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COMP BOOK

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TAYLOR RANCH JOURNAL

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CARETAKERS

6/03/96 - 6/25/97 DAVE + STEF DUNCAN

6/25/97 - 8/8/97 Loren Powell

VISITORS

June 4 - Arrived yesterday with my newly wed wife. Ranch
1996 looks in good shape. Aaron Foster left May 21st or
so and the two U of I interns (Scott + Ilene)
have been here working on Guy's sheep project.
They seem to have been very busy and
motivated.

Spent most of today working on water system +
water heaters. Everything has come together well.
Stef planted tomatoes, potatoes, cabbage, peppers, and
onions in the garden - we're being very hopeful that
it becomes a big part of our food supply.

June 5 - Hiked partway up benches and saw 6 bighorns on the
lick. Three of them had collars and no lambs.
Mail plane passed us by today because of the water
on the airstrip. Big Creek is bursting at her seams and
much of our runway is covered with water. Patience is
a vixen. I'm beginning to feel a little settled now, I
think I better get busy on some of the big projects:
firewood, poles, water system. All the minor maintenance
is already coming together.

June 8 - Big Creek is still partially covering the airstrip. I'm
afraid we may not even get mail this coming
Wednesday. Peak flow for the Middle Fork is projected
to be on June 12 - I hope Big Creek is earlier.
Alan Watson, his son Jubal, Chin, and his son
Monroe stayed last night with us. They came in
from Camas Creek and were heading for Big Creek.
Alan is from the University of Montana and is
with the Aldo Leopold Institute. Chin is a forester
from Taiwan finishing up his dissertation in the U.S.A.

Jubal had a birthday yesterday, so we barbecued elk steak, made rice, and relaxed by the pit by the Conyer cabin.

Scott and I fell a large snag on the Ranch property up Pioneer Creek yesterday with an axe and a crosscut - felt great. Stef and I started on reopening an old canal from Pioneer to the orchard - it needs water. Still a lot of little chores to finish before I feel content with the status of Taylor Ranch.

June 9 - What a wonderful surprise! Big Creek has decided to claim the airstrip! Scott and I scouted the situation out this morning with the hopes of stopping the problem, but the situation at this point is a lost cause. The water is flowing in from the end close up to where Big Creek corners. We will have to wait it out and hope not too much erosion occurs. Stef and I tried hitting to Soldier Bar on this side of the river to see if it would be worth packing supplies over from there. It would not be worth it! My body is sore and my feet hot.

June 14 - Don't know how J's gotten so far behind! Several backpackers came through today. We gave them a tour of the ranch - one of them worked here in the summer of '79. I can't remember his name, but he had some good stories to tell about Acker Lewis. Mike from the trail crew @ Cabin Creek stayed last night. He said Cabin Creek airstrip is completely washed out - ~~the~~ things are going to get politically messy. Our strip is still wet, but no major damage.

In the last several days we opened the canals to the orchard and lower pasture. They seem to be running well - it was fairly easy to start with such high water. 20 elk came out on the benches yesterday - we hope they make a habit of it.

JUNE 17 We've spent the last two days trying to fill in the low spot on the runway with dirt + gravel. I'm not sure yet if we've improved the situation or just made a bigger mess. Needless of our work, Ray Arnold made what I observed to be a spectacular landing through the wind and rain and over the "mud hole." He brought us our much needed supplies and we were overly thankful. We saw a very young black bear in the orchard. In the interests of human habitation we spooked him away, but he didn't seem to be bothered or interested in us.

JUNE 19 Mail plane came today! It's about time! Scott finished organizing tool shed - it looks good and it's got room to work.

JUNE 20 Eileen + Scott crossed Rush Creek and resupplied Rusq track. Stef and I got the irrigation canals up and running - all that needs to be done is finish reopening the canal to the lower pasture across Big Creek. Scott and I built a new sawhorse out of young dog-fir. Rained hard in the afternoon - a rather cool day.

- June 22 Cleaned out runway shed and organized some "junk" that has been stacking up in various corners. Stef cleaned duplex cabins. Scott cleaned up attic above tool shed.
- June 23 Hiked to the middle fork with Stef. Nice, cool, overcast day. We saw two elk cross Big Creek. Cougar creek crossing is in bad shape. Needs some major work. The rest of the trail is in fairly good shape.
- June 24 Slow day. Worked on duplex water system and water heater. Valve is in the middle of Pioneer creek. Ray Arnold stopped in to chat for a couple of hours.
- June 25 Mike (trail crew leader @ cabin creek) flew in from Big Creek. Scott, Stef, and I moved junk pile behind talshed to pit behind Cougar Cabin. Scott and I made a bench for the firepit.
- June 26 Mike's volunteers came in yesterday and we all had a nice barbecue last night. Today we treated them to a fat pancake breakfast in exchange for their help in building the Taylor Ranch trail across Big Cliff Cr. We finished and it looks nice. They camped around the bend tonight.

June 27 Hiked to the ridge top above benches - beautiful view. Cows still have snow but look passable.

June 28 Travis Bullock (Mileki) lost some horses our way. We kept them for awhile, but when Mike went towards home (Cabin A) they went towards the middle fork (ruined much of our new trail). I spent much of the day rebuilding the trail, but also rebuilt a bridge and built up ground around another bridge. Stof cut trails through the main pasture - grass is getting too tall!

June 29 Tom Nictes stopped by leading four mules - just passing by. My dad, Larry (Stof's Dad), and cousin Bryce made it in with horses (Rust, Red, + Streak). Rusty is very sore. Scott, Eileen, Stof and I started clearing brush and dead trees around catchhouse - going to be a major project. The brush has overgrown the whole area and is a fire hazard.

June 30 Tried the work harness on Red for the first time. He handled it well. Worked on orchard canal (getting harder as Pioneer creates cutlines to drop). Saw 11 bighorn across the river one was a Ram. Started on "laeberic pit plan" for Taylor cabin. Stof's dad tried fishing and got several bites but didn't land anything.

July 1 showed Dads around ranch + rested them up. They helped us design waterbox. Larry saw 11 sheep drink out of big creeks and run up bench.

July 2 Spent the whole day building East waterbox. Looks good, leaks little!

July 3 Dads flew out on mail plane. James Pinchere (Eileen's man) flew in on mail plane. They had planned a meeting and when cabin (re washed) out I chose to give him permission to land. We all barbequed that night.

July 4 cleaned duplex, cleaned tool shop, got the lab organized + explosed - all ready for Hendee. Jim Parker stopped by.

July 5 John Hendee, Albin Campbell, + George Lohak flew in from Moscow. Gave them the grand tour, took Albin + George fishing, and barbequed.

July 6 Eileen + James left for Middlefork. Skf and I hiked up pioneer w/ John Hendee. Spent afternoon + evening discussing Taylor future. Jim Parker, cowboy stopped by and showed Scott and I how to tie a double diamond hitch + shoe laces. He has offered to part anyone in anytime for free with three weeks notice.

July 7. Hendee + crew returned to Moscow. Worked on garden. Revised solar panel in lab and got everything up + running.

July 8 Scott and I chopped down an old snag above Taylor Cabin with axe & crosscut. Took streak and red up benches.

