

CR Wrangler

Newsletter of the Cielo Ranch HOA

About the Winter Issue

Cathy Palmateer helps us get a sense of what Cielo Ranch was like back when McLendons owned it. She describes flying into the ranch on the old runway.

Under the heading of “It’s a pet’s world,” Whitney Fentress describes how her family acquired a rescued greyhound, “Ruby,” and what a blessing she has been to the Fentress family.



Kristine Soto has again contributed a delicious and nutritious recipe. Again, it sure seems good to us!

We share our thoughts about experiencing winter in North Texas as compared with the winters north of the Red River.

We draw upon a website about Spanish Vision Farm to share a few observations of local residents about past celebrities who visited Cielo Ranch and the Lake Cities.

We describe winter in North Texas by addressing the snow on Christmas Eve and the pattern of winters in our 20 years of living in North Texas.

Finally, we draw upon some news reported in The Lake Cities Sun to highlight a few memories of residents of Shady Shores about past outlaws in our area and to report the implementation of a new law assuring safer cigarettes in Texas.

Historical Background of Cielo Ranch

My Flying Days at Cielo

By Cathy Palmateer

I can hardly believe it will be 21 years ago this March when I first flew into Cielo Ranch's Airstrip to meet Matthew McLendon, the son of Mr. Bart McLendon. I was a Flight Instructor at the Addison Airport and Mr. McLendon asked me to teach his son to fly across country in hopes that his son would become the youngest to fly across the United States. I would fly into Cielo in the early mornings or in the afternoons and we would go fly. Matthew succeeded in flying from California to New York with a stop in Dallas.

Cielo was so peaceful compared to the city life that I was used to being around. I enjoyed the early mornings (no wind) and just the whole atmosphere. I would taxi straight off the grass airstrip up what I call "the hill" towards the guard's shack and walk up to the house (or what I considered a town). Mr. McLendon would invite the instructors out to enjoy movie nights in his theater (spectacular) or to many parties that he had at the pool. With filming in their background, it wasn't unusual to see movie stars at these parties, like Charlene Tilton from the South Fork Dallas show back then. Mr. McLendon had a dry cleaning facility, movie theater, wonderful ranch home, tennis courts, John Wayne's bar (yes, I had a beer in John Wayne's bar), barbecue pit, great workout room with wave pool.

When we first bought our house, I had no idea that this land used to be the actual Cielo Ranch that I once knew. It was so different, of course, back then. My view was always from above. I have many fond memories of this place from before it was developed as a subdivision. In a way I regret the Cielo Ranch of the past is gone, but also I am happy that it has made us all a wonderful place to live.

" Some episodes of the television show 'Have Gun, Will Travel,' which ran from 1957 to 1963, were filmed at the ranch.

Forbes magazine estimated in 1985 that Mr. McLendon had \$200 million in broadcasting, real estate and precious metals.

Back in the '60s, John Wayne, Eva Gabor and Glen Campbell were regular visitors to Cielo Ranch, the name for Mr. McLendon's property.

'Seeing the stars around Shady Shores became almost commonplace,' said Mrs. McClain, who moved to the town in 1967."

Source: http://www.spanishvisionfarm.com/horse_story_shady_shores.htm

"Muriel Brown of Shady Shores remembers her brush with outlaw Clyde Barrow"

Source: Article by Anthony Scott titled, "Memories survive of Bonnie and Clyde." [Lake Cities Sun](#), December 3, 2009

It's a Pet's World

A Winning Addition to Our Family
By Whitney Fentress

We can't imagine our lives without Rubydo Hipockets -- the beautiful brindle greyhound who became an integral part of our family last June.

"Ruby" as we call her, is a former racer. When we looked up the information on her ear tattoos on the Internet, we found out that she is the daughter of the most famous racing dog ever -- Molotov -- one of several thousand offspring. We also found out that she raced for about 1 1/2 years on the Florida circuit -- doing well in the early days and eventually running to the back of the pack.



From there we are not sure what happened with her. A Dallas greyhound rescue group found Ruby and her sister, Red Hot, at an animal shelter in Altus, Oklahoma, last spring. They were two hours away from being put down.

Meanwhile, my husband and I had been looking for a pet to complete our family. We were intrigued with greyhounds and from our research found out that they are very sweet and gentle animals and have many qualities we wanted in a dog: they seldom bark, don't chew things, and are a good breed for people with allergies.

