundraiser "A Western Affair" the California Young Cattlemen donate their time and effort. This event would not have the success it does without their dedication and support and we recognized them this year by donating a portion of the proceeds from the event, \$1,000.00, to the these future cattlemen. Please read highlights from this event on Page 3.

ECKER RANCH FROM PAGE 1

In Search of Gold

In 1870 gold was king and many immigrants were in pursuit of fortune in the hills of California's gold country. Sylvester Ecker landed in the Sierra foothills area of Coarse-gold in route from a small country between France and Germany no longer in existence. He too was seeking to get rich in the famous California Gold Rush.

It was not long after staking claim to his then 160-acre ranch, that Sylvester seeing no luck in gold mining realized there was a need amongst the many miners and travelers that he could fill. Sylvester set to work raising pigs and cattle to feed the masses while employing Chinese labor and local Native Americans to help him and his family work the land and build a home.

Sylvester raised six children in their home built of sugar pine timber hauled out of the mountains. They all worked hard seven days a week tells J.B. and they never wanted to leave.

J.B. recalls the story of Adel Ecker, Sylvester's oldest daughter and Alice's aunt, who called him one day in 1957 and said she was sick, she needed him to take her to the hospital. "When I got to the ranch she was sitting in a warm, sunny spot by the house. She said, 'J.B., I feel like I will never see this place again'. And with tears in her eyes she said, 'I love this old ranch.' I tried to make her feel better by telling her everything was going to be ok. But she was right, she later passed away in the hospital. I promised if I ever inherited any part of this old ranch I would never sell one acre of it."

Fifty years later J.B. has kept his promise to care for and keep the land that the Ecker family held so dear.



J.B. and his wife Camille check cows in their trusty red jeep.

PHOTO COURTESY OF JB OVERSTREET

Sharing a Treasure

In addition to raising cattle, J.B. and his wife, Camille, run the Tri-Lakes Hunting and Fishing Club and welcome members to the ranch to hunt and fish where the original homestead now serves as their clubhouse. Every spring they hold a picnic on the ranch inviting club members and residents of the community to enjoy its natural beauty. This annual picnic has been taking place for 48 years.

They also welcome the Covey Kids, a program coordinated by Quails Unlimited that teaches children, 11-15 years old, sportsmanship in a wildlife habitat. The kids camp by Jerry Lake, named after J.B.'s son, fish, hunt and study. Area FFA kids also use the ranch to horse back ride.

"This is the Lord's blessing. We have 138 years of accumulated maintenance and it means everything to me that we can start now. It feels like a miracle to get to do this and take care of it for others. I feel so humbled by the support we have received for this project and the protection of this great land. I hope the future generations will enjoy it like we have," says J.B.

J. B. maintains that one of the greatest things about the Ecker Ranch is the opportunity to share its natural beauty and peaceful setting with others. The family especially enjoys helping young people gain a deeper appreciation for the unique resources in the valley. J.B. and his wife maintain the ranch to provide habitat for quail, deer, fish and other wildlife.

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We have made every effort to be accurate with this listing. If there are errors or omissions, please accept our apologies and contact John Vosburgh at 916-444-2096 so that we may correct our records.

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In Memoriam

Coburn and Geraldine Haskell
In Memory of Dr. Melville Haskell, Jr.
Kearney and Leslie Martins
In Memory of Gatha and Sally Martins
Steve and Michelle McDonald
In Memory of Yoshito Takahashi
Steve and Michelle McDonald
In Memory of William G. Strange
Ceci Dale-Cesmat
In Memory of Attilio Genasci
Lynne Ramelli
In Memory of Attilio Genasci



RANGELAND TRUST GOES ELECTRONIC

The Fall issue of the Rangeland Trust Newsletter has been sent out via email for the first time! If you did not receive our email, we do not have your email address- send it to us! We will continue to mail you this version of the newsletter unless you tell us otherwise. Please send us a note requesting your preference of mail only, email only or both. Additionally, we are requesting any changes/corrections to your mailing address as we strive to maintain as accurate a database as possible. If you have a friend, family member or colleague that you think would enjoy reading our newsletter please encourage them to subscribe. You can do so easily on our website by using the Contact Us page.

COWBOY BREAKFAST NOVEMBER 20

The California Cattlemen's Annual Convention is fast approaching and we will once again hold our Cowboy Breakfast in the Celebrity Showroom at John Ascuaga's Nugget, Thursday morning, November 20, Sparks, Nevada.

Do not miss hearing our featured speaker, former U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Regional Director of California and Nevada, Steve Thompson. As a pioneer in collaborative rangeland conservation – be sure to get your seat reserved to hear him speak on his career, the development and role of the California Rangeland Conservation Coalition and the future of rangeland conservation in California.

Register through the California Cattlemen's Association via their website, www.calcattlemen.org or call 916-444-0845, ask for Chaley Paulson

RANGELAND TRUST HITS THE ROAD

Board and staff of the Rangeland Trust participate in many speaking and educational events and forums on behalf of the industry and to bring awareness to our work. This summer was no exception as Rangeland Trust representatives appeared at the following events as panelists or featured speakers:

Arizona Cattle Growers, Land Trust Workshop –
Devere Dressler, Chairman of the Board

Alameda RCD Conservation Easement Workshop –
Michele Clark, Transaction Director

Valley Springs, "Conservation Strategies" –
Devere Dressler, Chairman of the Board

Slow Food Nation, San Francisco,
"No Farms, No Food" – Nita Vail, Executive Director

Land Trust Alliance Rally,
"Challenges of Working Landscapes" –
Michele Clark, Transaction Director

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