July 9 Ray Arnold brought in Brian from Fish+Game who took out part of fish weir. Ray then took Stef & I to Running Cr Ranch & the Selway ledge to "get us out and around." After returning, we spent the rest of the day writing letters. James & Eileen returned.

July 10 Had James & Eileen over for breakfast before he took off. Pedro & Oscar came in on mail plane. Pedro is starting 2 masks in Geology. Stef & I chopped up snag and dug pieces to Taylor cabin. Worked on garden. Trail crew in to get supplies - we all barbecued & fished that evening.

July 11 Geology boys left on skid. Scott left for a trail clearing mission to Dave Lewis Peak. Stef and I rode horses to Cabin Creek. Saw 2 moose with calf, several elk, and 2 large bighorn rams right off the trail. Terry with Fish+Game stopped by to gather gear.

July 12 Spent the whole day moving airstrip with needler. Dr Peete & Mrs. Peete came in.

July 13 5:30 A.M. Pancake feed and veg plots all day. Excellent barbecue compliments of Agetas.

July 14 Veg plots! Geology boys returned

July 15 Veg plots! Stef I took off for Crags in the afternoon.

July 19 Returned from Crags. Beautiful trip! Even got to enjoy a snow cone! Came over 20 miles today and we found ice cream, pie, and goodies sent to us by Jim Parker, a "passin' by" cowboy who returned thanks for lemonade + cookies.

July 20 Scott + Eileen ventured to Cabin Cr with horses to do sheep + bring mail to trail crew. Stef + I recovered from ~~our~~ hike down (20 miles) from Terrace Lakes. In the afternoon I worked on the orchard canal a bit.

July 21 Worked on pasture irrigation most of the day. Scott returned - Pedro + Oscar returned.

July 22 Packed Pedro + Oscar on streak + led to spike camp on Cliff Cr. Took about 5 hours total - did it for exercise. Eileen cut cougar pens - (cleared brush).

July 23 Repaired Lab water tank - cleaned Lab. Going away party for Scott, Oscar, + Pedro.

- July 24 Scott, Pedro, + Oscar (+Henna [dog]) out. cleaned Duplex, Butchhouse, + Cookhouse - check fences.
- July 25 Wayne Minshall w/ 3 shires, wife + daughter, and 5 grad students in.
- July 26 Fish + Game (George Fisher) flow in. They are hitting to Coxy Cr. + back on patrol. Got mowing machine up + running - mowed airstrip w/ shires - spectacular site.
- July 27 Pulled logs with horses. Raked hay with horses and pitchforked into pile.
- July 28 Thinned more brush around outchouse - the opened chore. Eileen for dinner.
- July 29. Busy day @ T.R. Airport. Eileen at Minshalls at Fish + Game out. John Williams + family in from Coxy.
- July 30 Spent day with Williams family. They took off in the evening for the Coxy's. John is a friend from college who brought his father + two brothers in to see where we are at.
- July 31 Mike McMannan in. Mail plane in. Beautiful day.

- August 1 1996 Took all three horses to cabin CR with several notes worth of mail. Left Rusky with trail crew + took Stevie + Red up to Mile Hi for veg plots. Thunderstorm w/ no rain.
- August 2 Returned from Mile Hi late afternoon.
- August 3 Worked with horses in the morning.
- August 5 Cut down log-fire for fence gate repair. Dean Hatch with three sons and friend arrived in afternoon. 6
- August 6 Repaired the main gate across bridge. Dave + one of Dean Hatch's sons looked for the Rostracks on ridge by Rush point.
- August 7 Dean Hatch crew flew out + our Mom's flew in w/ our new little puppy.
- August 8 Mom's Help us clean out Junk in Taylor cabin (ice stuck in attic, cupboards, + closets).
- August 10 Take Mom's to top of Ridge
- August 11 Mom's clean out Conyer cabin
- August 12 Hiked to the Gorge

- August 13 Work on Irrigation canals, Clean up
barbage Bears got in to.
- August 14 Morn's Fly out on mail plane &
we worked on Irrigation
- August 15 We worked on Irrigation, made new
gate handles out of Antlers, and
Dave worked on Solar panel in the
Lab.
- August 16 Made more gate handles, cleaned lab,
and exercised streak.
- August 17 worked in garden & Zettels crew stopped
by.
- August 18 A group of our Friends Hike in from
Big Creek trail Head.
- August 21 Tracy & Paige Fly out on mail plane
- August 22 Hike up cliff creek to cliffs &
Mike stops by
- August 23 Rest of crew Fly out
- August 24 check stream flow for Dr. Minshall &
work on Rush track above convey cabin
- August 25 Rob Sensen & Anna come in with
Travis Bullock's Stock (stock will
stay until first week of sept.

- August 26 Work on gates & fence poles that the new stock knock down & break.
- August 28 Rob Jensen & Anna leave. Work on ~~the~~ rustacks. Bears destroy compost can by Taylor Cabin.
- August 30 Jeff Yeo & Chuck Peterson fly in. Survey pond up Rush Creek.
- August 31 Hike to Cabin Crk. by Jeff & Chuck. Survey moose ponds. Saw 5-6 salmon.
- Sept 1 Look for Rattle ~~snake~~ ^{snake} dens by Benches & up pioneer Creek Trail. Survey for Tail Frogs on Cliff Creek.
- Sept. 2 Jeff & Chuck leave. ~~Redo~~ clean up & redo conyer cabin Fire Pit.
- Sept 3 Finish conyer Fire Pit, fix ~~holes~~ the gate Travis stock broke, & get ready to leave.
- Sept 4 Pack horses out (Dan's Horses) Mike An. M. ~~watches~~ watches Taylor Ranch until Sept 11.
- Sept. 11 Fly back in. Hender, Alan Watson, & Janko fly in. Hike up pioneer Creek trail. Hender Barbeques salmon for us.

- Sept 12 Hender's crew fly out, Un Pack & organize Taylor Cabin.
- Sept 13 Pick whats left of apples (Bears got most).
- Sept 14. Seed dead spots in Taylor lawn, measure stream flow.
- Sept 15 Hike up to outfitter camp along ridge behind Taylor Cabin.
- ~~Sept 16~~ First day of Hunting season! Very Rainy.
- Sept 16 Finally got up Journal. (if you couldn't tell). Hunted along Big Creek this morning. First snow in mountains visible today. Burned Excess Trash that's been piling up. We will Hike up to outfitter camp tonight & Hunt down in morning.
- Sept 17 Hunted from camp up pioneer cr down to Taylor Ranch. No luck. Rained + snowed today. Cleaned house and wrote letters.
- Sept 18 We enjoyed the mail plane as always and then spent the afternoon cutting wood.

- Sept 21 Serviced Rustrocks - brought back units + batteries to charge.
- Sept. 22 Saw herd of Elk, two bucks, + 6 highhorn sheep - all on third bench. Raced to chase them - Ended up shooting (+ missing) a Spt Bull. Traveled the herd to the head of Cliff Cr with no luck...
- Sept. 23 First Frost.
- Sept. 27 Returned to Rustrocks + all is operating fine!
- Sept. 28 Cut firewood + shut off irrigation.
- Sept. 29 Shot a Spite just before dark - spent all night skinning + hanging it. Shot + hung it @ head of Pioneer Cr (going towards camp).
- Sept. 30 Stef and I packed out Bull + recaped. Mite McMannan swung by on his way back to Cabin Cr from Chamberlain (flew into Soldier Cr).
- Oct 1 Terry Hlubetz + Brian _____ flew in to clean up Tish noice. Ed Krump, Jim Peterson (EE) + two senior EE's: Ben Seitz + Gary Howard flew in. Students are doing a feasibility study on having a hydro bc power @ T.R. Spent the day surveying + taking measurements.