We visited the greyhounds that were up for adoption through two Dallas rescue groups and fell in love with the breed. After several months of visits we met Rubydo and we knew our family was complete.

Ruby is a canine Benjamin Button. Although nearly eight years old, she is just learning to play with toys and delights in tossing them in the air or carrying them around the house. She loves to play "hide and go seek" with the kids and has quickly learned how to get "rewards."

The surprising thing we have learned about the breed is that they are couch potatoes -- they seem to sleep all day. Ruby appreciates a few short walks a day and getting some affection from the family -- but in between she sleeps. Occasionally she has a chance to get out and do her racing run which is a beautiful and elegant event. Greyhounds can go from 0 - 40 mph faster than a Maserati when there's a real or imaginary creature to chase.



Ruby tries very hard to be a good dog and to please us -- and in return we are very happy to provide a good home for her to retire to. She is a winner in our book!

If you would like further information about rescuing a greyhound, go to:
www.greyhoundsunlimited.org
or www.greyhoundadoptiontx.org

A Recipe to Love

Emeril Lagasse's Chocolate-Covered Peanut Butter Pie

By Kristine Soto

Serves 8

1 ½ cups crushed chocolate cookies, such as Dutch chocolate or chocolate vanilla wafers

1 cup peanut butter

¼ pound cream cheese

¾ cup powdered sugar

2 Tbsp milk

2 Tbsp chopped peanuts

2 ¾ cups heavy cream

6 ounces semisweet chocolate, chopped

Preheat oven to 350°. In a mixing bowl, combine the crushed chocolate cookies with ¼ cup of the peanut butter. Press the mixture into a 9-inch spring-form pan to form the crust. Bake crust for 8 – 10 minutes.

Whip the cream cheese and powdered sugar until they are smooth, using a mixer with a whip attachment. Add remaining peanut butter, milk and nuts; whip for 1 minute. Turn the peanut butter mixture into a mixing bowl. Whip 2 cups of heavy cream into stiff peaks and fold 1/3 at a time into peanut butter mixture. Pour the filling into the prepared crust and refrigerate for 2 hours or until the pie is set.

In a saucepan, over medium heat, melt chocolate with remaining cream, stirring constantly, until chocolate is completely melted. Remove from heat and cool 2 minutes, stirring constantly. Remove sides of springform pan and place pie on a wire rack over a baking sheet. Pour chocolate topping over pie, covering top and sides completely. Refrigerate pie for 2 hours or until chocolate coating is set.

Winter in North Texas

On December 24, 2009, Christmas Eve, those who were at home or visiting in North Texas saw lots of snow and ice. Your editors were in Southern Illinois and did not see nearly as much snow as was reported for Shady Shores and the surrounding area. In fact, we only saw an inch or less of snow on Christmas Day in Modoc, Red Bud, Belleville, and Mascoutah, Illinois. According to the Dallas Morning News, the three inches of snow and ice that fell in the DFW area was a record for Christmas Eve.

We returned to experience some of the subfreezing temperatures in early January. We sure hope to have seen the last of frigid weather for this winter. However, we have lived in North Texas for 20 years and know that we seldom get by without at least one spell of freezing rain, sleet, and/or snow in February. We continue to be grateful that we see less freezing rain, sleet, and snow than our kinfolks in Southern Illinois and anybody north of the Red River usually experience.

Safer Cigarettes in Texas

As of January 1, 2010, only “fire-safe” cigarettes are permitted for sale in Texas. Packages with cigarettes must be marked as FSC for “fire standard compliant,” based on a law passed by Texas legislators in 2007 and signed into law by Gov. Rick Perry. Texas joins 48 other states in mandating that cigarette sales are limited to those carrying the FSC mark, so this means the safer cigarette movement has swept the country.

The new law will be enforced by the Texas Department of Insurance, which is also responsible for inspecting and certifying the compliance of those who manufacture and sell cigarettes. Those violating this law can be fined \$100 per pack. According to State Fire Marshall, Paul Maldonado, FSC cigarettes will help prevent fires and save lives. More information about fire safe cigarettes is available at the Texas Department of Insurance website: www.tdi.state.tx.us.

Source: Announcements, State Capital Highlights, by Ed Sterling, [The Lake Cities Sun](#). January 7, 2010.

Managing Editor: Bill Cissell, Phone: 940-368-9764, email: cissellguill@yahoo.com

Senior Editor: Mary Cissell, Phone: 940-368, email: drmcissell@yahoo.com