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President and Mrs. Reagan's Ranch
— Rancho del Cielo —

President and Mrs. Reagan have a small ranch near Santa Barbara, California. It is called "Rancho del Cielo" which means "Ranch in the Sky." The ranch is very informal and has no central heating.

The President enjoys working outdoors at the ranch whenever he and Mrs. Reagan have an opportunity to visit. A few cows, some dogs and horses roam freely there.

At present, there are seven horses at the ranch. NO STRINGS and DORMITA are quarter horses. GWALIANKO, CATALINA, EL SARAFF (ALFIE), and ALAMEIN are Arabians. Alamein was given to President Reagan prior to his inauguration by former Mexican President Lopez Portillo. Alamein is trained for dressage, a style of riding in which the rider signals the horse into complex maneuvers while barely moving his legs, hands and weight. EL PRIMERO TENIENTE (FIRST LIEUTENANT) is a Peruvian Pasos.

The President has his four dogs at the ranch — VICTORY, a Golden Retriever; MILLIE, a mixture of Irish Setter and Labrador, TACA, a Husky, and LUCKY, a Bouvier des Flandres. Patti Davis, the President's daughter, also keeps her dog, FREE BO, at Rancho del Cielo.

The President is pleased that so many children and adults share his fondness for horses and other animals. He also appreciates the many offers he has received from those who would like to work at the ranch. Rancho del Cielo needs only a very small staff to keep it in working order and no openings are anticipated in the foreseeable future.

President Reagan's Trips to Rancho del Cielo, Santa Barbara, California*

1981

February 19 - 22

May 22 - 26

June 26 - 28

August 6 - 17
August 22 - 30

November 23 - 30

1982

March 4 - 8

May 26 - 30

July 1 - 5
July 7 - 11

August 21 - 23
August 25 - September 7

October 8 - 11

November 23 - 29

December 10 - 12

1983

February 28 - March 3

March 31 - April 3

May 6 - 9

June 30 - July 5

August 15 - 21
August 26 - September 2

November 23 - 27

1984

February 7 - 12

April 19 - 22

July 28 - August 12

November 7 - 11

November 17 - 25

1985

February 13 - 17

April 5 - 14

August 11 - 20
August 23 - September 2

November 26 - December 1

1986

February 12 - 15

March 27 - April 6

June 25 - 30

August 16 - 26
August 29 - September 7

November 1 - 3

November 26 - 30

1987

April 11 - 20

August 13 - 25
August 29 - September 6

November 24 - 29

* This list includes only days spent on the ranch. For other destinations during the same trip, see the list of domestic trips.

1988

February 13 - 17

April 1 - 4

April 4 - 10

July 17 - 24

August 16 - 23

August 27 - September 6

October 28 - November 1

November 21 - 27



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REAGAN RANCH ACQUIRED BY YOUNG AMERICA'S FOUNDATION

President's Legacy Advances to Future Generations

SANTA BARBARA, CALIF.-- Young America's Foundation is acquiring former President Ronald Reagan's ranch in Santa Barbara, Calif., and will use it to teach future generations of young people about Reagan's legacy, Young America's president Ron Robinson announced today.

"We are tremendously excited to be able to share President Reagan's vision, principles and ideas with America's future leaders at one of the places he loves most. Young America's Foundation is committed to preserving and protecting both the Reagan legacy and the ranch itself, which will be maintained just as it was when President and Mrs. Reagan lived here," Robinson said. "We are especially grateful to President and Mrs. Reagan for their support for our plans for its future."

"Ronnie and I are delighted that Young America's Foundation will be the new owners of Rancho del Cielo," Former First Lady Nancy Reagan said in a statement released today. "We hope that our ranch will be a spark for many bright, young Americans in the years ahead."

The ranch will be the focal point of the Ronald Reagan Leadership Development Program, which will foster the virtues of individual freedom, limited government, patriotism and traditional values in future generations of leaders. The foundation will host conferences and leadership training with leading officials and academicians for high school and college students. Frank Donatelli, Reagan White House political director and Young America's Foundation board member, will be the program's chairman. The project is led by the next generation of young Reaganites: Young America's executive director Marc Short and Kristen Short, foundation conference director, will oversee the ranch and its programs.

"Marc and Kristen are devoted to advancing Ronald Reagan's agenda and principles and have actively done so for many years. They epitomize the future of the Reagan legacy. I can think of no more fitting couple to lead this project," Robinson said.

Founded in 1969, Young America's Foundation provides lectures, conferences and publications nationwide aimed at educating and inspiring high school and college-age activists. It is the most prolific sponsor of conservative speakers on college campuses, providing balance to campus dialogue. Young America's has enjoyed a long relationship with President Reagan. He has spoken to the group since the 1970s and hosted their student leaders at the White House in every year of his presidency. In 1974 and 1975, the foundation was one of the sponsors of Reagan's national radio broadcasts.

To arrange an interview with Young America's Foundation representatives or for more information contact Adriene Davis or Sean McCabe at (703) 683-5004.



OFFICE OF RONALD REAGAN

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 20, 1998

STATEMENT BY MRS. RONALD REAGAN

Los Angeles -- Ronnie and I are delighted that Young America's Foundation will be the new owners of Rancho del Cielo.

It is comforting to know that the ranch we cherish will be preserved and protected in its present state. More importantly, it is critical to the future of this country that Young America's Foundation use the ranch to instill in tomorrow's leaders the lessons of my husband's presidency and to teach them that we are a blessed people whose best days are yet to come.

We hope that our ranch will be a spark for many bright, young Americans in the years ahead.

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(310) 552-1980

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Monday, April 20, 1998

Group To Buy Reagan's Calif. Ranch

By NANCY TREJOS, Associated Press Writer

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WASHINGTON--A group of young Republicans is buying former President Reagan's beloved California mountaintop ranch, which he once dubbed his "Shangri-la," for use as a training center for future GOP leaders.

The Young America's Foundation, a 29-year-old group that promotes conservative values among high school and college students, will house its Ronald Reagan Leadership Development Program on the 688-acre property, executive director Marc Short said.

"There's a tremendous hunger in the Republican Party and the conservative movement for a Reagan-like leader," said Adriene Davis, spokeswoman for the foundation, based in Fairfax, Va. The foundation declined to disclose the price or other details of the sale, which will be completed Tuesday. Short said the group was using private donations for it. Reagan's Los Angeles office could not be reached for comment.

The property had been on the market since August 1996 at an asking price of \$5.95 million, which many real estate executives called excessive. The former president and his wife, Nancy, bought the ranch for \$547,000 in 1974 as Reagan was nearing the end of his second term as California governor.

Short said the training sessions, conferences and seminars that the foundation is planning will not require any changes to the Rancho del Cielo, Spanish for Ranch in the Sky, situated on a 2,250-foot mountaintop 30 miles northwest of Santa Barbara, Calif.

The foundation is looking into buying additional property for a conference facility in the surrounding areas, Short said.

"It is comforting to know that the ranch we cherish will be preserved and protected in its present state," Mrs. Reagan said in a statement. "More importantly, it is critical to the future of this country that Young America's Foundation use the ranch to instill in

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tomorrow's leaders the lessons of my husband's presidency."

Since announcing in 1994 that the former president, now 87, was battling Alzheimer's disease, the Reagans have made their Bel-Air home their primary residence, leaving the ranch vacant.

Selling the property has not been easy. California Gov. Pete Wilson and Rep. Ralph Regula, R-Ohio, chairman of the House


Appropriations interior subcommittee, proposed a plan to use \$5 million in federal funds to turn the ranch into a state park. But the plan was shelved late last year when local residents balked at what they called the misuse of taxpayer dollars.

Rancho del Cielo was Reagan's favorite getaway from the pressures of Washington. During his eight years as president, he designated it his Western White House, spending a total of 345 days at the ranch. He was often seen from a distance wearing a rumpled cowboy hat and washed-out jeans while riding horses, building fences or chopping wood.

A product of small-town Illinois, Reagan thrived on the simple living that his escape from the city offered him. Two fireplaces are the only source of heat for the five-room Spanish-style ranch house, located next to a pond Reagan built himself.

But the place that Reagan referred to as his "hobby ranch" was not simply that. It was there in 1981 that he signed the tax-cutting Economic Recovery Tax Act.

Reagan also had foreign dignitaries visit him there. He boasted to former Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev of building the ranch's wooden corrals before the two leaders toured the grounds in 1992. Queen Elizabeth II once rode through mud in a four-wheel-drive vehicle to get to it.

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SANTA BARBARA, CALIFORNIA, SUNDAY MORNING, JUNE 22, 1980

134

Reagan ranch: Next Western White

By Jerry Rankin
News-Press Staff Writer

A Ronald Reagan presidency may bring a Western White House to a Santa Barbara County mountaintop now shared by a few humans and occasional bears, mountain lions and deer.

If a President Ronald Reagan follows his expressed desire and heads for his Refugio Pass ranch when business or pleasure brings him West, the national seat of power will be transported to possibly the most remote site ever for the modern presidency.

And for the few score residents of Refugio Canyon, where the loudest noise usually is the moo of a cow or the hoot of some loudmouthed peacocks, the bucolic

splendor of their lives may be bent — if not broken — by the pompously accompanying the presidency, and the curious who are carried along with it.

If Reagan did select the ranch 29.5 northwest of Santa Barbara for his home away from 1600 Pennsylvania Ave., Washington, D.C., he would be living in one of the highest fire danger areas in the county.

But, he also would enjoy the convenience of a fire station right next door — the Refugio Station of the U.S. Forest Service. An architectural gem among the drabness of most government buildings, it offers room for the offices, helicopter landing pad and other facilities that inevitably follow a president.

Remote Refugio retreat could soon be in spotlight

The question is whether Reagan would choose the ranch for the same use to which Jimmy Carter has put Camp David. Richard Nixon used San Clemente and Key Biscayne, Lyndon Johnson the LBJ Ranch or John F. Kennedy his Hyannisport retreat.

None, however, was so remote or lacking in elementary facilities as the 688-acre spread at the crest of the Santa Ynez Mountains which Ronald and Nancy

Reagan love to come to.

Reagan, whose nomination at the Republican National Convention in Detroit next month is a formality, was asked by a News-Press reporter on a stop in Santa Barbara last month whether he intended to make the ranch his Western White House if elected, and he replied:

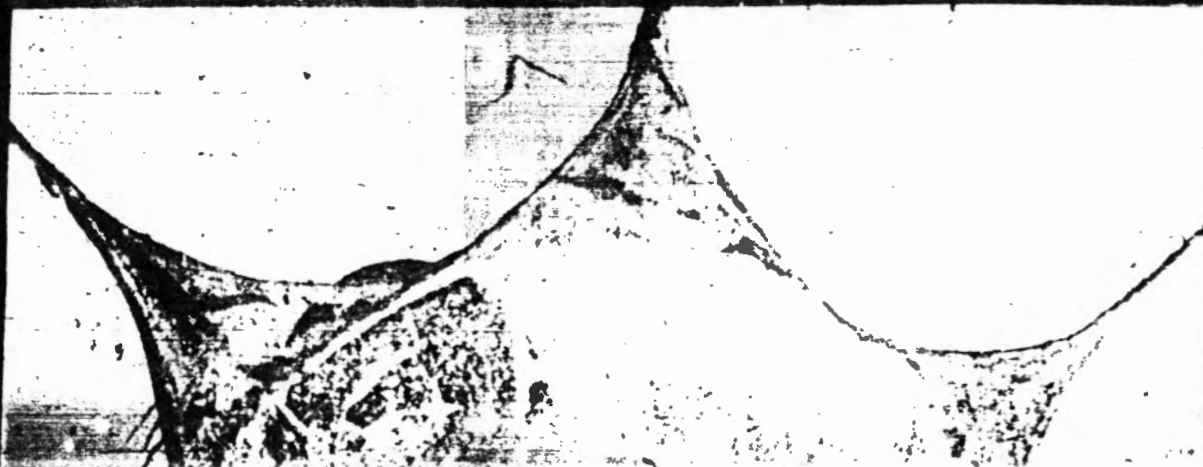
"I love that ranch and I'm going to get there as often as I can. I love that place. I don't know if they'll call it the Western

White House."

Asked the same campaign stop in Santa Barbara, he replied: "If it should you can bet your keister often as possible!"

While avoiding a direct answer, the ranch would be the impression with acquaintances who've said that there is no way from the ranch even to the nearest town.

Martha Hickey, her Republican Central member, commented that "I'm sure will utilize the ranch can't imagine him no. His son Mike said the



Soviets report pull of troops from

MOSCOW (AP) — The Soviet Union said today it has begun a partial military pullout from Afghanistan. "Some army units whose stay in Afghanistan is not necessary at present are being withdrawn," the official Tass news agency reported.

The brief announcement came as the

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Next Western White House?

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"I love that ranch and I'm going to get there as often as I can. I love that place. I don't know if they'll call it the Western

White House."

Asked the same question at a campaign stop in Goleta in 1976, he replied: "If it should happen that way, you can bet your keister I'll be up here as often as possible!"

While avoiding a flat statement that the ranch would be selected, he has left the impression with family friends and acquaintances who've raised the matter that there is no way he would be kept from the ranch even if president.

Martha Hickey, head of the county Republican Central Committee, commented that "I'm sure if he is elected he will utilize the ranch quite a bit. I just can't imagine him not coming there." His son Mike said the same thing during

a recent Hope Ranch GOP event.

One local acquaintance who talked with him recently noted that Reagan pointed out that Vandenberg Air Force Base, just 50 miles away, offers a convenient point for coming and going.

When asked at his Santa Barbara stop last month what he would do with the scores of White House press that follow a president everywhere, Reagan smiled and remarked, "There's plenty of room down at the bottom of the hill" — presumably meaning Goleta or Santa Barbara, rather than Refugio State Beach where U.S. 101 meets the road up

See Page A-4, Col. 1

Soviets report partial pullout of troops from Afghanistan

MOSCOW (AP) — The Soviet Union said today it has begun a partial military pullout from Afghanistan. "Some army units whose stay in Afghanistan is not necessary at present are being withdrawn," the official Tass news agency reported.

The brief announcement came on the eve of the opening of the seven-nation summit of leaders of the world's industrial

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rebels.

Moscow has blamed the United States, China and Pakistan for aiding the Moslem rebels and fomenting unrest in the predominantly Moslem nation that lies along its southern frontier. All three countries have denied Moscow's charges.

intervention and occupation of Afghanistan.

The Tass report from Kabul, the Afghan capital, said:

"According to information from the command of Soviet military contingents now staying in Afghanistan, some army units whose stay in Afghanistan is not necessary at present are being withdrawn from the territory of the

of fragile fire-prone range

Continued from Page A-1

to the ranch.

Ken Rietz, who owns a Santa Barbara political management firm that is staging the program for the GOP convention, is convinced Reagan would use the ranch as a Western White House. And, Rietz speculates, "It would mean setting up an operation . . . I just can't imagine setting it up some other place than Santa Barbara." He envisions perhaps a presidential office and a press center.

(The Secret Service personnel now assigned to guard candidate Reagan stay at the Pepper Tree Inn.)

A major worry to some Refugio Canyon residents and local political observers is that the national press may feel it necessary to "stake out" Reagan's ranch when he is there "between the time of his nomination in July and the start of the campaign around Labor Day in September. Visions of television network crews, wire service reporters and others struggling to park outside the entrance to his ranch or nearby on one-lane Refugio Road concern them.

Members of the national press corps following Reagan will get to judge for themselves this week when, for the first time, Reagan opens up the ranch for a complete photographic tour. But, for news people from Los Angeles and

the Highway Patrol, notes that Reagan's comings and goings are low-key, with black-and-white CHP units not usually providing escort.

But, he adds, "If he were elected we'd be involved every time. If the president were to decide that's where his Western White House would be, my responsibility would be to insure that he had the safest possible ride back and forth."

That ride is beautiful and even relaxing — if someone else is driving. For the road from 101 to the ranch is a tortuous winding, thread up the mountain, from almost sea level to 2,250 feet at the top. It is basically a one-lane road, without a railing or painted lines. A creek flows freely across the pavement in at least seven places and it can become impassable at times in winter. Local residents report Reagan did get trapped for a while once while trying to leave.

The road continues down the other side 10.1 miles to Solvang or 10.6 miles to Santa Ynez, but this section is even worse, and no one lives along it. As a sign at the the top warns, "Impassable in Wet Weather." This section of the road is basically graded dirt, one-lane and crossed by a creek six times. When in good shape, the drive to Solvang takes about 15-20 minutes, but one rain makes the drive a nightmare.

60 degrees or more, is in the Forest Service's high-danger fuel type zones 12 and 14, "heavy and heaviest mixed brush."

A fire also would devastate a flourishing wildlife population. Skinner, a bearded, lanky man who has been at the station three years and drives up from his Los Prietos home to work, notes, "We have a lot of bobcats and foxes and occasional bears and mountain lions." Deer bound away when a car drives up to the station, and the Forest Service personnel ponder what problems the wildlife would pose for one of those electronic fences designed to detect movement by living things.

The Refugio station, built in 1977, is a sharp contrast to the parachute spread among trees that used to serve as shelter for the crew. The new station of wood and glass blends in neatly with the trees, and offers the five-member crew a simple but spacious living space. In line with the times, there are even two single bedrooms in the event women are assigned to the station. The crew also has a pickup truck and 300-gallon tanker.

Because of the location, the television set picks up not only Santa Barbara and Santa Maria stations but also those in San Diego.

If weather permitted and Reagan

campaign around the ranch. Visions of television network crews, service reporters and others struggling to park outside the entrance to his ranch or nearby on one-lane Refugio Road concern them.

Members of the national press corps following Reagan will get to judge for themselves this week when, for the first time, Reagan opens up the ranch for a complete photographic tour. Busloads of news people from Los Angeles will be deposited at the Refugio beach parking lot where they will transfer to smaller buses for the trip to the ranch — 6.5 miles which takes autos 20 minutes to cover.

Reagan and wife Nancy will host the Tuesday afternoon tour, which marks a break from the past practice of turning the publicity spotlight away from their private retreat. For example, when Reagan took several reporters and photographers on an impromptu tour of the ranch house in 1976, one of the conditions was that no pictures would be allowed, and when Mike Wallace of CBS interviewed Reagan at the ranch, no house pictures were permitted.

There is no question that if Reagan gave the word that Rancho de Cielo would be his version of San Clemente if elected, substantial security and logistical facilities would be brought in.

That means some disruption to the ranch and surrounding territory. Some Secret Service agents chatting informally with local residents have raised doubts whether the ranch could handle the influx and retain its character.

And as county Sheriff John Carpenter

10.7 miles to Santa Ynez, but the location is even worse, and no one lives along it. As a sign at the top warns, "Impassable in Wet Weather." This section of the road is basically graded dirt, one-lane and crossed by a creek six times. When in good shape, the drive to Solvang takes about 15-20 minutes, but one rain makes this a rutted, perilous path.

The only other access to the Reagan ranch is via the rutted dirt West Camino Cielo, which links with Refugio Road at the mountaintop half a mile above the ranch. But it is in bad-to-terrible shape all the time and another sign points out "Road Not Maintained." The 19-mile route passes a Vandenberg missile tracking station and towers for local radio and television stations before passing a gun club and joining Highway 154 at San Marcos Pass, about four miles from the ranch of two occasional residents of another political stripe — Tom Hayden and Jane Fonda.

If the Secret Service felt the Refugio Road needed widening or paving, the project would inevitably arouse protests from some residents and environmental groups. Some complaints were voiced last year when discussion began about widening the bridge across a flood plain on the Solvang side of the road. The bridge has washed out several times in recent years and only a narrow wooden temporary structure is in place now to service such places as the Juan y Lolita Rancho, Etcerta Farm, Rancho Sierra Grande and horse farms.

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Because of the location, the television set picks up not only Santa Barbara and Santa Maria stations but also those in San Diego.

If weather permitted and Reagan was willing to fly rather than drive, installation of a helipad at the station or his ranch would ease the problem on Refugio Road. In the past, Reagan has landed both at the Santa Barbara Airport and at the much smaller but much closer Santa Ynez Valley Airport, where a small jet can get in. If a helipad were put in at the ranch, he would have the option of flying to it from Vandenberg, Santa Barbara or Santa Ynez, although Vandenberg with all its facilities would seem most likely.

The fire station usually is open May 15-Nov. 15, and Skinner reports that this year, "As soon as we opened up the gate, some people were in asking where the Reagan ranch is." The crew declines to provide the information, which is useless anyway since the ranch isn't visible at all from any area of public access.

Still, the public does occasionally get past the locked gate at Refugio road and to the ranch. Reagan's ranchhand, Joe Clearwater, found two girls walking up to him recently and in the past a fossil hunter and his family wandered in.

In fact, there is no sign whatsoever of the location of Reagan's ranch.

You've got to know that it's

John Carpenter said there are some indications Mrs. Reagan doesn't want to make the decision that would have to be made."

Carpenter and Undersheriff Larry Skinner visited the ranch recently to get an idea of what they would face if the western White House winds up in their jurisdiction. They discussed the subject with Reagan, and Carpenter commented: "Ronald really does love that ranch. I can't see him, if elected, not spending some time there. After all, it's only a four-hour trip from Washington (to Vandenberg)."

"The governor hasn't really indicated to the Secret Service that it will be his residence," he said. "We're all just kind of in the tentative planning stage. But there are indications he is going to retire here, so one way or another it will happen to us (if Reagan actually is elected)."

Carpenter, a Republican, noted that present security will be increased substantially when Reagan is the actual nominee, and would take a quantum leap if he is elected.

There would have to be helipads put in, for instance. They would want that as an emergency measure.

And some kind of intrusion (a lot of dogs around the perimeter).

Carpenter's deputies are notified when Reagan arrives, and for how long he will remain. And the sheriff provides the Secret Service with a radio to aid communications.

Temporary structure is in place for service such places as the Juan y Lolita Rancho, Etcetera Farm, Rancho Sierra Grande and horse farms.

As longtime California resident Reagan is aware of the great danger to his ranch posed by nature's wildfires.

The crew at the Refugio fire station of the U.S. Forest Service point to a picture hanging on their bulletin board of the 1955 Refugio Fire, which swept from Gaviota to San Marcos Pass, burning 80,000 acres. In the middle of the picture, easily marked by the clear space around it, is the Reagan ranch — with fire licking just yards away.

There hasn't been a sizable fire since, making the whole mountain range a tinderbox.

Dave Skinner, the acting foreman at the station, points out that Reagan's ranch is located below a tumultuous patch of sky, where hot thermal winds from the valley collide with cooler ocean breezes.

"This stuff is primed and ready to go," Skinner tells a visitor. "If fire gets in where we can't get to it, it will go."

However, he and station crewman Howard Carlson point out that Reagan's ranch house is surrounded mostly by clear space and the pond in the front yard provides a handy source of water.

In fact, Carlson and Skinner will tell you, if worse came to worst and they and other residents in the area had to flee to safety, the Reagan ranch is where they'd head in a desperate situation.

But there likely wouldn't be much left around it.

Reagan's ranch is located on the western end of the Refugio Road, near the location of the Refugio Fire station.

You've got to find the ranch by a metal gate braced by a rock pillar on each side, with a sign identifying Rancho Dos Vistas, is actually the entrance to the access road that takes you to the ranch. Reagan did put up an address for his place, 3333 Refugio Road, but other than that there is no marking at all.

Eight padlocks hang from the gate, one for Reagan, three for his immediate neighbors and the rest for the Forest Service, telephone company, PG&E and the Federal Aviation Administration, which maintains two "omni" direction and location devices nearby for pilots, since the ranch is almost under the flyway from Santa Maria and the Santa Ynez Valley to Santa Barbara's airport.

But conversations recently with a number of canyon residents and Reagan neighbors uncovered no one who sees much of him.

One of his neighbors on the ridge itself, Stuart Eckert, summed up the general experience: "We don't see him personally. All we ever see are Secret Service-men."

Eckert, who is retired and divides his time between his ranch, which lies at the western end of the access road, and a home in Montecito, has owned his property 15 years. He put the gate up 10 years ago and Rancho Dos Vistas is his place.

Eckert, a Republican who thought Reagan made a good governor, is worried about what might happen to the area

6-29-76

Reagan, Ronald

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Editor's note: R
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REAGAN DECLINES HORSE TRICK

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blue jeans today is unsuita-
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movie-style cowboy tricks,
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At the party thrown for re-
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photographers to mount with
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"Are you kidding?" re-
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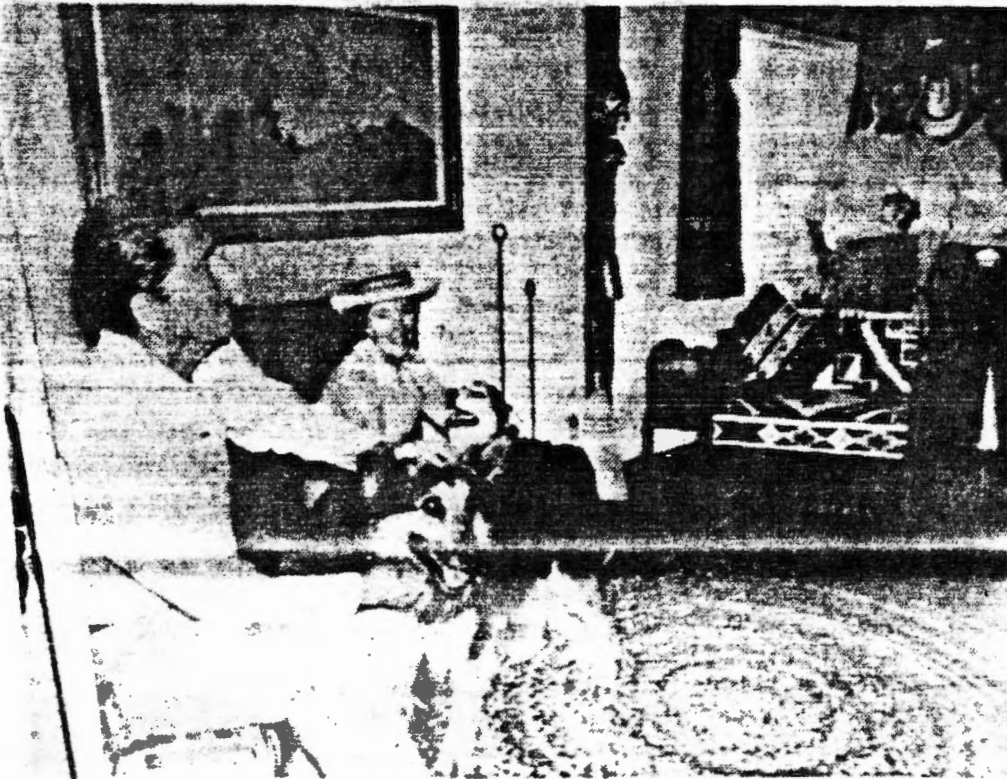
The only campaign
barn, on the riding
mountain retreat 13
manent home in Los

His wife, Nancy, a
big straw hat, rode
Then she helped ser
small lake on the ran

"I love it up here,"
here," he added as
view of the Pacific,
twisting, narrow road

RONALD REAGAN waits to join his wife, Nancy, at right, for a
horseback ride during a tour of his Santa Barbara County ranch for
the traveling press. The Reagans held a party and barbecue for
newsmen assigned to cover his campaign for the presidency.

—AP Laserphoto



Reagan, Ronald - 6/29/76
6/29/76



Reagan gives ranch party for newsmen

Editor's note: Ronald Reagan opened his Refugio Pass ranch yesterday to a large delegation of the news media, those who had been on the campaign trail with him in recent months. He had given a News-Press reporter and two others a tour on June 3.

By Doug Willis

AP Political Writer

Ronald Reagan saddled his brown quarterhorse and joked about riding off into the sunset as a dozen newspaper and television cameramen clustered around him.

Later, on a leisurely tour of his 688-acre ranch in the coastal mountains near Santa Barbara, Reagan sipped a can of beer and talked at length about horses, different kinds of saddles, and riding techniques.

Yesterday was billed as strictly a nonpolitical day, the start of a vacation, and the former California governor insisted that it be kept that way.

He hosted about 75 reporters, Secret Service personnel and staff members who have followed his campaign for the Republican nomination for president over the past six months.

Dressed in cowboy boots, ranch clothes and a white hat, Reagan was relaxed, smiling and full of anecdotes and jokes as he started a 10-day vacation away from campaigning.

Reagan, who pulled to within 25 delegates of President Ford last weekend with victories in the New Mexico, Montana and Idaho state conventions, was obviously delighted with the progress of his come-from-behind campaign against Ford.

Reagan, who now trails Ford by 1,001 delegates to 976, plans to start campaigning again July 8 when he heads for the Republican state conventions in North Dakota and Colorado.

But he brushed aside the few political questions that came up at his press party with smiling suggestions that it was time for a break from politics.

Instead, he reminisced about his acting and television days and told stories about the many mementos and gifts around the ranch.

The only campaigning was brief sessions for news photos at the barn, on the riding trails, and in his two-bedroom white adobe mountain retreat 130 miles up the California coast from his permanent home in Los Angeles.

His wife, Nancy, also dressed in casual western clothes and a big straw hat, rode her white horse "Joe" for a photo session. Then she helped serve a barbecue luncheon on the lawn near a small lake on the ranch.

"I love it up here," Reagan said. "There's just so little time up here," he added as he walked through madroña and live oak to a view of the Pacific, 2,400 feet below and 12 miles away via a twisting, narrow road.

REAGAN DECLINES HORSE TRICK

The tight fitting style in blue jeans today is unsuitable — or unseatable — for movie-style cowboy tricks, according to Republican challenger and former cinema wrangler Ronald Reagan.

At the party thrown for reporters covering his campaign, Reagan was asked by photographers to mount with a vault over the horse's rump, as movie cowboys do in "fast getaway" scenes.

"Are you kidding?" responded Reagan. "With these jeans I have difficulty mounting a horse the regular way."

Experience



coming soon to

diccate ees

m 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., and a
seasonal pass would be of-
fered to reduce the cost for
season park users.
Parks director Michael
Pahos called his a "modest"
proposal that would generate
about half of the \$103,000 he said is
needed to keep the parks from
deteriorating even further than
they have since a Proposition
-based budget cut of 32 per-
cent in 1978.
Supervisor David Yager, who
has supported park fees all
the way, did so again today. Su-
pervisor Bill Wallace, whose
district takes in Goleta Beach,
said 80 percent of the fee
revenues would be collected,
and he opposed the plan.
Supervisors Robert Hedlund
and Harrell Fletcher agreed
with Kallman that every effort
should be made to find other
sources.

The board finally decided to
approve the Pahos' \$103,000 request
as the "wish list" of priority
items that the board is compli-
menting for final consideration on
July 1. The items represent
departmental spending
that the supervisors would
like to fund if money is avail-

At this point, it appears that
the media have their work cut out for
them. They hadn't even
reached the midpoint in their
tour this morning and
had a visit that would
last all day.



News-Press photo by Steve Malone

IN THE MIDDLE of this mob of reporters and camera crews are Ronald and Nancy Reagan.

REAGANS AT HOME

Media visit turns ranch into zoo

Ronald and Nancy Reagan of 3333 Refugio Road, who run 22 head of cattle on their ranch, yesterday opened it up to another thundering herd — the press.

"This is a zoo," several reporters commented as they stood back and watched the mob pursue the Reagans from Point A (front lawn) to Point B (back

vans.

As the vans reached the ranch, the photographic equipment was electronically swept by a Secret Service "EOD" team looking for potential danger to the Republican presidential candidate.

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reover, the wish list include \$350,000 needed p street lights burning in county service areas. e voters rejected a street pment measure in and 6 electric

the lighting deficit grew by 0 today, when the county ions office reported that a ar measure, submitted via illed ballot to residents in separate highway light- stricts, also was defeated.

the board's decision was 4-3.

ON US

If a person is bitten, the



News-Press photo by Steve Malone

IN THE MIDDLE of this mob of reporters and camera crews are Ronald and Nancy Reagan.

REAGANS AT HOME

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"This is a zoo," several reporters commented as they stood back and watched the mob pursue the Reagans from Point A (front lawn) to Point B (rail fence), Point C (pier in the pond), Point D (living room) to Point E (saddling horses) to Point F (riding horses).

At one point, as scores of newspaper and television photographers and technicians pounded along with the Reagans toward the rail fence, ignoring orders to stop at a certain place, a Reagan aide told them: "Back up or this is going to end right now!"

Until yesterday, the Reagans had steadfastly refused to allow a complete photographic tour of the ranch, leaving their modest house out of bounds on the few occasions when the news media was allowed there. But a Reagan aide explained there were so many requests for pictures at the ranch that it was decided to set up the full-scale tour.

Two busloads of media types were brought from Los Angeles to the parking lot at Refugio State Beach, where they then were jammed into seven

vans.

As the vans reached the ranch, the photographic equipment was electronically swept by a Secret Service "EOD" team looking for potential danger to the Republican presidential candidate.

The bulk of the press was from the national media that has followed Reagan in his campaigning, and most were not reporters but the camera operators, sound technicians and producers who put the news on the airwaves.

While most act reasonably in the rugged give-and-take of covering a candidate, one ABC-TV producer who had been grumbling with other reporters at a Reagan stop in Santa Barbara last month, again was upbraiding Reagan's staff in bitter words for what he felt was a slight toward him.

And while almost everyone acted as if they were, indeed visiting another person's home, a UPI photographer left a trail of discarded empty film containers around the barn, much to the disgust of Secret Service agents and county sheriff's deputies.

As a British reporter watched Reagan saddle his horse, the reporter called out, "Governor, is the good guy going to win in November?" Reagan

offered a noncommittal answer. The reporter pressed, "Is John Anderson the good guy?" Reagan ignored him.

And while the tour was supposed to be restricted to reporters and photographers, some of the press exercised their special privileges. A reporter for one of the nation's major newspapers brought along his son, while a newspaper photographer's daughter accompanied him.

Since no questions of substance were allowed, the chitchat back and forth between the Reagans and their traveling mob of about 80 sometimes became a bit strained. As Reagan saddled his horses, one reporter asked if it would be all right to question the horses about political matters.

"They'd give you about as good an answer as I would," he joked.

And at the end, as the Reagans rode down the hillside for the photographers' benefit, one TV reporter called out, "Oh, they're riding into the sunset!"

The Reagans were riding east.

—Jerry Rankin

FIRE SEASON STARTS TUESDAY

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PHONES MAY ZAP THE ZIP AS NUMBERS KEEP PILING UP

WASHINGTON (UPI) — As spectators uttered, "Ten Roger W. Jepsen, R-Iowa, explained how a future mail user can call a toll-free Postal Service number to obtain a friend's new Zip Code after it is expanded from five to nine digits next year.

"What this boils down to is a system that will require an individual to call a 10-digit number to get the correct nine-digit number that must be placed on the letter," Jepsen told a Senate panel yesterday.

"Now if people can't remember the 10-digit number that must be called," Jepsen continued — as spectators at the hearing began laughing — "they can always dial a three-digit number — 411 (information) — to find it."

Jepsen told a Senate Government Operations subcommittee he believes the shift from five to nine digits scheduled to start next October will prove as unpopular as the recently minted Susan B. Anthony \$1 coin.

Postmaster General William Bolger testified the four added numbers will be optional. If widely used, he said, the Postal Service will be able to make greater savings from a computerized and automated mail sorting system.

He said bulk mailers will get discounts if they cooperate, but the choice will be theirs.

Bolger noted it takes 10 numbers to dial long distance, bank statements have 10 digits and credit cards have 13.

ed by the official Polish press as saying "the symptoms of anarchy, disruptions of the economy and campaigns against people are reasons for concern for us." He spoke of "progressive destabilization of the economic and political life of the country."

A Solidarity delegation met in Warsaw with Deputy Premier Mieczyslaw Jagielski and Mayor Jerzy Majewski to discuss the detention of Jan Narozniak, a printer arrested when police raiders found a classified document from the solicitor general's office in Solidarity's Warsaw office. The document reportedly outlines actions to combat anti-socialist forces.

uncooperative at 'Gang' trial

PEKING (UPI) — Mao Tse-tung's widow, Jiang Qing, stubbornly refused to cooperate with prosecutors today at her trial, but the court said there was "sufficient" evidence to convict her after a member of her "Gang of Four" turned against her.

The court declared "the evidence was abundant and sufficient" at the conclusion of the stormy session during which Jiang, in a grey "Mao" suit, sat immobile and alone in the caged-inprisoner's dock, staring.

See Page A-11, Col. 5

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console each other as they view the the Waterman Canyon area.

Fire victims find to be thankful

By Rich Tosches

SAN BERNARDINO (UPI) — Phil Wyler searched the smoking rubble of what had been his expensive home and found the charred turkey that would have been the centerpiece of his family's feast.

He pulled the blackened bird out of the ashes and put it on an overturned wastebasket, unwilling to leave it among the wreckage.

"That was for Thanksgiving," said Wyler, 52, pointing to the useless turkey.

"All last night I felt I didn't have much to be thankful for this year. But when I came this morning and saw the house, after the shock went away, I realized I had something to be thankful for — I'm alive."

In the crowded evacuation center and in the smoldering, devastated neighborhoods yesterday, fire-shaken residents thought of Thanksgiving — and gave thanks for their lives.

The worst of the Southern California brush fires raged through the northern edge of San Bernardino County, east of Los Angeles, killing four people and leaving hundreds homeless two days before the holiday.

But hundreds more from throughout Southern California drove for miles to donate piles

of clothing, shoes and toys to the everything. Red said.

Invitations for dinner also were opening up the Thanksgiving. Red Cross volunteer driguez said, "I'm thankful for the tremendous outpouring of help."

The firestorm the neighborhood Waterman Canyon. He could save said.

"I felt what a blessing it was, really going out the door was a relief. I knew the house was gone. I was thankful."

REFUGIO ROAD RESIDENTS MEET

Reagan's neighbors worry together

By Jerry Rankin
News Press Staff Writer

Mobs of tourists, fast-driving Secret Service agents and the hounds of Ronald Reagan's rural neighbors gathered in an informal town meeting near his ranch.

No decisions emerged from the two-hour gathering, but the independent-minded Refugio Road residents gathered to discuss the problem of the road, which they promote as a scenic drive. They also saw an opportunity — which they hope will be seized — to voice their concerns to the president's neighbors.

The invitation-only gathering at Florence Brown's Circle Bar B guest ranch may have been the biggest voluntary meeting in the area's history — at least since the days during Prohibition when the Refugio area was a haven for liquor smuggling or the early

19th century period when pirates harassed the citizenry.

In fact, as about 100 people jammed the Circle Bar B dinner theater and its stage, the most commonly heard comment may have been, "I didn't know there were this many people here!"

While no votes were taken, the evening's comments indicated that a substantial number of those attending — who obviously represent a majority of the residents along the road — favor the idea of simply closing Refugio Road to through traffic for the duration of Reagan's presidency.

The vote wasn't unanimous, however. One man stated explicitly that he will go to court if necessary to challenge any potential road closure.

The road leads from U.S. 101 up past Reagan's ranch — which can't be seen by the public anywhere — and down the other side of the Santa Ynez Mountains to Solvang and Santa Ynez. It is about 15 miles of tortuous, winding, one-lane, sometimes

unpaved dangerous driving — word the residents hope will reach the general public.

Closure of the road was a major topic of conversation at the meeting called by County Supervisor Bill Wallace, whose Third District encompasses the area. Supervisor Wallace was not present, since his Fourth District encompasses part of Reagan's mountaintop Rancho del Cielo.

(Reagan and his wife, Nancy, weren't present, although they are staying at the ranch until Friday, sharing Thanksgiving with a handful of their family.)

Staff John Carpenter told the group that as yet, "The kinds of problems we thought would develop right away did not. We had an increase of traffic, but nothing compared to what was anticipated."

However, he said that once Reagan actually is president, "I still think that it's coming."

See Page A-11, Col. 1

At the...
Deaths and...
Editorial Page...
Horoscope...
Beverly Hills...

Reagan gives press glimpses of life 'back at the ranch'

By Jerry Rankin
News-Press Staff Writer

With a new poll showing him substantially ahead of President Carter, Ronald Reagan rode around his Santa Barbara-area ranch yesterday and said that if elected president he will visit it "as often as possible."

In a relaxed and joking mood, the 69-year-old former California governor declined once again to declare flatly that the Refugio Canyon ranch would be a formal Western White House, but he and the mob of reporters present seemed to be making the assumption.

And many were making another assumption — that he is the odds-on favorite to win the White House in November after picking up the Republican nomination in Detroit next month.

A new CBS-New York Times poll that sampled the opinion of 1,505 Americans last week and was released yesterday put Reagan 13 percent ahead of Carter if the election were held today, with a 3 percent margin of error.

And a new edition of Webster's dictionary now at the printer's already lists him as the nation's 40th president — which visibly startled Reagan when told about it as he strolled across his front lawn.

"How can they do that?" he asked.

Reagan and his wife Nancy opened their retreat 20 miles northwest of Santa Barbara to a complete tour for the first time because of many requests from the news media, and more than 80 people showed up to stomp around in a mob scene

that likely was a foretaste of what will come in the fall if he becomes president.

Nothing of substance was allowed to be discussed as the mob moved from one point to another, so it was a matter of the Reagans and the press discussing life at the ranch, how the family lives there and so on. Security, provided by the Secret Service and Santa Barbara County sheriff's deputies was tight.

Asked point-blank if the ranch would be the Western White House in a Reagan administration, he replied "I never thought of it as that exactly as a headquarters. . . . It would be a place we would enjoy coming to as often as possible."

Pressed on the subject of how he thinks of the 688-acre

spread atop the Santa Ynez Mountains, he went on, "I would think (of it) as a private getaway. I wouldn't think you would have foreign leaders" (pay visits).

Standing inside the living room of his two-bedroom house, he gestured around and explained "I don't think it would lend itself to that — it's only 1,500 square feet. I don't know that you would have the facilities for entertaining."

He joked that if foreign leaders ever did make the trek up to the ranch on the tortuous one-lane road, "Maybe they'd agree to anything if we told them there was an easier way down" — the trip down a mostly dirt road on the eastern slope of the mountain to the Santa Ynez Valley.

The impression Reagan left

about the ranch was that it was a private county and a potential presidential retreat. He would, indeed, when possible, visit the ranch as often as possible. Only prominent guests would be invited. He took a personal interest in the ranch.

Standing in the living room area of the two-bedroom house, he gestured around and explained "I don't think it would lend itself to that — it's only 1,500 square feet. I don't know that you would have the facilities for entertaining."

Asked once again if the ranch would be the Western White House in a Reagan administration, he replied "I never thought of it as that exactly as a headquarters. . . . It would be a place we would enjoy coming to as often as possible."

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ly dirt road on the eastern slope
of the mountain to the Santa
Ynez Valley.

The impression Reagan left

about the relationship of this
county and the ranch to his
potential presidency. That
he would, indeed, return to it
when possible — but as a strict-
ly private retreat where the
only prominent personalities he
would invite would be those he
took a personal liking to.

Standing in the den-dining
room area of the 94-year-old
adobe core of the house —
smaller than most Goleta tract
homes — Reagan pointed to
two "Jackalopes" mounted on
the wall. "You only catch them
at midnight in Texas," he dead-
panned about the stuffed rabbit
sprouting horns.

Asked once again what they
like about the ranch, Mrs.
Reagan — who never has been
comfortable around the press
and who usually answers in

See Page A-5, Col. 1

GROUP OFFERS REWARD IN FINNEY CASE

A \$1,000 reward for infor-
mation on Christopher Fin-
ney was announced today
by the Deputy Sheriff's As-
sociation.

Ken Michaelis, associa-
tion president, said the
reward will be paid to any-
one providing information
directly leading to the safe
return of the missing 6-
year-old Goleta boy, or in-
formation leading to the ar-
rest of the person reponsi-
ble for his disappearance.

Christopher, son of Dan
and June Finney of 469-C
Whitman Ave., has been
missing since June 15,
when he was last seen on a
motorcycle ridden by a
young man unknown to the
boy's family.

The reward will be avail-
able for 90 days. Persons
with information may
phone a special hotline, 934-
2868.

President Soviets rec Afghan po

By First C

MADRID, Spain (AP). — A
U.S. suggestion that an interim
Afghanistan if Soviet troops are w
hoped for a Soviet reversal by ren
tion officials said today.

Several officials, briefing rep
they not be identified, indicated Ca
aimed at giving the Soviets a grace
intervention in that Southwest Asi

In addition, officials said, Carte
ingredients for a full removal of
assurance that a "mass slaughte
would be prevented and that an an
not emerge.

Carter first volced the idea of
last February, and broached it ane
Belgrade, Yugoslavia.

One official said Secretary of
personally took up the idea at a re
Subsequently, the source said, the
the subject with Anatoly I
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se they face Senate approves Iranian official li

Reagan gives press a look at his ranch

Continued from Page A-1
as few words as possible —
replied simply, "Peace."

Reagan added, "There's kind
of a spell when you're here.
Here it's totally away from any
public road. Here there's a to-
tal feeling of peace."

What do they do there?

"You'd be surprised how
hard we work," Reagan com-
mented.

"We ride in the morning and
in the afternoon it's work time.
If you can't think of anything
else to do, you can always cut
wood."

He also explained the ranch
history — his personal trust
administered by friends is only
the third owner since the origi-
nal Pico land grant of the Span-
ish era — and how his property
qualifies for thousands of dol-
lars in property tax breaks.

The break comes because the



THE LIVING ROOM of the Reagan ranch, top, features floor tile hand-
laid by Ronald and Nancy Reagan. At bottom, in the den of the modest
home, they talk about ranch life.

Reagan points out they are movie career, Reagan indicat- Reagan were asked why they
conducting an experiment in ed there weren't as many of would want to leave such a
the ranch — which is rared these films.

else to do, you can always cut wood."

He also explained the ranch's history — his personal trust administered by friends is only the third owner since the original Pico land grant of the Spanish era — and how his property qualifies for thousands of dollars in property tax breaks.

The break comes because the ranch is still in the agricultural preserve it was when he bought it for \$574,000 in 1974. The status, under a law intended to preserve open space and agricultural land from urban sprawl, means that the property is not assessed at its real market value like most property, but at a much reduced rate.

The rate is based on the income brought in from agricultural-related purposes. In Reagan's case, it is 22 head of cattle he grazes on the property in the summer to fatten up for later market sale — "hopefully at a profit," he commented. While the income is small, it means the ranch continues to qualify for the agricultural preserve status granted by the Board of Supervisors.

The net result is that the current property tax on his 68.66 acres spread over five parcels is \$862.32, with an assessed value of \$20,423.

By contrast, the property tax on the 118-acre ranch of political activist Tom Hayden and actress Jane Fonda about 25 miles east of Reagan's — which doesn't qualify for agricultural preserve — is \$6,577.50.

The Reagan ranch lies 6.5 miles up Refugio Road from U.S. 101 and is about one-quarter mile in on an access road, so there is no public view of it.

An iron gate, with the Rancho del Cielo name atop it, marks the entrance to the ranch. There are only a few buildings — a barn-like structure where the saddles and

THE LIVING RONALD
told Ronald and
home. They talk

Reagan points out the
conducting an experiment
the pond — which is named
"Lake Lucky" after his
grandmother — to see how
some goldfish which they planted
can grow.

Reagan posed for pictures
his lawn, at the fence, on the
pier, saddling and riding his
horse.