- Oct. 2 Great Mail Day. Bill Husted (sheep hunter) flew in to Soldier Bar. He is hunting up Pioneer Cr. - advice from Jim Atkinson.
- Oct 3 Cut up Elk meat & then hiked up to ridge top to camp & visit with Mr Husted.
- Oct. 5 Caught up on minor T.R. duties and hiked mail to cabin Cr. Saw a young Bobcat on the trail between
- Oct. 6 Mike Schelgal flew into Soldier Bar & hiked down today. He will be hunting w/ Bill Husted up Pioneer Cr. He knew Jim & Holly, so he was able to tell us interesting stories.
- Oct. 7 We got a message from Cascade that Mike's granddaughter is seriously ill & he needs to fly out. We hiked up to their camp this morning & left a note. We also tried to cut up one quarter of our Elk meat today.
- Oct. 8. Mike & Bill came down this morning. We allowed Mike to fly out of Taylor's Ranch. Bill stayed around & helped us cut the rest of our meat. We also made applesauce out of apples from the orchard (what are left after bear attacks).

Oct 11 Major pack-rat problem in Conyer cabin. We spent the day cleaning the cabin & trying to figure out how the rats get into the ~~cabin~~ cabin. Measured stream flow in Pioneer, Rush, & Clift crk.

Oct 13. We were invited to come up to Zettle's Rush crk. camp for dinner. We hiked up there and found no-one home. Except a huge bear & 2 kittens. We spent the night & tried to keep the bear out of their food.

Oct 14 We awoke to lots of snows! - About 4" on top of Rush Cr ridge. We spent the morning at Zettle's camp and then returned to Taylor (w/ kittens).

Oct 15 Rained / snowed off & on all day.

Oct 16 Stef's dad, Larry Perrott, flew in on the mail plane. He had wanted to hike in, but Big Creek was getting "threatened" by winter. He had a mountain Elk tag without knowing users can't hunt from Taylor Ranch. We decided he could hunt - but if he got anything we would pack it down to Soldier box to be taken out.

Oct 17 Spent the whole day of Pioneer Cr. Saw four large Bighorn Rams (two full cubs). Elk sighted on ridge East of Pioneer Cr.

Oct 18 Busy day with company. Lance stopped by (guide), Steve Zetzel stopped by to visit, and Bret Dayton (sheep hunter) stopped in. Larry shot a cow elk up on the ridge (either sex permit). Made an attempt at mating elk jerky w/ an elk - ended up just eating it in smoke.

Oct 19 Left TR @ 6:00 and marched five miles up ridge to pack down elk. Took us until noon and we were frozen (37° high). Enjoyed a nice warm fire when we got back!

Oct 20 Drained East waterbox: turned on all faucets + shower in both Conyer + Arlo cabins and then turned open lowest valve. Turned off waterbox valve. Drained Conyer pipes (in bathroom) + empty Arlo water heater. Attempted to protect west waterbox from freezing: put two layers of insulation between water + top, filled in eroded hole near drain w/ rocks + sand; piled hay collected from airstrip all around waterbox; layed branches on everything (to keep hay from blowing away). We hope it all works. Also made sure intake pipe was well below water surface.

Oct 21 We all hiked up to Cabin Crk. Beautiful Day! Very warm up there but no animals to be seen.

Oct 22 Packed my Dad and his Elk meat up to Solider's Bar to fly out tomorrow.

Oct 23 Marl Day! RC didn't get here until late afternoon. Not much to report otherwise.

Oct 25 Hunted up ridge Beside conyer cabin. We saw one Doe and a Mountain Goat. The Mountain goat took us by surprise. We've never seen one so close before. Amazing!

Oct 25 Took Stream flow measurements. Saw close to 18 cows & calves on Ringt Bench.

Oct 26. We worked on covering up the pipe running across pioneer crk. by the orchard. Another attempt to keep water running this winter and to protect the pipe from destruction next Spring.

Oct 27 Successfully covered pipe and worked on cutting wood. Saws are all pretty dull, not sure whether to sharpen them ourselves or try to fly them out. Plan on calling Hender about it.

Oct 29. Hunted in timbered Bench. No sign of Bucks any where.

Oct 30. Once again mail Day. RC stopped in to visit because everything around us was fogged in. Nice to have mail and a visitor in one Day.

Oct 31. HAPPY Halloween! We carved a pumpkin, dressed up the dog, and made pumpkin muffins in honor of Halloween.

Nov 2. Hiked up to Rush Point Rus track. We've been seeing a group of Ten Big horn sheep consistently on the Ridge.

Nov 3. Dave + Taylor went Bird Hunting (No luck) while I stayed home and worked on a puzzle most of the Day.

Nov 4. We all Hiked up the ridge. Ran into over 20 sheep, saw a couple of young Rams. We still have yet to see/hear Rams hitting heads. We got caught in a pretty heavy snow storm on top. Weather can change quick around here.

Nov. 5. Spent most of the Day making apple sauce out of remaining

Apples from orchard and smoking meat for Jerky. & made our best batch of Jerky yet (Soy sauce & Brown sugar, & Pepper are a great combination).

NOV. 6. Found out Clinton will be our President for another 4 years. The bear hunting initiatives seem to be the biggest news makers around here. Waited all day for mail plane, NO show. We meet several hunters from Western Washington who are staying at Soldier's Bar.

NOV 7. Still waiting for the mail plane. Dave hiked up to rush point Ruskas, he is going to move one up to the other ridge because so many collared sheep are now on the ridge.

Nov. 9

We - (Todd & Trena Fluckiger) arrived this morning via Aircraft, single engine, 185, flown by Arnold - Arnold Aviation. It was my first time in a small plane & my husband was anxious about my response. Great Fun! Dave & Stef had to leave a week early due to personal business. Thus enabling us the chance to be here, we enjoy being in the outer HO & take every opportunity to go.

after our tour of camp & a chance to visit, we bid Dave & Stef a favorable visit with civilization.

First order of business, lunch, dishes & then a vigorous encounter with mother nature. (we went for a hike.) next an extended or closer look at the Ranch. Then Supper, dishes & best of all, my husband says - NO telephones! just peace, quiet & the calming sound of miniature water falls. very soothing, very healing from the pains of the world. Here in Gods country, once again we are whole.

Nov. 10

Today was spent very lazily. after breakfast we stayed in the cabin. I rested, while Todd worked on projects. He saw 2 pack strings 1st one 3 horse 2 people headed north on Big erk. 2nd one 1 person on horse & 5 pack animals, came up Rush erk & on ~~up~~ down Big erk. plus one Hiker. we saw him come down Cliff erk trail & on down Big erk. after surveying outer perimeter

of the ranch, we returned to the cabin for supper, a warm fire & a good book.

NOV 11.

Weather was a bit chilly last night, but warmed up when the sky clouded over. I stayed that way until late morning. Todd headed up Rush creek to go hunting. I stayed here so as not to hinder him. One person stopped by to see Dave & Stef. Said he was from Taylor Guides & just stopped in for a visit. Todd came back just before dark. Said he shot a 2 point buck & left it on the other side of the creek. So we grabbed his frame pack & went back for it. We had just enough light to go back.

NOV 12

awake early for breakfast. Began watching the hills across the way. Located the bighorn sheep & watching them chase the females around.

Three pikers are camped by where the stock trail crosses cliff creek. Todd shot a big ant bull elk. we will start hauling him out tomorrow.

NOV 13.

We both went out to get the weather reading. after calling in the weather & telling them about our deer & elk, Todd took off to get part of his elk. I worked on deboning the deer & waited for the mail plane. Mail & groceries arrived shortly after 9 AM. He helped me carry the things up to

The cabin. I thanked him with some cookies & he was off & flying. I then put some things away, finished off the meal I had & made ready to go find Todd. I hiked up pioneer elk 2 1/2 miles on the main trail & found him waded down with one hind & one from leg, avery heavy load. He gave me directions & off I went to test his directions & my skills. after 1/2 mile ^{climb} or more like ~~it~~, I found his landmark & looked around a bit, before finishing the elk. Now to work. Todd returned, very much winded, for the climb. we filled up 2 5 gal buckets, lashed them onto his frame & began our descent. Home was found with a flashlight & two weary travelers began getting ready for another rigorous trip. one problem, here it is raining, up there ... I might be snowing. I pray that it is not, I don't downhill like!

NOV 14 after checking in w/ the weather Todd headed up for the last loads. I remained here at the cabin. while he was gone we received mixed weather. The hill tops were covered with a thin white coating, it was just enough to give contrast to the contours of hill, rock, tree, & shrubery. Very lowly, as I watched I snow on the high elevations, the rain played music on the tin roof. Todd returned with tired muscles & a story. The last crossing of the creek had not gone well. The

bank ~~was~~ being a miniature cliff, was
clut with on all fours. As he took hold
of a rotten stump while getting his feet
ready to maneuver him to a standing
position, his ~~hands~~ Hev Ho turned into
trouble as the stump + ground under foot
gave way. Face down in the creek, arms
pinned, limbs on the creek + pack on top.
20-30 mins + he worked free of the back pack
straps + out from under the pack.

I fed him dinner + took his frame
pack + returned for the elk kids. It was
not easy, I being out of shape, but I brought
it back, getting better at this trail by head-
lamp. After drying off again, we attended
to sore muscles with liniment + went
to bed.

NOV 15

The weather clearing up a bit, we
find the weekend traffic, plus belated
mail routes, quite interesting. Every 5 mins
+ sometimes one plane right behind another.

My muscles were mending fine. Todd
however, found his no so well. His right
foot, 2 toes right next to the big toe, did not
care to be moved, and in protest of being
moved, swell up. So he convalesced on
the couch + read his book. Later in the
day, he was able to walk about, just
a bit. I finished with the meat + haul
packed my things. Tomorrow we must
depart + return to civilization. Bummers.
I miss ~~me~~ over 3 children - 8/11/04 old boy -

A yrold girl + almost 3 yr old boy, all very active.
The first, much into sports + well skilled for it.
The second, very much a lady, with just
enough tomboy to keep up w/ brothers.
The third, very prominent rock climber!
he climbs everything in the house!
next visit they will have to come.

we have enjoyed being here +
I remember growing up + living with
some of these ~~con~~ living conditions. I was
a way of life + a good one. I imagine
blatant in places like these, and I miss
them deeply. will sign off tomorrow.

1100/16.

weather here is good. High over
car, no snow, no rain. Cascade was
getting a heavy snow, but it sounds
like the weather is improving. we
are all packed + waiting.

The snow proved stronger + kept
the planes grounded all day. Thus
giving us a chance to go for one more
hike. we headed for Seilder bar. we
made it to the crossing + just a bit
beyond. Running short on day light
seems our legacy. we met James +
but with a string of horses. They had
just come down off Seilder bar. This
visit cost us a bit more sun light.
yet we were favored ~~so~~ with the
light of a crescent moon, + back to the
cabin.

NOV 17.

We are beginning to settle back in. Right now, for lunch, we are baking cookies. Cascade is still gathering snowflakes, we will see what tomorrow brings. Steve & Dan stopped in for a visit & ate some cookies.

NOV 18.

We awoke to snow, about one inch, and it was still snowing most of the units called in with either rain or snow. Cascade was raining & non-flyable. So as we settled in for the day, we returned to taking care of the meat. Just before lunch, Dan & Mitchell - from Taylor Ranch Guides, stopped in. Dan was taking one load up to the airstrip at Sciddy Bar & Mitchell was flying out. Since our previous supply of groceries were used up, we were glad of Todd's filling his tags. So we invited Dan & Mitchell to stay for lunch & cooked up some deer. We enjoyed their company & wished they could have stayed the night, for the snow had turned to rain. Now our winter wonderland was beginning to melt. They soon had to be on their way. Horses & mules to care for & wood to gather for a fire. As they were departing, Mitchell saw 2 people, hiking down off the hill across the way. They too headed in the direction of Sciddy Bar.

8:00 p.m. preparing to go to sleep. The rain continues. Reflecting back on radio transmissions to Cascade, one unit commented how overburdened the airplanes would be when

they ~~would~~ began flying. Cascade replied, what ever gave you that idea, well, she continued, most of the Hunters she knew, did not have wings. I guess I should have counted how many trips the planes had made up this way, last Friday, when the air was flyable. This might give some insight as to just how many hunters we have. But I'm sure no lucky trip was just delivering them.

NOV 19.

Now it is raining & the fog is playing chase up through over & around the mountains. One minute it's on the water, next half way up the hill or blocking our view, then it scatters across the landscape. Pretty neat to watch.

Cascade is non-flyable & we are ready to feed till they're not to worry about it. Bird do miss the kids! Well see.

NOV 20

Yesterday 5am, the weather broke. Too late for flying. 7pm, clouds came back & began to rain. Last night I dumped a bunch of rain. 2 or 3 am, it quit & now 7:45 am, partly cloudy with small burst of wind (according to the wind sock). Steady according to the trees. We are open for flying. Now to wait on Cascade.

Cascade is Flyable. Now we must wait to see who is next in line. Lots of Hunters to fly out! (0001)

air planes still flying - just counted
34 head of Horse, mules & pack animals
headed towards Switzer Bar. 6 people.
Dan from Taylor Guides just headed
up Big creek with ~~the~~ head one person &
4 hound dogs

after the Hunters were all out, Arnold
loaded up the mail plane & hit the river.
Mack, bar, sheps ranch, all called in when he
left their place. I don't know where his last
stop was or exactly when he got back. We
tried to wait. Finally 5 PM, we called in for
messages. I do not know what happened.
all I know is our kids men told me
we're coming out today & we are still here.

11/30 Dave & I arrived back from our
3 week stint in society. Scott S, Kurtis,
& Allen flew out. They spent the last
week in here cutting wood, working on
the water box, moving a new stove for the
sauna, and rebuilt a hitching post. Dave &
I spent the Day unpacking & readjusting
to life at Taylor Ranch. The Zettie crew
stopped by & gave us ~~the~~ ~~last~~ ~~of~~ ~~the~~
their remaining food, as their our
packing out of the Frank church for the
Season. We returned to light snow &
cold temperatures.