As Mrs. Reagan helped saddle
her brown horse "Gualianco,"
Reagan his grey horse "Gualianco,"
he reminisced about his movie days
his fondness for the western
era his buddy John Wayne
trayed so often on film.

Asked about his western

INFLATION FIGURES

Reagan
broad

LOS ANGELES (UPI) —
Claiming the economic situation
is too desperate to wait for
his election, Ronald Reagan today
called on Congress to enact
an immediate across-the-board
tax cut to combat inflation.

"I believe the situation is
desperate enough to the point
that I'm saying to Congress
'Do it now,'" the GOP presidential
candidate told reporters.

In Washington, meanwhile,
a group of Republican senators
and representatives said they

U.S. 101 and is about a quarter mile in on an access road, so there is no public view of it.

An iron gate, with the Rancho del Cielo name atop it, marks the entrance to the ranch. There are only a few buildings — a barn-like structure where the saddies and other gear are kept, a house trailer for ranch foreman Lee Clearwater's use, a small shed and another small residential building.

Rail fences built by Reagan and Clearwater corral his four horses, and a brown-green lawn they put in around the six-room house is interrupted by a sizable pond.

Standing on a small pier that reaches into it, Reagan draped his arm around his wife and recalled he gave the weathered white canoe floating nearby to her on their 25th wedding anniversary. The boat's name is "Truluv."

The situation is desperate enough to the point that I'm saying to Congress, 'Do it now,'" the GOP presidential candidate told reporters.

In Washington, meanwhile, a group of Republican senators and representatives said they would introduce the Reagan tax cut proposal in the Senate this week.

"We want the people to understand we're in agreement," said Sen. Robert Dole, R-Kan. "This is a Republican idea. We all support Gov. Reagan."

The group included liberal Sen. Jacob Javits, R-N.Y., who said he wanted to show party unity. Javits, who has opposed a 30 percent across-the-board tax cut over three years, said, "On a one-year basis, I can go along with it."

Others in the group, which held a news conference outside the Capitol, included Sen. Wil-

plan.

Reagan continued his criticism of President Carter's economic policies, declaring that the Democratic administration "continues to fiddle while the American economy chokes on what could well become the worst recession in half a century."

He said the answer lies in immediate action by Congress to enact a tax cut to be effective on Jan. 1, 1981.

Reagan said a 10 percent cut in income tax rates for individuals should be coupled with a cut in spending and an accelerated depreciation schedule "to revive the flow of investment into American business so it can become more productive and competitive."

His aides said the proposed cuts would total about \$20 billion the first year. They said the proposal is being coordinated with a legislative package Republicans are offering.

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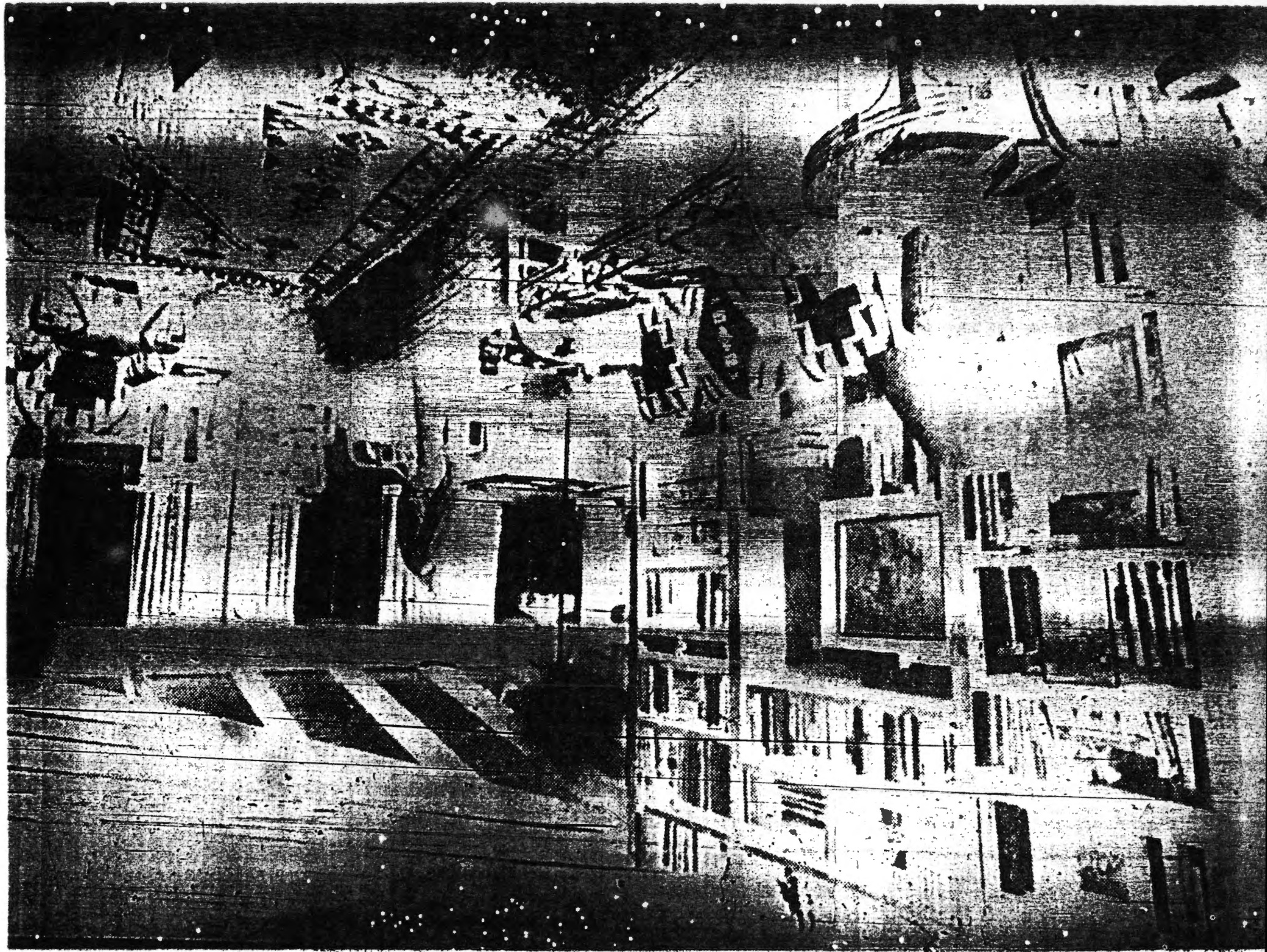
23" RCA Color
Console. Good

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Refugio residents discuss problems

Continued from Page A-1

Carpenter recently gained legal authority to close the road to outsiders — while allowing residents and guests in — but said he will do so only if circumstances require it.

And Al Bosco, the tricounties Secret Service resident agent with an office in Goleta, said that as a general rule "we would never ask for the road to be closed unless there was a security problem or an extreme emergency situation."

Bosco and Carpenter stressed that until — and if — the nation's 40th president gives some idea of how often he will visit and whether he will officially designate the ranch a residence, those who must cope with the road can only speculate and look at what happened at past presidential retreats such as

Richard Nixon's San Clemente compound.

Bosco remarked of Reagan:

"He is going to come here occasionally, how often we don't know. During the campaign it was about 12 to 15 times. At this point, the Secret Service does not know whether Mr. Reagan will designate the ranch as the Western White House."

Bosco did have good news for residents who have complained about the road-jamming traffic-stopping Reagan motorcades of the past:

"Most of the time when the weather permits, he will use a Marine Corps helicopter. There will not be motorcades up to the ranch from the airport in Santa Barbara. The only time you will see a motorcade up to or down from the ranch is probably in an emergency."

Bosco came in for some reasonably friendly

complaints about the driving habits of new agents. One resident noted that the veterans of the Reagan detail had learned how to drive the road, but some of the newer ones are a bit enthusiastic.

Bosco smiled and replied that the agents come from all around the nation and inevitably bring with them their own driving habits and attitudes. But, he stressed, the agents are briefed on the road and the local traffic when they arrive.

New county Fire Chief Rich Peterson and Tom Baxter of the U.S. Forest Service said they see no major impact from Reagan's presence.

With the current Southern California fires mentioned more than once by concerned residents, Baxter said that the problem is not the extreme fire danger, but the presence of so many residents living

Soviet signs to Reagan 'positive'

MOSCOW (AP) — Soviet President Leonid I. Brezhnev is sending "very positive" signals to President-elect Ronald Reagan, Sen. Charles H. Percy, R-Ill., said today after meeting with the Soviet leader. It was Brezhnev's first session with a top U.S. political figure since before the Soviets intervened in Afghanistan last year.

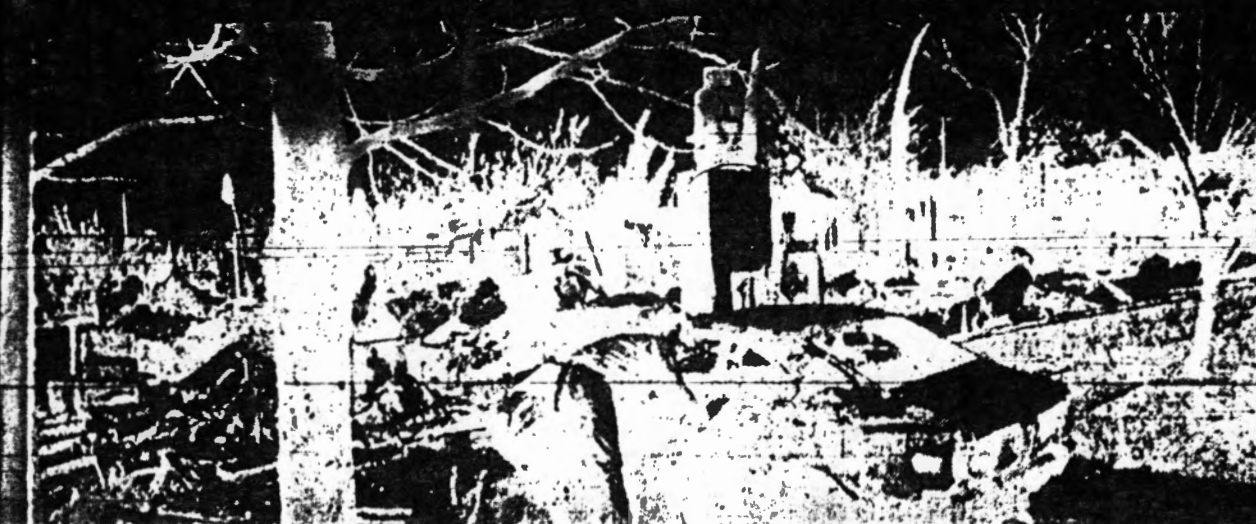
Percy, pipped by the chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, said he was told reporters the Soviet president had offered him "certain assurances that give hope for the future, hope for Soviet-American relations and hope for the world."

The Soviet government daily Izvestia front-paged its report on the meeting, calling the Illinois Republican "a leading U.S. political figure." The coverage appeared to reflect Moscow's position that it is ready for good ties with the new administration and Congress, despite hostile relations between Reagan and the Republican Party.

CHASE BANK HIKES PRIME TO 17.75%

NEW YORK (UPI) — Chase Manhattan Bank, the nation's third largest, today raised its prime rate to 17.75 percent from 17 percent and was immediately followed by other major banks.

The interest rate banks charge for top-rated business loans was hiked to 17 percent just last Friday and is now at its highest



Neighbors worry about changes presidential caravan may bring

Continued from Page A-6

if Reagan is elected. "I'd hate to see it the Western White House," he comments.

Another retired neighbor, John Gandolfo, whose ranch abuts Reagan's on the ocean side and who has spent almost 70 years in the canyon, said he, too, seldom sees Reagan except when "we pass on the road."

Reagan usually rides in a big car such as a Chrysler New Yorker, preceded and followed by station wagons carrying Secret Service agents.

Canyon residents report that when Reagan moves, other cars that may be on the road are stopped until he goes by. "All we see is some guy in sunglasses and a suit pulling us over because 'we've got a convoy coming down,'" one man says.

Farther down the road, on the ocean side at 1700 Refugio Road, is the canyon's population center.

Almost 1,000 acres are owned by Florence Brown, who bought her first piece of land in 1939, and for 10 years has run the

Circle Bar B Dinner Theater.

It's one of those places where \$15 buys you a barbecue dinner and admission to a light comedy (now playing, the world premiere of "The Marriage Bed, or Who's on Top?").

Mrs. Brown is another Reagan fan, remarking, "I'm all for him, every step of the way." But she says he's never visited her place. It's just a case of "we see the cars go by and know he's in it." She knows his ranch well since "my son and I used to run cattle through there. I know every inch of it. We love the place."

Her granddaughter, Susan Brown, a recent Bishop Garcia Diego High School graduate who will enter Cal Poly-San Luis Obispo this fall, shows visitors around, accompanied by peacocks fluttering through the trees or prancing on a slope, their eerie cries sounding like a perfect combination of a telephone answering machine and a scream for help.

The only other public drawing card in the canyon is the stable run by Gene O'Hagan at the Circle Bar B. O'Hagan

relocated his business to the canyon three years ago after 25 years at the San Ysidro Ranch, and 20-30 customers a day in summer rent horses to ride up and down the hillsides.

While the trails used don't touch Reagan property, O'Hagan admits that when he takes people out he lets them know they're near a possible future president's retreat.

But when Reagan is resident in the canyon, he is almost The Invisible Man, which is precisely why he bought the ranch, in an effort to totally escape the public eye.

He occasionally does venture forth to dine at the Danish Inn in Solvang or the Ballard Store Restaurant, which gourmets consider two of the finest restaurants between Los Angeles and San Francisco.

But it's enough. Americans mark the ballots for Reagan on Nov. 4. The Invisible Man will be seen only rarely. His life in Refugio Canyon may never be the same.

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THINKING about driv-
ing past Ronald
Reagan's ranch just to
see what you can see?
Forget it. You can't see
anything. The ranch is
not visible from any
point to which the public
has access, and unless
you know where the gate
leading to the access
road is — and have the
keys to unlock it —
there's literally nothing
to see. In addition, the
one-lane road that leads
to the ranch is hazardous.

News Press photos
by Steve Malone

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PLATFORM
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C-12

Monday, June 23, 1980

The paradox of retreat

If Ronald Reagan is elected president in November, the quiet little Santa Barbara County road through Canada del Refugio might well be nicknamed Paradox Road.

Among roads, it's a lightweight. It has two lanes in some places, just one lane in others, and it curves and climbs toward Refugio Pass without any pretense at being an artery. It is, in fact, a vein in retreat from the age of the automobile to the age of the horse, and that suits the few neighbors just fine.

One of the neighbors is Ronald Reagan, who is away quite a lot working hard to become president of the United States and leader of the Free World.

Reagan has a ranch up at Refugio. It is his refuge. It is a sizable spread, hidden away up there, unseen even from the tiny vein of the Refugio Pass road. Don't bother to go looking. You won't see anything.

Reagan and his wife Nancy like to escape from all the conferences, debates, banquets, award ceremonies, great crowds and traffic snarls of the Free World and get up there and lean on fences. It is said that that is what they would want most to do, occasionally, if they should be installed in the whirligig life of Washington, D.C.

And that is when the little road up toward the ranch, six miles off Highway 101 up near Gaviota, could be called Paradox Road.

A paradox is when you have to make a big, noisy, finely-tuned, major production out of going into a quiet, secluded retreat.

It isn't a president's choice to make a production of escapism; it is simply the

way things are in these times. There must be agents of the Secret Service checking out every hilltop and every arroyo. There must be aides, assistants, advisers, for a president doesn't ever really get a day off, even in the deepest retreat. There must be eye-bugging communications equipment, and people to operate it, for a president can't ever really take the phones off the hook. There must be reporters, photographers, TV cameramen, commentators, and trucks for the equipment, because flights into refuge are a part of the continuing story of the presidency. It takes a lot of doing to turn a president into a weekend recluse.

This is done easiest at Camp David. There is complete government control there, because that hideaway in the Maryland mountains is part of a military base. David is designed for fully controlled seclusion because it is a shaded little world set distinctly apart from the world of everyday civilian life. Marines see to it that there is no mixing.

But practical questions arise over a Refugio. Would the little road be enough, or would it need to be promoted into an artery? Wouldn't there need to be pads for helicopters? Would there need to be more firefighting equipment, against that dreaded day when the hills could turn black from windblown flames? Wouldn't there be daily infiltrations by curious sightseers, determined to get as close as possible to the inaccessible?

It is indeed a paradox. When a president wants to be casual, there is nothing casual about it.

Fat Albert and the rocket

American brainpower has moved science and technology forward at a rate far faster than ever before in history, and this is a point of pride broadly shared. It makes us feel at times that we are the prime stakeholders on the planet Earth.

existed 3.5 billion years ago, and we had previously thought that life here had begun only 2.3 billion years ago. This is a major finding that places us more candidly in context.



JACK ANDERSON

Russian voters

According to the latest public opinion polls, many Americans are so disenchanted with the likely Democratic and Republican candidates for president that they'd welcome a chance to vote for "None of the Above" this November. Indeed, this disgruntlement among the electorate is the main thing Rep. John Anderson has going for him.

Oddly enough, the same problem exists in the Soviet Union, where the so-called electoral process leaves the voters no choice when they file into the polling booths to "elect" the only candidates on the ballot.

And yet, according to America's Kremlin-watchers, disenchanted Russians still manage to "vote with their feet" by staying home on Election Day. This has also been confirmed by a Soviet defector who was once a high official of the Politburo.

The defector, who used to be a Communist Party supervisor for several election districts, told my associates Vicki Warren and Dale Van Atta how widespread the practice was. "In all the districts that I supervised, as well as in districts where the real results were known to me," he said, "be-

don't show up any day.

Despite this charade, our Soviet estimate that more than 10 million voters — about the adult population — vote for the official Party candidates of the Politburo was, the sources expressing opposition to the government.

There could be no sons, though. So are held on Sunday of Russians use to get drunk, according to Department sources.

The true number of citizens who vote is, importantly, they don't vote — new bigshots in the KGB, bureaucrats, fear their jobs, "systemic" the figure is out, according to sources.

Not long ago, an official had the suggestion that more than 10 million voters be offered to vote. Later, a non-Communist organization quickly became a candidate for the position. Just as quickly, it was forced to drop out.



News-Press photo by Steve Malone

old Reagan strides across his ranch northwest of Santa Barbara.

Meanwhile, back at the ranch...

By Jerry Runkel
News-Press Staff Writer

Lee Clearwater wound up being hired by Ronald Reagan as his ranch foreman simply by writing the former California governor and telling him he needed Clearwater's talents.

Reagan took a quick liking to Clearwater, who last week found himself the focus of national news media attention with the possibility Reagan will become president and turn his Santa Barbara County ranch into a "Western White House."

Clearwater is the man Central Casting would send over if you asked for a ranch foreman — tall, lanky, rugged, with an air of amiable self-confidence and self-reliance.

But if you talk to him, you find out he has a very different background.

Clearwater spent 45 years in Ventura County, mainly in the

Moorpark-Santa Paula area. He worked in the milling business, had a nursery, a morning radio program on station KSPA (now KAAP), sat-in as a part-time disc jockey, spent 20 years in the stereo-TV business and sold real estate in Orange County.

Clearwater now divides his time between a house trailer at the Reagan ranch 30 miles northwest of Santa Barbara and a home in the city, which he shares with his wife Cloetta. She is a nurse at Cottage Hospital.

Last week, Clearwater stood with a bemused smile on Reagan's ranch house lawn, watching a mob of reporters and photographers following Reagan and his wife Nancy, and chatted with a News-Press reporter.

Back in 1974, as Reagan prepared to leave office after two

terms as governor, Clearwater knew Reagan would need help on the Refugio Canyon ranch and felt his talents fitted the bill.

"I figured he needed me. I could do a lot of things. So I wrote him a letter about a week after he left office. I met him up here and he hired me. People don't believe it, but that's how it happened."

Clearwater said he and Reagan do almost all the work needed at the 688-acre ranch — keeping trails clear, pruning trees, tending 22 head of cattle and four horses, looking after the 1,500-square-foot house, and so on.

"He does everything I do. He's very active. He works hard — doesn't lay around. He cuts all his own wood," Clearwater said.

That, the foreman said, is the reason the potential Republican

president is in such good shape for a man 68 years old.

Reagan, he said, is just no food of horseback riding as he says, and "he's an excellent horseman."

Clearwater and Reagan told reporters that wildlife abounds in the vicinity of the isolated ranch on the crest of the Santa Ynez Mountains — bears, mountain lions, deer.

And, Clearwater noted: "We've found three rattlesnakes up here in five years. He found two and I found one."

An historical sidelight to the ranch was provided in a letter to the News-Press from Erwin Lyda of Santa Maria, who explained how the system in which eight padlocks on a metal bar control the gate that

See Page B-2, Col. 1

Off The Beat

General and reporter

flying to the is-
il for a week's

who had been
respondent for
was covering
the Honolulu Ad-
was obliged to

insisted that
just for
to see

around in various attitudes of respect and Tom walked right past all of them.

"He shook hands with Eisenhower and said, 'Do you remember Yank magazine?' The general broke out that famous grin and said something like,

"(Tom explains: Yank had been run by GI's, and sometimes when writers or cartoonists such as Mauldin would

"Is that so?" remarked the general. He looked around at the brass and said, 'Don't you think I'm too big an elephant to hide?' and back to Tom, 'What do you want to know?'

"They had a congenial visit for half an hour. Tom says he got a big scoop but he can't remember now what it was all about. His warm experience with the great man is what he remembers.

SANTA BARBARA NEWS-PRESS

SANTA BARBARA, CALIFORNIA, TUESDAY EVENING, JULY 1, 1980

C

PAGE B-1

Board tours
elementary
school sites

Santa Barbara school offi-

Plumber talks break down;
most local shops still working

About half a dozen union plumbing shops in the county joined other Southern California

that under the present agreement, a plumbing shop that gets a bid outside its community is

LEE CLEARWATER, foreman of Ronald Reagan's ranch, passes some time with two of the four horses at the Refugio Canyon spread.

News-Press photo by Steve Matson

Reagan's ranch foreman

Continued from Page B-1
gives access to the Reagan ranch from Refugio Road was

Shortly after the Second World War started, the Los Padres National Forest was closed to the general public and gates were installed at various places, and a gate was placed across the Refugio Canyon road and locked.

"There were many locks on the chain locking the gate, and occasionally someone would unlock his lock and lock it again, leaving a neighbor's lock dangling at the end of the chain, and the neighbor could not unlock the gate.

"At that time I was district ranger for the Santa Barbara district of the U.S. Forest Service, and I asked a foreman, Arthur Bennett, to devise a

lock which would eliminate the difficulties at this particular gate.

locking device as shown in the picture of Sunday's News-Press" (June 22).

Lyda also recalled that "in February 1930, a small fire occurred in lower Refugio Canyon. The U.S. Forest Service established a fire camp at the site, which is now the Ronald Reagan mountain ranch. It was then known as the 'Pico place' and no one lived there at that time."

The general area of Reagan's ranch also has been in the news in recent years because of tragedy that stalked the verdant, quiet canyon. Thor Christensen, recently sentenced for kill-

ing three Isla Vista-area women in 1976-77, dumped their bodies off Refugio Road just a few miles north of the ranch. And in 1978, a prisoner transport plane crashed near the ranch, killing seven.

Because the wind is turbulent enough over the ranch that there will be times reaching it by air will be impossible, Reagan's staff and security personnel are currently discussing travel to and from the ranch. He normally has traveled by car, but there has been talk of using a helicopter.

One photographer, a veteran of many hours in military helicopters, who recently flew low over the ranch in a single-engine plane reported the turbulence was such that he likened it to shooting Colorado River rapids in a paper cup.

85, of 333 E. Arrellaga St., who died Sunday at Cottage Hospital after a brief illness.

The Rev. Marjorie Wilson will officiate at the graveside services at 11 a.m. at Santa Barbara Cemetery.

Born Jan. 24, 1885, at Carro Gordo, Ill., he attended Purdue University, served in the Army in World War II and worked for many years as a salesman for Emerald Electric Motors Co. of Toledo, Ohio. He was a member of the masonic order of the Church of Religious Science and the Ventura Philatelic Society.

Survivors include his wife, Hilda Lower Landis, whom he married in Cleveland in 1922; a daughter, Joan Baha of New York City; a brother, Ralph

Wallace Campbell

In accordance with his wishes, no services will be scheduled for Wallace Campbell, 85, of 1003 Fairway Road, who died Sunday at Cottage Hospital.

Born Jan. 20, 1885, he served in the Army during World War I and continued government work for 20 years before coming to Santa Barbara in 1953.

Survivors include his wife, Helen, and two brothers, Douglas and Kenneth Campbell of New Jersey.

Arrangements are by the McDermott-Crockett Mortuary through membership in the Channel Cities Memorial Society.

WHAT'S DOING IN SANTA BARBARA

TODAY
HUNTER PROJECT, UCSB UCM, 9:30 a.m.

CITY REDEVELOPMENT Agency, City Hall Council Chamber, 7:30 a.m.
CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION of the Physically Handicapped, 200 N. San Antonio Road, 7:30 a.m.

WOMAN'S CLUB, support group for loved ones of Santa Barbara Veterans, 9 a.m.
PLANO SOCIETY, Avenue La, 1000, 1000, 9:30 a.m.

YOUNG MEN'S
COUNTY PLANNING Commission, 100 E. Annapolis St., 9 a.m.
SANTA BARBARA STORY Show, Studio 11

Library, 10:30 to 11 a.m., free.
EL CONCILO de la Raza, 100 E. Haley St., noon.

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS Advisory Board, Santa Barbara City Hall, noon.
SANTA BARBARA Genealogy Library, Santa Community Center, noon to 4 p.m.
FIRE TROOP, Historical Society Museum, 1:30 p.m.

PLANETARIUM PROGRAM:
"Ancient Astronomy," Museum of Natural History, Santa Barbara, 2 p.m.
MONTICELLO WATER District Board of Directors, 200 San Marcos Road, 2 p.m.
FREE LEGAL counseling, Project Outreach, Santa Barbara Center, 4 p.m.
CHORUS CLUB Sing, Veterans, 4:30 p.m.

Old Mission, 6:30 p.m.
MOVIE: "Hush," Museum of Natural History, Santa Barbara, 7:30 p.m.

CITY BUSINESS Authority, City Hall Council Chamber, 7 p.m.
GROSS, Santa Center and Alameda Club, 7:30 p.m.

ARTISTS SOCIETY Association, "How to Get Your Feet Warm," 8 p.m.
STAGE: "The American and the American are Dead," City College Santa Barbara, 8 p.m.
PLANO SOCIETY, Avenue La, 1000, 1000, 9:30 p.m.

FAIRVIEW

Reagan Pays Only \$900 Tax on Large Ranch Listed as 'Agricultural Preserve'

By RICHARD BERGHOLZ

Times Staff Writer

SANTA BARBARA—Many landowners in this scenic county list their property as "agricultural preserves" and use a provision of state law to save on property taxes. It is all very legal and relatively commonplace. Some say as many as 500,000 acres are covered under the provision.

Most prominent of all the beneficiaries of the law is Ronald Reagan, who next week is slated to be nominated for President by the Republican Party.

He bought his 680-acre mountaintop ranch west of here for more than \$525,000 in 1974. It now is assessed at \$20,423 and the tax bill for 1979-80 was about \$900.

The "agricultural preserve" designation that gives Reagan and some of his neighbors low assessments is a special provision of law enacted primarily to cushion prime farmland from the invasion of subdividers who bid up the value the property.

Some landowners qualify their property by growing crops or raising cattle as income producers. Reagan, who says he considers his ranch a hideaway, a refuge; qualified his land for the special tax status by running 22 head of cattle on the ranch this year.

The former California governor is neither defensive nor evasive about his ranch and the taxes he pays.

Rancho del Cielo, the name he gave it, is purely for his and his wife's enjoyment, he says. "Everybody has their own Shangri-la," he says. "This is ours."

Both Reagan and his wife, Nancy, clearly look upon the ranch as their escape from life's pressures. They helped clear the brush, rebuild and paint the 94-year-old adobe house, and decorated it with memorabilia of their public lives.

Actually, the house is modest and unpretentious, about 1,500 square feet of floor space, heated only by fireplaces.

The scenery, including a natural pond in front of the house and auxiliary building, is spectacular. The Reagans say they take long horseback rides along the ridgetop overlooking the Pacific Ocean, 2,200 feet below.

It was not Reagan but the former owner, the late Raymond Cornelius, who first qualified the property as an "agricultural preserve" three years before Reagan bought it. It was a working livestock ranch when Cornelius owned it and Reagan simply is maintaining the status by fattening a few cattle there every year.

Actually, Reagan doesn't own the ranch. The Ronald Reagan Trust does. Trustees are attorney William French Smith, industrialist Justin Dart and businessman William Wilson.

After selling off his ranch in the Malibu hills in 1967 and his undeveloped property in Rancho California southeast of Riverside in 1973, Reagan and the fund trustees began looking around for a ranch when his second term as governor ended in 1974.

The Cornelius property became available and the trustees bought it. Smith said the purchase price was \$525,000. Revenue stamps affixed to the documents on file in the courthouse here indicate a slightly higher purchase price.

County officials said the tax bill for the current fiscal year was \$862, but Smith, who handles the business affairs for the fund, said the total taxes amounted to

\$907.70.

The county assessor's office said no attempt is made to establish the true market value of the Reagan ranch. Essentially, the current assessment figure of \$20,423 was reached after computing the approximate earnings from agriculture-related operations, officials said.

Land experts have speculated that the ranch probably would bring \$1 million or more if it went on the market now. If the property did not have the "agricultural preserve" status, taxes for new owners could amount to about \$42,000 a year.

Smith said the trust fund still owes about \$320,000 on the mortgage carried by the Cornelius estate.

A relatively few miles away from the Reagan ranch is a much smaller ranch—188 acres—owned by political activist Tom Hayden and his actress wife Jane Fonda.

The Hayden-Fonda ranch is not used for cattle ranching or farming and is not designated an "agricultural preserve." According to the latest county figures, the Hayden-Fonda tax bill for their property is more than seven times that for the Reagan ranch—\$6,577.50, compared to Reagan's \$907.70.

Reagan, who opposed a bill for payroll withholding of state income taxes in his early years as governor, was quoted then as saying "I think taxes should hurt."

On May 4, 1971, Reagan disclosed, in answer to a question, that he had paid no state income taxes for the year 1970 "because of business reverses."

The political flap over that disclosure so upset Mrs. Reagan that she said then she hoped her husband would get out of politics, which she described as "dirty."

Reagan says now that neither he nor his wife have given any serious consideration to what might become of the ranch if he wins the November election.

If it were to become a "Western White House," it probably would require substantial improvements in security. There is no heliport as such at the ranch now, but such an installation is under consideration.

Vandenberg Air Force Base is less than 50 miles away and would provide a fairly convenient helicopter base for trips to the ranch in good weather. When the fog sets in, the twisting road is the only way in.



Reagan's "Ranch in the Sky"

SANTA BARBARA

When Ronald Reagan seeks escape from the rigors of the White House, he can be counted on to hole up at a remote ranch high in California's Santa Ynez mountains a dozen miles up the coast from here.

Rancho del Cielo—Spanish for "ranch in the sky"—is where the President-elect brought his First Lady-to-be for six days in mid-November before he headed east to organize his administration.

There is little doubt that he will be back many times during the next four years.

For Reagan, the rustic 688-acre spread 2,200 feet above the Pacific Ocean is far more than just a refuge from the rough-and-tumble of politics. It is the fulfillment of a boyhood dream to be a rancher. "He would be lost without the ranch," explains the President-elect's longtime friend, William French Smith. "He loves the land, he loves horses, he loves digging postholes."

Nearly every morning when Reagan is at the ranch, he mounts his thoroughbred jumping horse, Little Man, for an hour-long ride with his wife Nancy, who is usually astride a quarter horse called No Strings.

"The Governor rubs the horses down, saddles them and feeds them," says an aide. "He won't let anyone else do it. He loves manual labor. That's his form of relaxation."

Reagan spends most afternoons feeding his 10 head of cattle, working in the small orchard and vegetable gar-

den, or puttering in his workshop. A full-time hired man tends to these chores when the Reagans are away.

Evenings are spent in or near the modest, century-old Spanish adobe house, where the couple reads or watches television around a stone hearth that is the only source of heat. The firewood comes from the surrounding scrub oaks.

A maid is on hand to cook the evening meal. After dinner, the Reagans paddle a canoe on a goldfish-stocked pond behind the house or walk their three dogs.

The couple purchased the property for \$526,600 in 1974. The two-bedroom house is comfortable and filled with Western memorabilia collected over the years,

Reagan's century-old Spanish ranch house is comfortable but Spartan. The only heat source: A fireplace, in inset.

but it is not spacious. Guests visit infrequently. "It's not a place where they can entertain," remarks one aide. "It's where they go to be alone together."

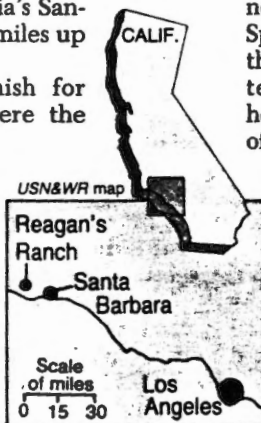
Under the law, Presidents may designate one of their residences as a vacation "White House," making it eligible for special Secret Service alterations. If Reagan chooses the ranch, rather than his home in Pacific Palisades, the Secret Service is expected to spend as much as a million dollars or more on the rural retreat.

Agents already are laying tentative plans for elaborate alarm systems, fences, other security devices, and sophisticated communications equipment to keep the next President fully informed during a crisis.

Like it or not, Ronald Reagan is sure to find that even his mountain hideaway no longer can offer him complete escape from the world's troubles. □

By ROBERT A. KITTLE

The Reagans with Nancy's quarter horse No Strings. In addition to riding, the President-elect enjoys feeding, saddling and rubbing down his horses.



Say 'Ray-FOO-hee-oh' c. 9.1 11.30.80

How to pronounce the Spanish word *refugio* has baffled tourists and confounded many residents of the Santa Barbara community.

Several pronunciations are heard frequently.

Here is how to pronounce *refugio* according to Spanish dictionaries:

The "e" sounds like the "a" in pale; the "u" sounds as "oo" does in room; the "i" sounds as does the "e" in eve; and the "o" as in note; "g" before the vowels "e" and "i" has a

peculiar guttural sound like a strongly aspirated "h".

The accent is on the foo, making the pronunciation "ray-FOO-hee-oh."

Refugio is the Spanish word for "refuge", according to Erwin G. Gudde, in California place names.

Canada del *Refugio*, Santa Barbara, preserves the names of the land grant *Nuestra Señora del Refugio*, granted provisionally in November, 1794, and definitively in July, 1834. The name is also preserved in *Refugio Pass*.

facts regarding *Refugio Canyon*, among them that *Refugio Pass Road* was part of the original *Camino Real*.

The Royal Highway ran along the Santa Barbara coast, like the later-installed railroad tracks, parallel to the seashore, as reported in a story about *Refugio Pass* in this column, July 13, 1980.

Mexican miners going north may have traveled it from *Refugio* gold-mining days, and the *Ortegás* may have traveled it from *Refugio Ranch* on the seashore to their farm holdings in Santa Ynez Valley.

A Los Angeles TV station recently showed a picture of a large tree growing in the center of *Refugio Road*, saying that was where stagecoaches stopped on their journeys north and south.

A county road was not completed through *Refugio Pass* until 1898, and stagecoach service was discontinued in 1901 when the Southern Pacific Railroad was extended from Santa Barbara to San Francisco.

In early times boats carried travelers up and down the coast. The first extensive travel on land began in April, 1861, when *Gaviota Pass* was completed.

The San Marcos Toll Road was built in 1868, and put into use for stagecoaches in 1870. They traveled the *Gaviota* or *San Marcos* routes, according to contracts with mail and freight services.

There were a few places where streams had to be forded in wet weather on the Toll Road, but not the number still required on the

John Gandolfo reported that ranchers in the Santa Ynez Valley used the road mainly for cattle drives to railway sidings on the coast. His father bought the homestead directly below the Reagan land more than 50 years ago.

Some maps of the region today label the road "hazardous."

However, remote as it was, *Jose Pico* made this subsistence farm his home and means of livelihood for many years, laboring also sometimes on the county road.

Edward Pico, who lived on the ranch with his father for a number of years, and managed it when *Jose* was older and less capable of doing the work, told me that some of the time water was hauled from a spring; a well furnished water later.

The young men of the family worked on neighboring ranches. They hunted wild pigs in the brushland. There were also deer, coyotes, lions, occasional bears and smaller creatures on the hillsides.

Mrs. John Locklin, whose grandmother was a sister of *Pico's* wife, (a descendant of the *Ortega* family) remembers visiting the ranch during summer vacations.

Her mother, grandmother and other female family members slept in the adobe house, where there was an unusual fireplace of slate-like rock. The men slept in a different building.

In those days the family went to *Refugio* by train from Santa Barbara. There they were picked up by relatives and taken to the ranch by horse and buggy.



After *Jose Pico's* death, an older brother, *Joe*, executor of the estate, sold the ranch to *Frank F. Flournoy* in 1941 for \$6,000.

Mrs. Locklin explained to me that "scarce money" in post-depression years necessitated the sale.

Probably *Flournoy*, who had become familiar with much of Santa Barbara's land in his county surveying duties, named it *Tip Top*, although the house is hidden in a dell.

In April 1955, *Flournoy* sold the land to *Ray* and *Rosalie Corneliuss*. Still enamored of this wilderness retreat, according to them, he visited it occasionally, being taken by auto to view it from his car when he was quite feeble.

Parcels of land were added to the *Corneliuss* holding, so that they owned a 1,054-acre spread

accumulated brush made way for growing grass.

The *News-Press* reported Nov. 19, 1974, that the deed to the *Tip Top Ranch* had been recorded here, with tax stamps indicating a purchase price of about \$527,000. The size of the ranch has been announced sometimes as 677 acres, sometimes 688.

It is said that ex-Governor *Reagan* saw it on a *Rancheros Visitadores* trip.

A meadow where *Pico* raised his fruit and vegetables surrounds the adobe house. There is a small man-made lake, said to be 11 feet deep; *Mrs. Locklin* told me there was another lake on the property.

Only a comparatively few head of cattle are run on the land, which has been designated an agricultural preserve to guarantee its status as "open space," with taxes lower than for

The old *Rancho de los Picos* high in *Refugio* anyon, now the hideaway of President-elect *onald Reagan*, was renamed by him *Rancho el Cielo*, ranch of the sky, instead of a former name, *Tip-Top*.

Jose Jesus Pico, who homesteaded the land about 1880, came from Mexico, working for a while on Santa Ynez ranches.

Pico first homesteaded land farther down *Refugio Canyon*, but then chose the site over 1,000 feet above sea level because it provided space for crop farming.

Being virgin soil, corn, beans, potatoes, tomatoes, watermelons, strawberries and peaches produced good crops without irrigation, for usually there was abundant rainfall near the top of the mountain.

Five or six acres of grapes furnished 900 gallons of wine a year.

Chickens, hogs, cattle and horses were raised on the ranch.

That era was a time when many other ambitious farmers were taking up mountainous land not covered by grants like that of the *Ortegás* (*Refugio*) or nearby *Nojoqui* or *Las Cruces Ranchos*.

Homesteaders included *Victor* and *Nepolo Lopez*, *Rosario Robles*, *Jose Jesus Romero* and *Victor Ortega* in once outlaw-infested territory.

Pico, who probably was no immediate relation to California's Governor *Pio Pico*, was married to *Juana Lopez* on Jan. 4, 1881.

According to a story by *Joanne Rife* in a Santa Ynez Valley monthly, November, 1975, *Jose* and his wife lived in a tent during construction of a small adobe house, built by an Indian, *Martin Volin*.

Edward Pico, his son, thought it was built several years before his birth in 1898; *Walker Tompkins* in a recent radio broadcast gave the date as 1887.

Even in that remote region, 10 miles from Santa Ynez and six and one-half to the coast highway, ranch children attended school, in a small building on the *Pico* property, about one-fourth mile from the home.

Edward Pico, a son now living in Santa Ynez, told me in a telephone interview, that the school teacher of the fewer than 10 pupils boarded with the *Pico* family.

Edward is the only survivor of seven *Pico*

Man of the Year

Where the Skies Are Not Cloudy . . .

The Reagans' ranch is their retreat

He calls it *Rancho del Cielo*—his ranch in the sky—and it is a continent and an era away from the life he will be leading in Washington, D.C. The 688 acres of rugged land nestle in the Santa Ynez Mountains, 2,200 ft. above the Pacific Ocean, about 100 miles northwest of Los Angeles. The Reagans raise a few cattle on the isolated spread they bought six years ago, but they use it mainly, and eagerly, as a retreat. And so jealously do they guard their privacy that few outsiders have seen their hideaway. As he looked forward to his Inaugural, the President-elect allowed TIME Washington Bureau Chief Robert Ajemian to spend two days with him at the ranch and to observe the unpretentious and invigorating life that he leads there.

Ronald Reagan lifted the double-edged ax above his head and slammed it into the tree branch lying on the ground. He swung again, his right hand sliding the length of the long wooden handle, and kept swinging for two full minutes. His face glistened with sweat. He wore amber sunglasses; earlier he had removed his contact lenses because the flying chips sometimes lodged behind them. In his faded denim shirt, leather gloves, scuffed boots and cowboy hat, he looked fit and even young. His breathing now became a little heavy, and he put down the ax.

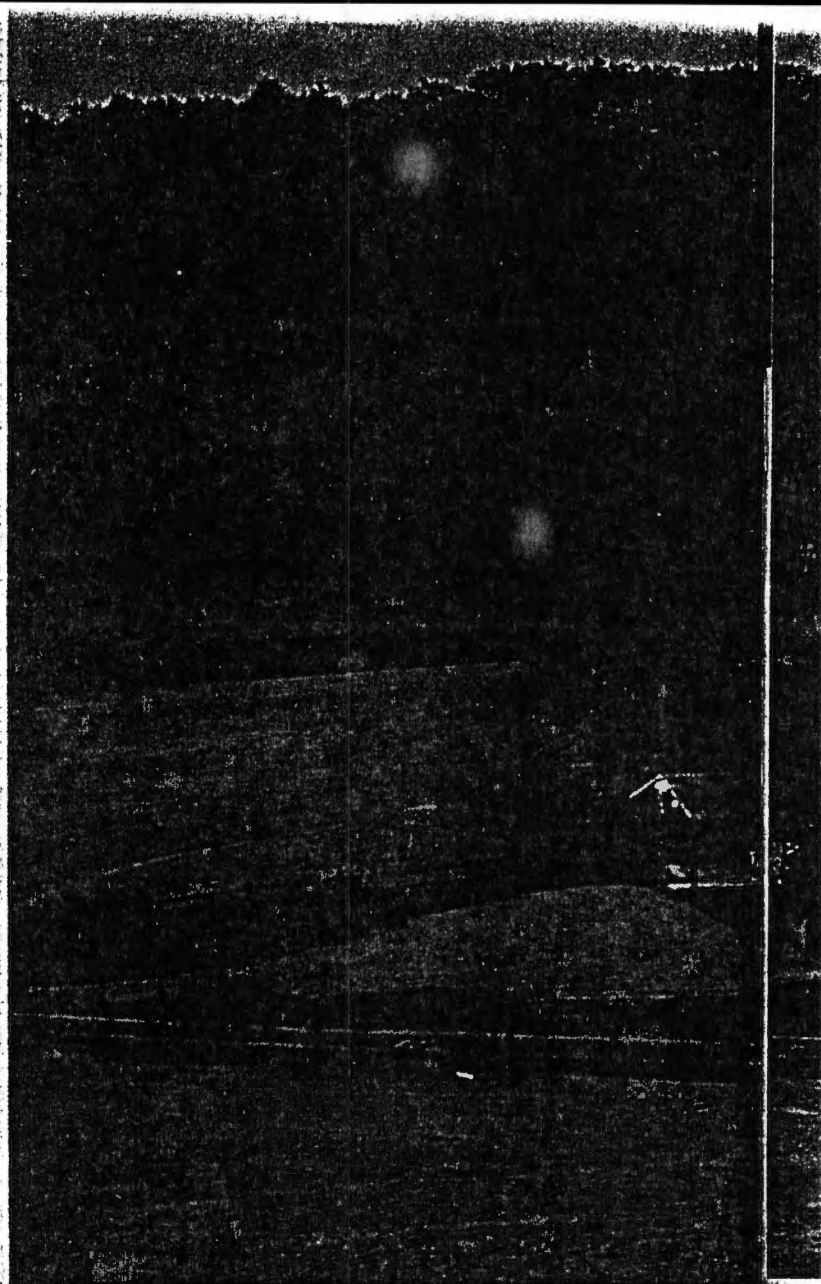
He was completely at home. "This is where I restore myself," he tells the few friends he invites here. The ranch is accessible only by climbing seven miles on a switchback road, through gullies and blind turns that drop off sharply toward the water, a drive that still makes Nancy Reagan nervous. Strong winds and fog often roll in suddenly from the sea; at other times the air on the mountaintop is crystal clear and dead quiet, so still that a voice can be heard at great distances.

Now Reagan began picking up the splits of wood, loading them into a cart. His five-room 100-year-old adobe house depends on two fireplaces for heat. He takes pride in keeping his supply of firewood stacked high. "I enjoy the fireplaces here more," he says, "because I know we need the heat."

His favorite riding horse, Little Man, a 17-year-old thoroughbred he raised from a colt, is always here, waiting. Only Reagan rides him. Reagan is sentimental about all his animals. Three months ago, one of his dogs, a German shepherd named Fuzzy, had to be put to sleep because of arthritis in his hips, and Reagan had a small ceremony. He fed the dog some final treats, said his goodbyes, and buried him on a nearby hillside next to Rhino, which belonged to his son Ron. Reagan scratched the dog's name on a marker and covered the grave with rocks so coyotes will not dig up the body.

He comes to his mountain to labor, and this afternoon he was far out in the woods clearing one of his riding trails. With an 8-ft. pruning pole he reached high into the drooping branches, poking, pulling, sawing back and forth. For years he has stretched his muscles with a small, rubber-tired wheel that has a wooden bar through its center. Crouched on his knees, Reagan rolls the wheel far out in front of him, back and forth, 30 or 40 times. He even carries it with him on the road.

The trail was finally clear of brush, and Reagan got behind the wheel of his 1962 Jeep and towed the cart of boughs toward the ranch dump. Two dogs, Millie, a black-haired hound, and



Early morning comes tranquilly to the Reagan ranch. Below, left to right: the



Man of the Year



Reagan's footwear, including sneakers used to stomp a rattlesnake

Victory, a golden retriever, which wears a dog tag marked 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, pressed against his neck. A third, a female husky named Taca, sleeps during the day. Taca is a night hunter, Reagan explained, and she drags home deer carcasses, dead possum and skunk. The husky is so smelly she has to be washed down now and then with tomato juice.

As the Jeep wobbled along the dirt road, a bobcat as big as Victory suddenly came into view, taut and staring, about 50 yards away, and the men in the Jeep hoped the dogs would not notice. Reagan ignored it. He knows the animals well that stalk the brown, dark hills of his ranch. Mountain lions, protected from hunters by California law, sometimes appear striding fearlessly in full view. Last spring a lion cub was discovered sleeping in the Reagan barn and was left undisturbed. That night the mother came and took the cub away.