12/1 Woke up to $4\frac{1}{2}$ inches new snow, + snowing hard. Dave spent the morning chopping fire wood + I cleaned up the cabin a little. We tried out the cross country skis we borrowed from a friend. They took a while to get used to but we had a great time. The country is incredibly beautiful. Later 2 rattle crews stopped by they were unable to fly out due to weather + 2 lost hounds. So Dan went to get more horse feed, Cal went to kind his dogs, and Dave + I 'baby sat' their hunter for the day. Jack - from Kansas. Everyone came back here for dinner and cards. It was a fun night + most ~~likely~~ likely our last company for a while.

12/2 Woke up feeling "stuffy" - skied a little bit, but didn't feel good enough to be worth much. Still "baby-sat" me today. Did get a small X-mas tree from a thicket and put it in the cabin - will spend the month making decorations for it. Will mention briefly a communication flaw in our exit: first replacement caretaker shot both a deer + elk + flew them out from Taylor Ranch. Very much a breach of UofI policy, but already done. They were questioned by both Arnold's and Dan (Taylor R. Outfitters) but said all had been "squared away." Hope nothing comes of it, it's been a rough year already concerning that sort of thing.

12/4 Dave is still feeling under the weather. I finished packing down the airstrip for the mail plane. I spent the day chopping wood, shoveling snow, working on the water system and taking care of Dave. We now see Elk 24 hours a day on the benches.

12/5 Dave felt a little better today so we decided to cross country ski to Cougar Creek (4 new inches of snow today). We ran into 40+ Elk in the lower pasture, All cows + young Elk. Beautiful to watch! We spent the afternoon shoveling more snow, chopping wood, burning garbage, + working on the ~~water~~ ^{water} systems. We're planning on fighting hard to keep the water running this winter, so far so good. One of Zettell's guides lost a hound cougar hunting about 4 days ago. The hound, Boe, showed up at our cabin today. He was scared, hungry, + very weak. We've made a nice home for him in the tool shed and called his owners. Hopefully they will be able to get a ~~plane~~ plane in here soon. The poor dog has been through a lot.

12/6 We've been seeing about 12 Big Horns consistently across the river. There appears to be 3-4 Big Rams in the group. They are fun to watch!

12/7 The weather has been warming up. The snow is melting & it looks like we'll have rain soon. The cookhouse water froze & cracked. We turned off the water & cleaned up the water.

12/8 It's been raining all day. Everything is a big slushy mess outside. It's hard to make myself get outside in this weather.

12/9 Rain! Rain! Rain! We spent the day doing a ~~major~~ top-to-bottom cleaning of the Taylor cabin. Our Refrigerator is having trouble staying cold. Dave has been reading the manual to figure out the problem.

12/10 Another Rainy Day. The Fridge is still acting up. The Uof I president (Hoover) is supposed to fly in tomorrow for the day. Arnold's wants us to call them and talk them out of trying to come in.

12/11 NO President. The weather was actually clear & nice. The mail ~~plane~~ plane made it in late this afternoon. Ray stopped in to talk for a while. It's nice to talk w/ someone different. Bob flew out w/ Ray today.

12/12 It was a beautifully clear day. We decided to hike to the middle Fork for lunch. We didn't see any animals but we found some petroglyphs we hadn't known about earlier, we also found a broken arrowhead. ~~It was a great day~~ It was a great day, however I'm pretty sore.

12/13 Dave finally located the fridge problem. He took a part out of the lab refrigerator to fix ours. We had snow most of the day. We were able to cross-country ski on the airstrip this afternoon.

12/14. We had a partly clear day, so we decided to hike to the top of the Ridge. We saw 1 Elk and 2 moose Deer. This was one of the first days we were able to stand in direct sunlight (on top of the Ridge).

12/15 10 Days till Christmas! We've already started opening presents. Hopefully we'll have some left for Christmas day. It's hard to control yourself back here. We spent most of the day splitting & hauling wood.

12/16 we attempted to make it up to the Rush point Look-out station today. It was a clear day and we were able to see mountains in all directions. The snow was just too deep as we neared the look out to make it the full way. We saw 15-20 deer and 6 Elk.

12/17 we Hiked up to the Rush point Ros' tracks to replace a battery we took down yesterday.

12/19 Mail day. Our Families sent in a planes worth of presents. We found out Dave's parents aren't going to come in for christmas. Looks like we will be spending a quiet holiday season.

12/20 Snowed most of the day. We went cross-country skiing through the pasture.

12/21 We worked on christmas presents to send out next mail day. Dave's has been carving pipes out of cherry wood & I've been making picture frames for every one.

12/22 It was a nice clear day so we decided to hike to Cabin creek. It's a long hike in snow. Once we got there I started to build a fire for lunch, we were scintated by coyote howls. Our puppy was scared to death. We then discovered that 4 coyotes were running towards us. Whether they were just curious or looking for something to eat I'm not sure. It was weird to be in that position. Dave was able to scare them off by yelling at them. Our dog still hasn't recovered from the scare. We saw some elk in the river on our way back.

12/24 Ray was supposed to fly in our mail today but snow in Cascade prevented the flight. Looks like we'll have Christmas dinner after Christmas.

12/25 MERRY CHRISTMAS!
We had a great day reading the Christmas story, opening our presents, & then playing with them. We skied down to the end of the airstrip this afternoon and were treated by 2 River otters. They swam back in ferth in front of us.

trying to figure out ~~what~~ what we were & playing. They were fun to watch I wish we would have had a camera.

12/26. Snowed all Day no plane. We again spent the day playing with our presents. Dave got a Fly Tying kit & I got a wood carving kit that kept us busy. We found out several of our friends are going to try coming in after the New year.

12/27 We now have 11 inches of snow. Its begining to rain. We were able to watch a couple of Elk in our corral today. Cleaned out Taylor Attack. Many dead mice & old useless stuff was burned.

12/28 It is raining very hard. All ~~of~~ of our beautiful snow is going away. Still no mail plane

12/29 We spent all day packing down the airstrip in hope of the mail plane.

12/30 Raining very hard. Dave worked on getting water to the conyer cabin (for Scotts arrival) while I cleaned it but don't even get close to finishing it.

12/31 Last Day of '96. Dave built a new valve box for the Conyer cabin and was able to get water running. Still Raining / still no plane.

1/1 Happy '97! Rain & Fog. We may need to build an ark soon. I spent the day cranking while Dave cleaned the Tool Shed. We found out Cascade has lost power, phone lines, & is flooding. Roads are closed to the north and south of Cascade. Many people are trapped in McCall.

1/2 Dave's B-Day! Everything is a mess in Cascade & McCall & in the back country. We were flyable ~~at~~ most of the Day. However Arnold's was needed in McCall. Many people who've lost phone lines are now using the Radio. We spent the day praying for the plane to make & cleaning the Taylor Cabin.

1/3 Foggy & Snowing hard. We've given up hope of seeing the plane again. I need to finish cleaning the Conyer Cabin & Dave is making Bread since we're out.

1/6 The mail plane was finally able to fly in. It was like a second christmas.

1/8 We made a mess of the conyer cabin trying to get water running for Scott's arrival. Wouldn't you know it we found out at 4:pm that he was ~~flying~~ flying in today. Scott, Jamie (Scott's girlfriend), and Hannah (Dog) made it in. We hurried and got the Duplex ready for them.

1/9 All four of us spent the entire day getting the conyer cabin fixed up. The water is giving us problems.

1/10 Scott & Jamie hiked to the Gorge, Dave & I hiked up to Goat basin. What a neat place, it's like a different world up there. We saw lots of Elk & Big Horn sheep.

1/11 Scott moved in to the conyer cabin. He doesn't have any running water. A massive storm came in today. We couldn't even see out our front window, the snow was blowing so hard.

1/12 With yesterday's storm we got cold weather. We're down in the -10° low + 0° high. It's a beautiful clear day despite the cold.

1/13 Another freezing day Scott & James hiked up to Rush point. Dave & I worked around here.

1/15 James flew out on the mail plane.

1/17 Scott showers up here every other night and hauls water to his cabin from pioneer creek. He & Dave have been working on it trying to figure out where the ice was it blocked.

1/18 We discovered that the Lab floor is warping. It looks pretty bad in the kitchen. It may take a lot of work this spring. Cause is still unknown.

1/19 We woke up to 4 inches of new, fluffy snow. All three of us went sledding. & we went over to the Sage brush flat area. we used the toboggan, skis, & car bays.

bags as sleds. It was great fun. We came back to the Taylor cabin for a chilli feed.

1/22 Mail Day. He came fairly early & surprised us.

1/24. I was skiing down to the end of the airstrip and I saw an Eagle swoop down and grab a rabbit. It was pretty exciting.

1/29 we made up a game to play down on the airstrip w/ a Koosh Ball & paddles. We spent most of the day playing. Ray flew in late this afternoon.

1/30 Rainy day. I spent the day crafting. Dave is working on a Biology curriculum for teaching next year.

2/1 Dave & I spent the day hiking up the ridge by cougar crk. What an incredible hike. We saw lots of deer & a few sheep.

2/3 All three of us went skidding past the third bench w/ garbage bags. We could get flying on the hard pack snow.

2/5 spent most of the day writing letters & waiting for the mail plane. Ray didn't get here until 6 pm, it was almost dark.

2/20 It's been awhile but nothing exciting has happened for most of the month. Last Sunday Dave & I hiked up to Cabin Crk. We came across ~~some~~ wolf tracks starting before Brown's Basin and all the way up to Cabin Crk. The tracks were everywhere at Cabin Crk, we took a couple of pictures & measured them. They were about 5 inches long & 4½ inches wide. This morning around 5:30 am we awoke to the sound of howling. Beautiful! They seemed quite a distance. We heard them for about 15 min. & then they stopped. Around 6:40 am we heard them again much louder & closer, we think the timberline bench or Horse Mountain. Scott is up looking for tracks now. It was a most amazing sound. What for tone I was supposed to fly out yesterday but weather did not permit.

Dave & I are flying out today. Dave has an interview for a teaching job next year.

Scott just got back he found ~~wolf~~^{wolf} tracks on Taylor Ranch property & all over the first benches.

2/27 - The wolf was back!

- Well it was pretty exciting I was working in the shop around 2:00 & out of the corner of my eye I see my dog Henna running full speed from up by the Conyer cabin towards the bridge past the shop. So I look to see what she is doing & she is stopped looking past the Lab. Then I see something going under the fence down by the Cougar pens. Well over the summer I saw a cougar near the Lab so that's what I thought it was. Henna took off again towards the animal so I yelled at her to stop! As I yelled a Wolf came back out from the bushes & entered the pasture. It walked slowly along the bushes towards the bridge out into the pasture looking at Henna & myself. The Wolf stopped & looked at us maybe 20 seconds longer then exploded into a full run down to & across the bridge! We (Henna & myself) followed its track up cliff creek a little ways before we turned back. I don't know if you call my dogs action fearless or stupid but I owe it to her that I was fortunate enough to see the wolf. If it wasn't for her I would have never known there was a wolf that close! / Henna & Scott Schriber 2/27/27

3/16 Scott and I returned from civilization a few days later than planned (bad weather). Jamie (Scott's girlfriend) came in with us. Nice day of settling back into Taylor Ranch lifestyle.

3/20 Hot day! Temp reached 75° today. Scott and I unwittingly had said we would jump in the river if ever it got so hot. We did it - but that will be the last time I try swimming in March.

3/22 Ray flew in with propane and flew Jamie out. Back to the threesome.

3/26 Scott flew out for a vacation / job seeking venture for a couple of weeks - down to a twosome.

3/29 Spent the last few days working on Historical Info sheet for classes coming in over summer. It's a brief overview / note sheet on the history of Big CA with sites. Going to the middle Fork tonight to camp + play.

3/30 Camped by gorge and checked out Middle Fork today (Easter). Beautiful day! Grass is greening up.

- 4/1 Found a wind blown snag near water box on pioneer Cr. Cut it up as a supplement to our ~~water~~ wood supply.
- 4/2 Hauled + finished cutting up firewood - ought to last us for the rest of spring. Water line to canyon finally opened up! Leak in line near Aelo cabin. No mail today - weather bad in Cascade?
- 4/3 Mail plane arrived. Terry Holubetz arrived from Running Cr in late afternoon w/ Brian to put up weir.
- 4/4 Worked on weir all day! officially started @ 2:00 p.m. - finished assembly around 8:00 p.m w/ Stef. Ray flew in to pick up Terry + Brian @ 3:00.
- 4/5 Checked weir morning and evening. Nothing yet (little early - but I'm ready to catch something). Spent most of our day cleaning around wood shed (bark, junk, old boards, pack rats, etc.)
- 4/7+8 Spent the last two days burning brush piles and worked so hard to build over summer. Light rain helped keep everything cool.

- 4/9 Scott returned w/ many a tale of "outside" adventures.
- 4/10 Cleared up yard near duplex & planted grass.
- 4/11 Spent a good day cleaning toolshed. Finally looks clean & organized!
- 4/12 Fixed Arlo water line. 6' section with 2 cracks in it.
- 4/13 Stef and I saw 5 WOLVES above sage brush flat @ 10:30 a.m. They even howled for us. Very awesome. We grabbed Scott and camera and hiked up the ridge line between Pioneer Cr + Rush Cr. No sign, of course, but fun trip!
- 4/14 Water is rising on weir. Still No fish.
- 4/15 Stef and I stayed the night in cabin tent by weir. Checked it a couple times last night. Terry Holubetz in today with "weir watcher" Paul Bun. Took Scott up to Running Cr to help Tony.

4/16 Stef and Paul and I buried junk pile across from house with rocks + dirt. Planted grass on top. Too much to try and have flown out piece by piece - especially when there is much much more to be flown out anyway. Old out house pit had been begging to be used...

4/17 Saw 2 quail on trail to Gage Plot - also a frog & toad in Rush Cr. pond.

4/19 HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO STEFANIE - a mighty 24 years old today! Hiked up to cabin cr. Saw a single, large gray wolf! Got a good picture (hopefully). Planning on staying the night @ the weir.