Bears have turned up around the barn too, and last summer the leather seat of Reagan's tractor was torn up by one. A pair of hawks have a nest across the meadow from the house and constantly glide the sky searching for game. Deer are everywhere and customarily take water at Reagan's man-made pond. He has aimed a spotlight at the visitors and watched them standing frozen in the glare. He is not a hunter, although from time to time he has used his pistol on ground squirrels because here they carry disease. He has killed three rattlesnakes on the spread, two with boulders and the third with his foot. Believing he had cowboy boots on, Reagan stomped on the rattler only to realize, aghast, that he was wearing sneakers.

His friends often needle him about being a frustrated cowboy, and they are right. A Texas admirer recently shipped him an enormous longhorn steer that weighed over 2,000 lbs. Reagan, who has a name for everything, called the steer Duke. The animal somehow escaped, and as he drove around this day Reagan was keeping an eye out for Duke.

Deep ruts in the washed-out roads caused the Jeep to tilt sideways as Reagan eased over them. The man next to him in the Jeep was a Government medic assigned to stay at his side. A

car bumping along behind was filled with Secret Service men. From time to time Reagan gazed into the groves of live oaks looking for Duke. He pointed to the bushes he admires, the toyon, a California holly with bright red berries, and the brownish manzanita. He saw some clumps of greasewood and got worked up talking about its dry, grasping nature and how it burns fiercely when set afire by lightning.

He prefers the natural growth and has little interest in raising vegetables. "I like the wildness of this place," he said, speaking eagerly of the numerous wildflowers and their fragrance after a rainfall. He has done a little planting of his own; Eastern lilacs just behind the house, some willows and live oaks, now climbing strongly. He once took a seed from a pine cone, started it in a coffee can and nurtured it into a tree.

From Bald Mountain, the highest point on Reagan's land, you can see 40 miles down the California coast and, in the spectacular distance, five of the Channel Islands. At the other end of the ranch, you look down on the Santa Ynez Valley and gaze over heavy, rolling hills that plunge toward the sea.

Reagan knows the history of his ranch, and as he drew closer to the house he pointed to a distant hill and told how a hundred years ago, a young bandit had been ambushed there. He

told of a hanging tree and stagecoach holdups. On the wide hillside across the valley, where the dogs are buried, the Spaniards had cultivated vineyards, long since gone. One day Reagan brushed against the native buckthorn bush, and its berries rubbed off on him. Later, when he washed at home, the juice made a lather and he figured out that the Spaniards had used the buckthorn berries as soap.

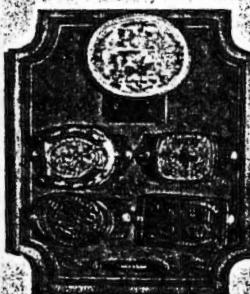
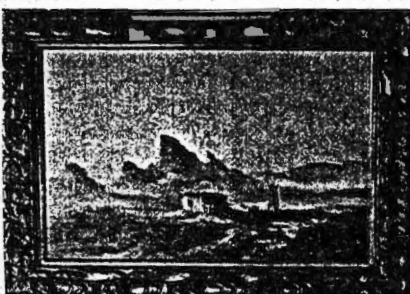
As he pulled into the yard Reagan glanced toward his pond. It used to be a mudhole, and Reagan and his closest friend, Willard Barnett, whom he calls Barney, got a black plastic liner laid across the bottom. Barney, 67, is a rugged, silver-haired man who used to drive for Reagan when he was Governor and is now like a



Nancy's desk in the bedroom

brother. The pond these days is 11 ft. deep and 100 ft. long, and Reagan calls it Lake Lucky.

The pond is filled with goldfish he put there, and he likes to tell how they grow according to their environment, small in a fishbowl and larger in a pond. His are half a foot long and he attends them carefully. That afternoon a salt-water bird, a gray tern, was circling the fish, and Reagan moved quickly toward the



Wild West, Nancy film ad; Lester Hughes painting; old belt buckles; election plea for Benjamin Harrison (1892)

pond. Annoyed, he began tossing stones at the bird each time it landed on the water but could not scare it off. In the past he had come across kingfishers, he said, diving down and spearing his fish, but he had never seen a salt-water bird here. "Bang! Bang!" he yelled several times, and eventually the tern flew back toward the ocean as a satisfied Reagan stared upward at its flight.

The next morning Reagan and his wife were at the horse barn by 10 o'clock. He likes to ride for a couple of hours each morning and work in the afternoon. He saddles the horses himself, cleans their hoofs and, in the past, even changed their shoes. He climbed up on Little Man, still spirited and shrewd enough to open gates with its nose. Reagan had ridden the horse's mother in one of his movies, *Stallion Road*, bought her and later bred her. A practiced hunter and jumper, he now restricts himself to trail riding. He loves the surprises of the changing landscape: trails that suddenly open to sloping meadows or pitch through thick, rolling woods.

Nancy Reagan, who is not a relaxed rider, went along on her chubby bay named No Strings. They own two other horses, both Arabians, a white named Gualianko and a sorrel named Catalina. Reagan used to raise thoroughbreds and sell them off as yearlings. When he was younger, he had his own system of breaking horses, first with a lunge line in the ring, then lying stomach-down across their backs, all the time emphasizing verbal commands. As he was explaining his approach, he burst into a sing-song chant from his cavalry days: "Walk ho-o!" he cried out. He was silent for a moment. Then he let loose again: "Tro ho-o!" he yelled, as if he were back in a movie at Fort Bravo.

Later, Nancy Reagan came out of the house in jeans and bright kerchief, carrying a box of trash. While her husband spends most of his time outdoors, usually with tools in his hands, she is indoors, talking for long periods of time on the telephone, reading, planning. Reagan hates the telephone and is almost grateful that Nancy uses it so often. The ranch is plainly her concession to her husband. She prefers being around people. But time alone with him is worth the remoteness, and she accepts it.

Back at the house Reagan talked about the high country. Western landscapes filled the rooms; a huge gaucho hat hung on a rack, a saddle sat by the wall. "This place has a spell," he said, "and people feel it when they come here."

Reagan first felt that spell in 1974, during his final months as Governor, when a friend, Bill Wilson, took him to the mountain top and the two men rode horseback over the property. Reagan wanted it immediately, even though his financial advisers warned him off, and he put up \$527,000 for the land and the ramshackle house (it has since tripled in value).

That fall he tackled his mountain. With Barney and another close aide, Dennis Leblanc, he began driving up from Los Angeles on weekends, carrying sandwiches in a brown bag, working all day and returning that night. They tore off the shabby side porch with its metal roof and framed in a large L-shaped veranda, the room they use the most now. The mountain air was cold that winter, and the fog sometimes so thick they could barely see out the windows. The old roof was pulled away and replaced by red-brown fiber glass tile. One day the wind was so strong, Reagan remembers, that some of the tile and long boards flew out of

their hands. Inside they laid a red vinyl floor, working in the chill with small electric heaters to make the glue stick. They set traps trying to kill off the numerous rats and wood mice.

Wherever he traveled around the country in 1976, campaigning for the nomination against Jerry Ford, Reagan thought about his new retreat. In motel rooms he would step off the bedroom and bath to get an idea of room dimensions, and on the plane he drew floor plan sketches. Often he would return exhausted to Los Angeles on a Saturday night, only to leave early the next morning for a day at the ranch. He put up a fence made out of used telephone poles, carting in the 22-ft. lengths and chain-sawing them down to 15 ft. for the rails and using the remaining 7 ft. for posts. He and Barney put in a sprinkler system and hauled in beams that they stained and set across the ceilings.

Talking easily, Reagan moved around the house, stopping once to point out a painting by Clare Boothe Luce of a smiling lion. He took it off the wall to show her inscription on the back, turned over the painting and was astonished to find a live bat, mouse-size and squirmy, clutching the frame. Reagan poked at it with his finger. He recalled another bat that had made its way into the house a couple of years earlier. With Nancy howling in the background, he and Barney had chased that one with a broom and got it out alive. This afternoon Reagan calmly took

the painting to the door, flicked it and watched the bat spread its wings wide and fly off.

In the mornings on the mountain, Reagan wakes up without an alarm around 8 o'clock, dresses right away and takes coffee at the veranda table. He gets going slowly, sitting in the morning sun, eating his breakfast, reading, looking out on the meadow. He usually has orange juice, some dry cereal covered with fruit, or maybe a couple of soft-boiled eggs prepared by the family cook, Ann Allman. By her own account, Nancy has no cooking skills.

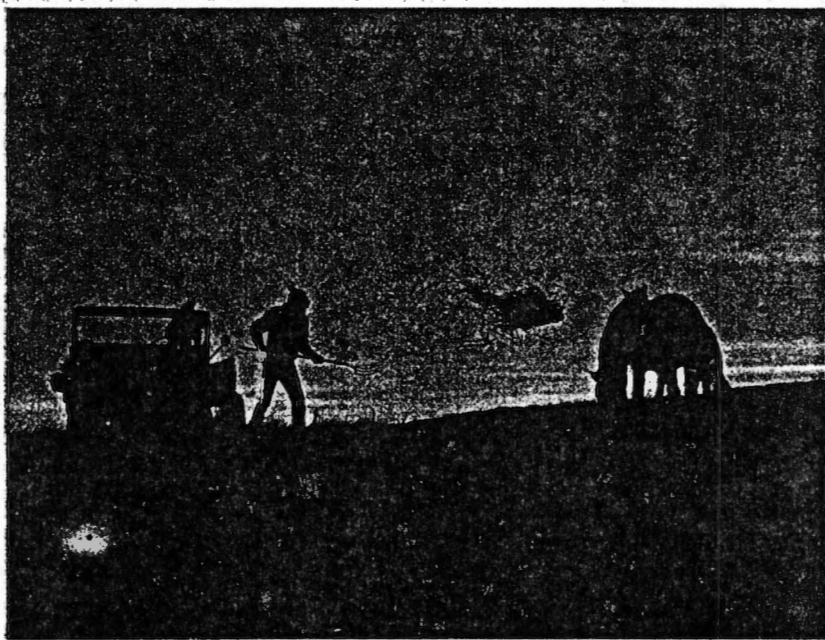
A big school bell calls Reagan to meals. He is an indifferent eater, seldom asking what is to be served, but always

finishing whatever is on his plate. He likes soups, and the cook often freezes his favorite, a spiced hamburger soup, and brings it to the ranch. He is also fond of desserts, especially apples and ice cream. At the end of the day, he takes only a single drink, either a glass of wine or a vodka and tonic. He drinks no whisky. He enjoys making popcorn at night and often sits on the patio, looking at the stars, which are brilliantly sharp. A color TV is located in the living room, and when the Reagans listen to music, he likes pieces from the Big Band era. They usually fall into their king-size bed sometime after 10 o'clock and read themselves to sleep.

As he sat talking about his routine, someone drove up with the news that Duke had been found walking along a paved road six miles down the mountain. Reagan was elated. Duke, he said, will go back in the field near the house. "Just looking out at him in that meadow makes me feel better," he said.

Trips to the mountain make him feel younger, and he is always reluctant to come down. Reagan wants to keep using the ranch as much as possible; Air Force One can land at nearby Vandenberg Air Force Base and a chopper can take him to the mountain. "I've only got so many years left," he said recently. Then, in a rancher's plain-spoken way, he added: "The more I use this place, the longer I'll be around."

—By Robert Ajemian



Caretaker Lee Clearwater pitching hay to silhouetted horses at dawn

"This is where I restore myself," says Reagan. "Here I forget my other problems."

Space Shuttle Gets Two Big Boosts

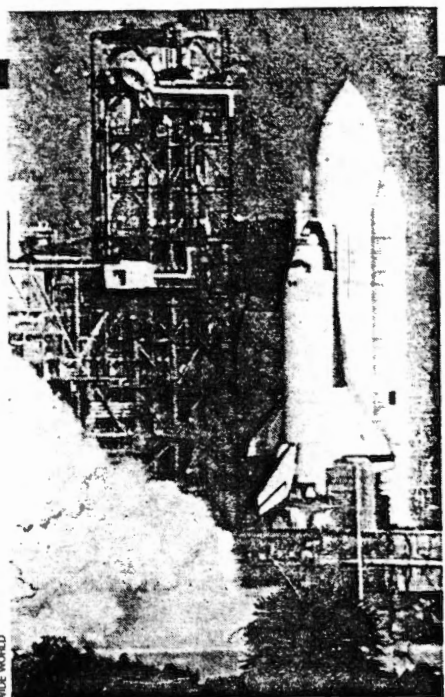
America's born-again space program chalked up a double triumph in late February—one on a launch pad in Florida, the other in Ronald Reagan's White House.

A successful firing of its rocket engines on February 20 demonstrated that the spaceship Columbia is capable of sending astronauts into orbit. The test cleared the way for an April launch aimed at getting the 8.8-billion-dollar space-shuttle program off the ground—America's first manned venture into space in half a decade.

Only days before the spectacular test at Cape Canaveral, officials of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration had fretted over a different problem: A recommendation by budget aides that the President cut one and possibly two of five reusable spaceships planned for the shuttle program.

Reagan in the end rejected the proposal. He turned down such plans as a radar probe of Venus and a solar-powered rocket system, but agreed to keep the 10-year-old shuttle program.

Defense arguments were believed to have influenced Reagan's decision. The shuttles—designed to transport astronauts and cargoes to and from space—will fulfill many missions, including the launching of military navi-



Shuttle-engine test spews cloud of steam.

gation-and-spy satellites. They also might counter killer satellites the Pentagon believes Moscow is developing.

The 20-second test at Cape Canaveral burned \$72,937 worth of fuel—15,000 gallons of liquid hydrogen and 5,600 gallons of liquid oxygen. The trial was crucial in that it marked the first time that the Columbia's three engines had been fired together as a unit. The same engines are to be used in April to propel the winged craft and its two astronauts—John Young and Robert Crippen—into space. □

Home on the Range Won't Be the Same

All of his powers as President cannot help Ronald Reagan from seeing revisions in something he hoped would remain unchanged—his California ranch.

Reagan ordered officials to make only "absolutely necessary" alterations at his Rancho del Cielo—Spanish for "ranch in the sky"—that overlooks the Pacific Ocean near Santa Barbara. He personally reviewed each change proposed by security aides.

Even so, the ranch was not quite the same when Reagan and his wife Nancy returned to it on February 19 for the first time since he became President.

Sophisticated communications equipment had been installed to keep Reagan in direct touch with national-security officials. Trailers were parked on the ranch as housing for Secret Service agents. Security checkpoints were manned along the narrow road leading to the Reagans' two-bedroom home.

More changes are in the works, including fences and the installation of

electronic-detection devices. Also to be built are a helicopter pad and housing for Reagan's physician and military aides. Nonmilitary assistants who accompany the President were told to stay in hotels in Santa Barbara, about half an hour away.

Although Reagan conducted official business in his adobe dwelling, aides stressed that he did not consider it a "Western White House"—the name given to the much larger oceanside residence at San Clemente, Calif., that Richard Nixon maintained during his Presidency.

The cost of changes planned on Reagan's mountaintop ranch are estimated at less than 1 million dollars. By contrast, the government spent at least 3.6 million dollars on new facilities and security measures at or near Nixon's residences in San Clemente and Key Biscayne, Fla.—including expenses such as flagpoles, furniture, fertilizer, storm shutters and swimming-pool cleaner. □

Firefighter Mark Prock of Newton, N.J., inches his way across the thin ice of Sandy Hook Bay from shore to shore.

Foreman of Reagan ranch dies

By Jerry Rankin 3-9-85
News-Press Staff Writer

Lee Clearwater, who landed his job as foreman at President Reagan's ranch by simply writing and asking for it and who always greeted the president with a hearty handshake and slap on the back, was found dead in his house at the ranch Friday.

"We thought the world of Lee," Nancy Reagan said in Washington when notified of Clearwater's death.

United Press International quoted Larry Speakes, the president's spokesman, as noting that "The Reagans feel he is far more than an employee. Lee and Mrs. Clearwater were close and dear friends of the Reagans."

The president was informed of the death of his only ranch employee and constant outdoors buddy while in the midst of a physical



Lee Clearwater

Dead at ranch

examination at Bethesda Naval Hospital in Maryland.

Speakes said that Clearwater was found dead in the house Reagan built for him at the ranch two years ago by Secret Service agents who noted he hadn't shown up for his usual round of chores.

Clearwater didn't reveal his age,
See Page A-3, Col. 2

8-year-old Shawn Goodwin, The boy was treated at a hospital.

Doctors did not c

TUCSON, Ariz. (AP) — Use of an unauthorized artificial heart did not contribute to the death of a 38-year-old auto mechanic, but in fact improved his condition as it kept him alive between heart transplants, a surgeon says.

Dr. Jack G. Copeland, chief of the University of Arizona's heart transplant team, attributed Thomas Creighton's death Friday to heart failure due to pressure from fluid-filled lungs. Autopsy results were expected today.

The Tucson man died after a four-day ordeal during which a heart transplant failed and the experimental Phoenix Heart was implanted in his chest Wednesday to keep him alive for a second transplant, although the device lacks approval of the U.S. Food and Drug Administration.

Fluid blamed

Copeland blamed the presence of fluid in Creighton's lungs on the use of a heart-lung machine when he went into cardiac arrest 22 hours

tions, hospital officials said.

the panel was about \$18 billion shy of the mark.

especially U.S. suppliers," Olmer said.

Other alle record-keeping

Reagan ranch foreman Clearwater

Continued from Page A-1

but was thought to be in his late 60s or early 70s.

Arrangements pending

The body was found in mid-morning and Speakes said an autopsy by the Santa Barbara County coroner's office indicated Clearwater suffered one or more heart attacks sometime before 5 p.m. Thursday. Funeral arrangements are pending.

Clearwater divided his time between the house at Rancho del Cielo and his Santa Barbara home at 350 Rosario Drive, which he shared with his wife Cloetta, a nurse at Cottage Hospital.

Clearwater, a tall, lanky and rugged-faced man of many trades, looked like the man Central Casting would send over when a ranch foreman was called for. As Speakes noted, he was always on hand to greet the president when the green and white Marine One helicopter deposited the chief executive at his helipad a mile from the ranch in the Santa Ynez Mountains 30 miles west of Santa Barbara. He'd bring the Reagan dogs along and greet his boss with "a hearty handshake and a slap on the back," Speakes noted.

'He needed me'

presidential retreat, but was careful not to disclose personal aspects of the Reagans' lives with reporters. He would take them on horseback rides around the ranch, but it was all off the record. He had a substantial collection of photographs of the Reagans.

In March of 1983, Clearwater did give a rare view of life at the ranch to a Republican women's club in Lompoc, noting his role:

"I'm the only civilian on the mountain. The rest are bureaucrats. I'm not a bureaucrat — I work for the Reagans."

First day on job

He recalled his first day on the job:

"The dogs showed up all skunked. Muffin, a cockapoo, was on the way back to the pen when . . . there was the governor's red station wagon and the door was open. The dog jumped in and lay down on the governor's jacket. He wasn't too happy about it, but he was nice and said, 'Hey, Lee! Get him out of there.' So I did. But the jacket kinda had a strong smell."

And he remembered when Mrs. Reagan gave her husband a canoe as an anniversary gift years ago. Reagan launched it in the pond next to his house, and "It sank. There he was, up to his neck in water. But, they got another one, a bigger one, and its name is 'Truiv.'"

Dramatic days

Clearwater was there on dramatic days when a freak snowstorm dumped nine inches of snow on the Reagan doorstep, when he and Reagan battled snakes, when Queen Elizabeth came for lunch — and on routine days when he and the president just fixed things, cut wood, put up a fence, looked after the horses and enjoyed the quiet, bucolic ranch life.

Clearwater was a native of Pasadena, but spent much of his life in Ventura County, growing up in Santa Paula. He worked four years at Southern Pacific Milling Co., operated a nursery for many years in Santa Paula, dabbled in radio, had a stereo-television business and sold real estate in Orange County.

Although he is late, Clearwater president, mir personal chara shocked when 1981. He told th time that he wo tell him:

"Come back We're not going

BU

CA

Sounds incr is the one si most peopl can buy pr

WHO IS

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE: The annual return of the EVELYN MARSHALL SUAREZ FOUNDATION for the fiscal year

PUBLIC NOTICE

regular business hours by any citizen who requests it within 180 days hereof. Principal Manager of

PUBLIC NOTICE

Growers Association will be held on Monday, the 11th day of March 1984 at 9 a.m. at 100 La Patera

nation's lowest paid public educators has idled 9,300 teachers and nearly 174,000 students in one-third of Mississippi's 154 districts.

Youth dies after shooting self in class

NEW BEDFORD, Mass. (AP) — A teen-ager who pulled a gun in his high school class, begged his classmates to leave the room and then shot himself in the head, died Friday night after two days on a respirator, officials said.

Bruce Perry died at 10:35 p.m. at St. Luke's Hospital with his parents at his side, said night supervisor Louise Cordeira.

Milk carton, paper clip inventor dies

PALM BEACH, Fla. (AP) — Victor Farris, a prolific inventor and industrialist whose creations included the paper clip and the paper milk carton, has died at the age of 75.

Farris, who died Thursday, designed devices for the aircraft, paper, cellophane and rayon industries, and devices for pneumatic and hydraulic control of machinery.

noted, he was always on hand to greet the president when the green and white Marine One helicopter deposited the chief executive at his helipad a mile from the ranch in the Santa Ynez Mountains 30 miles west of Santa Barbara. He'd bring the Reagan dogs along and greet his boss with "a hearty handshake and a slap on the back," Speakes noted.

'He needed me'

In an interview with the News-Press at the ranch in June of 1980, Clearwater recalled that in late 1974 he read that Reagan, preparing to leave office after two terms as governor, had bought the 688-acre Refugio Canyon spread:

"I figured he needed me, I could do a lot of things. So I wrote him a letter about a week after he left office, I met him up here and he hired me. People don't believe me, but that's how it happened."

As Speakes pointed out Friday afternoon when he told reporters in Washington about the death, Reagan and Clearwater "worked hand-in-hand and practically built the ranch together" in its present spruced-up state.

Clearwater loved to regale friends with stories of life at the

and the door was open. The dog jumped in and lay down on the governor's jacket. He wasn't too happy about it, but he was nice and said, 'Hey, Lee! Get him out of there.' So I did. But the jacket kinda had a strong smell."

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PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE: The annual return of the EVELYN MARSHALL SUAREZ FOUNDATION for the fiscal year ended Nov. 30, 1984 is available at the offices of its attorneys, MULLEN, McCAUGHEY & HENZELL, located at 112 East Victoria Street, Santa Barbara, CA. 93101, (805) 964-1501 for inspection during

PUBLIC NOTICE

regular business hours by any citizen who requests it within 180 days hereof. Principal Manager of the foundation is Barbara B. Last.
Mar. 9/85—8323

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And he remembered when Mrs. Reagan gave her husband a canoe as an anniversary gift years ago. Reagan launched it in the pond next to his house, and "It sank. There he was, up to his neck in water. But, they got another one, a bigger one, and its name is 'Truluv.'"

Dramatic days

Clearwater was there on dramatic days when a freak snowstorm dumped nine inches of snow on the Reagan doorstep, when he and Reagan battled snakes, when Queen Elizabeth came for lunch — and on routine days when he and the president just fixed things, cut wood, put up a fence, looked after the horses and enjoyed the quiet, bucolic ranch life.

Clearwater was a native of Pasadena, but spent much of his life in Ventura County, growing up in Santa Paula. He worked four years at Southern Pacific Milling Co., operated a nursery for many years in Santa Paula, dabbled in radio, had a stereo-television business and sold real estate in Orange County.

Although he entered Reagan's life late, Clearwater was devoted to the president, mirrored many of his personal characteristics and was shocked when Reagan was shot in 1981. He told the News-Press at the time that he would call his boss and tell him:

"Come back here. We love you. We're not going to shoot you."

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Mar. 9/85—5323

PUBLIC NOTICE

Growers Association will be held on Monday, the 11th day of March 1985, at 9 a.m. at 100 La Patena Lane, Soleta, California, for the purpose of electing directors of the ensuing year and the transac-

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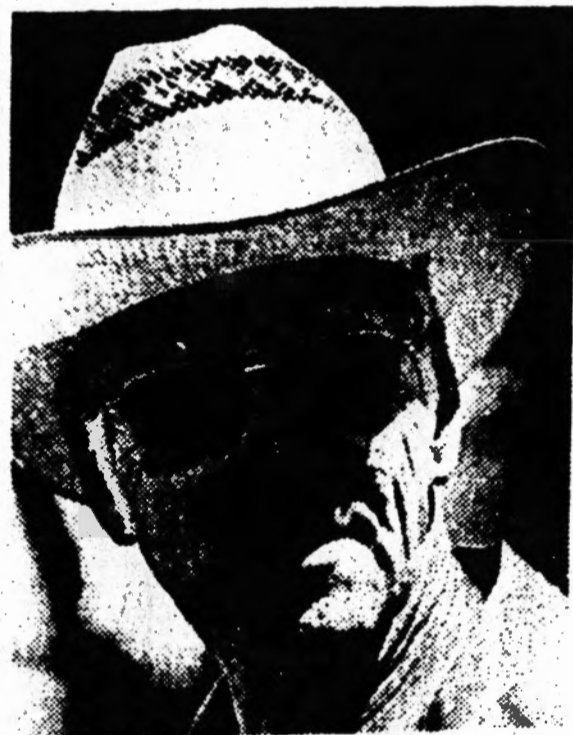
Supreme Court, but not before next year.

In the meantime, April 10 is the

the Environmental Protection Agency.
The resignations included John W. Hernandez Jr., who has been acting administrator for only two weeks since

hope that he would be considered for the top job permanently, came under fire himself almost immediately for his handling of a toxic chemical report

Counsel-
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John Dan
staff; and



LEE CLEARWATER
Reagan's foreman

REAGAN RANCH LIFE

3-25-83

Foreman captivates audience with tales

By Rita Henning
Lompoc Bureau

LOMPOC — He was there when a skunk-scented pooch settled on Ronald Reagan's jacket, when the future president sank up to his neck in a canoe given to him by his wife as an anniversary gift and when Queen Elizabeth vanished in swirling fog.

Holding his audience spellbound with details of life at Rancho del Cielo, President Reagan's ranch in the Santa Ynez Mountains, foreman Lee Clearwater overflowed with meandering memories that all began when he offered his services by letter in 1974.

"The president is a kind, intelligent, loving and ordinary man," he told members of the Lompoc Republican Women, Federated after their luncheon Thursday. "I'm usually (at the ranch). I'm the only civilian on the mountain. The rest are bureaucrats. I'm not a bureaucrat — I work for the Reagans ... I'm the only full-time male employee the Reagans have."

Clearwater recalled his first day on the job, back when Reagan had just completed two terms as governor.

"The dogs showed up all skunked," he said. "Muffin, a cockapoo, was on the way back to the pen when, well, there was the governor's red station wagon and the door was open. The dog jumped in and lay down on the governor's jacket. He wasn't too happy about it, but he was nice and said, 'Hey, Lee! Get him out of there.' So, I did. But, the jacket kinda had a strong smell."

More recently, entertaining Queen Elizabeth II on March 1 required extensive preparations, but the weather continually interfered, he recalled.

"I knew President and Mrs. Reagan were coming. Mrs. Reagan called me every couple of weeks and asked, 'How's the weather?' Five pine trees were blown down in January and so I told Mrs. Reagan 'We just have to pray a lot.'"

Several days before the president

See Page A-4 Col. 2



PRES
ranch
spread

THE NEWS-PRESS

.D-4-10	Ann Landers	B-2
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.F-11	Olden Days	D-7
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.D-3	Sports	E-1-4
.F-12	Television	B-4-5

Reagan also said that some of the departing EPA officials "let us know for quite some time that they wanted out. They wanted to leave."

The White House announced that Hernandez and Todhunter turned in their resignations today, and the EPA said the other three had resigned late Thursday.

from a day-long hike over the mountains into the Santa Ynez Valley with their friend Buddy Bennett, 18, when they inadvertently wandered onto the ranch, United Press International reported.

Suddenly, a Secret Service agent in a jeep appeared and took the three into custody. He detained them for nearly

boys were detained until after dark as the parents worried about their safety and whereabouts. They also complain Reagan's property is not posted, so the boys didn't know they were on his property until they saw the ranch house.

"(The Secret Service agents have) never even come around and intro-

It is not until the young men onto the Reagan marked only by agents, who guard day even when frequently stop property, obtain lease them.

Ranch foreman's memories overflow

Continued from Page A-1

arrived. Clearwater received final confirmation of plans when Secret Service members told him "The president's coming, come hell or high water."

Clearwater branched off in his story to reminisce about the time Reagan was determined to get to the ranch despite a severe storm. "He had a brand-new 1977 Mercury and decided to come up during a belly-washer. He got down to the last crossing (where a creek flows over the roadway) and sat there for two hours. He couldn't go either way. An Edison Co. truck came by and pulled the Mercury through. The water went over the top and through the car and got it all muddy. That shows you the kind of guy he is."

Back to the queen's visit:

"The weather was so bad (the day she arrived), you couldn't see 100 feet. I knew they were there because the

president borrowed a couple of chairs from us," Clearwater said, noting he lives in a new house nearby on the ranch.

"I went down to talk to them. Mrs. Reagan felt so bad. The wind had blown down all the primroses (30 pots of them grown by friends in Santa Barbara just for the occasion) . . . We were within 100 yards of them (the queen, Prince Philip, Mrs. Reagan and the president), but I couldn't have seen them if I were a hundred feet from them . . . I saw the queen on television. That's how I saw the queen."

Then there was the time the Internal Revenue Service said Reagan did not have enough cattle on the 688-acre ranch to qualify for a tax category, "so the governor said I won't raise any more except for us," Clearwater said.

The herd dwindled to four, including Duke — a Texas longhorn. Reagan "wanted Duke in with the horses and

about three days later, Duke was gone and no one could find him" despite an intensive search, he said.

Then came a phone call from a neighboring rancher, seven miles down the road, asking, "Do you have a longhorn?" It seems Duke had decided "to head back towards Texas . . . That longhorn can jump any fence anytime he wants to," Clearwater said. Duke was safely transported back to the ranch and subsequently remanded to the cattle area.

Shifting subjects, Clearwater recounted several instances indicating the close relationship between the president and his wife, Nancy. During a slide presentation prepared by photographer Cara Moore, he remembered the canoe Mrs. Reagan gave her husband as an anniversary gift several years ago.

Reagan promptly launched the canoe into the nearby pond named Lake

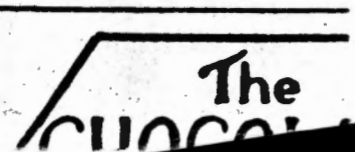
Lucky after Mrs. sank. There he was in the water. But, they got a bigger one, and I he said.

Secret Service fellows," Clearwater surprised to know Lompoc. I'm no many, but quite a

He noted, during "there are always vicemen, a militia an occasional str ranch."

Clearwater is a and was educated in schools. He spent employee of Sout Co. and operated Paula for many years moved to Santa wife, Clo, is a nurse tal.

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the young men to inadvertently intrude onto the Reagan property, which is marked only by a fence. Secret Service agents, who guard the ranch 24 hours a day even when Reagan isn't there, frequently stop those who go onto the property, obtain identification and re- lease them.

Lucky after Mrs. Reagan's mother. "It sank. There he was, up to his neck in water. But, they got another one, a bigger one, and its name is 'Truluv,'" he said.

Secret Servicemen are "awful nice fellows," Clearwater said. "You'd be surprised to know how many are from Lompoc. I'm not going to tell how many, but quite a few live here."

He noted, during presidential visits, "there are always special Secret Servicemen, a military aide, a doctor and an occasional staff member" at the ranch.

Clearwater is a native of Pasadena and was educated in Santa Paula schools. He spent four years as an employee of Southern-Pacific Milling Co. and operated a nursery in Santa Paula for many years. Eventually, he moved to Santa Barbara, where his wife, Clo, is a nurse for a local hospital.

LEBANESE ULTIMATUM REJE

Israel refuse!

United Press International

Israel's chief negotiator to U.S.-led troop withdrawal talks with Lebanon said today Israel refused to negotiate under a Lebanese ultimatum to "increase the temperature" of the talks unless the Jewish state moved toward an accord.

David Kimche, Israel's chief negotiator in the U.S.-led talks with Lebanon, made the statement in the central Israeli seaside town of Netanya at the start of the 24th session of negotiations, state-run Israel Radio said.

Kimché made the remark in response to reports from Beirut quoting Lebanese Foreign Minister Elie Salem saying Lebanon would try to pressure Israel if the Jewish state failed to move toward an accord on troop withdrawals by April 2.

"If there was no agreement, we should create a new method, intensify our efforts, increase the temperature of negotiations," Salem was quoted Thursday by Lebanon's state-run television. "We will work on intensifying our efforts within the American initiative."

Chief Lebanese negotiator Antoine Fattal, however, told Kimche that Salem was misquoted and that there was no Lebanese ultimatum, Israel Radio said.

Fattal's assurances ended the diplomatic sparring in the opening full session of the meeting and negotiators met afterward in the military and mutual relations subcommittees.

WORST ON RECORD

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Itching for Some Action

Up at the ranch, a restless Reagan is reading, not riding

Day after day, network crews restlessly peer down from their perch in the Santa Ynez Mountains, looking for photo opportunities at the adobe ranch buildings three miles distant that serve as Ronald Reagan's Western White House. But thick swirls of morning fog and shimmering waves of afternoon heat obscure their camera view, and the subject stays half hidden in the shade.

Reagan, who on earlier summer retreats to his beloved Rancho del Cielo chopped wood and bagged rattlesnakes with photogenic robustness, has had his exercise restricted to leisurely strolls with his wife. On doctors' orders, the cowboy President has forsaken his horse for a Jeep. He must, in his doctors' phrase, permit his body's "cement" to harden properly after major surgery last July for a cancerous polyp in his bowel. The former lifeguard, once cheerily vain about his lifelong "coat of tan," has given up his morning sunbaths and wears a broad-brimmed straw hat to protect his face. These are also doctors' orders, aimed at preventing a recurrence of the skin cancer that was scraped from his nose last month.

Reagan dutifully follows his prescribed regimen, say his aides, but he is beginning to bridle. Sighs one aide: "If the President had his way, he would have ridden a horse from Point Mugu [the Naval air station some 60 miles away, where Air Force One lands] to the ranch." Reagan at least had plenty of time to read the stacks of briefing papers National Security Adviser Robert McFarlane keeps feeding him in preparation for the November summit in Geneva. The papers range from an analysis of the Russian psyche to a synopsis of superpower relations over the past 15 years. Reagan also found time to indulge his taste for Louis L'Amour westerns.

The First Lady has always been a good sport about the rustic pleasures of Rancho del Cielo, but she has been unable to conceal her preference for palling about with old chums like Socialite Betsy Bloomingdale in more citified surroundings. Last week Nancy got a chance to sample the glitzy social whirl of Beverly Hills when the Reagans came down off the mountain for a three-day sojourn in lotus land. They hobnobbed at dinner parties with old Hollywood cronies like Jimmy Stewart and ate chicken with three of their children (Maureen was in Sacramento) in a \$3,000-a-night presidential suite at the Century Plaza Hotel. The First Couple then returned to the 688-acre ranch for another lazy week. By the time the Reagans climb aboard Air Force One for the flight back to Washing-

ton this weekend, they will have spent 200 days—more than half a year—at the ranch since Reagan took office in 1981.

For Reagan's aides, camped out in Santa Barbara, some 30 miles down the mountain from the ranch, it was time to take marching orders from Chief of Staff Donald Regan, who has emerged as the undisputed boss in a once loose



In cowboy duds, but out of the saddle and in the shade
Time to let his body's "cement" harden properly.

hierarchy of advisers. White House staffers have been noticeably less leaky this summer as they dine on the expense accounts of the news-hungry White House press corps. Only McFarlane has managed to retain some autonomy, by virtue of his foreign policy expertise and willingness to speak out.

At a publicly staged strategy session, Regan's staff tried to break the August ennui and make a few headlines with some brave talk of a fall offensive. Come September, they declared, the President will barnstorm across the country rousing grass-roots support for his tax-reform package; back at the White House, he will fairly itch to veto budget-busting appropriations bills.

Congress, which skulked out of town

at the end of July in a sullen mood after taking a feeble poke at deficit reduction, may have other plans. Pressure is building on Capitol Hill to take a tougher stance against South Africa's policy of apartheid, as well as to fight off foreign trade competition with protectionist legislation. Already, some 200 bills calling for higher tariffs or import quotas are sitting in the congressional hopper. In mid-September comes the annual sideshow of raising the federal debt ceiling, now set by law at \$1.82 trillion. Congressional conservatives are sure to make a noisy scene before approving the increase.

When the Congressmen get finished wringing their hands over the burgeoning federal debt, they will return to spending more money, voting on 13 appropriations bills. A prime candidate for a presidential veto is the farm bill, which will swell as this summer's bumper crops force ever larger price supports.

Reagan has actually wielded his veto pen less freely than his predecessors (only four times in his first term, in contrast to Jerry Ford's 66 vetoes in just 30 months). But the changing of the White House guard augurs a more hard-line stance toward the Hill. Former Budget Director David Stockman "was always the type who wanted to deal, and [former Chief of Staff James] Baker let him," scoffs a senior White House official. The new regime under Regan will not be so accommodating. "Every poll will tell you that the American people want federal spending curbed," says Regan. "That's what we'll be trying to do working with Congress this fall."

Confrontation is a risky strategy. If Reagan is too veto-happy, he stands to lose the congressional support he needs for tax reform. Indeed, given all the distractions already preoccupying Congressmen, it is hard to see how they will have time to take on highly controversial tax reform.

Nonetheless, Reagan appears undaunted. At a \$1,000-a-plate G.O.P. fund raiser in Los Angeles last week, the President reassured the faithful that the Reagan Revolution was still on track. Speaking from a podium adorned with old show-biz buddies like Roy Rogers, Fred MacMurray and Charlton Heston, Reagan glibed at those "who think our second term is going to be nothing more than a holding action. Well," he grinned, "to borrow a phrase from the '84 campaign, 'You ain't seen nothin' yet!'" Though still a few pounds thinner than in his presurgery days, the President seemed in good voice and high spirits, eager to seize the reins of Government once again. Or at the very least, the reins of his horse.

—By Evan Thomas.
Reported by Barrett Seaman/Santa Barbara

FF-29-85

'First Foreman' runs ranch after own write-in campaign

By Jerry Rankin
News-Press Staff Writer

Economy is the watchword at President Reagan's ranch — particularly if you're new foreman Courtney A. Trisler and you can rustle up a \$32 savings on four new Roughneck garbage cans down at the neighborhood TG&Y.

Trisler's been on the job at Rancho del Cielo only since April, but the president counts on him to buy the necessities, which recently included some of those plastic garbage cans.

In an interview with the News-

Press at the president's ranch, Trisler said that just like his boss — known far and wide as a tight man with a federal dollar — he looks for bargains:

"You see buys, like the Roughneck trash can ... on sale at TG&Y. They're regularly \$15.99, (on sale for) \$9.99, and you can get a \$2 rebate, so that brings it down to \$7.99.

"I bought four of them — they hold up and the price is right."

He also knows where to shop, noting that if he'd driven down to another location the cost would have been \$26 each.

If it sounds like the science behind his operations: He holds a bachelor's degree from Cal Poly-Pomona in animal science.

And while his boss spent time in Hollywood during his career, Trisler is one of those who can claim to have been in the movie capital — emerged there 50 years ago in near Sunset Boulevard.

Trisler actually met the president in the early 1960s — when he owned a Malibu ranch, worked 17 years at the spread near Westlake Village by the family of the married Harvey Mudd College graduate, a familiar frame of reference for the presidential ranch up.

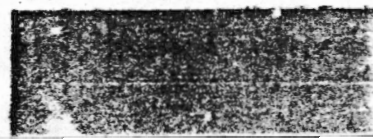
How do you become a man for the president — the nation's "First Foreman"?
"One of my daughters,"

See Page

Plane tows greetings over ranch to Reagans

If he glanced up from his Thanksgiving turkey, President Reagan may have seen a big banner of holiday greetings towed by a little airplane dodging through the clouds near his Refugio Canyon ranch.

Bad weather dogged pilot Pete Cottle in his Bellanca Scout as he chugged over the ranch twice at about 5,000 feet about 1:30 p.m. He had planned to spend about 10 minutes circling the ranch, but the clouds rolling in after a brief bout of



Reagan's top ranch han

Continued from Page A-1
ka, told me about it, that Lee Clearwater had passed away." (Clearwater, the only other foreman since Reagan bought the ranch in 1974, died last March.) "So I wrote a letter:

'Dear Mr. President:

'I'm sorry to hear your ranch foreman passed away. I would like to be your ranch foreman.

'Sincerely, Courtney Trisler.'

"I (also) put on the back that I went to school at Cal Poly-Pomona and Pierce College. I just put down one reference . . . because I knew that nobody could question my work at the Saddle Rock Ranch, and the president knew the place.

'Come on out'

"I did mention that I had been a real estate broker, a general contractor and landscape contractor . . . and that was it.

"A week later, I got a telephone call back from some aides and they said, 'Come on out to the ranch,' and I came out here and they showed me the ranch and asked me what my situation was.

"Then I was interviewed by the president. He called Nancy, and I sat next to him and she sat across from me. The conversation was (like), 'It's been a long time since I've seen you, Courtney.' I brought up the Chumash Indian cave (at Saddle Rock) that I was interested in.

"He turned to Nancy and said, 'Remember when we saw the cave?' and she said, 'Yes.'

Direct-mail method

"Then he asked me about tractors and horses and I told him my main field was horse production and that Saddle Rock was very similar

that frames Reagan's personality, and he feels that's one reason the two hooked up:

"It's just being yourself; everybody's equal no matter who you are. You're just as equal as I am, or the president or anybody else.

"I was more excited about the job and (look) on Ronald Reagan not as president or anything. I respect him for his job and what he does, (but) he's Ronald Reagan the person."

Trisler calls his boss "an expert horseman. There's no question about it — the way he handles a horse, the way he grooms a horse . . . he does know animals.

"Even on hay crops and things like this, he's right up on things."

A real worker

Trisler said that White House press statements that the president is doing chores around the ranch reflect simple reality — Reagan may trim a tree in his front yard, chop firewood, or paint a metal rooster he designed.

And the foreman shares Reagan's feelings when he explains the lure of the presidential retreat 2,200 feet up a narrow, dangerous road at the top of Refugio Canyon 30 miles west of Santa Barbara. He even uses some of the same words as the boss in

'Even on hay crops and things like this, he's right up on things.'

**— Courtney Trisler
Rancho foreman**

trying to describe the inner content.

(aka The Lone Ra

It was a place school student could write a race future — as a race typed it up, slapped horse and cowboy and got an A.

Like Reagan, he with things of the Indian lore. Trisler of time and effort federal protection cave caught up in and he is optimistic served.

His days at generally begin a hungry presidential staring at the front house the president years ago to repair house trailer for the presidential rear sliding door What's he do?

"Just ranch a horse to grow cleaning up maintenance to cleaning planning what with the cattle on what type of property . . ."

Bull named 'D'

For example, the chilly ranch piled three dogs photographer open and ancient treasures (the work but everything bounced around hay to the horse

Reagan once to help qualify property tax br

(like), it's been a long time since I've seen you, Courtney.' I brought up the Chumash Indian cave (at Saddle Rock) that I was interested in.

He turned to Nancy and said, 'Remember when we saw the cave?' and she said, 'Yes.'

Direct-mail method

"Then he asked me about tractors and horses and I told him my main field was horse production and that Saddle Rock was very similar to this ranch.

"A few days went by . . . and then I got notice I had the job."

(Clearwater had used the same direct-mail method in landing the same job when then-Gov. Reagan left office and bought the 688-acre ranch in late 1974.)

Trisler actually had quit ranching in 1976 and in recent years worked in building maintenance at Litton Industries. He noted with a smile that when he quit that job, "Somebody said, 'Where are you going?' and I said, 'To the president's ranch.' They said that was really great and everything.

"The last day, I was walking down the halls saying goodbye . . . and they said (again), 'Where are you going?' and I said, 'To work for the president.' And they said, 'We thought you were joking!'"

Personal approach

Trisler reflects the same western ethic of openness and directness

of the same words as the boss in

'Even on hay crops and things like this, he's right up on things.'

— Courtney Trisler
Rancho foreman

trying to describe the inner contentment:

"It's fun, it's exciting, it's adventurous every day. Ranch life and nature itself and the altitude gives you relaxation, it closes off everything from the world.

"You get up here and you just cut everything off. You still work, but you enjoy the work."

Vision of future

Trisler, who is divorced and has two daughters, grew up in Culver City and remembers the San Fernando Valley when it stood for an idyllic blend of urban and rural and wasn't used by Santa Barbara-style politicians as an example of growth gone amok.

It was a place where a 10-year-old Courtney Trisler could go to a Halloween party dressed as a Cub Scout and ride ponies, wind up at the race track as a 16-year-old in charge of valuable race horses, and go riding as a young man in the valley with that masked man Clayton Moore

Bull named 'C
For example, the chilly ranch piled three dogs photographer i open and ancier treasures (the s work but everyt bounced around hay to the horse

Reagan once i to help qualify property tax bre the ranch's ag status, but that including "Duke cho Texas Longt jumped a four-f

Pitch-forking ture on a windy teed to attrac crowd, which in horses, led by t dential steed, E

Trisler is all sister and her expected for Th careful not to Family's private present armed n ed equipment th 24 hours a day.

no pictures are president's mod

He pauses, s and admits, "I mountaintop."

Plane tows greetings

Continued from Page A-1
House press corps in Santa Barbara advised of his plans.

When he finally got off the ground and flew over the ranch, he also flew to Santa Barbara so photographers could get pictures, and the clouds closed in again, preventing him from a return engagement on his way back to the Santa Ynez Airport

anyone on the ground saw him.

The weather on the ground was dismal — cold and damp and windy. The White House press office announcement for the day noted the fog clinging to the mountaintop.

Inside, however, all was warm and cozy for Reagan as he dined with his brother, three children and their families — a group of 12 in all. A fire crackled in the fireplace as



"I was more excited about the job and (look) on Ronald Reagan not as president or anything. I respect him for his job and what he does, (but) he's Ronald Reagan the person."

Trisler calls his boss "an expert horseman. There's no question about it — the way he handles a horse, the way he grooms a horse, the way he walks around a horse . . . he does know animals."

"Even on hay crops and things like this, he's right up on things."

A real worker

Trisler said that White House press statements that the president is doing chores around the ranch reflect simple reality — Reagan may trim a tree in his front yard, chop firewood, or paint a metal rooster he designed.

And the foreman shares Reagan's feelings when he explains the lure of the presidential retreat 2,200 feet up a narrow, dangerous road at the top of Refugio Canyon 30 miles west of Santa Barbara. He even uses some of the same words as the boss in

'Even on hay crops and things like this, he's right up on things.'

— Courtney Trisler
Rancho foreman

trying to describe the inner content.

and got an A.

Like Reagan, he has a fascination with things of the West, such as Indian lore. Trisler has spent a lot of time and effort seeking state and federal protection for that Chumash cave caught up in the urban crush, and he is optimistic it will be preserved.

His days at Rancho del Cielo generally begin early, with the hungry presidential horses lined up staring at the front window of the house the president built a couple of years ago to replace the previous house trailer for the foreman — and the presidential dogs peering in the rear sliding door.

What's he do?

"Just ranch chores — from riding a horse to grooming a horse to cleaning up manure to painting a fence to cleaning your own house to planning what you're going to do with the cattle to making decisions on what type of plants go on the property . . ."

Bull named 'Duke'

For example, as dusk settled over the chilly ranch on this day, Trisler piled three dogs, a reporter and a photographer into the battered, open and ancient red Jeep Reagan treasures (the speedometer doesn't work but everything else does) and bounced around the ranch feeding hay to the horses and cattle.

Reagan once ran 22 head of cattle to help qualify for the big state property tax break he enjoys under

may have given the Chinese an inside look at U.S. policy during the Vietnam War.

Chin supplied Peking with classified documents so voluminous it took translators two months to process each secret shipment, an FBI agent testified in court Wednesday.

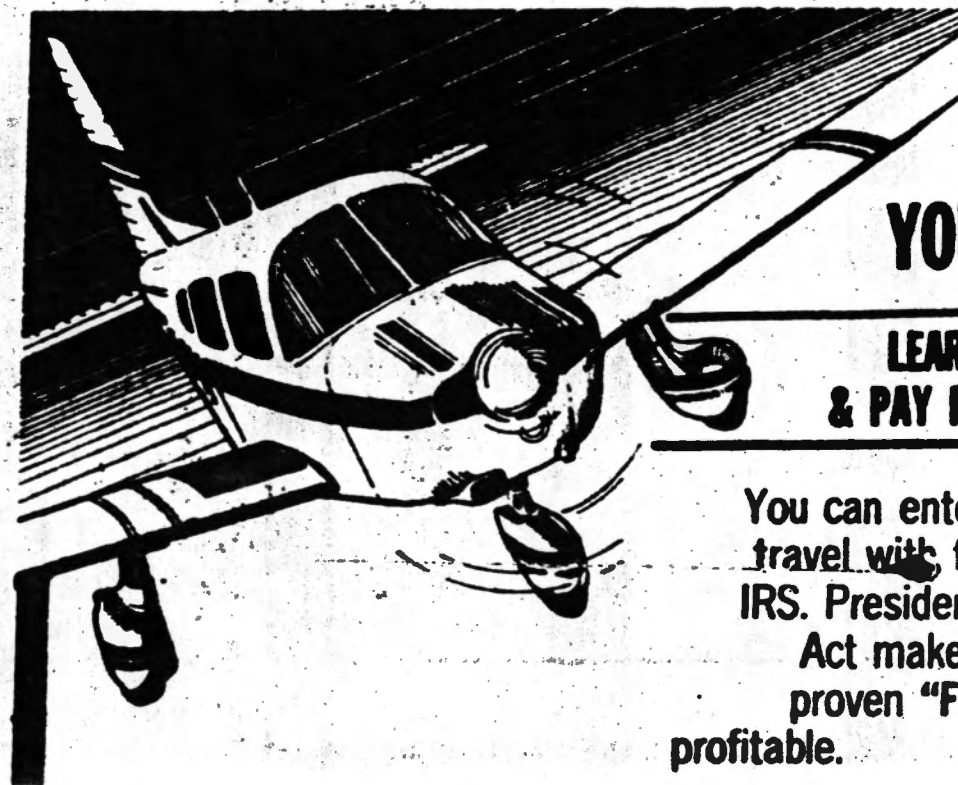
Because Chin was one of the few CIA employees who spoke fluent Chinese, the agency routinely asked him to translate documents pilfered from the Chinese government.

Knowing where documents were being stolen may have enabled the Chinese to plug most intelligence leaks to the United States, officials said.

meeting daily on the co
According to the
Times, Israeli televisio
Thursday night that the
prepared to return to
States the hundreds of
Pollard is said to have

The diplomats were w
unit called LEKEM, a He
nym which stands for the
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stressed that Israel's pol
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'Even on hay crops and things like this, he's right up on things.'

— **Courtney Trisler**
Rancho foreman

trying to describe the inner contentment:

"It's fun, it's exciting, it's adventurous every day. Ranch life and nature itself and the altitude gives you relaxation, it closes off everything from the world.

"You get up here and you just cut everything off. You still work, but you enjoy the work."

Vision of future

Trisler, who is divorced and has two daughters, grew up in Culver City and remembers the San Fernando Valley when it stood for an idyllic blend of urban and rural and wasn't used by Santa Barbara-style politicians as an example of growth gone amok.

It was a place where a 10-year-old Courtney Trisler could go to a Halloween party dressed as a Cub Scout and ride ponies, wind up at the race track as a 16-year-old in charge of valuable race horses, and go riding as a young man in the valley with that masked man Clayton Moore

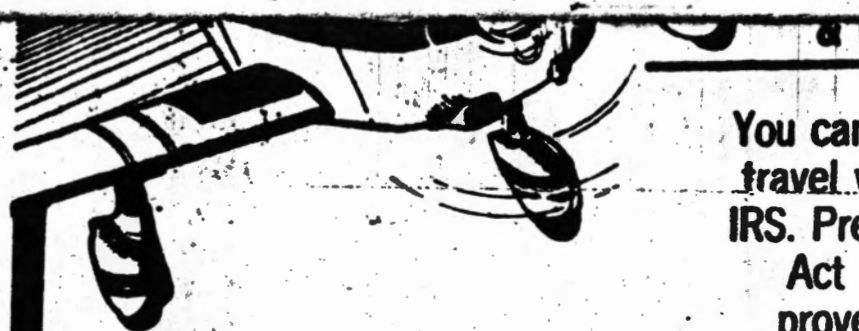
the Emily taken on this day, Trisler piled three dogs, a reporter and a photographer into the battered, open and ancient red Jeep Reagan treasures (the speedometer doesn't work but everything else does) and bounced around the ranch feeding hay to the horses and cattle.

Reagan once ran 22 head of cattle to help qualify for the big state property tax break he enjoys under the ranch's agricultural preserve status, but that's down to eight — including "Duke," a decidedly macho Texas Longhorn steer that once jumped a four-foot fence.

Pitch-forking hay around the pasture on a windy fall night is guaranteed to attract the four-footed crowd, which included Reagan's six horses, led by the beautiful presidential steed, El Alamein.

Trisler is allowed visitors (his sister and her four children were expected for Thanksgiving) but is careful not to discuss the First Family's private lives, nor the ever-present armed men and sophisticated equipment that provide security 24 hours a day. And he makes sure no pictures are taken toward the president's modest home.

He pauses, surveys the solitude and admits, "I love it up on the mountaintop."



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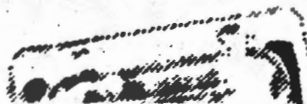
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Los Angeles Times

TUESDAY, AUGUST 20, 1996

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Part of Reagan's Legend Goes Up for Sale

■ **Real estate:** Ailing ex-president no longer visits Santa Barbara ranch.

By PAUL FELDMAN
and BETTINA BOXALL
TIMES STAFF WRITERS

Ronald Reagan's secluded Santa Barbara-area ranch, where the former president often retreated from the pressures of the White House, has been put up for sale, his office announced Monday.

In a brief statement confirming sale rumors, the office said that Reagan, who has Alzheimer's disease and lives in Bel-Air, no longer visits the 680-acre spread that doubled as a Western White House during his administration.

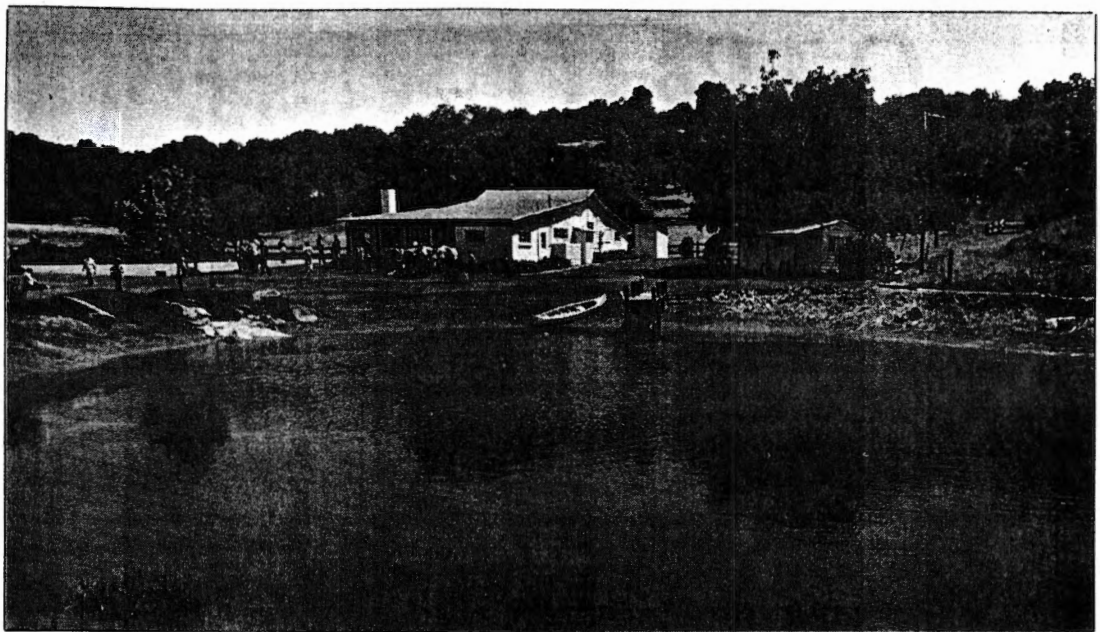
"President and Mrs. Reagan have announced that the Reagan ranch in Santa Barbara has been listed for sale," stated the release.

Please see REAGAN, A10



Santa Barbara News-Press

The Reagans talk to the media on the Santa Barbara ranch in 1985.



JOE KENNEDY / Los Angeles Times

Ronald Reagan's beloved ranch in 1980 in the Santa Ynez Mountains, about 30 miles north of Santa Barbara.

REAGAN: Famed Ranch Put Up for Sale

Continued from A1

"Sadly, since President Reagan's illness, it hasn't been used."

Known as Rancho del Cielo (ranch in the sky), the ranch 29 miles north of Santa Barbara was a familiar backdrop during Reagan's White House years, particularly when the attention of the world centered on the vacationing, jeans-clad president.

Reagan, who owned several ranches before purchasing the property in the 1970s, savored his time at the remote, hilltop retreat in the Santa Ynez Mountains, indulging a long-standing passion for horses and riding.

"When I think of Ronald Reagan, I think of him on the ranch," his son, Michael Reagan, said. "I think of him on a horse."

Michael Reagan, a radio talk show host, said he and his siblings were not consulted about the decision to sell the property.

"It's their ranch and even though we go visit—I go up a couple times a year—it's still their decision to make," he said. "I'd just hope whoever does purchase it will keep his name very visible with it."

Sotheby's International Realty, which is handling the listing and will market the property worldwide, declined to disclose the sales price or otherwise comment on the property. Michael Reagan said he had heard the asking price was in the \$5.95-million range.

While expressing some disappointment at the sale, he said he

could understand why Nancy Reagan would part with the property. "You've got a 700-acre ranch. You're paying for the upkeep and you're not able to use it. You do something about it."

"It's also quite costly to care for someone with a disease," he said. "You have to understand, Ronald Reagan hasn't been able to make a living for the last couple of years. They had an income when he could make speeches."

"Now, they don't have any income except investments made in the blind trust when he was the president," Michael Reagan said. "For so long, people said Ronald Reagan was so rich, but people forget when he was governor, he made \$48,000 a year. They've never been as rich as people thought they'd be."

Bought by the Reagans for a reported \$527,000, the ranch includes a five-room house and a three-room guest house.

During his administration, Reagan countered his status as the nation's oldest president with images of physical vigor at the ranch. He was routinely photographed atop a horse or splitting wood. In retirement, he and Nancy Reagan continued to spend time at the ranch, which Reagan once lovingly described as close to heaven.

In 1992, when he hosted Mikhail S. Gorbachev, Reagan took the former Soviet leader for a tour of the ranch in a Jeep sporting the license plate GIPPER.

Despite such stately visits, Rancho del Cielo remained a rustic spot with a pond, meadow and oak trees.

Kerry Mormann, who owns a Santa Barbara agency that specializes in ranch and large-acreage properties, said that aside from its association with the Reagans, the place is "really a pretty basic property."

It is not a working ranch and has not been lavishly developed. Although the land does have ocean views, the house does not, he said. "We're really talking secluded retreat."

Citing one of his listings—1,200 mountain acres overlooking Santa Barbara for \$2.95 million—Mormann said a \$5-million to \$6-million sales tag for the Reagan ranch sounded high. The big question, he said, was "how much" the Reagan name was worth.

Renee Grubb, manager for Village Properties in Montecito, said the market for big ranch properties has been soft for years. "I think basically people are trying to simplify their lives and not have so much to care for."

Still, she said, "I'm sure because it's [Reagan's], there's going to be some interested parties."

Though Santa Barbara is ho-hum about celebrities, Grubb allowed that "it will be a little sad" when the Reagans no longer have a local address.

Times staff writers Rich Connell and Mack Reed contributed to this story.



The Associated Press

BELOVED RETREAT: Former President Reagan once took former Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev for a bouncing Jeep ride around Rancho del Cielo, shown in a 1983 file photo.

Reagans decide it's time to sell mountain haven

By Jeff Wilson

The Associated Press

SANTA BARBARA — Former President Ronald Reagan and wife Nancy are selling their beloved Rancho del Cielo, the mountaintop retreat that served as the Western White House during the 1980s.

"Sadly, since President Reagan's illness, it hasn't been used," Reagan spokeswoman Joanne Drake said Monday.

The realty agency handling the sale declined to give the asking price for the 688-acre ranch with a view of the Pacific.

"If there's a bona fide buyer who contacts us, we will work with them," said Zachary Wright of Sotheby's Real Estate, Newport Beach.

Please see **REAGANS** on A6

REAGANS: No asking price disclosed

Continued from A1

The sale of Rancho del Cielo (Ranch in the Sky) is another sign that Reagan's Alzheimer's disease might be taking its toll.

The onetime California governor and two-term Republican president was absent from his 85th birthday party in February, and Nancy stood in for him at the GOP convention last week in San Diego.

Reagan clearly enjoyed spending time at the ranch, in the Santa Ynez Mountains north of Santa Barbara. He went there often during his presidency, shedding his suit for a plaid shirt and getting photographed chopping wood or horse riding.

After departing Washington he would head up about once a month from his home in Bel-Air, a two-hour drive.

"We relax at the ranch, which if not Heaven itself, probably has the same ZIP code," Reagan wrote in a 1992 40th wedding anniversary tribute to his wife.

"Nothing draws a couple closer together than to find a pretty spot, maybe a ukulele and a canoe — Nancy's idea of the perfect romantic setting — and share happy thoughts of the past,"

Reagan wrote.

Reagan built the ranch's lake dubbed "Lake Lucky" as well as its wooden horse corrals, an exploit "The Gipper" once proudly announced to former Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev on a 1992 visit.

Reagan got behind the wheel of his Jeep during the visit and took Gorbachev for a bouncing ride across meadows and through stands of towering oaks.

"I love the dappled look on the ground when the sun comes through," Reagan told The Associated Press in 1990.

The Reagans bought the ranch 22 years ago for \$480,000, shortly before he completed his second term as governor.

The ranch was where the Reagans spent Christmas year after year, dining on turkey inside the small, 105-year-old adobe house or adjacent guest cottage.

The twisting 12-mile road that leads to the ranch gate can wash out during rainy winters. That happened when Britain's Queen Elizabeth arrived for a visit in the 1980s, leaving her no choice but to charge up the muddy road in a four-wheel-drive vehicle.



Associated Press

Former President Reagan and his wife, Nancy, are selling Rancho del Cielo, which often served as the western White House in the '80s.

Reagans place ranch home in Santa Barbara up for sale

By Jeff Wilson
Associated Press

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EDITORIALS

Memories for sale

REAGAN RANCH:

Property will forever be a reminder of presidential vigor.

It's been nearly eight years since Ronald Reagan left the presidency, long enough for memories of his two terms in office to blur. The former president and his wife remained in the public eye for a time after they left Washington, traveling and speaking, but that ended when Mr. Reagan began showing symptoms of Alzheimer's disease. The silence that followed has further dimmed the public's recollection of those years.

Memories were rekindled last week during the Republican National Convention, when Nancy Reagan moved the audience to tears during a tribute to her husband. A less poetic reminder came with this week's revelation that Rancho del Cielo, the Reagans' "Ranch of the Sky" in the mountains above Santa Barbara, has been put up for sale.

During the Reagan presidency the mountaintop ranch served as the Western White House, bringing Washington reporters in droves to camp out at the hotels along Santa Barbara's beachfront. The First Family's vacation departures and arrivals at the Point Mugu Naval air

base near Oxnard, sometimes accompanied by motorcade journeys along Highway 101, also brought flurries of national media attention to Ventura County.

Those visits provided some memorable scenes: Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev bouncing around the 688-acre spread in a Jeep piloted by the president; Britain's Queen Elizabeth slogging through mud in a four-wheel drive truck after torrential rains washed out the ranch road.

Regardless of your opinion of his politics, it was always reassuring to see President Reagan chopping wood, clearing brush and riding horseback at the ranch, living out a private version of the Western fantasy and displaying a fitness that belied his age. During such times, the president seemed to embody the very qualities the nation values in itself: Youthful vigor, optimism, a practical do-it-yourself attitude.

The Reagans no longer visit the ranch, because of the former president's illness, and so the property is on the market. It is a sad reminder that age and infirmity have caught up with even the eternally youthful Ronald Reagan. We trust that any future owner of Rancho del Cielo will treat the property with the respect it — and its former residents — are due.

.c The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES (AP) - Gov. Pete Wilson's plan to use \$5 million in federal funds to turn Ronald Reagan's ranch into a state park has been shelved under pressure from neighbors who fought it as a misuse of taxpayer dollars.

Under the plan, the Interior Department would grant California \$5 million to buy the property, 30 miles northwest of Santa Barbara. But neighbors in the conservative area questioned why public money was being used and worried that their county taxes would end up footing the bill for upkeep.

"People just got furious," said Rep. Walter Capps, D-Calif., whose local office received dozens of calls. "I couldn't get through a morning run. People were stopping their cars and saying, 'Please, help us on this.'"

Rep. Ralph Regula, R-Ohio, who chairs the House Interior Appropriations Subcommittee, decided not to submit the proposal this week because of all the local opposition, effectively shelving it for the year.

"We are still hopeful that the ranch can be completed," Sean Walsh, Wilson's deputy chief of staff, said Friday. He said opposition to the project "boggles the mind" and called the \$5 million "a very reasonable price for a facility that will be used by Americans and folks from around the world."

"We are more determined than ever to see that California has a world-class venue to study the presidency of Ronald Reagan and his legacy of ending the Cold War."

Reagan and his wife, Nancy, bought the ranch 23 years ago, shortly before he completed his second term as governor, and named it Rancho del Cielo. Reagan himself helped remodeled the 106-year-old adobe home, a modest 1,300-square-foot abode.

The ranch has been on the market for more than a year, with an asking price of \$5.95 million. There have been no takers.

The Reagans supported the state park idea for the ranch, which was offered for sale shortly after it was announced that Reagan has Alzheimer's disease.

Under the plan, visitors would board vans at Refugio State Beach, 23 miles north of Santa Barbara, for the 12-mile drive up a winding road to the ranch. Further details on what the park would involve have not been publicly discussed.

Locals complained that they never were informed of the proposal, and worried that the county would be stuck with the bill for upgrading a rugged 6.5-mile access road to the out-of-the-way ranch in the Santa Ynez Mountains, Capps said.

Wilson wants to lead a private \$4 million fund-raising drive to endow operation and maintenance of the park. Critics said that money could be used to help purchase the land instead.

"This is Reagan country," said Tim Mahoney, executive director of the Santa Barbara County Taxpayers Association. "All Santa Barbara County was pleased and proud that Ronald Reagan had a ranch here and stayed here."

Reagan's visits as president meant an entourage of press and political aides that filled hotel rooms and cafes, but turning the ranch into a park would take it off the county property tax rolls that fund local schools and roads, Mahoney said.

Walsh said the Wilson administration believes there is no local groundswell of opposition to the ranch purchase but simply concern over specific issues that can be addressed.

"Our view is that this is more of an educational issue for some of the locals and we are endeavoring to educate them," he said.

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CAPITOL JOURNAL

GEORGE SKELTON

Reagan Ranch May Have a Buyer — Us

SANTA BARBARA

Ronald Reagan's beloved mountaintop ranch has been on the market for a year and finally there's a serious buyer—the federal and state governments. You and me.

Dibs on the 1961 great-running Jeep and the mounted head of the pet longhorn. You can have any coyote or tarantula. There are enough stunning vistas—ocean, mountain, Santa Ynez Valley—for all to share. Plus a real good look into the soul of a president.

The deal being brokered is this: Congress appropriates \$5 million. The Interior Department gives that to the state of California. The state buys the 688-acre ranch from the Reagans. Gov. Pete Wilson heads a drive to raise roughly \$4 million from private sources. The fund provides an endowment to finance operation and maintenance of the ranch as a state park.

No state cost. One-time federal cost.

The public drives to Refugio State Beach, 23 miles north of Santa Barbara. It is shuttled in vans up the steep, twisting, narrow seven-mile road to the 2,000-foot high Rancho del Cielo, "ranch in the sky."

People can visit the 100-year-old "main house" that Reagan remodeled with his own hands, a modest, 1,300-square-foot adobe of Western decor that this president preferred over any mansion. Tour the nearby guest house, hay barn, bunk house, tack room.

Stand on the dock at Lake Lucky, a fish pond Reagan built and named after Nancy Reagan's mother. The president would wade in and grab the water snakes Nancy hated and haul them to a neighbor's pond.

Hike along the miles of riding trails, through manzanita and under oak. Pause at "Mt. Rhino," where the ranch's first dog, Rhino, is buried. So is the president's favorite horse, Little Man, along with Mrs. Reagan's No Strings and a dozen other pets. Reagan made all the markers.

The president had a routine. When an old horse looked sickly, he'd lead it to a back corner of the ranch. A vet would provide a lethal injection so the animal could die peacefully. It would be left there for awhile, returning to nature, being used by the coyotes and vultures. Then the bones would be brought to Mt. Rhino.

Pose for a picture at Heart Rock, a large sandstone where family members have carved their initials. You'll find inside one heart "RR + NDR."

□
"This is a great place. You almost expect a leprechaun to jump out," Gov. Wilson said Saturday as he bounced along in the back of the Jeep, past thick woods and brush, dust flying. "I can see why he loved this. It's beautiful up here."

Wilson's wife, Gayle, sat in front with the driver, longtime Reagan ranch sidekick Dennis LeBlanc, a former state cop and now a lobbyist for Pacific Telesis. The governor and I rode on facing bench seats, dodging limbs, tossing off brush and sometimes getting whacked. Neither of us had slept the night before because the Legislature didn't knock off for the year until 7:15 a.m.

But the wary Wilson insisted on keeping his appointment here because this deal is moving fast. He wanted to see the property before the proposal became public. Until now, only a very few have known about it. Soon, however, the Interior Subcommittee of the U.S. House Appropriations Committee will approve the \$5-million grant.

The skids seem greased. "I can't envision any opposition," said the subcommittee chairman, Rep. Ralph Regula (R-Ohio), who also toured the ranch Saturday. "I think President Clinton and the Congress will be very supportive."

Regula, who once was taught by Reagan how to build notched wooden fences, has long advocated public ownership of the ranch. The influential congressman said he has bounced the idea off two key Democrats, Interior Secretary Bruce Babbitt and Sen. Dianne Feinstein, and both are OK with it. Wilson has lobbied the Senate appropriations chairman, Sen. Ted Stevens (R-Alaska), and gotten his support.

"It would be a shame if this weren't made available to the public," said the governor, "because it does say a hell of a lot about Ronald Reagan."

□
Indeed, the ranch not only is historic because it's where a president spent all his vacations, where he entertained Queen Elizabeth during a horrible storm and drove Mikhail Gorbachev around in the Jeep. It's a place that helps explain why Reagan, who loved physical labor, could relate to the working class and create a voter bloc called "Reagan Democrats."

Critics may charge that the government is bailing out the Reagans, who have had the property listed at \$6 million with no takers. To that I say, yeah, could be, and so what? This is a good deal all around.

If Reagan no longer can enjoy it, the public should. Put up a no-trespassing sign for developers. Spare us Presidential Estates along Heart Rock Lane.

Reagan's private retreat may go public

RANCHO DEL CIELO:

Governor's office tells of federal-state deal to buy haven for state park.

By Jeff Wilson

The Associated Press

SANTA BARBARA — Thirteen months after former President Ronald Reagan's beloved Rancho del Cielo went on the market, there appears to be a serious buyer: taxpayers.

A deal in the works has Congress appropriating \$5 million, which the Interior Department will give to the state of California for purchase as a state park, Gov. Pete Wilson's spokesman Sean Walsh said Monday.

Wilson will lead a private \$4 million fund-raising drive to provide an endowment to finance operation and maintenance of the ranch as a state park, said Walsh, who toured the ranch Saturday with Wilson.

"It's just spectacular," he said. "It really taught you a lot about who

Ronald Reagan was. He lived a very simple lifestyle in that cabin."

Reagan spokeswoman Joanne Drake said she was unaware of the details.

Under the proposal, visitors will board vans at Refugio State Beach, 23 miles north of Santa Barbara, for the twisting, 12-mile drive to the ranch.

In August 1996, the former president and his wife Nancy put the former Western White House on the market for \$5.95 million, said Zachary Wright of Sotheby's International Realty, Newport Beach.

"Many people have been shown the property. There has been tremendous interest around the world," Wright said Monday.

Nine months before deciding to sell, Reagan disclosed in a poignant letter that he had Alzheimer's disease. Today, Reagan makes nearly daily trips to his Los Angeles office, but there are no public appearances.

The Reagans bought the ranch 23 years ago for \$480,000, shortly before

"It's just spectacular. It really taught you a lot about who Ronald Reagan was. He lived a very simple life in that cabin."

— Sean Walsh, spokesman for Gov. Pete Wilson

Please see **RANCHO** on A7



The Associated Press

PRESIDENTIAL RETREAT: Former President Ronald Reagan's Rancho del Cielo, shown in a 1983 file photo, could become a state park under a plan announced Monday.

RANCHO: Governor tours property

Continued from A1

he completed his second term as governor. The 106-year-old adobe home, a modest 1,300-square-foot abode, was remodeled by Reagan. There's an even smaller guest house nearby, as well as stables, and a wooden fence framing the buildings.

Lake Lucky, a fish pond Reagan built and named after Nancy Reagan's mother, is also there.

"This is a great place. You almost expect a leprechaun to jump out. I can see why he loved this. It's beautiful up here," Wilson told the *Los Angeles Times* on Saturday as he checked out the property from the back of the Jeep.

"It would be a shame if this weren't made available to the public because it does say a hell of a lot about Ronald Reagan," the governor said.

Wilson wanted to see the prop-

erty before the proposal became public. The Interior Subcommittee of the U.S. House Appropriations Committee was expected to approve the \$5 million grant soon.

"I can't envision any opposition," said subcommittee chairman, Rep. Ralph Regula, R-Ohio, who also toured the ranch Saturday. "I think President Clinton and the Congress will be very supportive."

In a 40th wedding anniversary tribute to Nancy Reagan in 1992, Reagan wrote of his monthly post-White House trips to the ranch: "We relax at the ranch, which, if not Heaven itself, probably has the same ZIP code."

"Nothing draws a couple closer together than to find a pretty spot, maybe a ukulele and a canoe — Nancy's idea of the perfect romantic setting — and share happy thoughts of the past," Reagan wrote.

Reagan ranch as donation possible

PROPOSAL: *Former president's family might want to consider tax advantages.*

Are we being asked to win one for The Gipper? That seems the gist of a proposal to turn Rancho del Cielo into a public park honoring former governor and president Ronald Reagan.

The ranch was President Reagan's favorite retreat during his eight years in the White House, but sadly, Alzheimer's disease is inhibiting his ability to enjoy it during his retirement. So the ranch, located about a half-hour north of Santa Barbara, has been on the real estate market for more than a year, with an asking price of \$5.95 million. Despite its spectacular views of the ocean and islands and its charming rustic luxury, and despite the upsurge in the Southland real estate market, it's not the kind of property that sells quickly.

But now there's a potential buyer: the U.S. taxpayer.

The proposal calls for Uncle Sam to buy the ranch with a \$5 million appropriation from Congress, and for a private campaign — led by Gov. Pete Wilson — to raise another \$4 million, to convert the ranch into a park.

It would be a fitting memorial to Mr. Reagan, whose image remains more of the outdoorsman on horseback than the indoor executive behind a desk. Reagan fans and history buffs could take in the Reagan Presidential Library in

Simi Valley, with its simulated Oval Office and the other trappings of his presidency, and then drive up the coast to see why Rancho del Cielo — the ranch of the sky — was his favorite place to get away from the surroundings of officialdom.

There is, however, a significant difference between the library and the ranch, in terms of public access. The library, with proximity to L.A. and all of Ventura County, was planned to have maximum remote area, near no population centers, and visitors would have to be shuttled up a long, winding mountain road from a parking lot at Refugio State Beach.

In the nature of American politics, spending \$5 million to acquire a piece of property that's been on the market for more than a year will be seen by some partisans as the average taxpayer bailing out the Reagan family. The \$4 million to be raised to convert the ranch into a park would be voluntary gifts, and so exempt from the same objection.

But there may another solution. Since Mr. Reagan bought the ranch 23 years ago, during his second term as governor of California, for only \$480,000, there would be a huge tax to pay if it were sold for \$5 million. But the Reagan family could donate the property as a public park and take a legitimate \$5 million tax writeoff.

However that might affect the family finances, compared with spending \$5 million of the taxpayers' money, such a gift surely would inspire more admiration of Mr. Reagan.

SAN FRANCISCO EXAMINER

SAN FRANCISCO, CA
DAILY 128,736

THURSDAY
SEP 25 1997

BURRELLE'S

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WILEY

Reagan's ranch

Your editorial on the Ronald Reagan ranch ("A park for Reagan," Sept. 22) is about irony. You can find heaps of this stuff gift-wrapped at the Reagan Library. This man campaigned for the presidency on the "outrageous" national debt and promised, if elected, to wipe it out. As president, he tripled the debt for the sake of the military legacy he worships. Ron never met a military salute he didn't covet. The "True Love" name for this taxpayer mountain should be "Star Wars."

CAROLE FREDERICK
Woodside



In the editorial concerning the conversion of Ronald Reagan's ranch, a brief mention is made of the fact that Reagan paid \$480,000 for the property in 1974. Even for 1974 prices, this is an unbelievably low price for more than a square mile of prime coastside property that is worth more than 12 times that figure.

And what was Reagan doing in 1974 when he made this killer deal? Why, he was governor of California. Has Special Prosecutor Kenneth Starr heard about this?

CHARLES KELLY
Fairfax

THURSDAY

SEPTEMBER 25, 1997



GOOD MORNING
Chance of rain. Coast:
79/59. Inland: 92/55.
WEATHER B8

LOCAL

Carpinteria charts its future course

CARPINTERIA A year's effort by 100 people created a vision for the future that is intended to further build on the community's strong points. B1

Family flare-ups have Lompoc police on run

LOMPOC In the past week, police have responded to two family arguments involving armed men. Although an officer was shot at in one incident, there were no injuries in either. B2

STATE & REGION

Gun-control booster has concealed weapon

SACRAMENTO Assemblyman Don Perata, D-Alameda, a gun-control advocate, acknowledged that he carries a concealed weapon. A4

Chelsea Clinton keeping low profile

STANFORD Stanford University students said they're glad Chelsea Clinton and her Secret Service entourage are causing so little fuss. A5

NATION & WORLD

Three get immunity in fund-raising probe

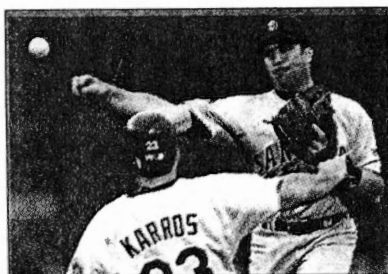
WASHINGTON A House panel investigating Democratic Party campaign fund-raising abuses granted immunity to three key witnesses. A3

Shalikashvili defends base closings plan

WASHINGTON Gen. John M. Shalikashvili, the outgoing Joint Chiefs chairman, said Congress is forcing the military to keep open bases it doesn't need. A6

Woman reaches deal to avoid execution

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES A British woman convicted of murder under Islamic law paid \$1.2 million to escape the death penalty. A8



END IS NEAR
DODGERS, GIANTS
REVERT TO FORM AS
L.A.'S POST-SEASON
HOPES DIM AGAIN
C1



SANTA BARBARA News-

The voice of Santa Barbara County since



Capps



Regula

Angry Capps wants to stop purchase of Reagan ranch

By MARK VAN DE KAMP
NEWS-PRESS STAFF WRITER

The first business Rep. Walter Capps, D-Santa Barbara, did Monday upon returning to Washington, D.C., was to track down an Ohio congressman and give him an earful.

Astonishment registered on the face of Republican Rep. Ralph Regula as Capps told him the proposal to buy former President Ronald Reagan's ranch with \$5 million in federal tax money, and turn it into a state park, is not sitting well with plenty of Santa Barbara County residents — including Capps.

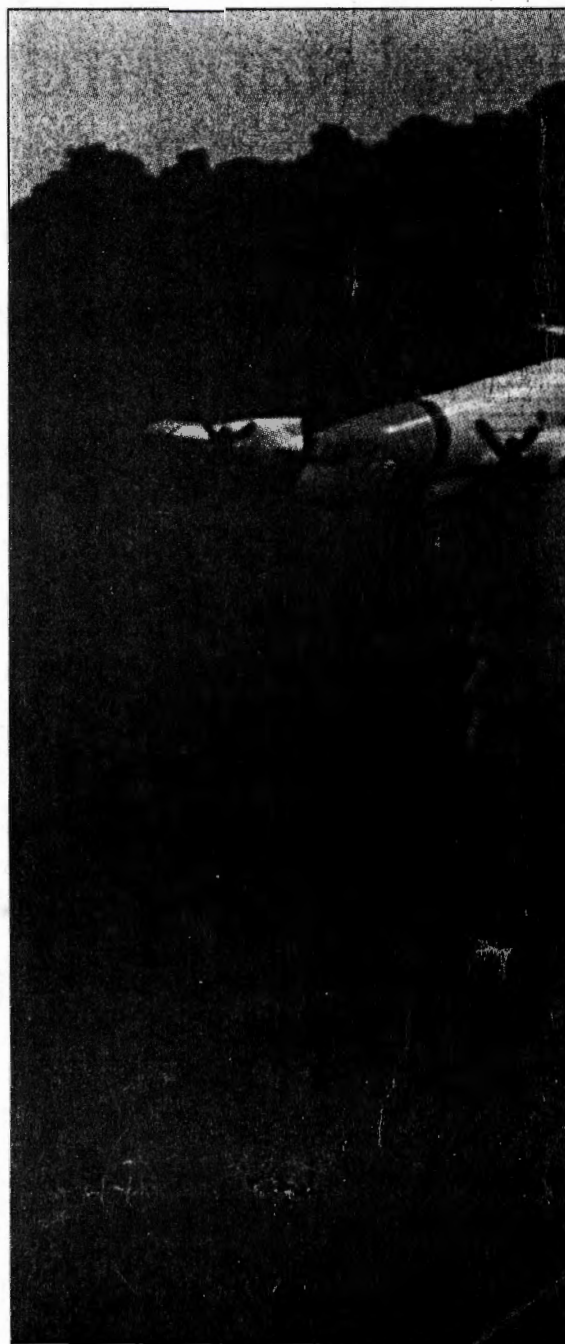
"He was clearly shocked and surprised," Capps said by telephone Wednesday from Washington. "He was under the impression that people in the area want this . . . I don't think he did his homework."

The freshman lawmaker felt compelled to inform the 25-year veteran about what some wags are labeling the "just say no" backlash, a play off former first lady Nancy Reagan's famous anti-drug line. Regula's ranch funding package is heading to a House-Senate conference committee this week.

"We've had as many calls about this as any other topic since I took office, maybe more," said Capps, who met

SEE PROPOSAL ON A12

Dropping in



A blaze burning amid dense chaparral on Gaviota Peak continued to frustrate crews assault led by a Santa Barbara-based Ae



GOOD MORNING
Chance of rain. Coast:
79/59. Inland: 92/55.
WEATHER **B8**

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HOPE'S DIM AGAIN
C1



ARTFULLY BLEND STYLE, FUNCTIONALITY
D1

SLAYING HAD MOVIE ON THEIR MINDS
B1

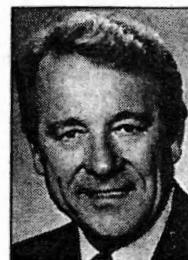
SANTA BARBARA News-Press

The voice of Santa Barbara County since 1855

142ND YEAR, NO. 123



Capps



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Dropping in



3 HMOs ask for standard oversight

They say uniform regulations would help restore confidence in U.S. health care system.

By **ROBERT PEAR**
THE NEW YORK TIMES

WASHINGTON — Three big health maintenance organizations joined two consumer groups Wednesday in calling for more regulation of managed health care, saying that all health plans should be subject to "legally enforceable national

Capps 'just says no' to Reagan ranch

PROPOSAL

Continued from Page A1

constituents throughout the county all weekend before traveling east. "People came up to me, both Democrat and Republican, and expressed real concern about a state park coming into the Reagan ranch property."

The lack of any public hearings for taxpayers and local leaders to voice their concern or support for the pending deal is irritating, people told Capps. Critics of the plan have said public money should not be spent on purchasing Reagan's ranch, especially because he advocated limited government.

Gov. Pete Wilson, who backs the drive to create the park, also received a call from Capps on Wednesday and is expected to reply to him today. Capps anticipates further talks with Regula today, too.

Wilson is on record in support of buying the ranch for a state park and has pledged to lead a private fundraising drive to provide an endowment to operate and maintain it.

The Regulas put their 688-acre Rancho del Cielo up for sale in August 1996 with an asking price of \$5.95 million. There have been nibbles from interested parties, but so far no deal has been struck.

The ranch would be California's 265th state park.

Wilson's office is issuing a "Reagan Ranch Fact Sheet" Wednesday's version said the state would impose

a modest admission fee to help defray operating costs.

"I'm rallying my colleagues here in Congress to raise real questions about this pending purchase," Capps said. "If the people in Santa Barbara County really wanted it, I wouldn't be doing this, but I don't find any well-spring of enthusiasm for it."

Capps said he objects to spending federal money for the ranch.

Regula's spokesman referred all questions to another aide, but that person was busy handling legislation and was unavailable.

Regula has appropriated \$5 million for the Reagan ranch purchase in the \$700 million Interior Department appropriations bill.

As the chairman of the Interior subcommittee of the House Appropriations Committee, Regula could use his power to keep the \$5 million in the package, or to take it out.

"It's only a matter of days until it's through committee," Capps said. "I think we have Mr. Regula's attention. I know he's going through some second thoughts."

The conference committee's vote may not be taken until the first week of October. After that, the legislation will go to the full House and Senate for expected approval, then to President Clinton's desk.

Capps is interested in testifying before the conference committee, but if there is no hearing, he will submit written remarks and those of concerned constituents, an aide said.

Other local Democratic Party

leaders, such as Al Pizano, president of the Santa Barbara Democratic League, have said this is a nonpartisan issue. Capps agrees.

"I respect that Mr. Reagan was our president and lived there at the ranch for nearly one year out of his eight-year presidency. I respect history and the fact that Mr. Gorbachev and Queen Elizabeth II visited there," Capps said.

"But the responses of concern that we're getting are coming from Democrats and Republicans."

Capps is miffed he wasn't told in advance about the pending purchase. He learned of the deal by reading last Tuesday's News-Press, even though fellow Democrat and state Sen. Jack O'Connell of San Luis Obispo knew about it two months ago.

He's also unhappy that Regula and Wilson toured the ranch Sept. 13, without ever informing him of the proposal or of their visit.

"Hey, I'm the congressman in this district," Capps complained.

Regula apologized for the oversight, saying he was under the impression that Capps was up-to-date.

"I told him that I resented the fact that all this happened without any kind of public input," Capps said. "There was no forum, no hearing, and no one from the community had any opportunity to talk about it before it happened."

Regula said he would be willing to attend a hearing, but there's no time for him to come to Santa Barbara.

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Protest thwarts taxpayers' purchase of Reagan ranch

By Robert Jablon

The Associated Press

Local protest has temporarily scuttled a plan to buy Ronald Reagan's ranch for \$5 million in federal money and turn it into a state park, but Gov. Pete Wilson is vowing the effort will continue.

"Our position hasn't changed. We are still hopeful that the ranch can be completed this year," Sean Walsh, Wilson's deputy chief of staff, said Friday. "We are more determined than ever to see that California has a world-class venue to

study the presidency of Ronald Reagan and his legacy of ending the Cold War."

The 688-acre Rancho del Cielo has been on the market for more than a year, with an asking price of \$5.95 million. There have been no takers.

The Republican governor recently revealed a plan under which the Interior Department would grant California \$5 million to buy the property 30 miles northwest of

Please see RANCH on A6

RANCH: Wilson's plans put on hold

Continued from A1

Santa Barbara.

Under the plan, visitors would board vans at Refugio State Beach, 23 miles north of Santa Barbara, for the 12-mile drive up a winding road to the ranch.

The Reagans supported the state park idea for the ranch, which was offered for sale shortly after it was announced that Reagan has Alzheimer's disease.

But publicity about the proposal sparked local protest in the conservative coastal community, according to Rep. Walter Capps, D-Santa Barbara.

His local office received dozens of angry telephone calls.

"People just got furious," Capps said. "I couldn't get through a morning run. People were stopping their cars and saying, 'Please, help us on this.'"

Locals objected to using taxpayer money on the ranch, complained that they never were informed of the proposal, and worried that the county would be stuck with the bill for upgrading a rugged 6.5-mile access road to the out-of-the-way ranch in the Santa Ynez Mountains, Capps said.

"We don't object to the ranch being preserved as a memorial to the former president," the Santa Barbara News-Press said in an editorial last month. "We fail to see why the federal government should step in and buy a property that apparently cannot be sold."

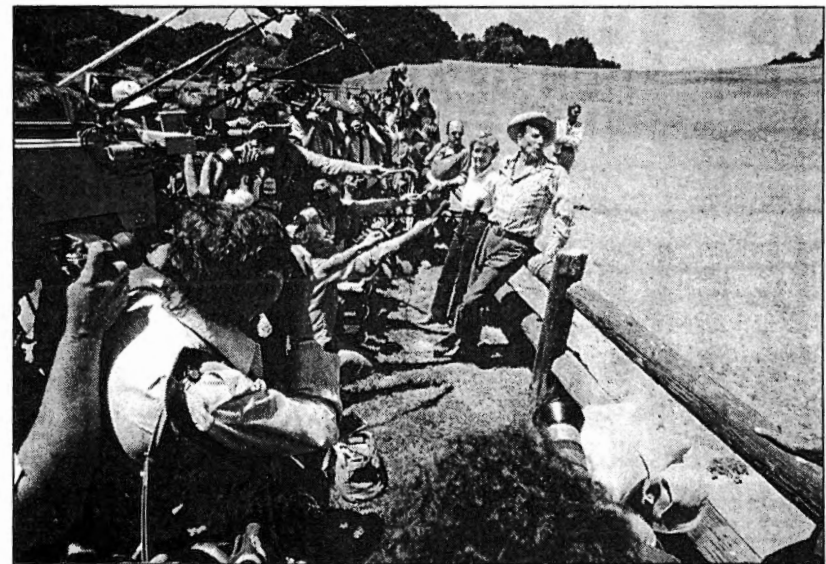
Wilson wants to lead a private \$4 million fund-raising drive to endow operation and maintenance of the park. Critics said that money could be used to help purchase the land instead.

"This is Reagan country," said Tim Mahoney, executive director of the Santa Barbara County Taxpayers Association. "All Santa Barbara County was pleased and proud that Ronald Reagan had a ranch here and stayed here."

Reagan's visits also meant an entourage of press and political aides that filled hotel rooms and cafes, he said.

But turning the ranch into a park would take it off the county property tax rolls that fund local schools and roads, Mahoney said.

Capps sent a letter of opposition to Rep. Ralph Regula, R-Ohio, who chairs the House Interior Appropriations Subcommittee. Regula decided not to submit the issue for



The Associated Press

NOT STATE PARK YET: Then-President Reagan and wife Nancy talk to the news media at their ranch in the Santa Ynez Mountains, Rancho Del Cielo, in this August 1995 photo.

inclusion in the Interior Department budget when a House-Senate conference committee hammered out its version of that budget this week. That absence effectively killed the proposal for the year, said Barbara Wainman, Regula's spokeswoman.

"He never brought this up. He made the decision at some point that he was not going to bring this up" because of local opposition,

Wainman said from Washington.

Regula long had supported the idea of turning the ranch into a site for the public to visit, either as a federal or state park or the property of a private foundation, she added.

"He's got a very personal interest in presidential history ... he thought years ago, probably in the late 1980s, that the Reagan ranch would be a great asset to the public domain," she said.

Reagan wouldn't approve

RANCH: *As president, he fought the kind of land deal his fans now propose.*

There are several reasons the government shouldn't spend even a penny to buy former President Reagan's Santa Barbara County ranch and turn it into a park, but for starters let's examine the one most appealing to historians: irony.

The deal hit the news last month, after Gov. Pete Wilson approached Rep. Ralph Regula of Ohio and proposed that the Department of the Interior give California \$5 million to buy the 688-acre ranch, which has been on the market since August 1996 for \$5.95 million. Wilson pledged to spearhead a \$4 million drive to raise private funds to maintain and operate the rustic property as a state park.

Regula was involved because he's a member of the House Appropriations Committee and chairs its subcommittee on Interior. That makes him the guy to see about tucking an extra \$5 million in the parkland acquisition budget. Wilson took him and a small group of likely boosters on a Jeep tour of the property in September to pitch the idea. Regula says he ran the idea past Interior Secretary Bruce Babbitt, Sen. Dianne Feinstein and Senate Appropriations Committee Chairman Ted Stevens, R-Alaska, and received their support.

The back-room deal received a cooler reception when it became public. The area's congressman, Walter Capps, who died of a heart attack on Tuesday, learned about the development by reading about it in the newspaper. Locals, who relish their privacy, were equally incensed by the prospect of a public park in the neighborhood.

Essay



John Krist

Skeptics of big government — the voters who sent Reagan twice to the governor's mansion and twice to the White House — winced at the proposed use of taxpayer money to expand the federal establishment.

In the face of growing opposition, Wilson and Regula backed off. They have promised to continue pushing the idea, however, and it certainly will return.

To those who remember the 1980s, it is almost comically ironic to think that federal parkland money might be spent on the Reagan ranch. While he was president, Reagan savaged the national park acquisition budget, virtually zeroing out expenditures from the Land and Water Conservation Fund because he was ideologically opposed to expanding the federal park system.

Reagan's interior secretary, James Watt, attempted to remove parkland acquisition money from his agency's budget in 1981 and 1982. Only intervention by Congress — which authorized \$100 million each of those years — kept him from succeeding. Reagan proposed some park spending in 1984, an election year, but his 1986, 1987 and 1988 budgets called for a moratorium on acquisitions.