Fish & Game flew out yesterday after hitting up from the Flying B. Checking for fishermen. Spent the day tearing up the lat floor to replace - warped bad from moisture.

4/20 Rush Cr high! Weir is full time job. Relieve Paul every few hours.

4/21 Did a 11:00 p.m. - 6:00 AM. Weir shift with Stef to relieve Paul. Too long for one shift! 1:00 A.M. greeted us with a full size, female moose running into the weir. Used a come-a-long to winch it out. Shift ended @ 6:00 a.m. when I fell in about waist crossing upstream log!

Scott returned from Running Creek. Terry and Paul left - hopefully we get more reinforcements soon!

4/22 Stayed the night w/ Scott @ weir. Fun, fun. Evan flew in via Terry to help. Two horse protectors unable to reach Soldier Bar stopped by lake - we let them put their horses in.

4/23 Dan Leek + Nancy Jones stayed the day. They are a couple living by Yellow Jacket who are spending the spring in low country. They had planned on getting a supply drop on Soldier Bar today, but due to high water can't get across. We've made a deal that if they had forwarded for us in June we'll let them drop supplies at here. Will work well because we don't have any other way of hauling it. * Jenny + Patty - Forest Green up trail seats came in today - will fly out tomorrow. Checked the trail out from Flying B. No mail today due to weather.

4/24 Lots of planes today. Clem Pope + Dennis Gordon + Tom came in from McCall side to survey cabin & airstrip. Patty + Jenny flew out on same plane. Mail arrived with Barbara (a friend of Scott's). Nancy flew out to restock.

4/25 Rick Frazee flew in to check out the airstrip. His wife, Debbie, will be Sunday bringing a high school class in ~~the~~ for a field trip. Nancy returned with supplies and the two headed out - they will return in June. Evan flew out via Terry - weir looks okay. Clem Pope + company flew out @ 6:00 p.m. Barbara w/ Scott + Barbara. Stet and spent the last two days preparing + cleaning before class (between airplanes).

4/26 Fixed Duplex and Cookhouse water systems. Cookhouse water heater still needs work.

4/27 Weather to bad for class. Rain storm struck! Scott + Barb went camping @ boat. Rush CR coming up - spent a lot of time @ weir.

4/28 Spent the night @ weir + most of the day. Caught a fish yesterday! - 70cm Female. Stet worked all day on the yard.

4/29 Spent the night again @ weir (gutting old). Rained off and on all day. Caught up on letters + bills for a potential mail day tomorrow.

5/4 West to goat Barn lookin' for beak.
Found a rattlesnake instead sleepin' on
a rock. First one of '97.

5/7 Stef flew out on mail plane for
a week. Mite Bennet flew in via
Terry Holbert to help with weirs.
Got two amphibian traps in Rush Cr
pond to see what's around. Checked
reptile densites - nothing up Pioneer, but
big Rattler on 2nd bench den.

5/8 1 Rattlesnake, 1 Racer, + 2 Garter snakes
repaired.

5/9 Took panels off of weir - quite a chore,
but glad to be doing it. Cleaned out
Taylor water box + put fine screen on
pipe inlet.

5/10 Rick Faraday flew in to check out
 airstrip for tomorrow. Cleaned + tidied
up ranch - readied ourselves for 14+
high school students.

5/11 Highschool class flew in - it took 5 planes for 14 students, 5 chaperones, two children, + gear. Gave them a tour of Taylor Ranch, sage plot, fish weir, pit houses, benches, and even had energy to play ultimate frisbee on the airstrip. Extremely enjoyable time - as well as educational for both the teachers and the kids.

5/12 The whole crew took off. Water is extremely close to flooding airstrip. Called Stef to have her come in tomorrow instead of Wednesday.

5/13 Stef made it back in. Scott left.

5/14 Fish weir without panels is becoming a dam. Terry Holubetz flew in w/ help to help us clean off logs.

5/15 Fish weir again a dam. Terry flew in - this time said it's a losing battle.

5/16 Airstrip officially under water.

5/17 Hiked to cabin (R) - saw trail crew (Mike McManen). Hiked back in a leavypour.

- 5/18 Fish weir blew out! Massive destruction. Also washed away bank holding all the panels. Not good.
- 5/20 Willard George flew in to look @ lab floor. Agreed that we need another layer of plywood before masonite. Also took parts list for Consul Refrig to try and track down a company that can help us.
- 5/24 My brother & cousin (Rob & Travis Bomben) flew in to visit (about time we had visitors).
- 5/26 Worked on unburying fish weir with Rob & Travis. Cleared several cords of driftwood & dug out catwalks.
- 5/28 Travis & Rob flew out via mail plane.
- 6/3 Interns arrived! TARA VORRENA & LOREN POWELL. Stef flew to Big Creek to meet incoming friends. Spent the day giving interns a tour of T.R.
- 6/4 Loren and I began laying plywood in lab while TARA cleared grass and tightened screws on LAB roof.
- 6/5 Worked on lab. Trail crew flew out via McCall Air. (Flew in 5/28)

6/6 Loren, Tara, and I hiked to Cabin Creek to meet Stef + company (Meagen Beglinger, Annie Williams, + Annie Jenkins). Ate lunch with them and all returned.

6/7 Cut 1/2 cord of firewood on timbered bench. Probably too far to pack, but so much down timber we thought we'd at least get some cut up in case we got horses.

6/9 Jim Peterson + Mark LaBolle in to deliver conduit and re measure for wiring. Spent most of the day. Stef's friends flew out also.

6/12 Spent the last several days digging ditch for conduit. Getting tired of pick + shovel already. Doug (Interstate Auction) made a delivery ^{for hydro.}

6/13 worked on lab floor to take a break from digging ditch. Almost done with kitchen + two bedrooms.

6/14 Back to the trenches. Done with most of the conduit lines (all but cookhouse/bunk house).

6/16 Mark LaBolle + Ray Flew in (Electricians) brought good food. Started working right away on the cabins. Jim + Holly flew in and spent much of the day "checking" out Taylor Ranch.

- 6/17 Jim + Holly have the ^(manager) caretaker job! Glad to have them back! Tara + Loren helped Mark + Ray with wiring the cabins and I dug ditch.
- 6/18 Stef and I helped wire + Tara and Loren dug ditch (almost done).
- 6/19 Finally finished all the ditches and laying conduit pipe. Mark and Ray flew out.
- 6/20 Stef, Tara, + Loren, + I hiked up Pioneer to campsite. Loren cleared trail. Both Loren + Tara stayed the night.
- 6/21 Stef ~~left~~ left with Taylor + cats today. I will leave on Wednesday. Loren returned down ridge. Tara is going to Dave Lewis post.
- 6/22 Packed down Rustate from Rush Pt. Ridge with Tara + Loren. Also showed them the GORGE.
- 6/24 Finished lab kitchen! Showed Loren + Tara around one last time. They will be here and "in charge" until August 6th or Jim + Holly arrive - whichever comes first. They are both capable, willing, + excited. Although Stef and I will miss Taylor Ranch beyond saying, we are both excited about moving along and heading out. A year long honeymoon in the wilderness is quite on

awesome start. I regret that our journal entries are so dry - they are a poor reflection of the adventures + emotions that four seasons at Taylor Ranch can invoke. We both thank the LORD for such a masterpiece as Big Creek. Adios -

6/25 Mail Plane arrived at 7:30am! Dave left us and I tried to step into his shoes. Tara and I began on the lab floor west half. I moved into Taylor Cabin and organized a bit. Ray Arnold stopped in during the afternoon - brought Tara a parcel box and had some Kool-aid with us. I am excited to fill this position and anxious to work. Saw about 18 elk in 20 minutes on First bench (3 babies).