Reagan may have been the greatest enemy of federal park expansion to occupy the White House in this century. From a historical perspective, it is little short of absurd to propose buying

his ranch with the money he so doggedly refused to spend on behalf of the American people.

There are other reasons the state and federal governments have no business ponying up taxpayer money to turn Rancho del Cielo into a park.

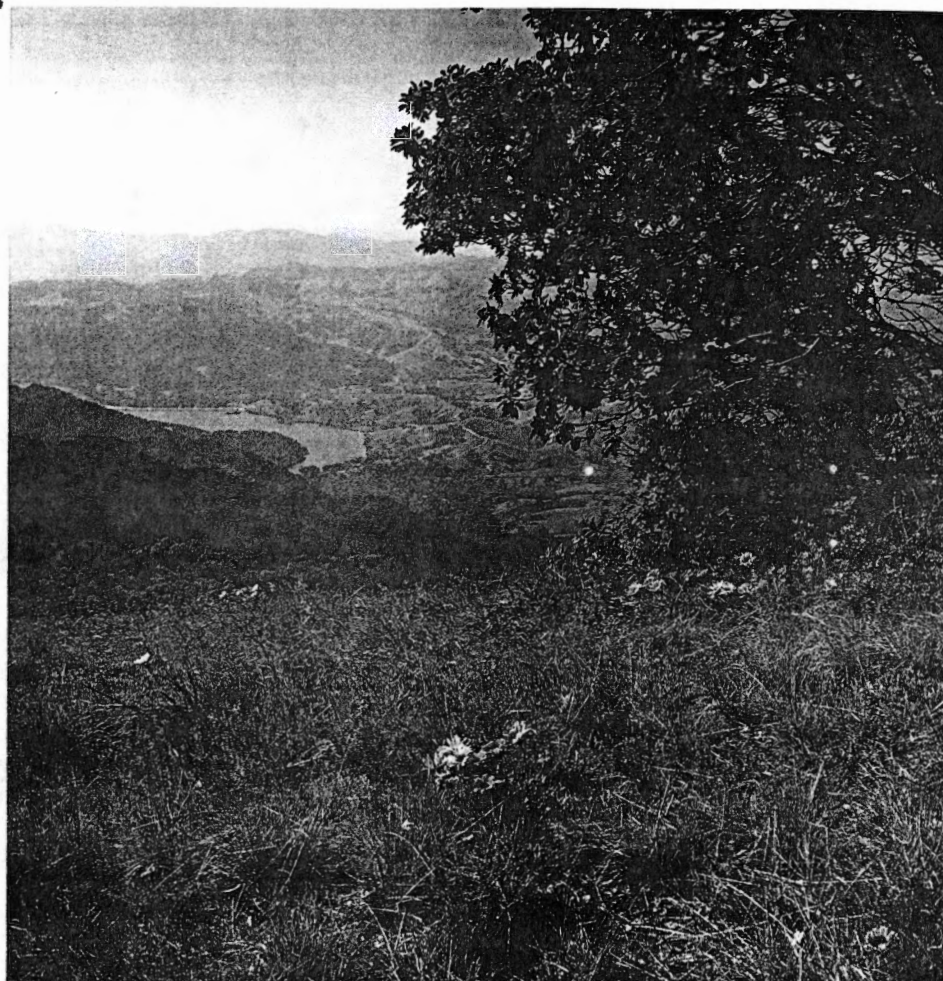
For one thing, the property is remote and access is terrible — England's Queen Elizabeth was very nearly washed out of her motorcade during a rainstorm in the last great El Niño year, 1983, while trying to negotiate the 7-mile road. It would cost far more than Wilson's promised \$4 million to accommodate more than a trickle of visitors.

The property also has no particular natural qualities to recommend its preservation as a park. The views are nice, but it contains no wildlife habitat or other ecological resources that aren't amply represented in nearby Los Padres National Forest (which is so cash-strapped it has begun collecting visitor fees to fix its wrecked campgrounds and washed-out trails).

There are sentimental and cultural reasons to suggest the ranch be preserved and opened to the public, in the way that, say, the boyhood home of Richard Nixon has been preserved. Like other presidential memorabilia, the Nixon birthplace was purchased with private donations. Let Reagan's Ranch in the Sky be protected in the same fashion.

And if Wilson and Regula are looking for a place to spend an extra \$5 million, how about completing the Backbone Trail in the Santa Monica Mountains? It doesn't celebrate a former president, but it's a stunning recreational resource within reach of millions of people.

— John Krist is assistant editor of the Star Opinion pages. His e-mail address is krist@staronline.com.



A Ranch in the Sky

Ronald Varney visits the Californian ranch of Ronald and Nancy Reagan, which is now offered by Sotheby's International Realty

In 1974 Ronald Reagan and his wife Nancy purchased a sprawling 688-acre ranch atop the Santa Ynez Mountains just north of Santa Barbara, California. Here at Rancho del Cielo, Mr Reagan could indulge his lifelong passion for horses, riding, and ranch chores in a magnificent wooded setting, the ranch affording glorious views of the Pacific coastline and the Channel Islands on one side and the fertile Santa Ynez valley on the other side. Mr. Reagan once wrote of the ranch; "If not heaven itself, it probably has the same zip code."

During Mr. Reagan's two-term Presidency in the 1980s, Rancho del Cielo served as the Western White House, and it has continued to be enjoyed by the family

since Mr. Reagan left office. This extraordinary property is now being offered for sale by Sotheby's International Realty.

While the word ranch, especially in the American West, conjures up heroic images of cowboys, cattle herds and vast rugged landscapes, Rancho del Cielo by contrast seems a garden-like haven in the clouds. As one enters the ranch off a private access road at the summit of the Santa Ynez Mountains, one finds oneself in a broad valley with gently rolling meadows fanning out and towering stands of oaks, the climate Mediterranean-like.

Interlacing the property is an extensive network of scenic riding trails. Much of the ranch's acreage comprises gently undulating terrain, with several small

hills and the beginnings of canyons leading down into the valley. At its highest elevation the ranch rises to a majestic height of 2,614 feet above sea level atop the dramatic head of Bald Mountain. A drive about the property on its many criss-crossing trails heightens the dramatic sense of sun-washed idyllic seclusion.

While the ranch as a whole affords exceptional privacy, the charming main residence is fully screened from outside view and beautifully sited alongside a pond equipped with a dock for canoeing. This adobe-style residence, dating from about 1890, is appointed with beam ceilings and has two fireplaces. The residence offers a living room, kitchen, a main bedroom with bath, a staff bedroom with bath and an extended converted porch spanning two sides of the house. Adjacent to the main residence is a two-bedroom guest cottage built in the early-1980s as well as an extensive manager's residence and a tack Barn with three stalls, equipment storage and a large open working area. Additional dependencies on the ranch include a hay barn, a guest mobile home and the former Secret Service Building. The ranch is serviced by underground utilities, two wells and three water storage tanks. Mr. Reagan himself built the ranch's wooden corrals and personally supervised all of the ranch's improvements.

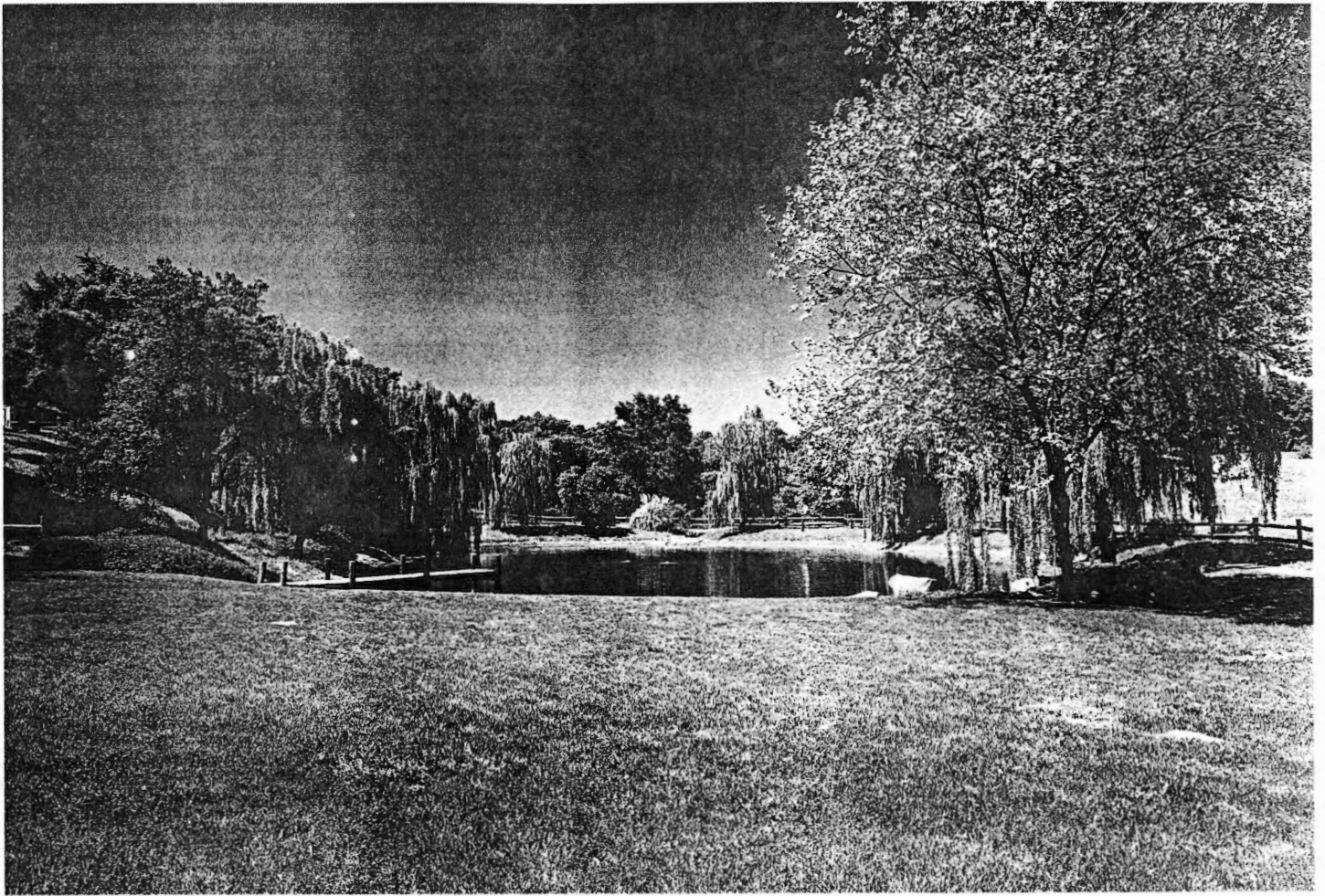
During the Reagans' ownership Rancho del Cielo has received a number of famous visitors including Queen Elizabeth II and the former Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev. However, the ranch has remained a very private retreat, a place where year after year the Reagan family would spend Thanksgiving, and it continues to evoke the simple ranch way of life that Mr. and Mrs. Reagan have always treasured.

Looking down at the Pacific Ocean from high atop a ridge on Rancho del Cielo, one is vividly aware of why the south coast region of Santa Barbara County is one of the most desirable areas to live, not only in Southern California, but in the whole United States.

Ronald Varney is a senior vice president of Sotheby's, New York and a publisher of Preview

Enquiries about Rancho de Cielo may be directed to Zackary Wright of Sotheby's International Realty, 341 Bayside Drive, Newport Beach, CA 92660.

Tel: 714 723 7373 or 808 515 3250. A full colour brochure describing the property is available.



SOTHEBY'S PREVIEW

JULY 1997



Reagans might sell ranch to preserve it

DISCUSSION:
Conservative group wants to buy ranch once used as Western White House and turn it into a tourist attraction.

SANTA BARBARA (AP) — Former President Ronald Reagan and wife Nancy may sell their beloved Rancho del Cielo to a conservative group that wants to preserve the one-time mountaintop Western White House as a tourist attraction.

There have been discussions about purchase of the 688-acre property but no deal has been struck, the president of the nonprofit Young Americans Foundation said Monday from the group's Herndon, Va., headquarters.

"We want to preserve the property. The reason we're interested is because we want to protect and preserve

it," Ron Robinson said. The foundation's board of directors visited the property and "agreed in principal" to buy the property, he said.

But Robinson stressed: "The deal has not been finalized."

The ranch was put on the market in August 1996 for a reported \$5.95 million. Robinson wouldn't disclose terms of the proposed purchase. He added the foundation "wouldn't go ahead with it without the approval of the Reagans."

Joanne Drake, spokeswoman for the Reagans, said she wasn't aware of the Young Americans Foundation pro-

"T*he reason we're interested is because we want to protect and preserve it."*

— **Ron Robinson,**
president, Young Americans
Foundation

posal. The agent handling the property, Zachary Wright of Sotheby's Real Estate, Newport Beach, was out of town Monday and didn't return telephone messages.

Sale of Rancho del Cielo (ranch in the sky) would close another chapter in the life of Reagan, who disclosed in November 1994 that he was diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease. Reagan hasn't been to the ranch for more than three years.

The Reagans celebrate their 46th wedding anniversary Wednesday. In a 40th wedding anniversary tribute to his wife, Reagan wrote of his monthly post-White House trips to the ranch: "We relax at the ranch, which if not Heaven itself, probably has the same ZIP code."

"Nothing draws a couple closer to-

gether than to find a pretty spot, maybe a ukulele and a canoe — Nancy's idea of the perfect romantic setting — and share happy thoughts of the past," Reagan wrote.

The ranch features a man-made lake, built by Reagan, and the wooden corrals for the horses were erected by the Gipper himself, as he proudly announced to former Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev on a 1992 visit.

Winding Refugio Road, which takes guests 12 miles from Highway 101 to Rancho del Cielo, washed out during El Niño storms last month.

Foundation may purchase Reagans' ranch for tourists

Associated Press

SANTA BARBARA — Former President Reagan and wife Nancy might sell their beloved Rancho del Cielo to a conservative group that wants to preserve the onetime mountaintop Western White House as a tourist attraction.

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Winding Refugio Road, which takes guests 12 miles from Highway 101 to Rancho del Cielo, washed out during El Nino storms last month, as it did in 1983 when Britain's Queen Elizabeth forded mud in a four-wheel-drive vehicle to reach the property.

Conservative group ropes Reagan ranch

Sale delights former president, Nancy

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Home was the White House, but Ronald Reagan's heart was in Rancho del Cielo, his California mountaintop hideaway. Now, it is being sold to a conservative group seeking inspiration for a new generation of political leaders.

The Young America's Foundation, which promotes conservative values among high school and college students, purchased the property for an undisclosed price. Sale of the ranch, which had an asking price of \$5.95 million, was to be completed today.

"Ronnie and I are delighted that Young America's Foundation will be the new owners of Rancho del Cielo," Nancy Reagan said in a statement. "We hope that our ranch will be a spark for many bright, young Americans in the years ahead."

Reagan, who at 87 is struggling with Alzheimer's disease, drew strength and inspiration from the 688-acre property in the Santa Ynez mountains. "We relax at the ranch, which if not heaven itself, probably has the same ZIP code," he wrote in 1992.

Two years later, his family announced that Reagan was sick. In August 1996, his beloved ranch — where he was host to such world leaders as Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev and Britain's Queen Elizabeth II — was put on the market.

Reagan still visits his office in Los Angeles frequently and occasionally plays golf. But he and Nancy long ago found it necessary to abandon the ranch.

Rancho del Cielo, Spanish for "Ranch in the Sky," consists of a 106-year-old, 1,300-square-foot adobe house, which Ronald Reagan remodeled, along with a smaller guest house, a man-made lake that Reagan created, stables and a wooden fence.

Nancy Reagan said through a spokeswoman Monday that she was actively involved in the sale negotiations.

"I wanted to be sure that the person or group that bought the ranch would be people that Ronnie would approve of," she said.

Zachary Wright of Sotheby's International Realty said, "It was important to Mrs. Reagan that the ultimate purchaser was someone who would enjoy the property as



Associated Press

Ronald Reagan and his wife, Nancy, saddle up in this 1982 photo.

much as they did and put it to good use."

Marc Short, the foundation's executive director, called the ranch "a breathtaking piece of property" and said the group was buying it with private donations.

"We wish to preserve it and protect it as it is," he said. Short said the foundation wants to have it ready for visits by fall but that it would be used not for classes but as a retreat for young conservatives wishing to continue the Reagan legacy.

"We hope to search out and find other property in the area that

would accompany a conference center," he said.

Joanne Drake, a Reagan spokeswoman, said many home furnishings and some saddles would remain intact, including a bell Reagan sounded to let Nancy know it was time for horseback riding.

Tru Love, the canoe Reagan once rowed on "Lake Lucky" with his wife has been transferred to the Reagan library in Simi Valley.

Reagan and his wife bought the ranch for \$547,000 in 1974 as he was nearing the end of his second term as California's governor.

California and the West

Conservative Group Buys Reagan Ranch

■ **Politics:** Young America's Foundation will use the former Western White House for a leadership program. The price is not disclosed.

By FAYE FIORE
TIMES STAFF WRITER

WASHINGTON—A political group that promotes conservative values on college campuses has purchased the Santa Barbara ranch that was Ronald Reagan's Western White House, and plans to make it the centerpiece of a leadership development program.

The deal was scheduled to close today on the 680-acre spread bought by Young America's Foundation of Fairfax, Va., a 29-year-old group that teaches patriotism, limited government, and other values espoused by the Reagan presidency.

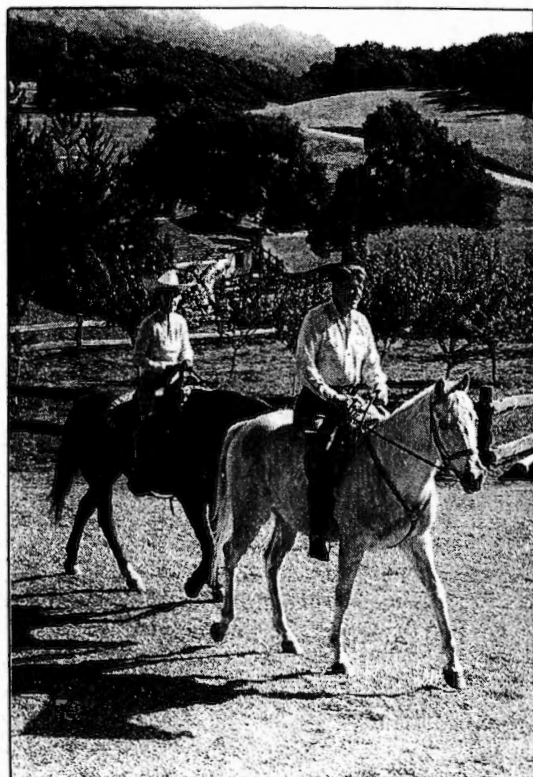
The ranch, beloved by the former president, who once said the property, "if not heaven itself, probably has the same ZIP Code," will be maintained as it was when the Reagans occupied it, officials said.

"Ronnie and I are delighted that Young America's Foundation will be the new owners of Rancho del Cielo," former First Lady Nancy Reagan said. "We hope that our ranch will be a spark for many bright young Americans in the years ahead."

The ranch will become the base for the Ronald Reagan Leadership Development Program, which will be headed by Frank Donatelli, Reagan's former political director. Although various exhibits are planned for the ranch, seminars and similar activities will be held in nearby Santa Barbara in additional space the foundation plans to buy to avoid building conference rooms and altering the historic site, officials said.

"We are tremendously excited to be able to share President Reagan's vision, principles and ideas with America's future leaders at one of the places he loves most," said foundation President Ron Robinson. "Young America's Foundation is committed to preserving and protecting both the Reagan legacy and the ranch itself, which will be maintained just as it was when President and Mrs. Reagan lived there."

Neither the foundation nor Reagan's Bel-Air office would disclose the price finally agreed upon



Reuters

Nancy and Ronald Reagan on ranch in 1996.

in a deal that has been pending since at least late February. But the ranch, in the Santa Ynez Mountains 29 miles north of Santa Barbara, was thought to be overpriced when listed last summer for \$5.95 million. It was rarely shown.

The 87-year-old Reagan, who has Alzheimer's disease, lives in Bel-Air and no longer visits the property, which features wooden corrals he built, a fact he once announced to former Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev on a 1992 visit before the two world leaders toured the area in a sport utility vehicle with the license plate GIPPER.

In another memorable visit, Queen Elizabeth braved mud in a four-wheel-drive vehicle to reach the secluded presidential hideaway.

What should become of the property was a matter of considerable dispute almost from the moment it went up for sale. Although the Reagan faithful cherished memories of the jeans-clad president relaxing and riding on the ranch, many considered the use of taxpayer money to preserve it a violation of Reagan's small-government philosophy.

The deal seems to be the happy ending Mrs. Reagan might have sought—preservation with private money and an investment in the conservative values for which her husband's White House stood.

"It's comforting to know that the ranch we cherish will be preserved and protected in its present state," she said.

Reagan's mountaintop aerie sold

RANCHO DEL CIELO:

Conservative youth group purchases former president's hideaway.

WASHINGTON (AP) — Home was the White House, but Ronald Reagan's heart was in "Rancho del Cielo," his California mountaintop hideaway. Now, it is being sold to a conservative group seeking inspiration for a new generation of political leaders.

The Young America's Foundation, which promotes conservative values among high school and college students, purchased the property for an undisclosed price. Sale of the ranch, which had an asking price of \$5.95 million, was to be completed Tuesday.

"Ronnie and I are delighted that Young America's Foundation will be the new owners of Rancho del Cielo," Nancy Reagan said in a statement. "We hope that our ranch will be a spark for many bright, young Americans in the

years ahead."

Reagan, who at 87 is struggling with Alzheimer's disease, drew strength and inspiration from the 688-acre property in the Santa Ynez Mountains. "We relax at the ranch, which if not Heaven itself, probably has the same ZIP code," he wrote in 1992.

Two years later, his family announced that Reagan was sick. In August 1996, his beloved ranch — where he was host to such world leaders as Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev and Britain's Queen Elizabeth — was put on the market.

Reagan still visits his office in Los Angeles frequently and occasionally plays golf. But he and Nancy long ago found it necessary to abandon the ranch.

"Rancho del Cielo," Spanish for Ranch in the Sky, consists of a 106-year-old, 1,300-square-foot adobe house, which Reagan remodeled, along with a smaller guest house, a manmade lake that Reagan created, stables and a wooden fence.

Wearing his signature cowboy hat, Reagan once spirited Gorbachev around the ranch in his jeep. During that 1992 visit, Reagan proudly told Gorbachev that he had just completed building new wooden horse corrals.

Queen Elizabeth II visited just after heavy rains, and she had to ride a four-wheel-drive vehicle up the 12-mile winding road from U.S. Highway 101 to the ranch house.

Marc Short, the foundation's executive director, called the ranch "a breathtaking piece of property" and said the group was buying it with private donations.

"We wish to preserve it and protect it as it is," he said. Short said the foundation wants to have it ready for visits by fall but that it would be used not for classes but as a retreat for young conservatives wishing to continue the Reagan legacy.

Reagan and his wife bought the ranch for \$547,000 in 1974 as he was nearing the end of his second term as California's governor.

"Today's college campuses are biased toward a liberal ideology. The majority of our programs will be focused on the Reagan era and how he changed the world."

— Marc Short, co-leader of the Young America's Foundation, which bought the Reagan ranch last month

Newlyweds running Reagan ranch

Young America's Foundation hopes to give birth to new conservatism

By Todd S. Purdom
N.Y. Times News Service

SANTA BARBARA — It hangs on a hat rack by the front door, stained with the sweat from chopping wood, clearing brush and building fences, a worn navy blue baseball cap embroidered in gold: "United States Mounted Secret Service." Its owner loved it and resisted his wife's entreaties to retire it.

Now the cap rests inside the old adobe ranch house in the hills above the sea, as if Ronald Reagan had just ducked out for a minute without it. And so, in a sense, he has, constricted by Alzheimer's disease to the tamer precincts of a gated house in Bel Air, the big city 100 miles to the south where he first made his name.

But in the 688-acre patch of paradise 30 miles up the coast from here that he christened Rancho del Cielo, the ranch of the sky, the former president's legacy is lovingly tended these days by a young couple named Marc and Kristen Short, leaders of the Young America's Foundation, a Virginia-based conservative group that bought the ranch last month and plans to use it for leadership seminars to steep college students in the conservative philosophies Reagan celebrated.

"Today's college campuses are biased toward a liberal ideology," said Marc Short, a 28-year-old graduate of Washington and Lee University in Virginia and a veteran of Oliver North's unsuccessful 1994 Senate campaign there.

"The majority of our programs will be focused on the Reagan era and how he changed the world."

Young America's Foundation is a 29-year-old nonprofit descendant of the old Goldwater-era campus conservative group,

Young Americans for Freedom, and its board members include Frank Donatelli, Reagan's former White House political director.

Ambitious plans

With Marc Short as executive director and Kristen Short, 24, as conference director, it has ambitious plans for a \$10 million to \$15 million capital drive to build a conference center to house guests near the ranch so the property can be preserved as it was in the 20-plus years the Reagans spent there, beginning in 1974.

The illness of Reagan, who is now 87, forced the family to stop going to the ranch in the Santa Ynez mountains about three years ago, and Nancy Reagan listed it for sale with Sotheby's for \$5.95 million, a price that most locals dismissed as inflated, given the modest 1,200-square-foot whitewashed house with its aluminum motel-style windows, faux-brick vinyl floor and generally Spartan feel. It drew few bidders.

Gov. Pete Wilson, a Republican, wanted to use \$5 million in federal money to buy it as a state park, to be run with private money, but the late Rep. Walter Capps, D-Santa Barbara, objected that local officials had not been consulted, and the plan foundered.

So the foundation stepped in to buy the place for an undisclosed sum, and Nancy Reagan recently met the Shorts for a three-hour tour of the property, returning dozens of items that she had placed in storage, including the baseball cap, and instructing them on where to hang each picture and place each knick-knack.

The effect is uncanny, and more than a little poignant, with the kitchen spice rack still filled

with jars of poultry seasoning and onion flakes, and a row of pewter mugs and green Mexican glass goblets lining a small bar.

"She was very, very gracious, and when it was over, naturally, there was some emotion," Kristen Short said.

"But she was on a mission, and when it was done, I think she kind of made her peace with it that day."

Souvenirs — and a view

The main house, originally built in the 1890s, consists of two large, open rooms for living and dining, a master bedroom and bath, and a small maid's suite, and it is filled with everything from old bamboo and wicker furniture with Native American cotton print cushions, to an orange Naugahyde wingback chair and ottoman, a bumper pool table, agreeably stained dining room chairs and a refrigerator and electric range finished in that singular 1970s shade known as Harvest Gold.

There is a collection of Kachina dolls and carved wooden elephants, and in the bedroom closet, Reagan's riding boots are lined up in a row, and a tiny blue sateen Dallas Cowboys windbreaker in Reagan's size hangs on a rack.

From the head of the dining table, where the president always sat, there is a lovely view of Lucky Lake, a pond in the yard where the Reagans kept a canoe called the "True Love" that is now on display at the Reagan Library in Simi Valley.

"You see how simple a man the president was," Marc Short said.

"He really came out here to get out of Washington and didn't need a palace."

A few yards from the main building is a small two-bedroom guest house where the Reagan

children stayed and where guests like Queen Elizabeth II and Mikhail Gorbachev were entertained, along with a tiny old trailer covered in siding where Dennis LeBlanc, a former California state trooper who guarded Reagan in his days as governor, stayed when he came to be the president's comrade-in-chores.

Just up a hill behind the house is the tack room, which houses the president's riding saddle, pruning tools and yellow McCulloch chain saw, and nearby is a barn with a big yellow wood chipper emblazoned with the warning, "Work Safely Around the Gipper's Chipper."

Reagans' private preserve

Up another hill is a pet cemetery, with rough headstones carved by Reagan himself; behind the house is a long-defunct two-seater outhouse, complete with crescent moon cutouts.

When the Reagans stayed at the ranch, which they did for some 300 days of his presidency, it was their private preserve and even the senior aides who came to staff the traveling White House seldom went there. "Even Cabinet officers have told us they'd love to come up and talk because they've hardly ever seen it," Marc Short said.

The Shorts said they expect to involve the community in events at the ranch.

For the Shorts, who were married last summer, the new job is a romantic beginning, an adventure in a brand new place. They have rented a townhouse in nearby Goleta, and Marc Short came armed with gifts from his old boss, North: new black cowboy boots and a Beretta shotgun — though he confessed good-naturedly that he neither rides nor shoots.

"I guess," he said with a smile, "I'll be learning."

New hands at the Reagan ranch

Couple tends to legacy of president's retreat, conservative cause

By Todd S. Purdum
The New York Times

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The Shorts said they expect to involve the community in events at the ranch, but have no immediate plans for public tours.

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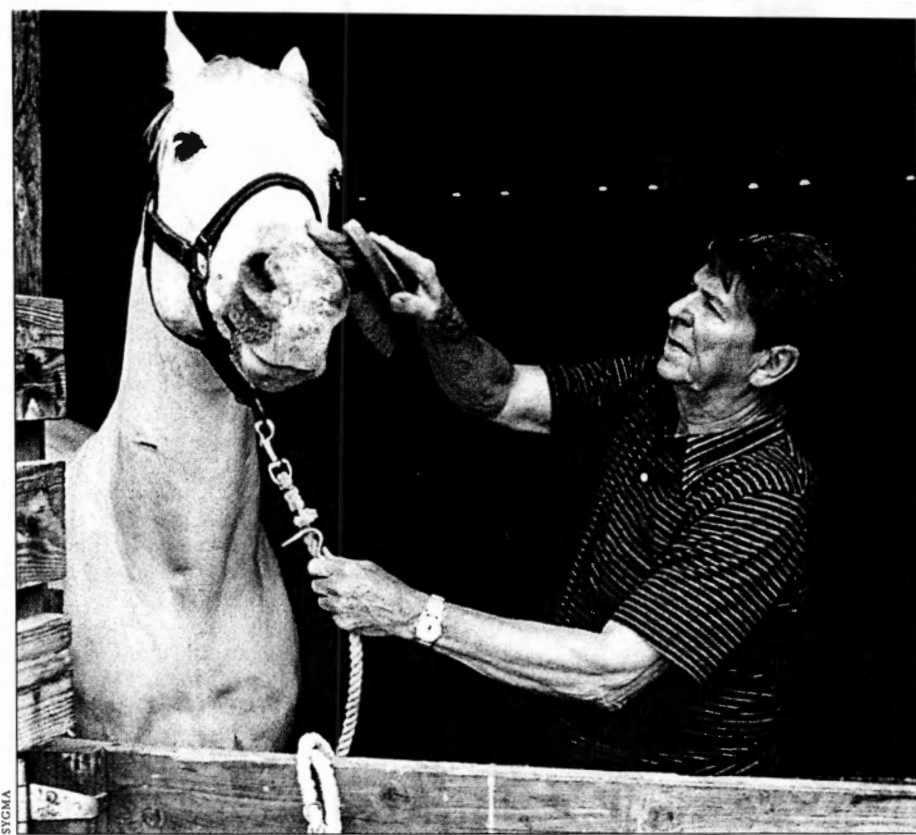
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Century-old building

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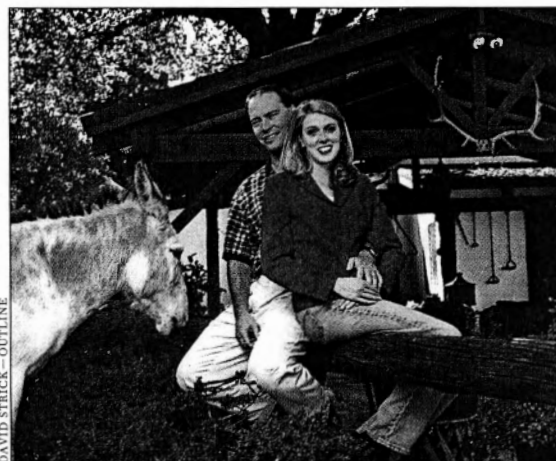
A Reagan Shrine in the Sky

Tending the flame at the Gipper's beloved ranch

BY JOSHUA HAMMER

IT FEELS AS IF HE NEVER LEFT. WANDERING through Rancho del Cielo, Ronald Reagan's old retreat in the hills high above Santa Barbara, Calif., a visitor gets the palpable sense of having walked in on a presidency—and a life—in progress: Reagan's polo shirts, jodhpurs and ball caps still hang in the bedroom closet. Nancy's cowboy boots rest against one wall. A Water Pik sits beside the bathroom sink. In the den, there's a quarter-filled jar of aging jelly beans. You half expect the Gipper himself to come through the front door, tucked out after a long day on the trail.

But that will almost certainly never happen again. Reagan, 87, is cloistered in Bel Air, a victim of Alzheimer's; family friends say that Mrs. Reagan is now the only person he consistently recognizes. Last year the Reagans put Rancho del Cielo ("the Ranch in the Sky") up for sale, and in April the



DAVID STRICK—OUTLINE

Young America's Foundation, a Virginia-based conservative group funded by GOP donors like the late Henry Salvatori, purchased it for an undisclosed sum. (An early asking price was \$5.95 million.) The group plans to turn the 688-acre property in the Santa Ynez Mountains into a rustic shrine, where the grooming of young conservatives will go hand in hand with rugged outdoor activities—a mix of supply side and sidesaddle, thumb-sucking and brush-clearing. "You can't help feeling a different part of President Reagan when you're here," says Marc Short, 28, executive director of the YAF, who moved to Santa Barbara to oversee the project with his wife, Kristen—and who last week gave *NEWSWEEK* a rare tour. "You sense the man's modesty."

It is a place rich in history. In 1974 the then Governor Reagan's friend Bill Wilson located the property for Ronnie and Nancy. After 1980, Rancho del Cielo became Presi-

Jodhpurs and jelly beans: Reagan adored his ranch, a 688-acre spread Marc and Kristen Short (below) are now running

dent Reagan's retreat from Washington; he and Nancy spent about 345 days on the ranch during the White House years. Protected by a 100-man Secret Service detail, Reagan entertained Margaret Thatcher, Queen Elizabeth II and Mikhail Gorbachev here and used the round wooden picnic table out front to sign Reaganomics into law in 1981.

Mostly, though, Reagan came to unwind in a simple setting. The décor is appealingly modest. In the living room of the 106-year-old adobe house, there is a bumper pool table, Indian-style throw rugs on the red tile floor and a bookcase filled with such titles as "The American Heritage Book of Indians." The dining table offers serene views of the pond called Lake Lucky, where the Reagans liked to canoe. The small master bedroom is straight out of the 1970s: yellow walls, ceramic frogs and rotary stand-up phones. The den is decorated with sheep-

skin rugs and an orange Naugahyde chair. Gorbachev, who spent a day with the Reagans here in 1989, came away disappointed. "He didn't think the place was as grand as he'd expected," says Marc Short.

The grandeur was in the landscape. Every morning at 9, Reagan rang a bell by the stables, summoning Nancy for their ride through the scrub-oak forests and meadows above the Pacific. (They were trailed by a military aide with the nuclear codes.) The president rode a white Arabian steed called El Alamein; Nancy's was named No Strings. In the afternoon, the president chopped

wood or cut brush. El Alamein died recently; No Strings passed away in 1992 and is buried in the pet cemetery near the house. Reagan paid his last visit in late 1995. "He was on the pond, going around in his canoe," says ranch caretaker Courtney Trisler. "You could feel how much he enjoyed the place."

The twentysomething Shorts were just children when Reagan took office, but they deeply admire the aging president and are determined to spread the faith. "The colleges don't teach Reagan's legacy," says Marc, who helped run Oliver North's unsuccessful Senate campaign in 1994. The Shorts' five-year plan is to build a dormitory on a nearby property and upgrade an old Secret Service building into a facility where conservative stars can lecture. But pilgrims are more likely to remember the tiny details that evoke a vanished time—the Water Pik, the leather-bound his-and-hers Bibles and the jelly beans, moldering in their jar. ■

Caretakers work to preserve spirit of Reagan's ranch

By Carla Bass

Scripps Howard News Service

Marc and Kristen Short are used to rounding up speakers and participants for events like the 20th annual National Conservative Student Conference in Washington recently.

But the young husband and wife team

said that preparing to round up steers on what used to be former President Ronald Reagan's ranch and personal retreat near Santa Barbara is a little different.

"The part we're going to have to learn about is ranching," said 28-year-old Marc, who had lived in Virginia his entire life before moving to California this spring to care

for the ranch.

The Shorts both work for Young America's Foundation, an organization for conservative college and high school students.

The foundation bought Reagan's ranch, called Rancho del Cielo, for an undisclosed sum in April to preserve as a sort of memorial to the Gipper. It also will be used as part

of the foundation's West Coast headquarters for training, special events and recruiting conservative colleagues.

Marc, as foundation executive director, and Kristen, as conference director, are keepers of the shrine.

Please see **REAGAN RANCH** on A5

REAGAN RANCH

Continued from A1

They oversee the maintenance of the remote 688-acre ranch and the modest 106-year-old adobe home that was sometimes called the "Western White House" during Reagan's eight years in office.

"We hope we can play a small part in protecting the legacy," Marc said. "It's inspiring to be there."

Kristen and Marc met during a foundation conference a few years ago, and both of them ended up working for the group out of its East Coast offices.

The newly married couple said that moving to California has been an adventure, but they enjoyed coming back to Washington for the recent national conference.

"It was great to go back to D.C. and see everybody and be back in the heart of where everything is happening," 24-year-old Kristen said. "On the other hand, there are things that we love about being out here (at the ranch) and we can certainly see why the Reagans would want to escape here from D.C."

Kristen and Marc work out of the foundation's offices in Santa Barbara and live in a nearby town house, but rent a four-wheel drive vehicle and head to the ranch two to three times per week.

They check the condition of the low wooden fence that surrounds the ranch, which Reagan built much of himself. They talk to the ranch foreman about how many and what type of workers the foundation should hire to get the buildings and land back in shape and reintroduce some herds of livestock.

And they soak up the atmosphere of a place that Reagan owned for more than 25 years, where he spent many days of his presidency, signed the 1981 Economic Recovery Act and celebrated Thanksgiving each year.

The Shorts said that the foundation does not plan to make any major changes or add any additional buildings to the land. "We want to protect the ranch as is," Marc said.

The Reagans had not spent much time on the ranch in the past few years before selling it, due to the former president's deteriorating health from Alzheimer's disease.

But Mrs. Reagan met the Shorts on the ranch one day this spring, and brought out many of the belongings from the ranch that had been in storage: things like a favorite hat of Reagan's, tooled-leather saddles and knickknacks. She placed them in the exact spots they had been in when the Reagans used to spend time at the ranch.

"We preserved the feeling like they have just stepped out for lunch," Marc said. "That's a flavor we don't want to lose."

"There are things that we love about being out here (at the ranch) and we can certainly see why the Reagans would want to escape here from D.C."

— **Kristen Short**, overseeing Rancho Del Cielo with her husband

Reagans gone, but their ranch lives on

It's a shrine to the Gipper and becoming a training ground to carry on his conservative philosophy

By Jeff Wilson

The Associated Press

SANTA BARBARA — It's as though the Gipper never left.

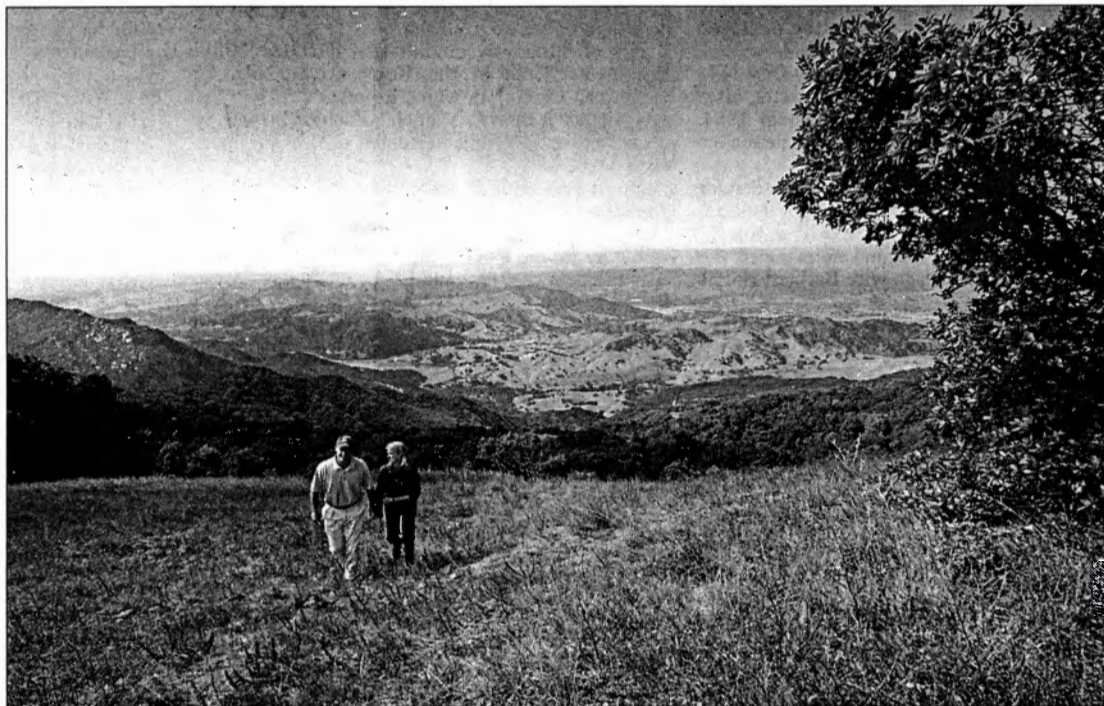
Near the front door of the main house at Rancho del Cielo is Ronald Reagan's sweat-stained ballcap. A loofah sponge, glycerin soap and Head & Shoulders shampoo are still in the shower he and Nancy shared.

But three years have passed since the nation's 40th president visited his beloved mountaintop hideaway — known to a generation of Americans as the Western White House. Reagan, who at 87 is struggling with Alzheimer's disease, drew strength and inspiration from the 688-acre property.

"We relax at the ranch, which if not Heaven itself, probably has the same ZIP code," he wrote in a 40th wedding anniversary letter in 1992. It was a sanctuary he rarely shared with outsiders, although he was host to such world leaders as Britain's Queen Elizabeth and former Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev.

Six months ago, the Reagans sold the property and its 100-year-old adobe ranch house to a group now preserving it as a monument to conservatism, an inspiration for a new generation of leaders.

"When you sit in this house you really feel his presence. It's magical," said chief keeper of the shrine



ON THE MOUNTAIN: Above, Mark and Kristen Short walk along a hilltop with panoramic views of the Santa Ynez Valley at Rancho del Cielo, the 668-acre ranch that once belonged to Ronald and Nancy Reagan. The rickety stool with a presidential seal supported by cowboy boots, left, is in the tack room.

Photos by The Associated Press



Marc Short during a recent tour of the ranch. Pointing to a leather patio table, he noted it's where the 1981 Economic Recovery Act was signed.

"It's where we think the Reagan Revolution started," the awestruck 28-year-old said.

The Virginia-based Young America's Foundation, which promotes conservative values among high school and college students, purchased Rancho del Cielo for an undisclosed price. Reagan spokeswoman Joanne Drake won't say how much, but it was close to the \$5.95 million asking price.

"We hope that our ranch will be a spark for many bright, young Americans in the years ahead," Nancy Reagan said after the sale.

They call it 'hallowed ground'

Short, executive director of the Young America's Foundation, moved from Virginia to California in June with his 24-year-old bride, Kristen. "We drove across America in a Honda Accord," she boasted.

They've been inside the ranch house many times, but guests can almost hear the young couple's pounding hearts as they step inside what they solemnly call "hallowed ground" and lovingly tend to the property.

"We feel we are the luckiest people in the world. We're honored to be given this responsibility," Short said, gazing across the Reagan-built patio with a metal "1600 Penna. Ave." sign overhead and a view of Lake Lucky, where the Reagans often canoed.

"Nothing draws a couple closer together than to find a pretty spot, maybe a ukulele and a canoe — Nancy's idea of the perfect romantic setting — and share happy thoughts of the past," Reagan wrote in his anniversary letter.

Most would be surprised by the modest furnishings and size of the 1,200-square-foot ranch house: the aluminum motel-like windows (the bulletproof glass was removed after Reagan left the White House); the faux red brick linoleum floor throughout; the Harvest Gold refrigerator.

It's a far cry from the Blue Room and certainly lacks the elegance of other famed presidential retreats such as Kennebunkport, San Clemente or Hyannis Port. But it's

cozy, and easy to understand why the Reagans cherished escaping there for 25 years.

"He lived just like we did. That's why he was the Great Communicator," Short said.

Conference center in future

The Young America's Foundation plans to use the ranch for leadership seminars to steep young people in Reagan philosophies. A conference center will be built nearby and students will likely make day and weekend trips to the ranch, even riding the 7 miles of horse trails.

"The majority of our programs will be focused on the Reagan era and how he changed the world," Short said. A \$10 million to \$15 million capital drive to build the conference center and house the students is in the planning stages.

Nancy Reagan hauled many items out of the basement of the Ronald Reagan Presidential Library in Simi Valley, some 80 miles from the ranch, and spent about three hours with Kristen making sure each item was placed as it had been.

"Everything has been checked over by Mrs. Reagan. If something was out of place, she moved it back to its original spot," Kristen Short said.

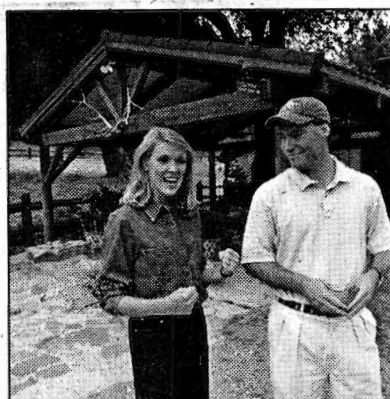
"She came up here about a week after settlement. She hopped out in her jeans and tennis shoes and quickly went right to work with Kristen," Short said. "It was emotional. She was emotional when she left. I think in a lot of ways it was a sense of closure for her."

The effect is poignant.

A weathered copy of "Lonesome Dove" sits on a bookshelf, rugged Western paintings fill the walls, a shotgun rests on antlers over a door, the kitchen spice rack is stocked with containers of paprika, oregano and cinnamon undoubtedly used for the Thanksgiving family feasts held at the ranch.

Reagan's boots are lined up in a walk-in closet in the bright yellow bedroom. There are cowboy hats, too, as well as a collection of nearly hubcap-size belt buckles. A spur once carried in space is on a shelf. Nancy and Ron monogrammed bathrobes rest on hangers.

Reagan's saddles, including the well-worn English model he preferred, are in the tack room. His blue-and-gold Cavalry horse blanket



AT THE RANCH: Marc Short, executive director of the Young America's Foundation, and his wife, Kristen, talk about Rancho del Cielo.

hangs on a wall.

"His legend lives on," Short said.

Animals' last resting place

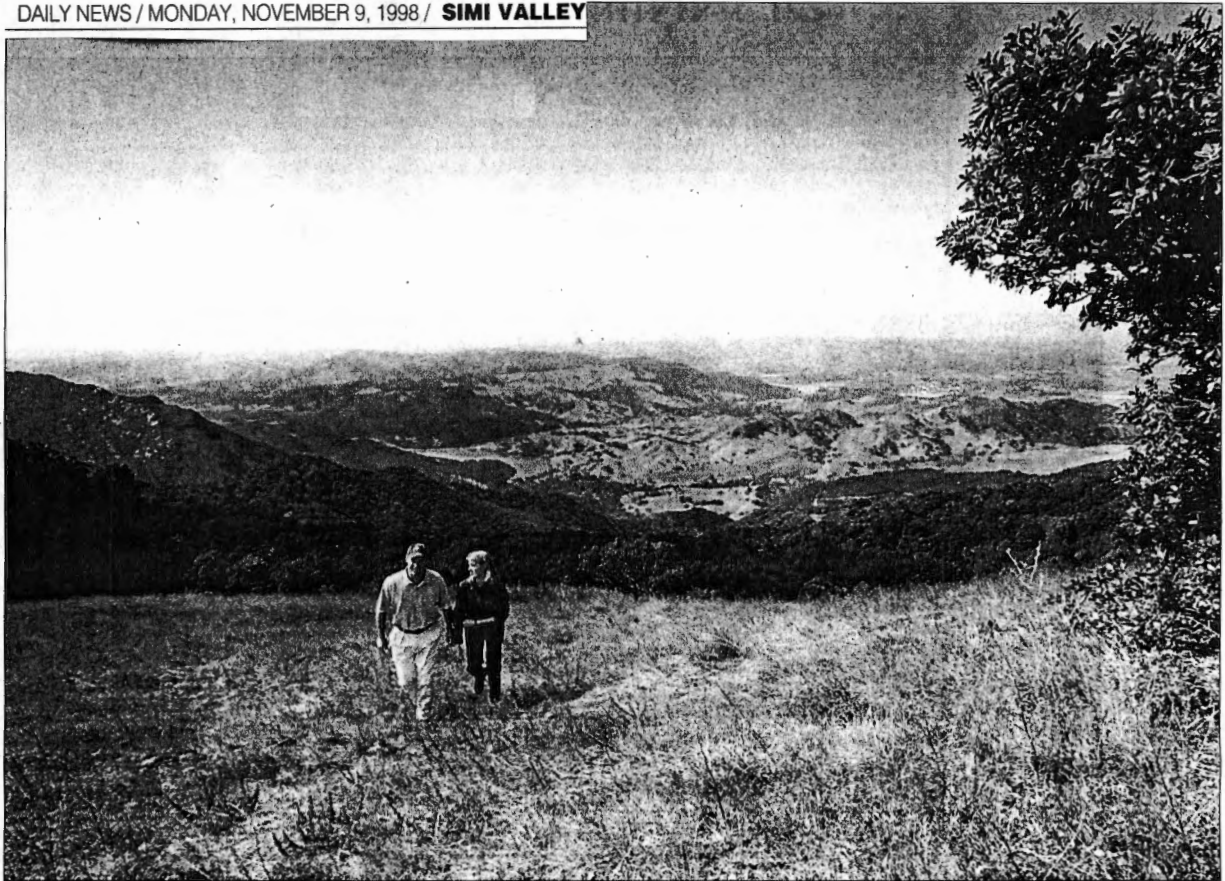
In a 1990 interview with The Associated Press, Reagan told how he enjoyed trimming the hundreds of oak trees on the property.

On a hill in a grove of oaks just above the ranch house is a solemn site where Reagan kept those trees trimmed back: the Reagan family pet graveyard. Mrs. Reagan's beloved quarterhorse No Strings is there. There's also a bull named Duke, horses Kelly and Duke, and dogs Victory, Freebo, Millie, Taca, Lucky, Kodiak, Sasha, Fang, Fuzzy and Rhino.

Each one has a stone marker with a name carved by Reagan. The latest addition was last month when dog Rex died. But this time, a ranch-hand carved the stone.

REAGAN RANCH RENEWED

DAILY NEWS / MONDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 1998 / SIMI VALLEY



Reed Saxon/Associated Press

Marc and Kristen Short, caretakers of Rancho del Cielo for the Young America's Foundation, stroll around the old Reagan retreat.

Couple hopes retreat inspires new generation

By Jeff Wilson
Associated Press

SANTA BARBARA — It's as though the Gipper never left.

Ronald Reagan's sweat-stained ball cap is near the front door of the main house at Rancho del Cielo. And a luffa sponge, glycerin soap and Head & Shoulders shampoo are still in the shower the ex-president and his wife, Nancy, shared.

But three years have passed since Reagan visited his beloved mountaintop hideaway, known to a generation of Americans as the Western White House. Reagan, who at 87 is suffering the effects of Alzheimer's disease, drew strength and inspiration from the 688-acre ranch.

"We relax at the ranch, which if not heaven itself, probably has the same ZIP code," he wrote in a 40th wedding anniversary letter in 1992. It was a sanctuary he rarely shared with outsiders, although he played host to such world leaders as Britain's Queen Elizabeth II and former Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev.

Earlier this year, the Reagans sold the property and its 100-year-old adobe ranch house to a group now preserving it as a monument to conservatism, an inspiration for a new



Gus Ruelas/Daily News

Ronald Reagan, right, entertains Mikhail Gorbachev at Rancho del Cielo in May 1992.

generation of leaders.

"When you sit in this house you really feel his presence. It's magical," said Marc Short, the chief keeper of the shrine, during a recent tour.

Pointing to a leather patio table, he noted it's where the 1981 Economic Recovery Act was signed. "It's where we think the Reagan

Revolution started," he said.

The Young America's Foundation, which promotes conservative values among high school and college students, purchased Rancho del Cielo. Reagan spokeswoman Joanne Drake

See REAGAN / Page 4

Ranch has new goal

REAGAN / From Page 1

said the sale price was close to the \$5.95 million asking price.

"We hope that our ranch will be a spark for many bright, young Americans in the years ahead," Nancy Reagan said after the sale.

Short, the 28-year-old executive director of the Young America's Foundation, moved from its Virginia headquarters to California in June with his 24-year-old bride, Kristen. They refer to the ranch as "hallowed ground" and say they are honored to tend it.

"We feel we are the luckiest people in the world," Short said, gazing across the Reagan-built patio with a metal "1600 Penna. Ave." sign overhead and a view of Lake Lucky, where the Reagans often canoed.

"Nothing draws a couple closer together than to find a pretty spot, maybe a ukulele and a canoe — Nancy's idea of the perfect romantic setting — and share happy thoughts of the past," Reagan wrote in his anniversary letter.

The 1,200-square-foot ranch is modest in its size and furnishings. There are aluminum-frame, motel-style windows (the bulletproof glass was removed after Reagan left office); a faux red brick linoleum floor throughout; a Harvest Gold refrigerator. There's even a Liberty Bell shower head in the bathroom.

It's a far cry from the Blue Room and certainly lacks the elegance of other presidential retreats such as George Bush's at Kennebunkport, Maine; Richard Nixon's at San Clemente; or John F. Kennedy's at Hyannis Port, Mass. But it's cozy, and it's easy to understand why the Reagans cherished it for 25 years.

"He lived just like we did. That's why he was the Great Communicator," Short said.

The Young America's Foundation plans to use the ranch for leadership seminars to steep young people in Reagan philosophies. A conference center will be built nearby, and students will likely make day and weekend trips to the ranch, riding the seven miles of horse trails.

"The majority of our programs will be focused on the Reagan era and how he changed the world," Short said. A \$10 million to

\$15 million capital drive to build the conference center and house the students is in the planning stages.

Nancy Reagan hauled many items out of the basement of the Ronald Reagan Presidential Library in Simi Valley, some 80 miles from the ranch, and spent about three hours with Kristen Short making sure each item was placed exactly as it had been.

"If something was out of place, she moved it back to its original spot," Kristen Short said.

Added her husband: "She came up here about a week after settlement. She hopped out in her jeans and tennis shoes and quickly went right to work with Kristen. It was emotional. She was emotional when she left. I think in a lot of ways it was a sense of closure for her."

The effect is poignant.

A weathered copy of "Lonesome Dove" sits on a bookshelf, rugged Western paintings hang on the walls, a shotgun rests on antlers over a doorway, the kitchen spice rack is stocked with paprika, oregano and cinnamon, undoubtedly used for the Thanksgiving family feasts held at the ranch.

Reagan's boots are lined up in a walk-in closet in the bright yellow bedroom. There are cowboy hats and a collection of belt buckles; a spur once carried into space, and Nancy and Ron monogrammed bathrobes.

Reagan's saddles, including the well-worn English model he preferred, are in the tack room. His blue-and-gold U.S. Cavalry horse blanket hangs on a wall.

Reagan enjoyed trimming the hundreds of oak trees on the property, explaining in a 1990 interview, "I love the dappled look on the ground when the sun comes through."

One spot he made sure to trim back is a hilltop grove of oaks just above the house. It's the family pet graveyard. Nancy Reagan's beloved quarter horse No Strings is there, along with a bull named Duke, horses Kelly and Duke, and several dogs: Victory, Freebo, Millie, Taca, Lucky, Kodiak, Sasha, Fang, Fuzzy and Rhino.

Each grave has a stone marker with a name carved by Reagan. More recently, dog Rex was buried.

THE PREMIER MAGAZINE OF THE WEST

COWBOYS & INDIANS

JULY 2001

Ronald Reagan

EXCLUSIVE LOOK INSIDE THE REAGAN RANCH
AND THE SHAPING OF HIS MODERN LEGACY

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THE PREMIER MAGAZINE OF THE WEST
COWBOYS & INDIANS
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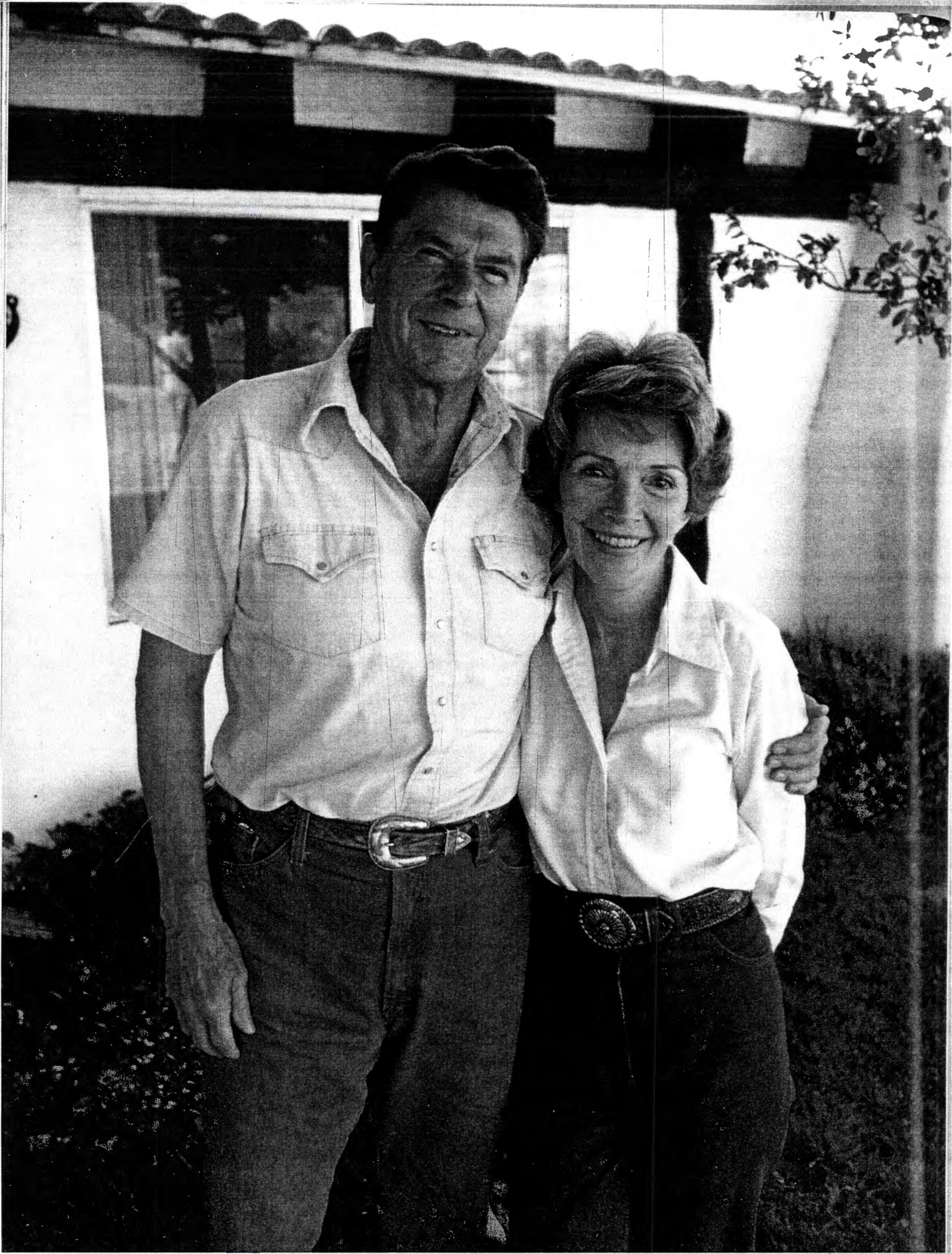
by Aaron Latham



ON THE COVER

Ronald Reagan

Courtesy of the Ronald Reagan Library



for the valley

LANDMARK EVENT



STEVE MALONE / NEWS-PRESS

Setting in stone what has long been in the history books, the Native Sons of the Golden West on Thursday dedicated former President Ronald Reagan's onetime ranch on the Gaviota coast a state landmark. Mr. Reagan purchased the 688-acre Rancho del Cielo, set high atop a ridge over Refugio Canyon, in the waning days of his California governorship and maintained it as the Western White House throughout his two terms in the Oval Office.

Preserving the ranch was a natural move for the Native Sons, a nonprofit organization that

has preserved historical landmarks for more than 90 years. "This is the highest highlight of my Native Sons career," said Robert Rogers, president of the organization. Speaking to about 50 members of the group, Mr. Rogers said the "dedication of a spot like this, whether you liked him or not, whether you're a Democrat or a Republican, is important because this is a piece of history — not only for California, but the world — that will be preserved forever." Mr. Reagan sold Rancho del Cielo in 1998 to the Young America's Foundation, which is preserving the ranch.

Artist famed for flag motif dies at age 73

ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOS ANGELES—Charles Wysocki, a painter of American life who favored mass appeal and commercial growth over critical acclaim, has died. He was 73.

Mr. Wysocki died of organ failure Monday at USC Research Hospital following complications from stomach surgery.

American flags are embedded in each of his paintings, which feature idealized depictions of families and landscapes.

Mr. Wysocki put his artwork on everything from popcorn tins and T-shirts to jigsaw puzzles and wallpaper, generating a wide and loyal fan base that included former President Ronald Reagan.

He was earning more than \$7 million a year from sales of the products, and his original acrylics have sold for as much as \$30,000.

Though snubbed by art critics, Mr. Wysocki said he was proud of his mass-market success.

"I like the fact that I appeal to the average guy, and that my calendar, prints and other products are enjoyed by millions," he once said.

The son of an immigrant auto-worker, Mr. Wysocki was born in Detroit. After two years in the Army in Germany, he moved to Los Angeles and studied to become a commercial illustrator.

He is survived by his wife, sons David and Matt and daughter Millie.

Ronald Reagan

HE TURNED A HUMBLE CALIFORNIA ABODE INTO THE WESTERN WHITE HOUSE
AND HELPED A NATION BELIEVE IN ITSELF AGAIN



COVER PROFILE

By Reid Slaughter

A dense fog hung over the Santa Ynez Valley on the morning of August 13, 1981. As a sizeable army of expectant journalists untangled their gear and readied for the moment, Secret Service agents dragged two pieces of leather-bound patio furniture out onto the gravel driveway. Then, from the doorway of a small, 100-year-old adobe house, wearing blue jeans and cowboy boots, the leader of the free world emerged.

Ronald Reagan, just six months into his presidency and still feeling the effects of a would-be assassin's bullet, was about to exercise his considerable mandate to sign into law the largest tax cut in American history, which reduced the tax rate from 70% to 28%. The aptly named Economic Recovery Act would end "stagflation" and launch the Reagan Revolution.

The former actor knew Rancho del Cielo ("The Ranch in the Sky") was the perfect place for such an occasion. It was literally as far from Washington, D.C., as he could get, and it was the place where Reagan the Commander-in-Chief became Reagan the common man, building fences, clearing away brush, riding and grooming his horses.

Over the next eight years, much more history would be made on the 688-acre spread the Reagans purchased in 1974 for

\$527,000. World leaders from Margaret Thatcher to Mikhail Gorbachev would visit and critical policy decisions would be made. In fact, Reagan would spend almost 50 days per year at the ranch, earning it the nickname the "Western White House."

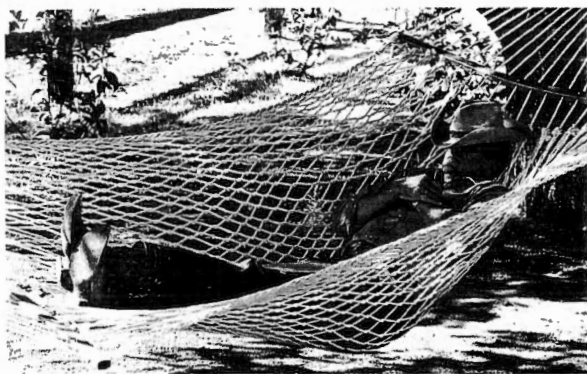
But for all of its notoriety, Rancho del Cielo has remained a remarkably private place. "Really, there were very few visitors, and almost nobody, even his top staff, went into the main house," observes John Barletta, the Boston native and Secret Service veteran who served as chief of security for the Reagans whenever the couple was in residence at Rancho del Cielo. "Everyone knew that this was his place to recharge," Barletta adds.

Cowboys & Indians received exclusive access to the ranch, which was acquired in 1998 by Young America's Foundation. The foundation plans to preserve this historic site and use it to educate young people about Reagan, his ideals of individual freedom, limited government, strong national defense, free enterprise, and traditional values. They also plan to construct retreat facilities for the ranch.

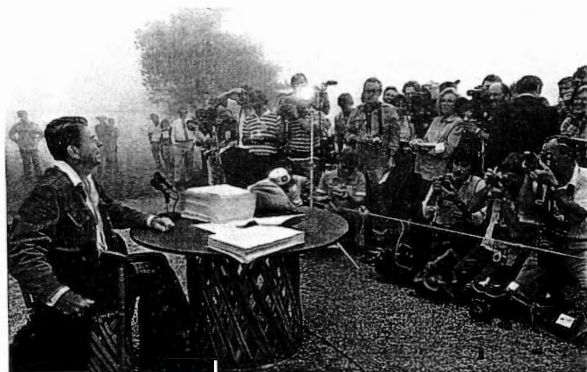
The project is most appropriate since, as C-SPAN noted, "There is more of Reagan in this ranch than in all the speeches he ever gave." The *Washington Post* remarked that Ranch del Cielo was "a true national treasure...the place to see the real Ronald Reagan." In the following pages, the surprising humility and gentility of our 40th president is supremely evident. In Reagan's own words, "This place casts a spell. I suppose it's the scriptural line, 'I look to the hills from when cometh my strength.' I understand it better when I'm up here."



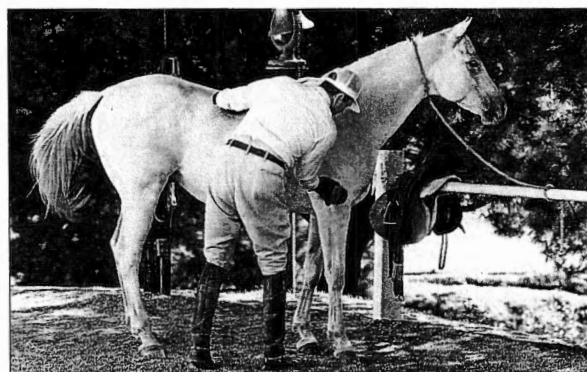
Though the ranch was a sanctuary for Reagan, "he always did his homework first," says Secret Service agent John Barletta. "There's no such thing as 'a day off' when you're the president."



Famous for his naps, the Chief Executive preferred his ranch hammock over any other spot.



Facing the press in August 1981, Reagan signs the largest tax cut in American history.



Grooming El Alamein, his magnificent and difficult Arabian, a gift from Mexico's president.



Greeting Queen Elizabeth and Prince Philip who arrived in "the worst rainstorm we ever saw."

LIFE ON THE RANCH

Over the more than 40 visits Reagan made to the ranch during his presidency, a certain routine developed. Each morning, a Secret Service agent would pick up the daily dispatch of presidential papers from the office in Santa Barbara. According to Barletta, Reagan would work through them right away. "People would say, 'Oh, he's out of town' or 'on vacation,' but that means nothing. The presidency and all the work that goes with it goes wherever the President goes."

And so did the enormous security detail. Reagan was virtually never alone, and for the morning ride, which could take anywhere from two to four hours, the parade of security must have been a sight to see. Barletta always rode next to the President (whose Secret Service code name was "Rawhide"); behind them, Mrs. Reagan (code name "Rainbow") and another agent. Following them was a custom-made Hummer (code name "Halfback"), built exclusively to handle the rough terrain of the ranch. Inside were four to six agents carrying heavy weapons, regular and satellite phones, emergency medical equipment and, of course, the "football," the code name for a briefcase containing nuclear missile launch codes.

Every effort was made to preserve a sense of serenity for the President while also employing the vast array of high-tech security and communication devices that are now a standard part of the office. Trees were planted around the command posts where agents, snipers, Seabees, and other military personnel lived and worked. Taking a tip from Disneyland, fake boulders were ordered from the Disney company to hide sophisticated motion detectors, electrical wires, and sensors. Trail numbers were carved into rocks located along the riding paths to track the president's position moment-by-moment on a photographic map shot from space by the Air Force.

Each ride ended with Reagan jumping off his horse and going to help his wife off her horse, then giving her a kiss and a hug. Woe to the overzealous agent who might try to help the First Lady off her horse before the President got to her.

"The President's idea of 'relaxing after lunch' was different than most folks," Barletta recalls. "He liked to do chores." Indeed, despite the fact Reagan was 70 years old when he took office, he delighted in the gritty work of ranch life, and would keep his security detail (who quickly learned the cowboy work ethic of pitching in to help) huffing and puffing while pruning trees, building hundreds of feet of fencing out of old telephone poles, constructing a dock on their pond, "Lake Lucky," or laying the stones for the patio in front of the main house. The six-one, 184-pounder was fond of saying, "Taking care of a ranch is the best workout there is."

All of the work was tempered with a genuine desire to slow down and drink in the extraordinary beauty of the ranch itself. "Rancho del Cielo can make you feel as if you are on a cloud looking down at the world," Reagan said. "From the house we look across the meadow at a peak crowned with oak trees and beyond it, mountains that stretch toward the horizon. From some points on the ranch, you can watch boats cruising across the Santa Barbara Channel, then turn your head and see the Santa Ynez Valley unfold like a huge wilderness amphitheater before your eyes."

Reagan's ability to maintain perspective was also one of his strongest points as president, according to Barletta.

"I remember when we were flying back from the Reykjavik Summit in Iceland," he recalls. "The Russians had said that unless the U.S. put a halt to its 'Star Wars' initiative, they would refuse to bargain on the other points. Reagan would not give in, and we left there with nothing. Everyone on Air Force One was very discouraged, knowing the press would label the trip a failure. Then here came the President strolling through the cabin, smiling and telling jokes. He also said the end of the Soviet empire was coming, and that Communism was about to crumble. He was absolutely right."

Patience is a quality more common to older men, and so is faith. Reagan's steadfast belief in God was a favorite subject on his rides with Barletta. "He is a strong Christian," says Barletta, who protected Reagan for 17 years before retiring. "He felt very blessed. He also loved going to church, but on the couple of occasions when we organized it, the presidential security measures—blocking off streets, clearing surrounding buildings, doing background checks—paralyzed the city of Santa Barbara, so he stopped. He called the ranch his 'cathedral in the sky.' 'This is where I'll worship from now on,' he said."

In the evenings, Mrs. Reagan would ring the big black bell on the porch, signaling it was time for dinner. The President was a man of simple culinary tastes and usually asked for a bowl of macaroni and cheese. At night the Reagans would sit on the couch together and watch movies or favorite TV shows such as *Murder She Wrote* or *Jeopardy*. Often there was a surplus of work to be done, and the President would attack his "homework," as he called it, at the table in the L-shaped family room, protected by the bulletproof glass that had been installed into their quaint adobe. After work he would read and maybe fall asleep by the fire with a favorite book such as *Lonesome Dove* resting on his chest.

"The Reagans lived a very healthy lifestyle on the ranch," says Barletta, "and I think that's what kept the President so youthful throughout his eight years. I watched Ford and Carter both grow old before my eyes during their terms. The job does that to you. People don't understand how stressful and unrelenting it is. But Reagan somehow stayed the same, and I think a lot of it was this place and his ability to unwind here."

In fact, Rancho del Cielo proved to be a tonic for the whole presidential entourage. "The Secret Service guys loved it because it was gorgeous weather, beautiful country, and we got to take off the suits and wear jeans to work. The White House press corps loved it, too. I would see the reporters hanging out in their shorts or swimsuits at the pier or the Sheraton in Santa Barbara. Then, just before the evening news live shot, they would throw on a coat and tie, and order the cameraman to shoot them from the waist up and say, 'This is so-and-so with the President at the Western White House in California.' Very official. And, to us, very funny."

The American West is mysterious that way, and Ronald Reagan, the so-called "Cowboy President," realized the power of this place. He used it to build his dream retreat. From there, he turned a troubled nation around and built a legacy that will last for generations.



Reagan was very handy with a chainsaw. He loved to clear brush along his riding trails.



Exercising his horses was a daily chore for the President, one that he took great delight in.



The First Lady changes bed covers in the Guest Room, the only place with central air and heat.



"No place before or since has ever given Nancy and me the joy and serenity the ranch does."

EXCLUSIVE

Inside Rancho del Cielo

text by Melissa Jones • photography by Byron J. Cohen

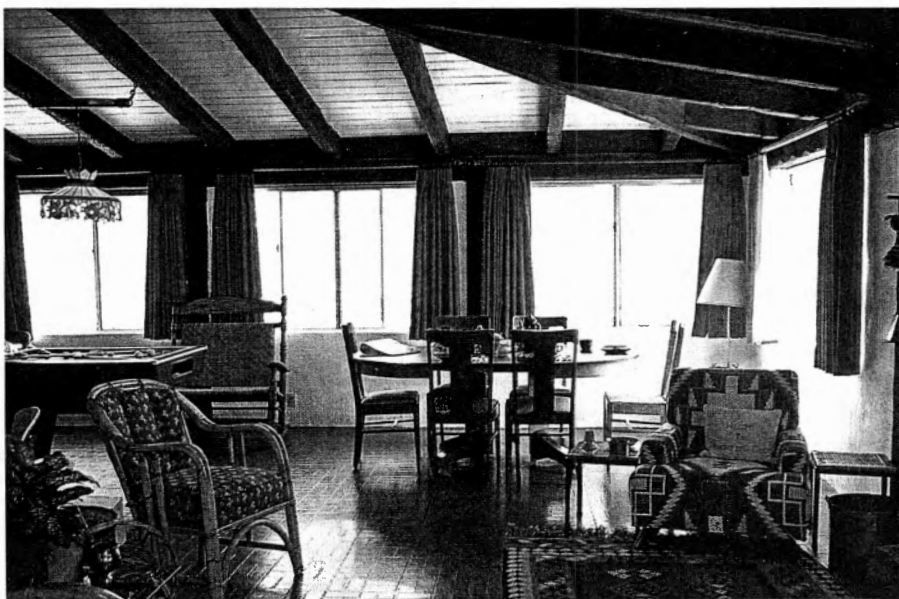


INSET: The road leading to the ranch, located atop Bald Mountain, was paved by the Secret Service in order to provide safe travel for the President. In keeping with the Western White House theme, the Reagans decided to call it Pennsylvania Avenue, and the ranch's address became 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue.

ABOVE: The main house and guest house overlook Lake Lucky, a pond the President had built for his wife. The lake was named for Mrs. Reagan's mother, a stage actress whose nickname was Lucky. The couple regularly canoed on Lake Lucky, and the President chose this setting to re-propose to Mrs. Reagan on their 25th wedding anniversary.



ABOVE: Secret Service agents did not usually stay inside the house, so the Reagans were provided with a white phone that summoned Secret Service protection the moment the receiver was lifted.

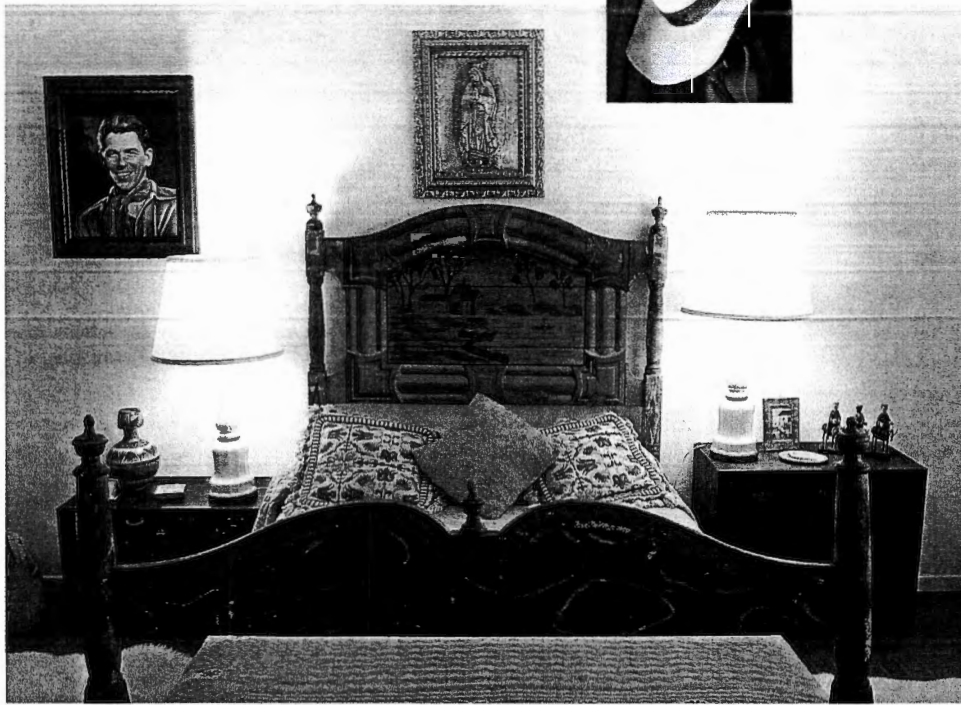


ABOVE: One of the changes made to the main house was the addition of this L-shaped room overlooking Lake Lucky. It served as a family room, game room, and dining room, where the family celebrated Thanksgiving dinner.



TOP: One of President Reagan's cowboy hats.

BELOW: The President's closet was always stocked with Wrangler shirts and his riding britches.



ABOVE: Among the guest house furnishings is an antique rope bed, a gift to the Reagans from Ambassador William Wilson, the first ambassador to the Vatican City during the Reagan Administration. The painting by artist Lee Carvel is a portrait of Reagan as a young actor in Hollywood.



ABOVE: The Reagans enjoyed entertaining guests to the ranch in the sitting room of the guest house. Among their many visitors were Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev and his wife, Raisa; Queen Elizabeth and Prince Philip; President George Bush and First Lady Barbara Bush; and British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher.



LEFT: President Reagan's made-to-measure cowboy boots were hand-crafted prior to the 1992 Republican National Convention by bootmaker Rocky Carroll of RJ's Boot Company in Houston.

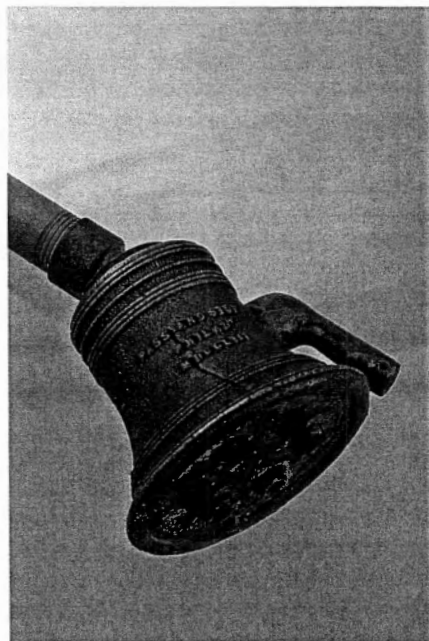
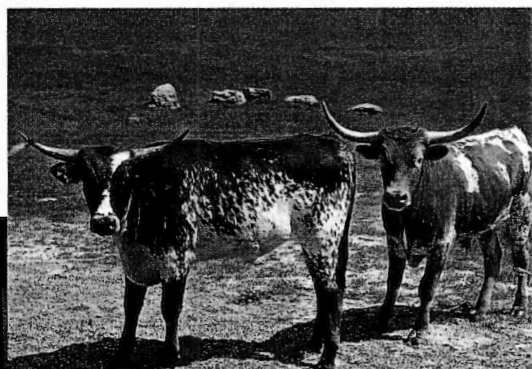


TOP: When he wasn't wearing a Stetson, Ronald Reagan wore his favorite Secret Service cap. After working or riding out on the ranch, the well-worn cap was always returned to the coat rack in the adobe house's entryway.

LEFT: The famous "Tax Cut Table" used by President Reagan when he signed into law the largest tax cut in American history, the Economic Recovery Act.

INSET: President Reagan raised a few Longhorn cattle primarily for use as Christmas presents and gifts for friends. Two were kept as family pets: Duke and Duchess. The ranch herd was recently restocked by the Young America's Foundation to commemorate that period in the ranch's history.

BELOW RIGHT: The blue Jeep was a birthday gift to President Reagan from Mrs. Reagan and some of their friends in 1983. Mrs. Reagan worried about her husband driving the old red Jeep they kept at the ranch and opted for a newer, safer model of the vehicle her husband so enjoyed. Since presidents aren't allowed to drive themselves, the President loved to come to the ranch and drive his Jeep. He once took Mikhail Gorbachev on a tour of the ranch. Two protective agents rode in the back, one for Reagan and one for Gorbachev.



ABOVE: The Reagans' penchant for history is wonderfully expressed by this Liberty Bell showerhead.



| The Reagan Ranch Program | *Rancho del Cielo* | Young America's Foundation | *Best of Ronald Reagan* |



RR | Home |

The Reagan Ranch Program

A Project of Young America's Foundation

The Heart and Soul of a Leader

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Media Coverage

Mission Statement

Program Goals

The Reagan Ranch Center

Staff, Leadership,
and Contact Information

Student Programs

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Santa Barbara News-Press

Downtown Santa Barbara to get taste of Reagan ranch

By Mark Van DeKamp
Santa Barbara NEWS-PRESS, October 24, 2001

Santa Barbara's next downtown tourist attraction will feature Ronald Reagan's ranch.

A historic three-story building next to the train depot was purchased Tuesday for \$5 million by the Young America's Foundation, less than four years after the group bought the former president's remote mountaintop ranch.

The foundation is thrilled to have secured a downtown site where it can educate thousands of high school and college students about the historical significance of the Western White House and events that occurred while the president was here in Santa Barbara County.

"We believe this building at 217 State St. is ideal," said Floyd G. Brown, executive director of the Young America's Foundation. "We'll bring the ranch to Santa Barbara."

The 688-acre Rancho del Cielo atop Refugio Road is about 30 miles northwest of Santa Barbara. The narrow, zigzag route to the ranch is a barrier to visitors trying to get to the retreat where Mr. Reagan spent 345 days during his two-term presidency.



STEVE MALONE / NEWS-PRESS
Floyd G. Brown stands in front of the Young America's
Foundation's new State Street building.

Convenient access to downtown Santa

Barbara, the refurbished train station, and plenty of parking in the adjacent city-owned parking lot make the new State Street location perfect, Mr. Floyd said. Directly across the street is the future home of the Santa Barbara Region Chamber of Commerce visitors center.

The Reagan Ranch Visitors Gallery will be dedicated to teaching about Mr. Reagan's principles as well as his life, with extra emphasis on his years at the ranch. Historic items, including the original table on which the president signed the largest tax cut in American history, will be on display.

"We plan to open the visitors' gallery to the public in late 2002; it will help us to dramatically expand our outreach," Mr. Brown said.

The visitors gallery will be on the ground floor of the building. There's plenty of room to recreate portions of the ranch, as well as space for video presentations and interpretive displays. The foundation also is planning to install the blue Jeep in which Mr. Reagan hosted world leaders, including Mikhail Gorbachev.

Eventually, the visitors gallery could expand to the second floor. The foundation will use the third floor for offices. All this is spelled out in the city's zoning, so Mr. Floyd anticipates a smooth transition.

Important speeches and original letters will also be on display. One of the centerpiece displays will be the Loraine Wagner collection of Reagan correspondence. These 216 letters, written by Mr. Reagan to his pen pal over the course of 50 years, provide an intimate look into Mr. Reagan's mind.

The distinctive 20,946-square-foot building, originally built in 1907, is located next door to the brick building that houses the Enterprise Fish Co. restaurant. It contains a pizza restaurant, but the rest of the building is vacant.

The Young America's Foundation closed escrow Tuesday afternoon. The sellers were a partnership of executives at Venoco Inc., an independent oil and gas company headquartered in Carpinteria. Broker Steve Hayes of Blair Hayes Commercial Realty handled the transaction.

The foundation is presently based in a building next to the downtown post office but will be moving into its newly purchased building within weeks.

In addition to caring for the ranch and now the downtown center, the Virginia-based Young America's Foundation continues to bring speakers from the Reagan administration to Santa Barbara to lecture students about the virtues of freedom, limited government and values.

Ventura County Star

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URL: http://www.venturacountystar.com/vcs/county_news/article/0,1375,VCS_226_3427226,00.html

Group plans Santa Barbara Reagan center

Foundation would display items from former president's ranch

By Jean Ortiz, jortiz@VenturaCountyStar.com

December 27, 2004

A \$16 million project to renovate a historic Santa Barbara hotel to house items from President Reagan's ranch has begun, an official involved in the undertaking said.

The Virginia-based Young America's Foundation, which has owned Reagan's ranch since 1998, is not affiliated with the Ronald Reagan Presidential Library and Museum in Simi Valley and does not see itself as a competitor, foundation Executive Director Floyd Brown said.

The group bought the State Street building in 2001 and was awarded the building permit just last week. It hopes to open in spring 2006.

Foundation officials also are working to find a way for visitors to reach Reagan's remote Rancho del Cielo, he said. The ranch can open to the public once the foundation can find a safe way for visitors to gain access.

"As an initial step to that, we felt it was important that we bring as much of the ranch to as wide a group of the public as we could, and that's why we decided to build the Reagan Ranch Visitors' Center," he said.

The foundation relies on private donations and has garnered about \$8 million for the renovation project, he said.

He's confident the group can raise the remaining amount and continue to garner support in the future, he said.

"I don't see any problem with that," he said. "People love President Reagan and they want his story to be told."

The group's plans won't take away from the library's fund-raising efforts, he said.

"I think many people give to both," he said.

That may be the case, said Michael Nilsen, public affairs director of the Virginia-based Association of Fundraising Professionals.

Nonetheless, the world of charitable giving has grown more competitive in the past 20 years, he said. Since 1986, the number of charitable groups has tripled, while the amount given has doubled, he said citing figures from the Internal Revenue Service.

Having two organizations raising money for similar missions can create competition, but it's not always a hindrance to either group, he said.

"I'm not convinced with two of them, particularly if one just simply dwarfs the other, that that's necessarily a bad thing," he said. "It certainly raises awareness."

Advertisement



It also helps that a figure clearly revered by a large sector of the population is at the heart of their efforts, he said.

Library spokeswoman Melissa Giller said she could not comment on the efforts of the Young America's Foundation or how it could affect the library.

The library, meanwhile, is gearing up to open the \$25 million Air Force One Pavilion this summer and has garnered about \$21 million in donations for the project, which will showcase the Boeing 707 used to transport Reagan around the world during his two terms in office.

The library and museum is the official repository of presidential documents and related memorabilia of his time in office. Visitors also can learn about his childhood, the years leading up to his political career and his stint as California governor.

"The library is really a must-see," Brown said.

The ranch serves a different purpose, he said.

"We're more like Monticello," he said, referring to Thomas Jefferson's home. "More the personal side of the president -- his love of the West, his love of horses, his love of freedom."

The Santa Barbara visitors center and museum will feature items such as Reagan's Jeep and tools he used, as well as information about the radio broadcasts he made from his ranch, which was sometimes referred to as the Western White House, he said.

Interest in Reagan's life continues to build, as record numbers of visitors have turned out at the library and the Young America's Foundation has seen plenty of interest from people wanting to visit the ranch, even though it isn't yet open, he said.

"I think President Reagan is well loved these days," he said. "It's great that we've got these facilities to teach people more about President Reagan."

On the Web:

<http://www.reaganranch.com>

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When Reagan Rode

By Tod Lindberg
THE WASHINGTON TIMES

SANTA BARBARA, Calif.

Ronald Reagan's 88th birthday is this week, and once again, because of the 40th president's ill health, we will have to do the commemorating for him. In Simi Valley, Calif., this week, the site of the Reagan Library, scholars, former officials in his administration and old friends will gather to mark the occasion, as well as the passage of ten years' time since he left office.

Ten years? It doesn't seem like it could possibly be so long. The impressions seem too vivid, more robust to this day than anything that lingers from the administrations of his two successors.

"Mr. Gorbachev, tear down that wall!" The daring of that exhortation is breathtaking -- all the more so now that the wall is long gone, as is the Soviet Union and the Warsaw Pact; Germany is one country; the Baltics are free and independent; and Poland, Hungary and the Czech Republic are NATO allies. As well, the tireless defense of freedom Mr. Reagan mounted -- in particular, the collective economic rationality that took hold during his administration, according to which the ability of the marketplace to improve our material condition finally won pride of place over the vanities of central planners and regulators.

Some conservatives want to give Mr. Reagan the credit for the economy of the 1990s. If the policy argument is dubious -- one must also take into account the sudden and surprising Democratic affection for the bond market in the 1990s -- the sentiment is admirable. We truly did cross the economic Rubicon in the early 1980s, and no one had more to do with achieving this political reality than Mr. Reagan.

And, to pick an example about which the Left was especially vicious in its caricature of Mr. Reagan, it looks like he may get his missile defense after all.

In many startling ways, 10 years after his departure, the political debate in Washington is still on the terms he set. How was he able to do this? The question has baffled many a better mind than mine. Edmund Morris, his official biographer, is said to have been agonizing for years in his effort to capture the essence of the man. His much-postponed effort is due this spring, apparently with the rather unpromising title "Dutch: A Memoir." Dutch? A childhood nickname? For the man who won the Cold War? This seems to promise eccentricity. Perhaps simplicity is a better approach -- or so it seems to me now, especially after a visit to the Reagan ranch in the hills outside of Santa Barbara. The Reagans bought the 688-acre spread in 1974, and it is the place to which Mr. Reagan returned again and again until 1995, when his failing health made it impossible. In total, he spent as much as a year of his eight years in office here. Rancho del Cielo -- ranch in the sky -- now belongs to the Young America's Foundation, which acquired the property last year with the admirable intention of preserving it and using it as a place to teach college students about Mr.

Reagan and his legacy. Nancy Reagan has been especially helpful to the project. Most of the personal items at the ranch were removed to the Reagan Library after the Reagans' last visit. Mrs. Reagan has been bringing them back and helping Marc and Kristen Short, who run the project for Young America's Foundation, to restore the look and feel of the surprisingly modest, 1,500-square-foot house. Apart from family, the Reagans never had overnight guests at the ranch. They did entertain there, inviting people up for lunch and perhaps a horseback ride, but that was all. As president, Mr. Reagan kept his staff seven miles down the hill on the coast, in Santa Barbara proper. And on most days, the press office there would issue statements on the president's activities along the following lines, maddening to those trying to find a story to cover: After lunch with Mrs. Reagan, the president rode and cleared brush. That's it. The place reeks of historicity. It is almost as if the Reagans have merely stepped out, and one is a voyeur on a guided tour of an unauthorized nature conducted by a daring housekeeper. Is it really all right to eat a roast beef sandwich at Mr. Reagan's dining table, overlooking the fence he built out of old telephone poles around the pond he enlarged? And here is the table at which he signed the 1981 tax cut. And here is his favorite cap, the sweat-stained one that says "Secret Service Mounted Division." And there hanging in the closet off the bedroom is the navy Polo shirt with horizontal white stripes familiar from scores of pictures of the robust American president riding and clearing brush. What's striking is that nothing about this place is the least bit fake. Evidently, he came here over and over again for two decades because he loved it -- the view of the valley from horseback, the physical labor. It's the authenticity of the man that lives on at the Reagan ranch. Maybe that's not a bad place to start in understanding Ronald Reagan. Here he rode and he cleared brush, a harmonious blend of pleasure, determination, labor and accomplishment. Elsewhere, too, he rode, and he cleared a hell of a lot of brush. Happy birthday, Mr. Reagan. Tod Lindberg is editor of Policy Review.

Reagan Ranch Center benefits from \$1M grant



STEVE MALONE / NEWS-PRESS PHOTOS

Above, Tara French, graphic and events coordinator for the Young America's Foundation Reagan Ranch Center on State Street, sets up an easel in the facility's visitor's center, which will benefit from a \$1 million grant from the Wendy P. McCaw Foundation. At bottom, an aerial view of Rancho del Cielo shows the adobe house, adjacent to "Lake Lucky," which former President Ronald Reagan and his wife called home for 25 years.

Wendy P. McCaw Foundation funds will go to aid lower State Street facility

By **JOE MELENDEZ**
NEWS-PRESS STAFF WRITER

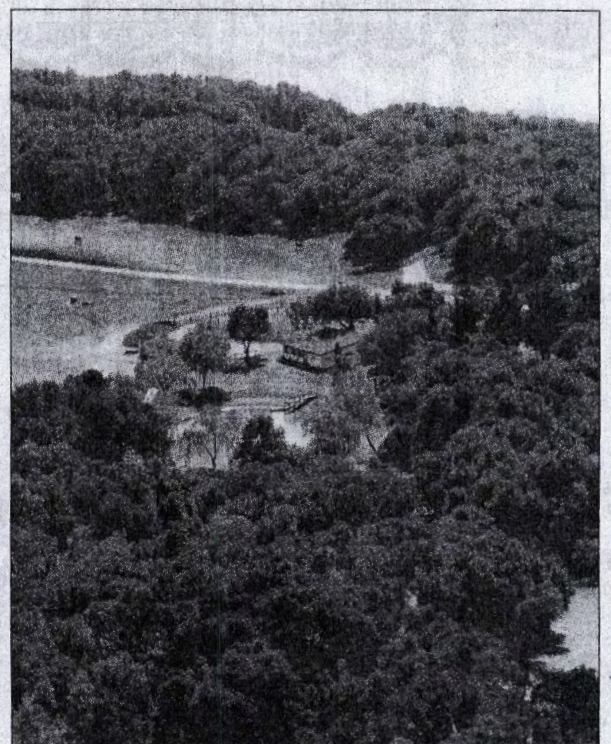
The Reagan Ranch Welcome Center has received a \$1 million grant from the Wendy P. McCaw Foundation, it was announced on Wednesday.

The Welcome Center is part of the Reagan Ranch Center, the Young America's Foundation's new facility at 217 State St. The grant will go toward the expansion and completion of the Welcome Center, a Young America's Foundation official said.

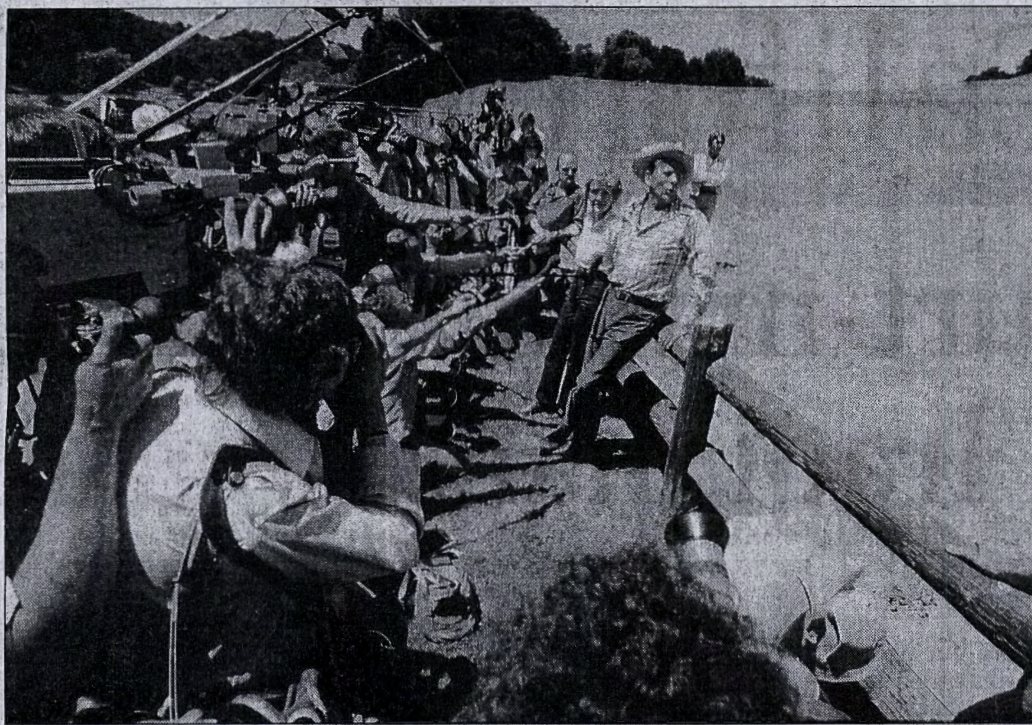
In announcing the grant, a release from the foundation established by News-Press co-publisher Wendy P. McCaw, stated, "The Reagan Ranch Center is a wonderful resource for young Americans to learn about and appreciate Ronald Reagan as one of this country's greatest presidents. Rancho del Cielo was President

The Welcome Center is the place where all interested visitors to the Reagan Ranch and Reagan Ranch Center can begin their experience with the Young America's Foundation.

Reagan's western White House where he welcomed heads of state from Margaret Thatcher to Mikhail Gorbachev. With his global welcome to visitors it seems fitting to carry on his tradition of hospitality welcoming



Please see **REAGAN** on A6



The late President Ronald Reagan and First Lady Nancy Reagan pose for the cameras during a press conference at their home at Rancho del Cielo in a photo from 1985. The ranch has received a \$1 million grant from the Wendy P. McCaw Foundation.

STEVE MALONE / NEWS-PRESS

Grant will aid center's completion

■ REAGAN

Continued from Page A1

those who share his vision at the Reagan Ranch Welcome Center."

In 1998, Young America's Foundation, a conservative youth outreach program, stepped forward to ensure the preservation of the Reagan Ranch for future generations.

The Reagan Ranch Welcome Center in downtown Santa Barbara was designed to complement the ranch at Rancho del Cielo, providing a home for Young America's Foundation student programs and an easily accessible place to share the story of Ronald Reagan's western White House with a worldwide audience of visitors to Santa Barbara.

"When Ronald Reagan reflected on Rancho del Cielo, he said that 'No

place before or since has ever given Nancy and me the joy and serenity it does.' He called his Santa Barbara ranch home for nearly 25 years, and it is fitting that a prominent leader in our community would step forward to ensure that the Reagan Ranch is preserved and its story shared with generations to come. We're very grateful for Mrs. McCaw's generosity," said Reagan Ranch director Andrew Coffin.

Retired Secret Service agent and Reagan Ranch Board of Governors member John Barletta added, "Ronald Reagan loved his ranch more than any other spot on earth. It's thrilling to see the Santa Barbara community begin to recognize just how important this ranch is to U.S. and world history."

The Welcome Center is the place where all interested visitors to the

Reagan Ranch and Reagan Ranch Center can begin their experience with the Young America's Foundation.

It serves as a location for students who are arriving for a leadership program, for tourists eager to experience the Reagan Ranch Center exhibit gallery — scheduled for completion this year, or where conservative leaders arriving to Santa Barbara can give a lecture.

In a statement released by the Young America's Foundation, the group said, "It is with gratitude and appreciation that Young America's Foundation partners with the Wendy P. McCaw Foundation in honoring the life and ideas of our nation's 40th president."

e-mail: jmelendez@newspress.com

S.B. News Press Reagan's birthday celebrated

More than 300 show up to Ronald Reagan Ranch Center for festivities

By **BILL McMORRIS**
NEWS-PRESS STAFF WRITER

Well over 300 people turned out at the Ronald Reagan Ranch Center, located at 217 State St. to celebrate the late president's 98th birthday on Friday.

Those in attendance were treated to exclusive tours of the center, which has undergone extensive renovations and improvements over the past several years.

One of the new additions to the center was an extensive second-floor gallery, which featured automated displays that allow guests to listen to and watch some of President Reagan's most famous speeches, debates and addresses.

The gallery impressed UCSB junior and ROTC candidate Hunter Jackson. "It's amazing how well they did at preserving all of this history," he said, as he admired Mr. Reagan's sky blue Jeep.

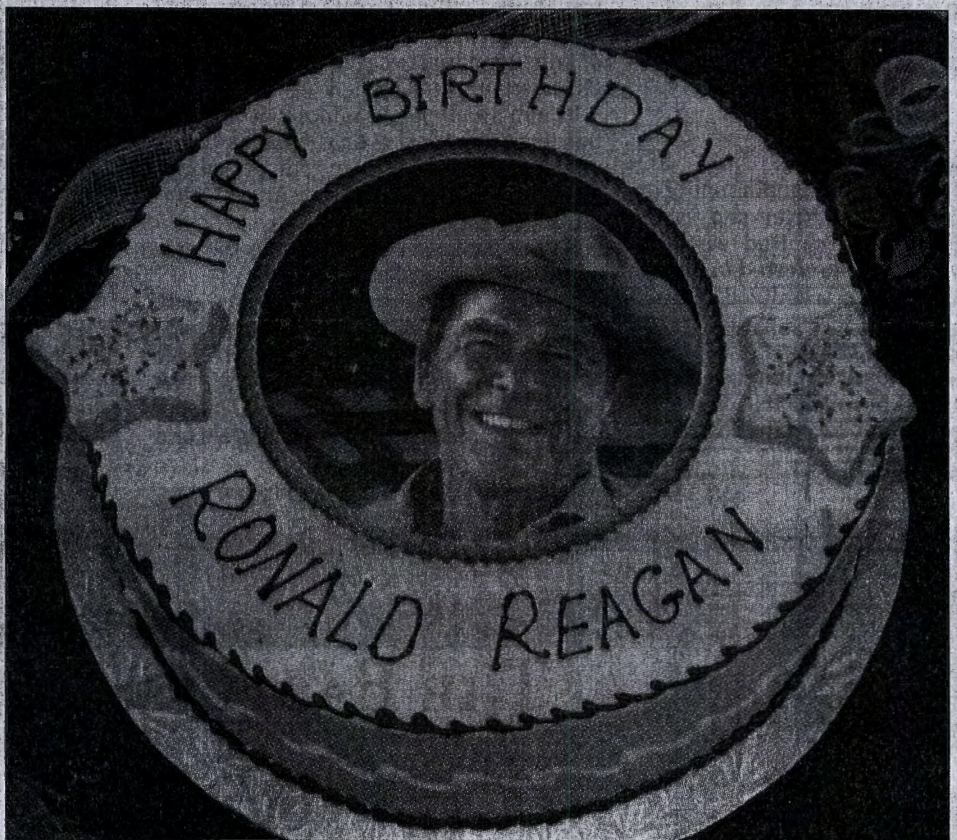
That vehicle was the only part of the gallery in place when Ryan McNicholas, executive director of the UCSB College Republicans, first came to the center.

"It is amazing to see how the center keeps expanding. It serves as a reminder of the most influential president of the 20th century," said the 22-year-old junior.

Even knowledgeable Reagan fans walked out of the celebration a little more enlightened.

"I consider myself a huge fan of Reagan, but there are a lot of speeches and facts here that I was unaware of," said Santa Barbara County Republican Executive Director Corey Bantilan, as he took an audio-visual tour of the center.

There were several people in attendance that knew the late president personally, including former Secret Service agent and Reagan confidante John Barletta, who was



STEVE MALONE / NEWS-PRESS

Several birthday cakes honoring former President Ronald Reagan were served during an open house to celebrate the 40th U.S. President's birthday at an open house at the Young America's Foundation's Ronald Reagan Ranch Center on State Street.

on hand to sign copies of his book, "Riding with Reagan" but not many could have known Mr. Reagan as long as Marge Nordyke.

Ms. Nordyke's relationship with President Reagan stretches back far beyond his years in the California and national spotlights to his first career, as a sports broadcaster in the Midwest. The 90-year-old resident, then a student at the University of Iowa, knew that there was something special about Mr. Reagan. It was the beginning of a relationship that would span six decades.

Ms. Nordyke would eventually come to

serve as an aide to the "Gipper," as friends called him. In fact, she was entrusted with one of the biggest responsibilities in the White House — maintaining a stable level of Jelly Belly jelly beans to sustain the president and guests of the White House.

No Reagan meeting, be it between a head-of-state or personal guest, could begin without the president first presenting a full bowl of the candy, according to Ms. Nordyke.

"This center really captures the personal

Please see **REAGAN** on **A10**

The faithful gather to honor ex-president's 98th birthday

■ REAGAN

Continued from Page A1

and friendly nature of Reagan," she said, as she gestured towards a bag of jelly beans on the table.

"It is great to be here and see all these people, especially when I get to see old friends like John Barletta," Ms. Nordyke said, as she layered her table with personal photos of herself and the president. "And I cannot believe the amount of young people and children that are here today."

Identical twins Tyler and Ryan McLean, 3, were among the dozens of children on hand to celebrate the late president's life. Guests, especially the McLean children, enjoyed the slew of birthday cakes bearing the president's image and light refreshments offered at the reception.

Ryan and Tyler's family, however, took them along for the two-hour drive from Manhattan Beach for very different reasons.

"We wanted them to start learning history—not to mention conservative ideas— young," said the twins' grandmother Elaine Wilmot.

That is one of the very reasons why the center opens its doors every Feb. 6, according to Executive Director Andrew Coffin. "It allows us to share with the community the ideals that Reagan defined; those ideas that the center wants to pass on to future generations," he said.

Her husband Dave, like Ms.



Above left, Andrew Coffin, left, director of the Ronald Reagan Ranch Center, chats with Doug and Karen Crawford of Santa Barbara, during a celebration of President Reagan's birthday. Above right, Marge Nordyke proudly displays a photo of her with President Reagan. Behind her are other photos showing her years-long interaction with the Reagans in Santa Barbara during the 1980s. She even helped the president acquire bags of jelly beans from candy maker Jelly Belly, maker of one of President Reagan's fondest treats.



STEVE MALONE / NEWS-PRESS PHOTOS

Nordyke, has always had an affinity for Mr. Reagan, dating back to his own encounter with the late president. Mr. Wilmot was 19 when he served as an extra in the Ronald Reagan comedy "Bedtime for Bonzo."

"I followed Reagan all the way from heading the Screen Actor's Guild to becoming the governor of California to his days in the White House," said Mr. Wilmot admiringly.

"He was one of my heroes, and I want to share that with my grandchildren."

Young America's Foundation, a nonprofit organization aimed at promoting conservatism on college campuses, has hosted the celebration for the past several years.

"Now is a natural time for us to open up our doors and honor Ronald Reagan," said Mr. Coffin. "We get to share a part of local history with the

Santa Barbara community."

The center is seeing an increasing segment of the community turning out for the celebration.

George Thompson, who serves as the caretaker at Reagan's home in Santa Barbara County, Rancho del Cielo, has seen turnout increase dramatically since he first came to the celebration four years ago.

"We only had about 100, maybe 150

that first year, now we're seeing nearly 400," Mr. Thompson said.

The increase in local interest is a testament to Reagan, as much as it is the center, according to Mr. Coffin.

"This just demonstrates how much goodwill and appreciation people have for Ronald Reagan and what he did for this country," he said.

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Reagan Ranch

An Excerpt from *Reagan: His Life and Legend*

By Max Boot

Photography By National Archives



MAN OF THE PEOPLE. When our 40th president relaxed and recharged at his California ranch, the American people saw a septuagenarian who not only loved his land but was capable of hard work.

Published On:
October 20, 2024

The White House is a
museum, an office building,

12.5 min read

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SHARE POST



and a five-star hotel all in one. Most newly elected presidents appreciate having some 90 household staff at their disposal but find it hard to adjust to a life in which they are not allowed to drive or shop for themselves — or even to walk the streets anytime they feel like it.

Their movements are tightly constricted by the demands of security; their every public utterance, no matter how prosaic, is instantly transcribed and treated as news. Bill Clinton described 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue as “the crown jewel of the federal penitentiary system,” and Barack Obama complained, “It’s like a circus cage, and I’m the dancing bear.”

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Gilded Cage

Although he had lived much of his life in the public eye, Ronald Reagan also expressed frustration at what he described as a “bird-in-a-gilded-cage sense of isolation” once he moved into the White House on January 20, 1981. More than once he would stare out the window, envying the freedom of ordinary

people as they walked by on Pennsylvania Avenue.

In early February 1981, he wanted to continue his usual practice of going to a store to buy First Lady Nancy Reagan a Valentine's Day card. His Secret Service detail took him to a nearby gift shop. The result, as an aide wrote, was "total pandemonium, as stunned customers milled around and a crowd of onlookers formed."

"That was just about my last shopping expedition outside the White House," Reagan ruefully wrote. "It caused such a commotion that I never wanted to do that to a shopkeeper again."



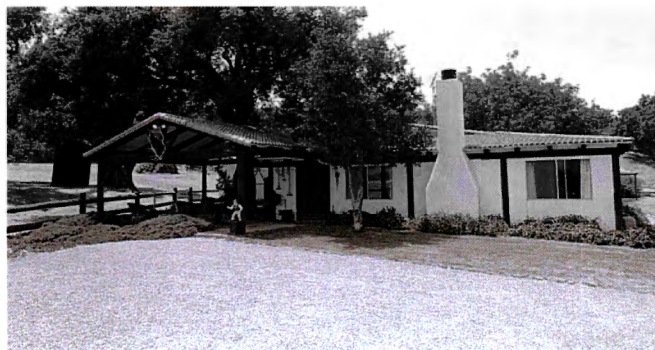
ANNIVERSARY GIFT. The Reagans celebrated their 30th anniversary in high style with a new riding mower.

Little wonder that Reagan sought, at every opportunity, to escape the gilded cage. On most weekends, the Reagans headed to Camp David, the presidential retreat in the Catoctin Mountains of Maryland. But whenever there was a longer break, they took off for their spartan, 688-acre ranch in the hills near Santa Barbara, California.

Anyone who wants to find out who Ronald Reagan really was needs to visit his ranch, now a museum maintained by the Young America's Foundation. The ranch was his favorite place in the world — and a remarkably modest home for a Hollywood celebrity, much less a president of the United States.

Like Lyndon B. Johnson and George W. Bush, Reagan cultivated a down-home image at his ranch. The pictures of Reagan riding a horse or wielding a chainsaw suggested he was still vigorous even though he was nearly 78 by the time he left office in 1989. And his simple, spartan life at the ranch showed the voting public that he had not let power and celebrity go to his head.

It was the version of Reagan revealed at the ranch — affable, modest, unaffected, down-to-earth, hardworking — that lay at the core of his political appeal. Contrary to the popular perception, he seldom played a cowboy in the movies — he complained to his bosses at Warner Bros. about being cast in romantic comedies rather than in Wild West shoot-'em-ups — but at the ranch, he came to embody the popular stereotype of the cowboy.



REMARKABLY MODEST. The Western White House was actually a century-old adobe homestead that totaled just 1,500 square feet.

A Modest “Ranch in the Sky”

The Reagan ranch — the third he had owned, after earlier spreads in Northridge and Malibu, California — is located amid the chaparral and grasslands of the Santa Ynez Mountains. The Reagans bought the property in 1974 for \$527,000 near the end of his second term as governor of California. It featured a tiny adobe house that had been built in 1872 and a small lake that provided its water supply. There were few amenities, but Reagan immediately fell in love with the place, which offered sweeping views all the way to the Pacific Ocean.

The previous owner had called it Tip Top Ranch. The Reagans renamed it Rancho del Cielo, or Ranch in the Sky, and the former governor set about making it livable with help from two former state police bodyguards who became close friends: Willard “Barney” Barnett and Dennis LeBlanc. Working with a contractor, they expanded the house, replaced the roof, added a patio, and built a wooden fence around it.

When they finished in early 1977, the house was still modest. It had only five rooms totaling just 1,500 square feet, and the downscale Western furniture and décor — which looked as if it had been scavenged from a flea market — would never pass muster with

Architectural Digest. The appliances were made by Reagan's old employer General Electric, not a fancier brand like Thermador or Sub-Zero. The countertops were Formica, not marble. The bookshelves were full of well-thumbed volumes Reagan had read rather than the unread, leather-bound books favored by interior decorators.

Death-Defying Chores

Reagan was always determined to do much of the work on his property personally — and the work never ended. His son Ron Reagan recalled an episode in the late 1970s when, as a teenager, he was enlisted to help his dad build a patio. Reagan wanted to fashion it out of native sandstone, so the two of them hopped in an old red jeep with a trailer attached. The two men grunted and groaned as they filled the trailer with as many rocks as it could carry, then headed back to the house.

But rather than going along the flat, winding road they had taken there, Reagan decided to return via a shortcut straight over a hill. After getting about halfway up, the jeep began to groan and strain. It wouldn't go any farther, even with his foot all the way down on the gas pedal. Then it began to roll backward. As they picked up speed going in the wrong direction, the younger Reagan "was fighting to maintain sphincter control," while his dad "looked almost psychotically unconcerned."

Somehow Reagan managed to maneuver the jeep back to level ground, and, rather than

admit defeat, he insisted with characteristic stubbornness on going back up the hill. It took “four lip-chewing, throttle-grinding, pant-sharting attempts before we finally conquered the ridge,” Ron wrote. But it was worth it: “To this day,” he conceded, “the stone patio gives the old house a handsome, rough-hewn look.”

HOME OFFICE. Chief of Staff Howard Baker (center) and National Security Advisor Colin Powell (right) brief President Reagan in November 1987.

Western White House

When Ronald Reagan became president, his ranch became known as the Western White House. A helicopter pad was added, and temporary buildings were erected to house the Secret Service agents and aides who accompanied the president whenever he traveled. In all, there were roughly 175 people at the ranch at any one time when Reagan was in residence. Along with rattlesnakes and rabbits, the property was now roamed by Secret Service sniper teams. “But,” as Reagan noted in his diary, “it is all temporary & ... minimal in its effect on appearance.” The ranch remained extremely rustic, primitive, and isolated — just as its owner wanted it.

Reagan spent most of his time there either horseback riding or doing ranch work. Riding was a new challenge for the Secret Service, which had to set up a riding school for its agents. John Barletta was one of the few agents who was already proficient on horseback; he had learned from the Boston Mounted Police, where his father had been a police officer. He earned Reagan's respect, he told me one sunny afternoon at the ranch, by keeping up with him on horseback; the president was an excellent rider in the English style. (He usually wore Dehner riding boots, jodhpurs, and a long-sleeve shirt.)

Reagan treasured his solitude, but that wasn't really possible for the president, even on horseback. Trailing behind him would be a Humvee carrying Secret Service agents, a doctor, a military aide with the nuclear football, and secure communications equipment.

While Barletta was often at Reagan's side during morning horseback rides, the president's companions in afternoon ranch work — cutting firewood, clearing brush, repairing the fence, pruning trees — were Barney Barnett and Dennis LeBlanc. The white-haired Barnett, who was 68 in 1981, was retired from the California Highway Patrol. LeBlanc was a younger man — he was 35 in 1981 — who, after leaving the state police, had worked as a Reagan advance man and then a White House aide.

No Talking Politics

Reagan had long been a regular at ritzy black-tie events, but he preferred getting sweaty and just being “one of the guys,” LeBlanc told me. “No matter what the day was, we’d be cutting or building something. He didn’t have any other down-to-earth, working, get-dirty type friends. He just loved getting dirty and working with his hands.”

What did they talk about while working? “No politics,” LeBlanc said. “All we did was talk ranch stuff or family stuff.” But they were just as happy to pass the time in companionable silence. When asked by a journalist what he “really” thought about while “chopping all that wood,” Reagan replied with a two-word answer worthy of the famously taciturn Calvin Coolidge: “The wood.”

Stingy Rations

After a hard day’s labor, all three men would be exhausted and head back to the house for dinner with the first lady. “Man, I could eat a house,” LeBlanc would think to himself. But the actual menu was stingy.

Nancy Reagan never cooked, so the food was prepared by their longtime housekeeper, Ann Allman. The petite first lady watched her figure (she was a size 2) and made sure “Ronnie” did too. There was only one plate of food per person, and the men would get up almost as hungry as when they sat down, but the unassuming president never complained or asked for seconds.

After dinner, all four of them — Ron and Nancy, Barney and Dennis — would settle down in the living room to watch a television show like *Murder, She Wrote*, starring the redoubtable Angela Lansbury. By 9 p.m., the three men were usually so exhausted that they fell asleep in front of the set. Nancy would gently tap Dennis on the foot to let him know it was time to go to bed. He and Barney would shuffle out the door. Sometimes, if they were lucky, the housekeeper would sneak them a few cookies to take back to their trailer. The president and first lady then headed to their modest bedroom.

Best Buddies

LeBlanc said that the late Barnett “was the president’s best buddy: They were one year apart, and their birthdays were the same day — February 6. He was the only guy that I knew that could say, ‘God damn it, Governor, you can’t do it this way,’ in regard to building something if the governor wasn’t doing it correctly. And the governor would say, ‘Yeah, okay, Barney, you’re right.’ How many other friends could talk to him like that?” (Barnett, who had been Reagan’s driver in Sacramento, still called him “governor” even when he was president.)

LeBlanc, too, became closer to Reagan than just about anyone. He was so torn up when his old friend died in 2004 that he couldn’t bear to go to the funeral, he told me. He simply sat at home, watching the television coverage and sobbing.

A man who always remained down-to-earth no matter how high he climbed, Ronald Reagan arguably had a more intimate relationship and a truer friendship with his blue-collar buddies at the ranch than he did with all the grandees, such as Walter Annenberg or Alfred Bloomingdale, with whom he hobnobbed at glittering galas. That was Nancy's circle. Barney and Dennis were Ron's guys. "They were, in my opinion, his best friends," Reagan's long-serving secretary, Kathy Osborne, told me.

READY TO RIDE. An accomplished horseman, the president's Secret Service detail was routinely challenged by his superior riding skills.

Reagan never felt happier or more relaxed than when he was engaged in backbreaking labor at Rancho del Cielo. Nancy Reagan, by contrast, preferred to spend time in Beverly Hills and rode horseback only reluctantly, but she tolerated the visits because she knew how good it was for her husband physically and spiritually. If Rancho del Cielo wasn't heaven, Reagan often said, it "probably has the same zip code."

Reagan was often criticized for taking too many vacations, especially compared with

Jimmy Carter, who took only 97 days off during his four years in office. But, while Reagan spent more time on vacation or at a second home (335 days) than Bill Clinton (174) or Barack Obama (235), he spent fewer days vacationing than George W. Bush (533). Donald Trump, who spent at least 277 days in Palm Beach and Bedminster, New Jersey, during his single term, was also on a pace to exceed Reagan (although he spent far less time at Camp David).

Political Payoff

There was no political calculation in Reagan's frequent trips to the ranch — he genuinely loved going there — but he earned a significant political payoff nevertheless. Two of his biggest vulnerabilities as president were the perceptions that he was too old for the job — he was the oldest president until that point, since surpassed by Joe Biden — and that he pursued policies that favored his wealthy supporters at the expense of the less fortunate.

If Reagan had spent his vacation time taking it easy at glitzy destinations such as Palm Beach, Martha's Vineyard, or Hyannis Port — favored by Presidents Trump, Obama, and Kennedy, respectively — that would have reinforced the impression that he had lost his youthful vigor and was far removed from the experiences of ordinary Americans.

Many reporters and historians were frustrated by Reagan's lack of self-awareness or intellectual depth, but most of the public didn't

care. They liked the seemingly simple, down-to-earth guy who loved his country and liked nothing better than to engage in manual labor. Reagan, for his part, often said that doing ranch work was his form of therapy. Few presidents have ever gained so big an emotional and political payoff from their choice of vacation destination.

Adapted from Reagan: His Life and Legend by Max Boot. Copyright © 2024 by Max Boot. Used with permission of the publisher, Liveright Publishing Corporation, a division of W.W. Norton & Company, Inc. All rights reserved."

RANCH HAND. The 77-year-old, shown here in 1988, thrived at Rancho del Cielo.

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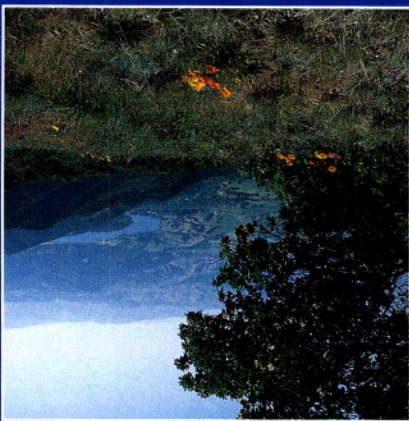
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Zackary Wright

Overlooking Lake Lucky and the dramatic weeping willows that surround it, this charming adobe residence dates from circa 1890. Comprising 1,357± square feet, the ranch affords exceptional privacy, fully screened the farmstead. The ranch affords and 3 water-storage tanks serve Underground utilities, 2 wells, with a dock for canoeing. side a picturesque lake, equipped residence is beautifully sited along-sweeping lawns, the ranch's main carved their initials. Nestled amid members of the Reagan family a hollow rock formation in which the property include "Heart Rock" rises to 2,457±. Special features of

continued

the home is appointed with beamed ceilings and 2 fireplaces. Included are a Living Room, Kitchen, Main Bedroom with Bath, and Staff Bedroom with Bath. An extensive converted Porch spans two sides of the house. **Outbuildings** Adjacent to the main residence, the Guest Cottage (960± square feet) was built in the early 1980's, and provides a sitting room with fireplace, 2 bedrooms, and 2 baths. Built in 1982, the Manager's Residence (1,120± square feet) contains a living room, dining room, kitchen, 2 bedrooms, 2 baths, and a 2-car Garage. The Tack Barn (1,152± square feet) offers an extensive open area, equipment storage,

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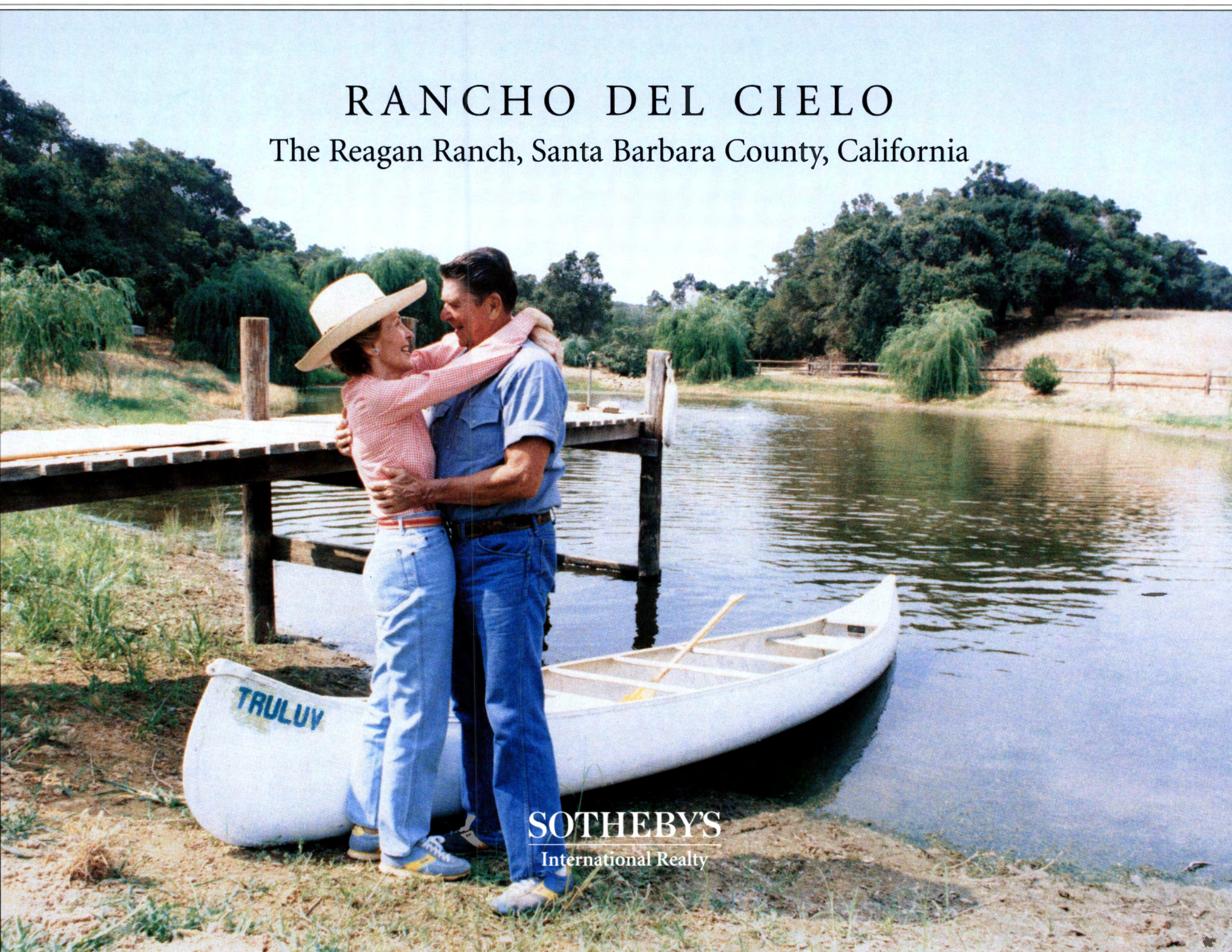
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tack room, and 3 stalls. Wooden Corrals are provided. Additional dependencies include a Hay Barn (2,200± square feet), Guest Mobile Home, and former Secret Service Building (2,232± square feet).



RANCHO DEL CIELO

The Reagan Ranch, Santa Barbara County, California



SOTHEBY'S
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A property of great natural beauty and historic significance, the mountaintop ranch of former President Ronald Reagan.

Embracing 688 acres in the Santa Ynez Mountains, this exceptional ranch is distinguished as the private retreat of former President Ronald Reagan, and the Western White House during his administration. Rancho del Cielo, "Ranch in the Sky," commands sweeping views across the Santa Barbara coastline, Channel Islands, and Santa Ynez Valley. Here, a world apart from Washington, Reagan retreated from the pressures of the White House to the simplicity of the quiet ranch lifestyle he loved.

The Reagans spent Thanksgiving at the ranch year after year, dining inside the charming century-old adobe house. Reagan savored time here, indulging his passion for horses, riding, and ranch chores,

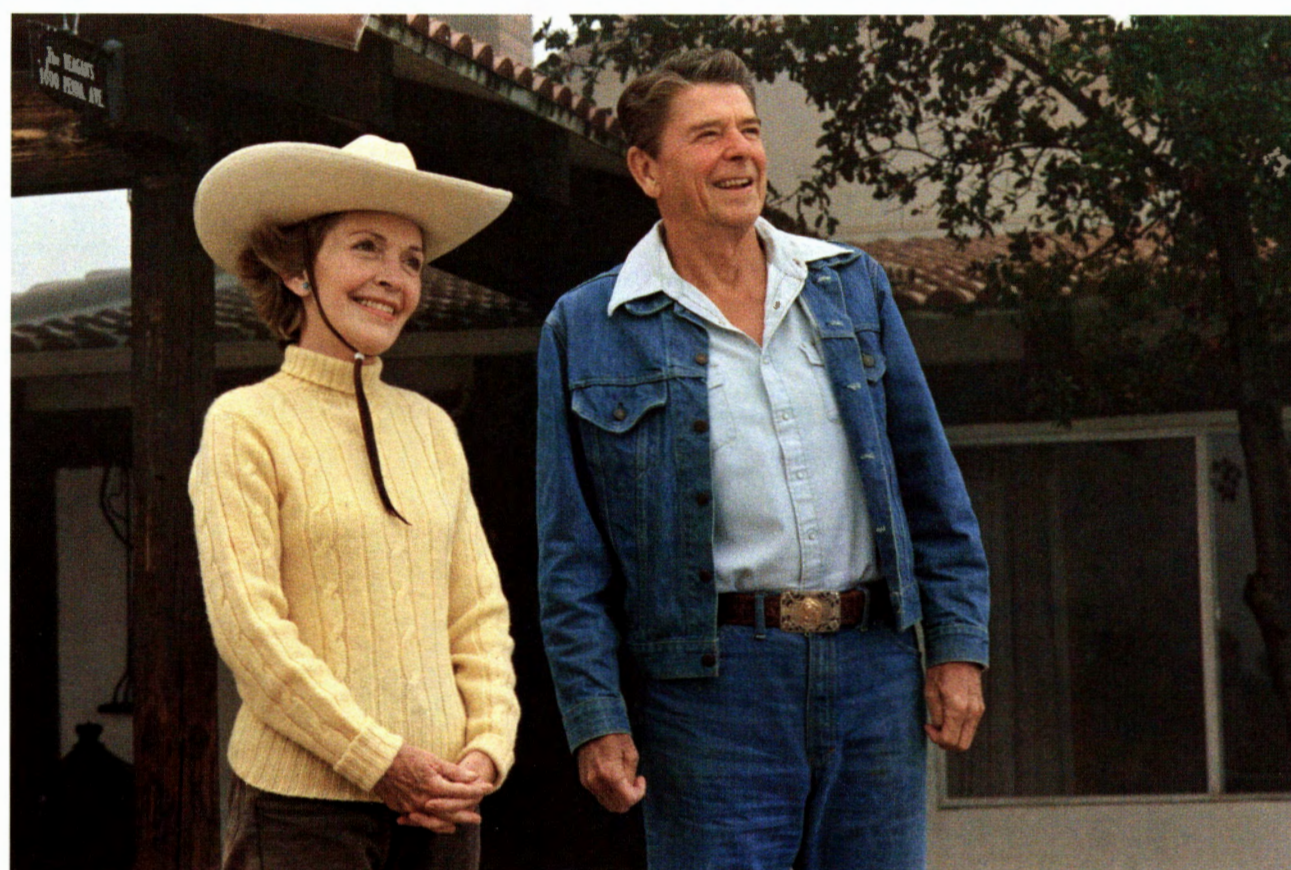


including trimming the oak trees on the sun-dappled grounds.

As he proudly recounted to former Soviet President Gorbachev on a 1992 visit, Reagan himself built the ranch's wooden corrals and man-made lake, named "Lake Lucky" after Mrs. Reagan's mother. Other prominent guests of the

ranch included Margaret Thatcher, Brian Mulroney, and Queen Elizabeth, who arrived one rainy winter day by four-wheel-drive vehicle.

Expressing his great love for the ranch, Reagan once said, "We relax at the ranch, which if not heaven itself, probably has the same zip code."



Location

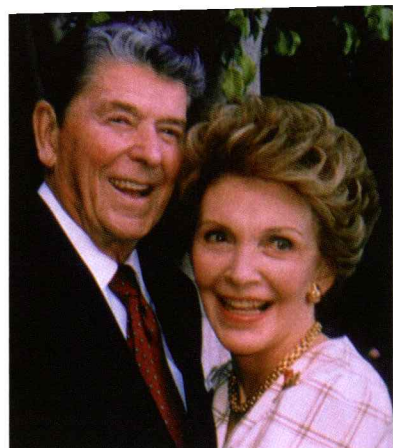
Rancho del Cielo is nestled in the south coast region of Santa Barbara County, one of the most desirable living areas in the State of California. Here, pastoral scenery and a Mediterranean climate enhance a splendid landscape of coastal mountain ranges and river valleys. Approximately 30 miles northwest of the city of Santa Barbara, the ranch sits at the top of the Santa Ynez Mountains as they rise up from the Pacific coastline. Beyond lies the Santa

Ynez Valley, a fertile region renowned for its wine grape production, horse breeding, and cattle ranching.

Property

The private ranch of former President Ronald Reagan, this distinguished property served as the Western White House during his administration, and has been enjoyed as the Reagan family retreat for 20 years. Rancho del Cielo encompasses 688± acres atop the Santa Ynez Mountains, just west of Refugio Pass. Amid rolling meadows and towering

stands of oaks, its spectacular views overlook the Santa Barbara coastline, Channel Islands, and Santa Ynez Valley. The ranch retains its rustic character, and is interlaced with an extensive network of scenic riding trails. Much of the acreage comprises gently rolling terrain, with several small hills and the beginnings of canyons leading down into the valley. Its highest elevation rises to 2,614'± above sea level, atop the dramatic peak of Bald Mountain, at the southwest corner of the ranch. At the southeast corner, another peak



Government must not supersede the will of the people or the responsibilities of the people. The function of government is not to confer happiness, but to give men the opportunity to work out happiness for themselves.

Ronald Reagan, The Creative Society, 1968

The American dream is not that every man must be level with every other man. The American dream is that every man must be free to become whatever God intends he should become.

Ronald Reagan, The Creative Society, 1968

The years ahead will be great ones for our country, for the cause of freedom, and for the spread of civilization. The west will not contain communism, it will transcend communism. We will not bother to denounce it; we'll dismiss it as a sad, bizarre chapter in human history whose last pages are even now being written.

Ronald Reagan, Commencement Address at Notre Dame, 1981

General Secretary Gorbachev, if you seek peace, if you seek prosperity for the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe, if you seek liberalization: Come here to this gate! Mr. Gorbachev, open this gate! Mr. Gorbachev, tear down this wall.

Ronald Reagan, Speech at the Brandenburg Gate, 1987

They called it the Reagan revolution. Well, I'll accept that, but for me it always seemed more like the great rediscovery, a rediscovery of our values and our common sense.

Ronald Reagan, Farewell Address to the Nation, 1989



President Reagan responds to the applause of the German crowd at Berlin's Brandenburg Gate after calling on Mikhail Gorbachev to "Tear down this wall."

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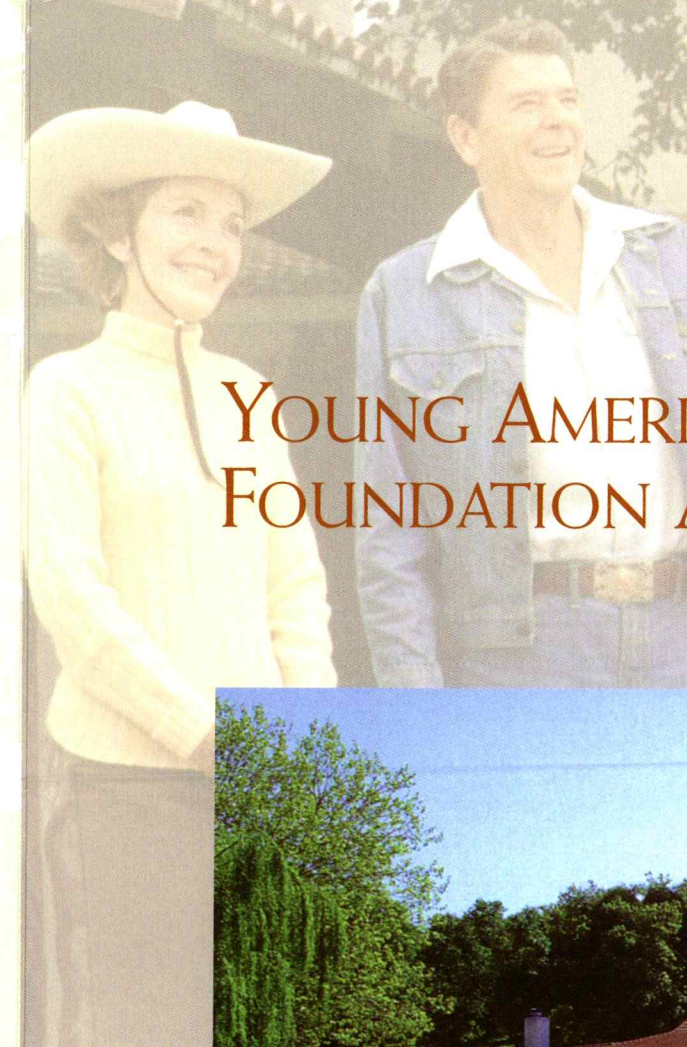
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YOUNG AMERICA'S FOUNDATION ANNOUNCES...



The Ronald Reagan

Leadership Development

Program at

Rancho del Cielo

Santa Barbara County

THE RONALD REAGAN LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

Ronald Reagan's principles inspired a generation of Americans

President Reagan's adherence to conservative principles and his persuasive powers led America to victory in the Cold War, the longest period of peacetime economic growth in our history, and the restoration of our preeminence as a world power. Mr. Reagan's remarkable career as governor of California, as president, and as leader of the conservative movement is a legacy worth preserving.

Young America's Foundation is committed to the Reagan legacy and to educating future generations in its principles. To fulfill this mission the Foundation is proud to announce The Ronald Reagan Leadership Development Program. This bold new national program is dedicated to fostering the virtues of individual freedom, limited government, patriotism, and traditional values to future generations of Americans.

The focal point of this exciting campaign will be the Reagan Ranch in Santa Barbara. Rancho del Cielo, as the Reagans called this beautiful property, has been acquired by Young America's Foundation to preserve as a historic site and to serve as the centerpiece of The Ronald Reagan Leadership Development Program.

President Reagan and Young America's Foundation

Founded in 1969, Young America's Foundation maintains a comprehensive national program of lectures, conferences, and publications aimed at educating and inspiring young people in the principles of freedom. The Foundation has student and faculty contacts at over 1,500 colleges and universities as well as at many high schools throughout the United States.

President Reagan and Young America's Foundation have enjoyed a long relationship in working for the same goals.

Mr. Reagan has spoken before Young America's

Foundation audiences since the 1970s.

In 1974-75 Young America's Foundation sponsored Mr. Reagan's national radio broadcasts, which kept his ideas before the American people prior to his 1976 presidential campaign.

President Reagan hosted Foundation student leaders at the White House in every year of his presidency.

In 1993 Mr. Reagan addressed the Foundation's summer conference students, saying, "Young America's Foundation has been a refuge for students seeking an alternative to the politically correct environment enforced on many campuses. I know the conference will send you back to your cam-

puses better informed, motivated and trained. Your work is vital to the future of the nation."

Moreover, it was important to President Reagan to reach out to young people with his ideas, a goal that is also central to the Foundation's mission.

Now the relationship between Ronald Reagan and Young America's Foundation will continue through this breakthrough program to educate our future citizens and leaders.

Rancho del Cielo

The Reagan Ranch will be the centerpiece of the Ronald Reagan Leadership Development Program. The project has been endorsed by First Lady Nancy Reagan as a fitting tribute to the Reagan years and a unique vehicle to continue to spread the Reagan philosophy.

Rancho del Cielo, the Reagans' 688 acre ranch in the Santa Ynez Mountains, will be preserved as a historic site. President Reagan loved this beautiful retreat once stating, "From the first day we saw it, Rancho del Cielo cast a spell over us. No place before or since has ever given Nancy and me the joy and serenity it does."

The Reagans owned Rancho del Cielo for over twenty-five years and spent many days of the Reagan presidency there, including every Thanksgiving.

President Reagan built significant portions of the ranch himself.

Rancho del Cielo served as the Western White House and was the site of the signing of the Economic Recovery Act, the largest tax reduction in American history.

It was to Rancho del Cielo that

President Reagan retreated to "recharge his batteries" and ponder many great decisions of his career and presidency.

Program Goals

Young America's Foundation will preserve the Reagan Ranch as it existed during the Reagan presidency. Explanatory materials and exhibits will be developed as tools for explaining the accomplishments of the Reagan administration, the historic events that occurred at the ranch, and how the Reagan family spent their time on the ranch.

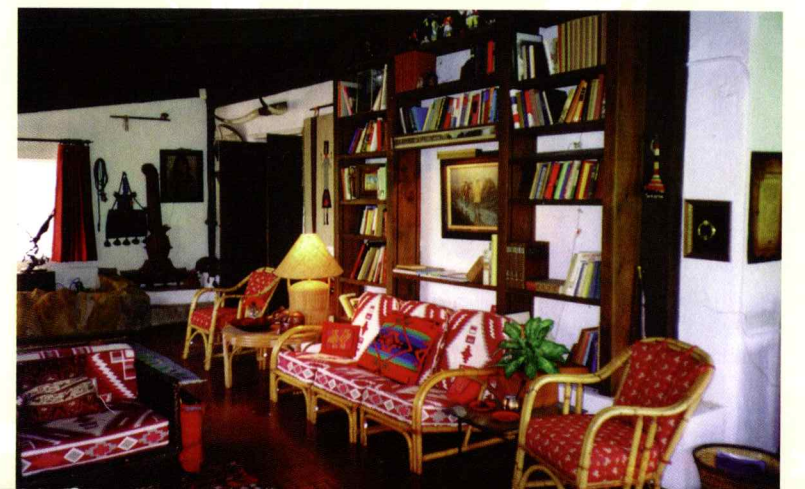
A second goal of the project is to develop the leadership skills of young American men and women, to educate them in the principles of President Reagan, and to train them to be effective proponents of those principles. Conference facilities will be acquired in the Santa Barbara area to complement the Reagan Ranch as a site for young Americans to study the Reagan legacy. Leading academics and officials will serve as lecturers and discussion leaders for these leadership retreats.

Finally, the Foundation will conduct a national series of campus lectures and conferences conveying to students President Reagan's ideas that guided his public life.

The Ronald Reagan Leadership Development Program will have a lasting impact on American young people and on the nation. The true legacy of President Reagan, the genuine accomplishments of his administration, and the principles that restored America's economy and pride must be understood and remembered by all Americans. Young America's Foundation is committed to this critical mission.



Young America's Foundation President Ron Robinson met with Mr. Reagan prior to the President's address to the Foundation's 1993 summer conference.



Reagan Ranch Trailblazers

Young America's Foundation

Reagan Ranch Office

Santa Barbara, CA

Phillips' Gift Launches Leadership Program

Conservative activist donates breakthrough \$1 Million to Reagan Ranch

On November 23, 1998, Tom Phillips arrived at Rancho del Cielo for a historic visit to the Reagan property. The purpose of this trip was to present a check to Young America's Foundation for the sum of one million dollars—confirming the opinion of former Attorney General Ed Meese, who has publicly stated that “there is no one more important to the Conservative Movement today than Tom Phillips.” Mr. Phillips' generous donation will forever be acknowledged as the “Lead Gift” in the Foundation's effort to preserve Rancho del Cielo and launch the Ronald Reagan Leadership Program.

Mr. Phillips is CEO and president of Phillips Publishing International, a prominent and rapidly expanding diversified publisher. PPI is well-known among conservatives

“There's a sense of freedom up here at the ranch. You can understand why Reagan loved it so much...”

for its publication *Human Events*, the standard bearer for conservative newspapers, and for its *Conservative*

Book Club and Regnery Publishing, a conservative book publisher.

Mr. Phillips is a longtime supporter and recently elected board member of Young America's Foundation who has gained a particular interest in the Reagan Ranch acquisition. A tour of the ranch last summer convinced Mr. Phillips of the importance of continuing the Reagan legacy through the work of Young America's Foundation.

“There's a sense of freedom up here at the ranch. You can understand why Reagan loved it so much. . . . You feel so far away from government,” Phillips told a *Capital Style* magazine reporter.

Standing on a stone patio built by the President himself, just behind the table where the largest tax cut in U.S. history was signed into law, Mr. Phillips proudly presented his contribution to Young America's Foundation Executive Director Marc Short and Director of Development Kristen Short.

“It's important to preserve that legacy of freedom, free enterprise, optimism and opportunity for all,” Mr. Phillips later told the *Potomac (Maryland) Gazette*, his hometown newspaper. “[The Reagan Ranch] is the perfect setting for transmitting those ideas. It's very real . . . very close to the reality of America as opposed to the artificial climate we have inside the beltway of Washington.”

Marc later voiced the sentiments of the Foundation, saying, “The gift shows

continued on page 6

Published Quarterly at Rancho del Cielo for the Loyal Supporters of Young America's Foundation.



Publisher and activist Phillips is a long-time supporter of Young America's Foundation.



Message

from the Executive Director

The Ronald Reagan Leadership Program just celebrated its first anniversary. Yet already the outpouring of support from loyal conservatives across the country has been phenomenal. As of this writing, we are remarkably close to reaching the midpoint of our initial goal of \$13.8 million.

The list below (accurate as of 3/16/99) is comprised of those donors who have given \$10,000 and above, each preserving one-half acre or more of the Reagan property. Our supporters represent geographic diversity and come from all walks of life. Many of the supporters on this list have given far beyond what could have been expected of them, and several of these generous benefactors will be individually featured in future issues of *Trailblazers*.

To all those who have given generously to the Ronald Reagan Leadership Program, the leadership and staff of Young America's Foundation thanks you. You have forever linked your name with President Reagan's legacy, ensuring that generations to come will understand and appreciate this great man and great leader.

- Marc T. Short, Executive Director

REAGAN RANCH

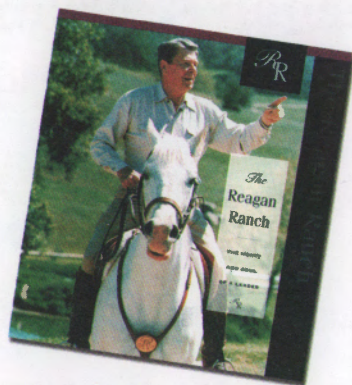
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[Foundation supporters not listed here will be recognized in future issues of *Trailblazers*.]



Reagan Administration Officials Offer Guidance

Meese, Clark, Donatelli to Chair Leadership Program Board of Governors

Young America's Foundation is proud to announce the participation of three distinguished Reagan Administration alumni in the Ronald Reagan Leadership Program. Former Attorney General Edwin Meese, III, and Judge William P. Clark will join Young America's Foundation board member and Ronald Reagan Leadership Program Chairman Frank Donatelli in chairing the newly formed Board of Governors. This board has been established to act as an oversight and aid committee to the Foundation's efforts at Rancho del Cielo.

With the acquisition of the Reagan property, the Foundation launched the Ronald Reagan Leadership Program. The Board of Governors will advise the Program's efforts to preserve Rancho del Cielo, organize a national lecture series, develop a well equipped conference center, and raise the multimillion dollar budget needed to accomplish these objectives.

The Board of Governors will be comprised of those best able to provide the Foundation with the wisdom and resources it needs to move forward with this ambitious, multifaceted project. The first step in creating such a board was selecting the right chairmen.

The participation of such highly qualified individuals as Meese, Clark, and Donatelli is a credit to the strength of the project's appeal. Mr. Donatelli will serve as Chairman, while Mr. Meese and Mr. Clark will serve as Co-Chairs. Each of these men has extensive personal and public ties to President Reagan and each will bring a unique and valuable perspective to this project.

Ed Meese currently holds the Ronald Reagan Chair in Public Policy at The Heritage Foundation. He is also a Distinguished Visiting Fellow at the Hoover Institution in Stanford, California.

Mr. Meese's connections to President Reagan are as long as they are venerable. He served as the 75th Attorney General of the United States under Reagan, and as the nation's chief law enforcement officer, Attorney General Meese was credited with reorganizing the

structure of the Department of Justice and with leading international efforts to combat terrorism, drug trafficking, and organized crime. Prior to that position, Meese was Counselor to the President, the senior position on the White House staff.



Ed Meese (right), the 75th Attorney General of the United States, was one of Reagan's closest advisors.

Meese's involvement with Reagan's political career, however, extends back to well before the presidency--to terms as Governor of California. He was Reagan's Executive Assistant and Chief of Staff from 1969 through 1974, and then served as Chief of Staff and Senior Issues Advisor during Reagan's 1980 Presidential campaign. His memoirs of those Reagan years are published in the book *With Reagan: The Inside Story*.

Judge William P. Clark also served President Reagan in several high profile capacities, including Secretary of International Security Advisor, and Deputy Secretary of the Department of State, all in the early years of the presidency. After Judge Clark left full-time public service in 1985, President Reagan continued to call on him, appointing him Chairman

of the Task Group on Nuclear Weapons Programs Management and member of the Defense Department's Commission on Integrated Long-Term Strategy.

As with Mr. Meese, Judge Clark has a long history with the President. Judge Clark entered public service in 1967 as Cabinet Secretary to then-Governor Reagan. The following year he was appointed Executive Secretary and Chief of Staff by Reagan, serving those positions until 1969, when Clark was appointed Judge of the Superior Court in San Luis Obispo County. Two years later he was appointed Associate Justice of the California



Clark and Reagan travel aboard Air Force One.

continued on page 8

First Lady Returns to Rancho del Cielo

What should I say? What should I wear? These were the questions racing through my mind, because this was not an ordinary day. This was the day I was going to Rancho del Cielo to meet First Lady Nancy Reagan!

Meeting Mrs. Reagan was truly an honor for both my husband and me. I was nervous, but I should have known that the lady so skilled at putting foreign dignitaries at ease would be able to calm my nerves within moments of meeting her.

I still wonder if my sigh of relief was audible when Mrs. Reagan stepped out of the car wearing crisp white tennis shoes and blue jeans, and said simply, "Hello. I'm Nancy Reagan." Here was a remarkably kind, down-to-earth woman who was ready to tackle the tasks at hand.

And tackle them we did. Mrs. Reagan brought with her dozens of personal items that she wished to return to the ranch. We couldn't have been more delighted. Not only did she leave the house fully furnished, but now she was prepared to share even more of their lives and memories with us.

As Mrs. Reagan unwrapped the President's favorite navy blue ball cap and hung it gingerly on the rack by the door, I could feel the tears welling up in my eyes.

Between hanging pictures of Western artwork on the walls and restoring the original patchwork quilt to the bed, I had the privilege of beginning to get to know Mrs. Reagan.

I sensed her pride in the place that she and her husband had worked on—together—for nearly twenty-five years. I witnessed her appreciation of the quiet ranch home, perhaps the only place that offered private



Mrs. Reagan, pictured here with Marc and Kristen, has returned countless personal items to the ranch.



time to the first couple. I saw the adoration in her eyes as she opened a box with one of her husband's favorite possessions. And I heard the love in her voice as she explained to me that the right side of the closet was hers and the left side belonged to him.

Little did I know then that she would later return the very clothing that hung in that closet. Now, thanks to Mrs. Reagan, a peek in the bedroom closet reveals her red bathrobe and his brown one inscribed with the initials "RR." It also holds the work shirts, belt buckles (such as the Secret Service "Ranch Detail" buckle pictured above), and cowboy boots worn by the President when he was clearing wood or chopping brush, as well as her assortment of Western shirts and jeans.

The effect is poignant.

Over the course of the last few months, Mrs. Reagan has generously restored scores of sentimental belongings to the ranch. The wooden clock that bears his name is back above the kitchen door. The President's well-worn saddle rests in the tack room. Cherished paintings of favorite horses hang on the wall. Each item has its own history—offering insight into the lives and personalities of our nation's fortieth president and his first lady.

—Kristen Short
Director of Development



Mrs. Reagan's pride in the ranch was evident as she shared the history of Rancho del Cielo with the Shorts.

Profile Courtney Trisler: A Presidential Rancher

Courtney Trisler is as much a part of the history at the Reagan Ranch as the house itself. For the past fourteen years, Courtney has loyally served as foreman and caretaker of Santa Barbara's most famous ranch, initially for President and Mrs. Reagan, and now as an employee of Young America's Foundation.

Just as the Reagans' home has many stories to tell, so does Courtney. The President hired him in April of 1985, shortly after the death of their previous foreman, Lee Clearwater. Since then, Courtney has lived on the Reagan property in a home just up the hill from the tack barn.

Oddly enough, Courtney was a child when he first met Ronald Reagan, long before he was president or even governor of California. One Sunday, while sitting in church, Courtney's father nudged him. "Do you know who you're sitting next to?" his father asked. The wide-eyed young Courtney was quickly informed that it was then movie star and radio personality Ronald Reagan.

Years later, Courtney met the President again. This time Courtney happened upon him working in a ditch on a plumbing problem at his Malibu ranch. The favorable impression this second meeting left was partially responsible for leading Courtney to apply for the job of ranch foreman when the opportunity arose.



Courtney's ranch experience and knowledge of the property's history are invaluable.

After the death of the Reagans' previous foreman was publicized, Courtney's daughter encouraged him to write a letter asking for the job. After a brief interview, Courtney was hired.

A note of surprise is still evident in Courtney's voice as he talks of that unexpected turn of events, thinking back to his first encounter with President Reagan as a child, then of the years he spent at the President's side.

"Who would have thought..." is a phrase frequently on his lips. Clearly, Courtney has relished every moment of his time at the ranch.

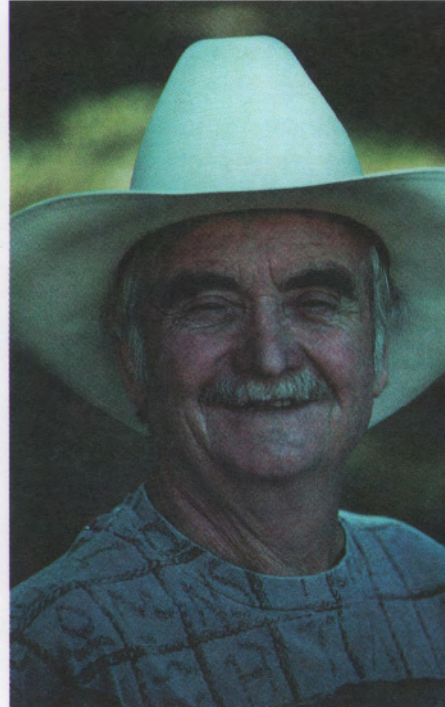
Courtney has certainly seen a lot during his tenure here. He was present during the visits of some of the ranch's most illustrious guests, including Margaret Thatcher and Mikhail Gorbachev, both of whom he was able to personally greet.

Courtney's position has also brought him into contact with such famous Santa Barbara residents as Bo Derek, Fess Parker, and James Garner.

More than these unique experiences, however, Courtney cherishes the time he spent with the Reagans, working for the President on the day-to-day activities of the ranch. He remembers the President as "very friendly with people" and "very up front."

As rewarding as work on the Reagan Ranch has been, it was not always easy. Ranch work is often difficult and always strenuous. Beyond that, Rancho del Cielo is no ordinary ranch. With all the people and presidential activity on the ranch, Courtney needed patience and dedication to make sure the ranch was run properly.

Courtney, now 64, lives at Rancho del Cielo with his wife, Carol. He continues to faithfully care for President Reagan's beloved home, cutting back trails, feeding the animals, mowing the grass. Visitors to the ranch will still see him working perhaps passing by on a tractor or hauling brush in his pickup truck, just as when the President was still at his side.



Courtney has cared for and protected the ranch for nearly 15 years.

Generous Supporters Bring New Life to Ranch

Thanks to Dr. and Mrs. Ronald Brooker and their daughter Bridget, the bustle of outdoor life is returning to Rancho del Cielo. Their generosity has brought two additional horses to the corrals of the "Western White House."

For the past three years the ranch has steadily lost its animal population—many of the President's horses were donated to a children's charity and, sadly, several other ranch animals passed away. Without these animals the ranch has a stillness far removed from the President's time there, when the property was home to everything from horses to cattle to dogs.

Dr. and Mrs. Brooker learned of Young America's Foundation's acquisition of the ranch through their children, all five of whom were involved in Foundation programs in high school and college. That exposure, says Mrs. Brooker proudly, was a "very special experience." Their gratitude to Young America's Foundation led them to donate their horses Luna and Echo to Rancho del Cielo.

A visit to the ranch last summer left them "thrilled," and the Brookers became enthusiastic about the idea of having

their horses placed in such a "perfect environment," as Mrs. Brooker terms it.

Luna, a white Arabian, and Echo, a chestnut half-Arabian/half-Quarter Horse, have been stallmates for the past ten years, and the Brookers had hoped to find a place of retirement for them where they could continue to live together.

Courtney Trisler, foreman at Rancho del Cielo (see profile on page 5), says that the horses have adjusted well to their new home. They join Lieutenant, a Peruvian Paso, and Wendy, a burrow, both of whom belong to Courtney.

Young America's Foundation hopes to continue the President's tradition of utilizing Rancho del Cielo as a working ranch. Students who visit the property will

supplement their time attending lectures and workshops with "true" ranch activities, such as horseback riding and clearing trails.

In this way, students will have the opportunity to revitalize themselves outdoors just as the President did. As biographer Dinesh D'Souza wrote, Ronald Reagan "drew strength from his connection with nature."



Horses are one of the President's great loves in life. Three now reside at Rancho del Cielo: Echo, Luna, and Lieutenant.

Phillips, continued from page 1

normous generosity on Mr. Phillips' part. We are overwhelmed."

A permanent plaque will be placed at the ranch to commemorate this "Lead Gift," honoring Mr. Phillips' commitment to Young America's Foundation and the advancement of the Reagan legacy.

To encourage further support for the ranch, Mr. Phillips' donation established a matching fund. Any support Young America's Foundation receives for the preservation of the Reagan Ranch is eligible to be matched by Mr. Phillips'

gift, dollar-for-dollar, for a total of one million dollars.

Mr. Phillips' gift is a down payment on protecting the Reagan legacy—it will help the Foundation to ensure that future generations of Americans will never forget the leadership of one of the greatest presidents who ever served, nor the message of patriotism that Ronald Reagan conveyed through his presidency.

With this gift, the Foundation is well on its way to achieving its goal of \$13.8 million, and we hope other conservative leaders from around the country will be as generous as Mr. Phillips.



Phillips (right) makes his historic presentation to the Shorts.



Young America's Foundation and Rancho del Cielo

Affectionately called "Rancho del Cielo" or "Ranch in the Sky," by the Reagans, the ranch served as a retreat for President Reagan for over twenty-five years. The ranch is where President Reagan went to "recharge his batteries" and ponder the many great decisions of his career and presidency.

The ranch was purchased in the spring of 1998 by Young America's Foundation to be preserved as a living monument to Reagan's legacy and to serve as the centerpiece of the Ronald Reagan Leadership Program. President Reagan has always been committed to reaching out to young people with his ideas—a goal that is also central to the Foundation's mission.

Now the relationship between Ronald Reagan and Young America's Foundation will continue on through the Ronald Reagan Leadership Program. With lectures, leadership conferences, workshops, and internships, students will learn the true legacy of President Reagan, the genuine accomplishments of his administration, and the principles for which he stands.

For more information on how you can help preserve Reagan's legacy through the Ronald Reagan Leadership Program, call us toll free at (877) 797-7325.

President
Ron Robinson
Executive Director
Marc Short

Ronald Reagan Leadership Program
Board of Governors
Frank Donatelli, Esq., Chairman
Judge William P. Clark, Co-Chairman
Attorney General Edwin Meese, III, Co-Chairman



Reagan Ranch
812 B Anacapa Street
Santa Barbara, CA 93101
(805) 957-1980

F.M. Kirby Freedom Center
110 Elden Street
Herndon, VA 20170
(800) 292-9231

Take Stock of Your Options: How to Give More by Giving Securities

Gifts of cash are not the only way to support the causes in which you believe.

Often the best way to make a charitable gift is to give securities (stocks, bonds or shares in a mutual fund) that have increased in value over what you initially paid for them.

There are three benefits to this type of gift. First, when you give securities that you have owned long enough to qualify for long-term gains, you are entitled to a federal income tax deduction based on the current fair market value of the shares regardless of the original cost.

Second, when you make a gift instead of a sale, you don't have to pay the capital gains tax that would otherwise be claimed by the IRS if the securities have appreciated.

Third, you may be able to do more by spending less. Take a look at the cost effectiveness of donating stock worth \$10,000 (with a cash basis of \$2,000) instead of a cash gift of the same amount.

The table below assumes donor is in highest income tax bracket and 20% capital-gains tax bracket.

Value of gift = \$10,000		
	Cash	Stock
Income tax savings	\$3,960	\$3,960
Capital-gains tax savings	0	1,600
Total tax savings	\$3,960	\$5,560
Total "cost" of gift to donor	\$6,040	\$4,440

A gift of stocks or other long-term appreciated property may be the perfect way for your family to forever link your name to the Reagan legacy.

Essentially, all you need to do is ask your stockbroker or mutual fund company to make an electronic transfer of the securities you want to give to the Young America's Foundation brokerage account.

Tom Beveridge or Kristen Short can provide this information. Please call them at (805) 957-1980 for assistance.

Reagan Ranch

The

THE HEART
AND SOUL
OF A LEADER

RR

RR

5125 AVENUE STREET, SUITE 100, CALIFORNIA 92010

REAGAN RANCH
HISTORICAL TRUST
81 pages of Quality Research & Analysis

Young America's Foundation President Ron Robinson met with Ronald Reagan prior to the Presidential Library to discuss the importance of the Reagan Ranch.



From 1974-75, Young America's Foundation sponsored Ronald Reagan's national radio broadcasts which kept his ideas before the American people. During the 1980s, President Reagan hosted thousands of students and leaders for policy briefings at the White House in every year of his presidency.

Ronald Reagan and Young America's Foundation



YOU ARE INVITED TO JOIN The Reagan Ranch Historical Trust

There is only one Mt. Vernon. There is only one Monticello. And, there is only one Rancho del Cielo.

We invite you to become one of a select group of people whose gifts will:

- Pay off the debt incurred in the purchase of Rancho del Cielo;
- Preserve the Ranch's priceless buildings, furnishings and artifacts;
- Restore the former Secret Service building for use as a Visitors Center with conference rooms and meeting facilities;
- Secure and protect the property from fire and theft;
- Develop a master plan for the Ronald Reagan Leadership Program;
- Establish a perpetual endowment to ensure the future use of the property as a major American heritage site.

The total project will cost \$13.8 million dollars, or \$20,000 per acre.

We invite you to become a Charter Member of the Reagan Ranch Historical Trust by "purchasing" the preservation of Ranch acreage.

The following are the Historical Trust Recognition Levels showing the amount of acreage protected by each gift.

RECOGNITION LEVEL		ACRES PROTECTED
Reagan Ranch Friend	\$ 100+	216 square feet
	\$ 500+	1080 square feet
Reagan Ranch Trailblazer	\$ 1,000+	2178 square feet
	\$ 2,500+	Eighth of an acre
	\$ 5,000+	Quarter of an acre
	\$ 10,000+	Half of an acre+
Reagan Ranch Partner	\$ 20,000+	1 acre+
Reagan Ranch Homesteader	\$ 50,000+	2.5 acres+
Reagan Ranch Rancher	\$100,000+	5 acres+
Reagan Ranch Pioneer	\$250,000+	12.5 acres+
Reagan Ranch Founder	\$500,000+	25 acres+

* Individuals giving \$1,000 or more will have their names inscribed on Freedom Wall in the Secret Service building. Individuals giving \$10,000 or more will have their names placed on the permanent Reagan Ranch Map on the acreage they have preserved.

Reagan Ranch Historical Trust Recognition Premiums and Privileges

Each gift to the Reagan Ranch Historical Trust will be recognized with unique premiums and privileges worthy of helping to save this national treasure.

For a complete list, please see the accompanying Reagan Ranch Historical Trust Prospectus.

future leaders. This is the reason that Young America's Foundation is honoring the Reagan Ranch. We have so much of the Ranch with us, and that's why we are proud to have the Reagan Ranch as a part of our future.

Reagan Ranch Historical Trust. It's the heart and soul of a leader. It's the heart and soul of a nation. It's the heart and soul of a future.

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The 100-year-old, five-room adobe ranch house lies nestled in a meadow next to Lake Lucky where the President and Nancy often viewed their canoe "Thelma."



Always the gallant romantic, President Reagan carved the initials "NR" and "NOR" on Heart Rock.



The bedroom, decorated by Nancy, is colorful, warm, and simple. Their Bibles remain on a bedside table.



President Reagan built this rugged fence made of telephone poles, winding with ranch hands he dug every hole and round every post.



In the Ranch's back room, the President's and Nancy's saddles remind the next visitor.



Knowing his love of the old West, the President was given many custom-made western belt buckles. They are on display in the living room.



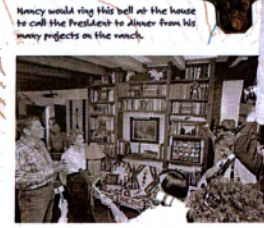
On this simple table, Hunt still sits on the patio at Rancho del Cielo, President Reagan signed the Economic Recovery Act of 1981.

Preserving the Legacy of a Great Leader

"What I'd really like is to go down in history as the President who made Americans believe in themselves again..."



Nancy Reagan made sure the house looks just as she and the President left it. Nancy says it looks "like the Reagans have just stepped out and will be right back."



Nancy would ring this bell at the house to call the President to dinner from his study projects on the ranch.



The fireplaces are the only sources of heat. Visitors are comforted by the house's cheery aura of sunny western hospitality and are very surprised at the simplicity.



As the sun set, President and Mrs. Reagan would sit over dinner, look out over the meadow, and share the day's events. The President also sat at this table to deal with affairs of state — his "homework" as he called it.



The Ranch's first owner, Jose Jesus Pico, built the ranch house in 1979. President Reagan described how he looked when they purchased it in 1974. "On two sides was a run-down, shabby screened porch with an ugly, corrugated aluminum roof with walls made of green plastic siding. We tore out the porch leaving only the concrete floor, and with the help of a contractor built a big screened room with a fireplace and windows all around. We opened up beautiful views all across the meadow."



Upon returning from their ride, the President would always help Nancy down off her horse, and then give her a big and a kiss.



The Reagans loved their animals. At the Ranch's pet cemetery, the President and Nancy kept their horses.



The President signed the Economic Recovery Act of 1981 here in front of the patio. It reduced tax rates from 70% to 28% and launched the Reagan Revolution.



This is the stable where the President and Mrs. Reagan kept their horses.



This is where Gorbachev learned against the fence and talked with the President.



The riding room never still sports the Presidential seal.



Every morning the President would ring this bell up at the stables to let Nancy know the horses were saddled and ready to ride.



Mr. and Mrs. Gorbachev were among the Ranch's many distinguished visitors.



"He just loved it up there, just loved it. He would just take a big sigh when he got on a horse." John Barketta, Secret Service Agent

WHEN HE SAID IT, NO ONE FELL FOR IT.

"The Soviet economy has made great national progress in recent years."

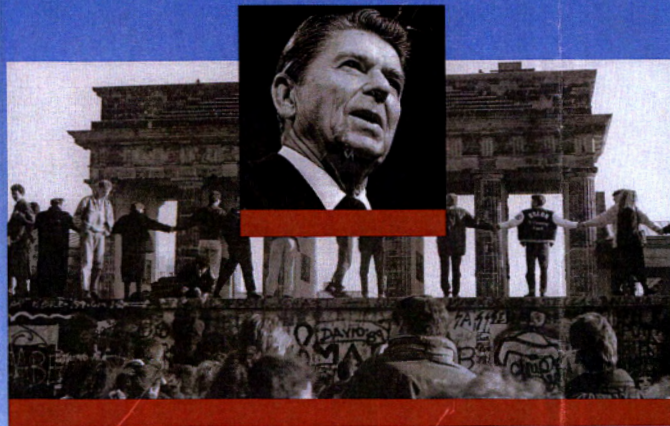
JOHN KENNETH GALBRAITH
Professor of Economics
Harvard University
New Yorker Magazine, 1984

"It is a vulgar mistake to think that most people in Eastern Europe are miserable."

PAUL SAMUELSON
Nobel Laureate
Professor of Economics
Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Economics, 1981

"Can economic command significantly compress and accelerate the growth process? The remarkable performance of the Soviet Union suggests that it can. In 1920 Russia was but a minor figure in the economic councils of the world. Today it is a country whose economic achievements bear comparison with those of the United States."

LESTER THUROW
Professor of Economics
Massachusetts Institute of Technology
The Economic Problem, 1989



"The years ahead will be great ones for our country, for the cause of freedom and for the spread of civilization. The west will not contain communism, it will transcend communism. We will not bother to denounce it, we'll dismiss it as a sad, bizarre chapter in human history whose last pages are even now being written."

May 1981

Commencement address at Notre Dame

"In an ironic sense, Karl Marx was right. We are witnessing today a great revolutionary crisis—a crisis where the demands of the economic order are colliding directly with those of the political order. But the crisis is happening not in the free, non-Marxist west, but in the home of Marxism-Leninism, the Soviet Union. . . . What we see here is a political structure that no longer corresponds to its economic base, a society where productive forces are hampered by political ones."

June 1982

Address to the British Parliament

"... no one can deny that it has made tremendous economic progress."

LESTER THUROW
Professor of Economics
Massachusetts Institute of Technology
The Economic Problem, 1989

"The Soviet Union is not now nor will it be during the next decade in the throes of a true systemic crisis, for it boasts enormous unused reserves of political and social stability that suffice to endure the deepest difficulties."

SEWERYN BIALER
Professor of Political Science
Columbia University
Foreign Affairs Magazine, 1982/83

"On the economic front, for the first time in its history the Soviet leadership was able to pursue successfully a policy of guns and butter as well as growth . . . The Soviet citizen—worker, peasant, and professional—has become accustomed in the Brezhnev period to an uninterrupted upward trend in his well-being . . ."

SEWERYN BIALER
Professor of Political Science
Columbia University
Foreign Affairs Magazine, 1982/83



110 Elden Street, Herndon, Virginia 22070

Reagan Ranch

Trailblazers

Published
Quarterly at
Rancho del Cielo
for the Loyal
Supporters of
Young America's
Foundation.

Acclaimed author D'Souza to serve as first Eichenberg Presidential Scholar

Young America's Foundation is proud to announce the appointment of Dinesh D'Souza, best-selling author and conservative activist, as the first Robert and LaDorna Eichenberg Presidential Scholar. As a Presidential Scholar, Mr. D'Souza will serve as the Foundation's spokesman for the public defense of President Reagan's legacy in print, television, and through personal appearances.

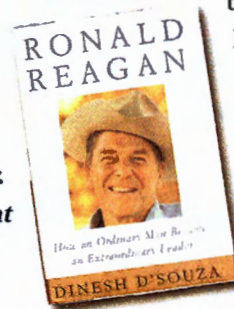
Dinesh D'Souza's background is impressive. He is the author of several highly acclaimed books, including the *New York Times* best-seller *Illiberal Education*, the thought provoking *The End of Racism*, and the much-celebrated presidential biography, *Ronald Reagan: How an Ordinary Man Became an Extraordinary Leader*.

D'Souza has appeared in numerous newspapers and journals across the country and is a frequent guest on such television shows as *The O'Reilly Report*, the *MacNeil/Lehrer NewsHour*, *Crossfire*, *Firing Line*, and *Good Morning America*. He is also one of the Foundation's most frequent and popular campus lecturers, making him an ideally suited spokesman for our cause.

Dinesh D'Souza has more than just an academic knowledge of President Reagan, however, serving



D'Souza has been a frequent speaker for the Foundation, addressing 17 different college audiences in the past year. His biography of President Reagan is one of the best available.



from 1987 to 1988 as Senior Domestic Policy Analyst in the Reagan White House. It was an exciting time in Washington, D.C., as D'Souza records in his biography of President Reagan: "We [the President's aides] were a generation of young conservatives who came to Washington in the 1980s inspired by Reagan and the idea of America that he espoused and embodied."

As D'Souza also illustrates in the biography, liberal academics and cultural critics are busy tearing down the President's legacy. Young America's Foundation believes it is essential to defend the President's legacy from historical revisionism, and that it is of paramount importance to the Founda-

tion that future generations understand the triumph of freedom over tyranny that came about as a result of Reagan's policies.

Although there has been a resurgence of nostalgia for the "Reagan Era" in recent months due to the debacles of the current Administration, time has not mellowed the Left's attacks on the legacy of President Reagan. Witness the snide manner in which a *Washington Post* writer dismisses President Reagan's

continued on page 6

D'Souza, continued from page 1

accomplishments in ending the Cold War in an August 1999 article: "... historians are, at best, divided on whether Reagan deserves much credit for the fall of an already doddering Soviet Union."

Or listen to the "unbiased" words with which *Our Land, Our Time*, a U.S. history textbook, describes President Reagan: "reactionary," "ideological," "sniping," and "hateful."

Another college-level history text, *The National Experience*, makes the unfounded claim that Reagan's foreign policy contained "incompetence, incoherence, recklessness, and duplicity."

D'Souza will play an active role in the Foundation's nationwide educational efforts by conducting

a campus lecture tour that will teach young audiences the value of the Reagan legacy—ideals of limited government, individual freedom, and a strong national defense—and by honoring the anniversaries of many of the President's historic achievements through nationally published editorials.

The Foundation is honored to have such a capable scholar who will not only defend the President's legacy from liberal attacks, but also take a proactive approach to educating the American people on the accomplishments of one of this country's greatest leaders.

Bartlett, continued from page 5

been cut up at least, probably more. And she just sat there shaking, holding me. She was visibly upset."

When asked about the President's last days at Rancho del Cielo, John volunteered the following account of having to inform the Reagans that the President's failing memory would no longer allow him to ride:

"I went down to Mrs. Reagan, and I said to her, 'Ma'am, he can't ride anymore, he's at the point where I can't protect him when he's on that horse. He's forgetting little things.' And she said, 'Well, you're going to have to tell him.' And you know I didn't want to tell him. And it was very sad for her because this was an important part of his life, it was from very early that he just loved horses... and to tell him he can't ride anymore... Well you know I did, and I was very nervous about it. But he looked at me and said, 'OK.' He knew. Even in his times of trouble he makes the other person feel better. In other words I was so concerned about doing that... I did not want to do that. It was

The Presidential Scholar position is made possible by the generosity of long-time Young America's Foundation supporters Robert and LaDorna Eichenberg. Their passion for conservative outreach to the next generation of world leaders is an asset to the Foundation.

"I can't think of a better person to be the scholar than Dinesh," said Bob Eichenberg in a letter to the Foundation. "We were impressed with Dinesh, his intelligence and his knowledge of the world. Our association with Young America's Foundation... has let us meet some incredibly impressive people."

We are grateful to the Eichenbergs for their continued support and overwhelming generosity, which is a testament to the strength of their convictions.



LaDorna and Bob Eichenberg (from left to right) and friends Barbara and Ken Everson enjoy the view at Rancho del Cielo.

paining me more than anything else. And he just looked at me and said, 'OK.' He knew..."

The same was true, said John, of the way the President dealt with the onset of Alzheimer's:

"In [the President's] bad times, he makes other people feel great... In his anguish he has helped other people, like he's always done."

How hard was it to retire from the Secret Service? And what lead you to make that decision?

"It was time—I couldn't do any more for him. You know, I was with him the longest of anybody, and usually that doesn't happen... I probably could have gone higher in the service if I had done other things. But I have no regrets whatsoever. It worked out just fine... When I left it was time to go—mentally and physically it was time to go. You know, you're not a friend as an agent. You've got to be careful about that. I can be a friend now."



Young America's Foundation and
Rancho del Cielo

Affectionately called "Rancho del Cielo" or "Ranch in the Sky," by the Reagans, the ranch served as a retreat for President Reagan for over twenty-five years. The ranch is where President Reagan went to "recharge his batteries" and ponder the many great decisions of his career and presidency.

The ranch was purchased in the spring of 1998 by Young America's Foundation to be preserved as a living monument to Reagan's legacy and to serve as the centerpiece of the Presidential Leadership Program. President Reagan has always been committed to reaching out to young people with his ideas—a goal that is also central to the Foundation's mission.

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DeMille visits Reagan Ranch

Nelson DeMille (pictured above, at left, with Foundation President Ron Robinson) traveled to Rancho del Cielo twice in the past few months, visiting first in April, then returning in June with his wife Ginny. DeMille is a best-selling writer who is famous for such works as *Gold Coast*, *Plum Island*, *Word of Honor*, and the recently filmed military thriller *The General's Daughter*.

DeMille, a decorated Vietnam veteran, is an ardent fan of President Reagan, admiring his commitment to a strong national defense and his respect for the men and women who risk their lives to serve our country.

"It was a unique and moving experience," said DeMille of his visit. "You get a real feeling of the Reagans at the ranch—thanks for preserving this important piece of history."

Internship, continued from page 3

better way to see the "real" Ronald Reagan than to walk on the stone patio that he made with his own hands or sit on the dock (also made by the President) at Lake Lucky, where he re-proposed to Mrs. Reagan on their 25th wedding anniversary.

"Nothing beats Reagan's Ranch," Jeff said. "Words could never describe how much I treasured working there."

"I had the rare opportunity to learn about President Reagan by actually seeing how he lived outside of his presidential world," Danielle remarked. "Soaking in the history of the ranch and the lives of President and Mrs. Reagan was very rewarding and I hope I shared that excitement with the supporters and students who visited the ranch."

It has been touching and illuminating to see how Ronald Reagan impacts so many lives through listening to visitors' recollections and watching the tears well up in their eyes. Thankfully, by preserving the ranch, the legacy of President Reagan will live on and continue to inspire lives, as it has mine this summer.

Jeannie Klein is a junior at Grove City College in Pennsylvania. She is studying business communications.

Ranch preservation projects protect Reagan legacy

Owning a ranch is serious work—Ronald Reagan knew that from experience. He spent hour upon hour of hard labor at the ranch improving the property and affectionately caring for the land that he and Nancy loved so well.

When Young America's Foundation purchased the ranch from the Reagans, it was with the goal that the property would be maintained as a living, breathing ranch, a testament to all that the President loved about his California home. Much has been accomplished in the long-term preservation and cultivation of this national treasure.

One of the most obvious improvements to the property is the fresh coat of paint that graces most of the buildings on the ranch. The home, guest house, tack barn, and foreman's cottage have all been repainted by the same contractor that the Reagans

used, restoring the buildings' original bright colors and helping to protect these historic structures from the elements.

We have also completed the first step in the exciting process of returning cattle to Rancho del Cielo. A new corral now sits behind the foreman's cottage. The President kept a small herd on the property, often presenting the beef as Christmas presents to his closest friends. It has been several years now since longhorns roamed this fertile land, but, thanks to donations by local ranchers, they will soon return.

One of the most important projects the Foundation completed is the installation of a new, state-of-

the-art security system. The ranch contains priceless artifacts of the Reagans' life together. Personally inscribed books sit undisturbed on a bookshelf. Original oil paintings of western life hang throughout the home and guest cottage. The President's saddles, including those presented by the Queen of England and the Prime Minister of Australia, rest comfortably on their original posts in the tack barn.

Without question, Young America's Foundation must take the necessary steps to protect this remarkable collection, and the newly installed security measures will do just that.

Another major project at the ranch, and one of the most challenging, is the maintenance of the President's riding trails.



The ranch was transformed into a winter wonderland last March. Executive Director Marc Short captured the photograph above.

While the seven miles of trails that snake through the 688 acres require regular upkeep under normal circumstances, a surprise was in store for the Reagan Ranch this past March: an unexpected (and very rare) snowstorm blanketed Rancho del Cielo with nearly 10 inches of snow! Santa Barbara locals claim that a storm of this magnitude hasn't hit the area in 35 years.

The sight was beautiful to behold—as evidenced by the stunning photograph above—but the damage was severe. The prolific live oaks that so beautifully shaded much of the ranch could not handle the accumulated weight of the wet, heavy snow, and as a result trees and limbs snapped all over the property.

The house, mercifully, was spared any serious injury. Every artery on the property, however, was seriously clogged. Much more than a simple inconvenience, the damage created a potential fire hazard as well.

It took a crew of seven men, working five days a week, nearly two months, at a cost of over \$60,000, to restore the property to its previous condition.

The support of hundreds of Americans, committed to the ideals of President Reagan and the preservation of his beloved ranch home, has made these projects possible.

This is why Young America's Foundation is seeking sponsors for individual acres. Your sponsorship of an acre will ensure the upkeep and safety of the Reagan Ranch. To learn more about this opportunity, please call Kristen Short at (805) 957-1980.



Tree crews spent two months clearing away storm damage on the ranch.

Trailblazers Profile Special Agent John Barletta: Protector and Friend

Secret Service agent John R. Barletta protected Ronald Reagan for seventeen years—longer than any other agent assigned to the President. After a brief stint with President Ford, and another assignment under President Carter, John was assigned to President Reagan in 1980. He served for five years in the Presidential Protective Division, or PPD. After a two year assignment at Secret Service Headquarters, John was transferred in 1987 to Rancho del Cielo, where he took over the Western Protective Division, commonly referred to as the “ranch detail.”

During their years together, John and President Reagan became close friends, a bond that grew primarily from their common love for horses. Both men were excellent riders who rode together frequently at the ranch. John continued his official relationship with the President until 1997, when he retired from the Service and moved to Santa Barbara. He still makes regular trips down to Los Angeles to visit with President and Mrs. Reagan, now strictly as a friend rather than as a guardian.

John has been an invaluable asset to the Foundation in learning the history and inner workings of President Reagan's beloved ranch. In fact, John agreed to sit on the Board of Governors that will oversee the ranch project. He has been incredibly generous with his time and expertise, and recently sat down with me at the ranch to talk about some of his experiences here. In part one of this interview John talks about life at the ranch and his relationship with the Reagans. Look for part two in the next edition of Trailblazers.

—Andrew Coffin, Trailblazers Editor

What was it that drew you and the President together?

“Early on, the President was out riding, and one of the agents assigned to him fell off his horse and broke his arm. The President dismounted and was caring for the agent. At that

point, the Special Agent in Charge—known as the ‘Big Boss’—is saying to himself, ‘wait a minute, this should be the other way around . . . does anybody know how to ride?’ So I sheepishly raised my hand. So the ‘Big Boss’ says, ‘Mr. President, this is John Barletta, he’s going to be riding with you tomorrow.’ The President said, ‘Oh.’ I could just see it in his eyes, although he’s a wonderful guy, that he thought, ‘Oh, another one.’” The next day, John impressed the President with his riding skills and love for horses.

“That was the start of it . . . there’s no doubt about it, that was the bond.”

I understand that the President often asked for you specifically—why was that?

He knew all the agents did great but I was told that he felt most secure when I was around with the horses. That’s all it took. It was the riding. There’s no doubt about it. There’s nothing I did that any of the other agents couldn’t do just as good, if not better, but we had several bad experiences with the agents on horseback. . . . Horses were always foremost on [the President’s] mind. He loved his animals.”

John continued by recounting an incident that took place with Mrs. Reagan that served to

strengthen his bond with the President: “I was luckily in the right place—not that someone else wouldn’t have done it—at the right time. The horse got off track. She [Mrs.

“Dear John - Looks like a matched pair - or 2 matched pairs - Ronald Reagan



The President and John ride together at Rancho del Cielo. The President's inscription on the photograph is reprinted below.

Reagan] was going to get hurt and I didn't know how else to fix it but I literally dove off my horse, grabbed her, and took her right off the saddle. The horse continued on. She would have

continued on page 6

Message

from the Executive Director

Dear Friends:

The past few months have brought exciting progress at the Reagan Ranch. Highlights include the addition of Dinesh D'Souza to the Foundation team as our Presidential Scholar, the many physical improvements that have been made to the ranch property to ensure its continued care and preservation, the launch of a new ranch website, and the financial support we have received from friends like you.

Perhaps one of the things we are most excited about is the overwhelmingly positive and thorough news coverage the Reagan Ranch project is receiving. This comes not only from sources that often support conservative principles, such as the *Washington Times*, *Human Events*, or the *Wall Street Journal*, but also from traditionally liberal outlets such as the *New York Times*, the *Washington Post*, *Newsweek*, and *NBC's Today Show*.

The tone of the news coverage speaks to the broad appeal and unmistakable historical significance of the project. Still, the value of the varied coverage we have received goes deeper than that. It also serves to alert potential supporters to the opportunity to sponsor the preservation of Ronald Reagan's ranch, and it helps the Foundation to perform one core component of our mission: education.



Newsweek featured a full page story on the ranch (pictured above).

Thanks to the media's vast resources, far more Americans than ever before have learned about President Reagan's personal life. While the Reagans owned Rancho del Cielo, they, understandably, closely guarded their privacy by restricting access to the ranch. Family members and a few close friends were the only regular visitors to the adobe home, and television cameras were certainly off limits.

There are lessons to be learned here at Rancho del Cielo—of the President's humility, of his firmly rooted faith in God, of his simple lifestyle that also embodied individual freedom, and of the diligence with which he attacked any task. Rancho del Cielo tells America as much about Ronald Reagan and the 1980s as Mount Vernon does about George Washington and the late 18th Century. I am grateful for those who help us share this story. The media, both liberal and conservative, has helped Young America's Foundation share these lessons by opening the doors of this wonderful site to all who choose to enter. That is exciting news.

—Marc T. Short, Executive Director



Kelly O'Donnell (above) reports for NBC's Today Show. To receive copies of recent press clippings, please call our office at (805) 957-1980.

"Rancho del Cielo tells America as much about Ronald Reagan and the 1980s as Mount Vernon does about George Washington and the late 18th Century."

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Students cherish ranch internship experience

By Jeannie Klein

When the summer months approach, universities and colleges around the country encourage students to find an internship in their particular field of study. As a college student, I can say without hesitation that this request is typically followed by loud complaints and a sense of dread. Immediately, students have mental images of licking envelopes and running errands that no one else wants to do.

You can imagine my shock and pleasure when I arrived in Santa Barbara for my summer internship with Young America's Foundation and realized I would not face this dreaded scenario. From my first day at the Foundation's Reagan Ranch office, I knew I was engaging in serious, exciting work.

Five Interns

The Reagan Ranch Office employed five interns this past summer from colleges in California, Michigan, Virginia, New York, and Pennsylvania. Each of us played a vital role in the work of the Foundation. We assisted the staff with



Our activities included attending leadership training at a ropes course near the ranch.

research, student recruitment, ranch work, and writing projects.

Danielle Wright, a senior majoring in political science at Westmont College, has been an intern at the Reagan Ranch



This is all of us! Left to right: Jeannie Klein, Melissa Malone, Danielle Wright, Jenna Soccorsi, and Jeff Meredith.

office since last fall. Danielle spent much of her internship organizing events and encouraging students on the West coast to get involved with the exciting programs and conferences that Young America's Foundation hosts.

Jenna Soccorsi, a sophomore at Hillsdale College, has been active with Young America's Foundation since attending our inaugural High School Leadership Conference in 1997. Always eager to be involved, Jenna was recently interviewed by the *Washington Post* and described as "20 [years old], and aglow with political zest."

Of her summer internship, Jenna said, "In every project I completed, I felt like an integral part of preserving the Reagan legacy."

Jeff Meredith, a junior at George Mason University was fortunate enough to be the first student to tour the ranch after it was acquired by the Foundation.

Jeff spent part of his summer at the ranch clearing brush to keep the President's riding trails open. "I got to clear brush, following right in President Reagan's footsteps," said Jeff.

Melissa Malone, a sophomore at Houghton College, has a long history with Rancho del Cielo. Her father, Steve Malone, is a *Santa Barbara News-Press* photographer who covered events at the Western White House during all of the President's years there. As a child, Melissa attended parties that the Reagan's held for the press, where she enjoyed the privilege of meeting President and Mrs. Reagan.

"Now that I have had the chance to work with Young America's Foundation," said Melissa, "I have been able to see how much Ronald Reagan meant not only to Californians, but to this country and to the world."

Time at the Ranch

Though we all enjoyed the excitement and variety of the tasks in our internships, nothing could replace the time we spent at the ranch. Each time we visited Rancho del Cielo we were amazed by the portrait it paints of President Reagan as a humble, devoted leader and a man of genuine character. There is no

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812 B Anacapa Street
Santa Barbara, CA 93101
(805) 957-1980

F.M. Kirby Freedom Center
110 Elden Street
Herndon, VA 20170
(800) 292-9231

Address Service Requested

Ranch unveils new website

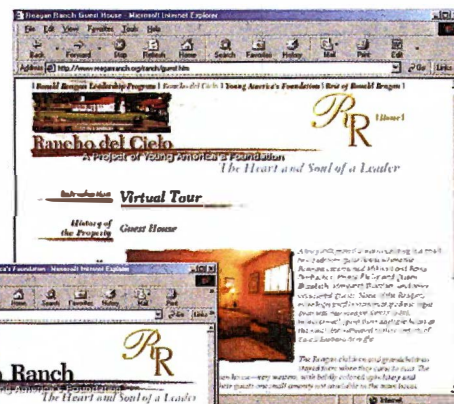
Young America's Foundation is proud to announce the launch of its Reagan Ranch website, a new venture that brings the significance and history of Rancho del Cielo right into homes, libraries, and classrooms across the nation.

This colorful new website provides a comprehensive overview of the ranch property and all that Young America's Foundation will accomplish in its preservation.

The website may be found at www.reaganranch.org. A quick glance at the homepage reveals that the site is organized into four main categories: "The Presidential Leadership Program," "Rancho del Cielo," "Young America's Foundation," and "The Best of Reagan." Each of these sections is filled with remarkable pictures of President and Mrs. Reagan and important information for students and supporters alike, much of it in the President's own words.

The most exciting feature of the website is its inclusion of never-before-seen photographs of the inside of the ranch home, accompanied by a fascinating narrative describing the property's history. Anyone in the world with access to a computer can now tour the historic landmark that the *Washington Post* called, "a true national treasure."

Please take a moment to visit the Reagan Ranch on the web, and enjoy the many facets of this property's rich history and President Reagan's enduring legacy.



The new Reagan Ranch website offers visitors a virtual tour of the property, opening it up to millions more Americans.

www.reaganranch.org