6/27 Very bad radio air today. Couldn't call in weather until 5:00 pm. Retired aerospace engineer came in on horseback today. Bob Beal. Said he knew Jim and Holly and he'll be back middle of October for bighorn season. Worked on lab floor; some progress. We'll probably be finished in 2 1/2 more days. The Taylor Cabin water box is acting up again; will be a major project tomorrow. Saw a young mule deer with a velvet rack last night. Where are all the mosquitoes and black flies coming from?

6/29/97

What began as a cloudy morning developed into a beautiful sunny day. Saw ^aruffed grouse with chicks today down by Big Creek, seems to be a lot of grouse on the ranch. This week we will continue to work on the lab floor (if needed supplies arrive) and begin to cover the ditches. This is a wonderful time of year to be working on the ranch. The air is sweet with the smell of Syringas blooming, their white blossoms are abundant throughout the area.

7/1 Got all the conduit ditches covered today between rain showers. Did some chores around Taylor Cabin while waiting ~~for~~ for Lab Floor supplies. Tara and I fished a little in the evening, I got one good bite and that was it. Haven't seen any elk for a few days - they may be holed up waiting for the rain to quit.

7/4 Happy Independence day! Took half a day off and played in Big Creek for a while. Had a barbecue and shot the shotgun for celebration. Still just Tara and I. We've been working a lot. Almost done with Lab floor. Air strip was mowed yesterday and we finally got water to the ~~g~~ cookhouse. Tara sneaked up on the mule deer that comes to the corral and got a good picture of him. Beautiful weather for the last 2 days. We hope it keeps up. Will have Dr. Peak and two other people in on Sunday.

7/7 Dr. Peak, Mrs. Peak, and Bob Biggs arrived today. Dr. Peak took us to the west bench and we sampled the permanent plot over there. Tara and I finished the Lab Floor today! That is our biggest project over now. We'll help Dr. Peak this week and probably work with Jim Atkinson (due in 7/12) on the hay next week. July is getting busy. Had a cookout with the Peaks; they brought elk burgers. Tara and I were very happy to see people. Mrs. Peak is quite an authority on the history of the ranch, and told some great stories after dinner.

7/11 Dr. Peak, Mrs. Peak, Bob Riggs and Larry Erwin left on McCall Air this morning. Tara and I cleaned the newly completed lab to ready it for administration retreat. The college of FWR retreat was cancelled so the end of July will be relaxing. Did a lot of data collection with Peaks. It was good to get off the ranch and out of the lab for a few days. Jim Atkinson, Friend Dale, Jim Porter and 5 horses + ~~3~~ 3 mules due in Monday. Next week will be busy. Saw a herd of elk and a bear near the third bench Tuesday evening. Still have not seen any sheep. Dr. Peak agrees that it is very peculiar.

7/14 Jim Porter, Jim Atkinson and Dale (?) all arrived today. Most of the day was spent working on mowing machine. Tara and I worked on the fence for a while this morning. I just watched 23 elk come down to the first bench and now almost all of them are crowded onto the point - looking around. (9:30 pm). Hiker named Gary Servidio came by asking to be flown out on the airstrip Wed. Got it approved by Arnold and U.I. Wednesday will

be busy. We'll probably start haying tomorrow.

7-16 Reunited again, thank God! Luisa and I (Loren's wife) arrived today. RC brought us in smoothly because Luisa slept during the flight. With us came Pedro & Kevin who'll be working on Pedro's Biology thesis. We took the afternoon to get re-acquainted. What a lovely place to be a family. (Pedro & Kevin went backpacking)

7-18

Luisa and I walked around the camp watching everyone work on the hay (I would gladly pick up a pitchfork for a while, if someone would help me entertain this tireless toddler!). They are working hard but, unfortunately, they couldn't do anything about the rain. Jim and Dale are not happy.

7-20

Yesterday there was more hay work, plus Holly flew in with Ray, Christine & the dogs Mike & Kookka (Kyurka - I guess it's a Russian name). Luisa is delighted with the ewes & dogs. At night we had a cookout and sauna, but ~~only~~ no one would join Loren & I (it was who's Ist!). Overnight it rained again with great thunder. Today wasn't much of a Sunday, since they had to take advantage of the clear weather to work. Also lots of people will be in camp this week and they started coming in today.

First George LaBar ~~R~~ & Mike Scott walked in. Then a plane brought Dr. Hoover, Chuck Hatch Byron & Marilyn Dangerfield, Marty and Storm (Albertson's Reps) for a 2 day retreat. Then Dr. Minshall & 6 of his students horse-packed & walked in. (A temporary tent had to be put up for them because the camp is full!).

Tomorrow Dr. Minshall's wife & daughter & 2(?) more students will fly in, as well as 2 more guys to join the retreat.

7-21 It's strange to see 2 planes on the airstrip at the same time & to have so many people in the ranch!

There's a lot of fishing & researching & hay raking & "retreating" going on. I got some laundry done while fighting off the flies & mosquitos. I feel like such a pioneer - haha! It's hard to believe we're in the backcountry, with all these amenities & so many people!

7-22 the "Big Wigs" left today & Pedro and Kevin returned. George & Mike will leave tomorrow on the mail plane. Pedro and Kevin hope to get a ride to Cold Meadows. Haying continues & the weather keeps getting hotter.

7-23 Tara & Loren went w/ Dr. Minshall for a mini lecture.

7-25 Holly, Ray, Christie & Kooska left yesterday at noon, after a hard morning of hot work. Dale, Jim & Mika left at 5pm after finally having finished the hay work (with some help from Dr. Minshall's group). I was going to feed them all (they worked

through lunch) but the plane came & they didn't get time. Today Dr. Minshall's group left early part ~~by~~ on foot, the other by plane. We planned to take it easy today - at least for a while - but the moles decided to escape from the big pasture where they were grazing (by the barn). So Tara & Loren had to go chase them down the creek, then back to the airstrip. ~~There~~ Tara finally got Rocky & the rest followed. So they were disciplined & then put away as before, even though they don't have much grazing ^{left} there.

A little gray bunny has been visiting our front yard. He's very sweet, I hope we'll keep coming.

7/31 Bill Hickey arrived last night at about 11:00 pm. They rode from Cliff Cr. ridge in the dark guided by the lights in the Taylor Cabin. Helped Bill & John get the stock unpacked and they stayed in the Lab. They left this morning at 8:00 with the stock (10 head) in the west pasture. Taylor Ranch Outfitters got a supply drop this morning (Dan and Jake ate dinner with Ilse and I last night). Steve Zettel and Significant Other with child (Steven - 4 months) came in with supplies and rode to their base camp. Robin & Todd (FS stream surveyors) finished their work here and will go to Cabin Cr. tomorrow.

8/4 Todd and Robin flew out Saturday. I chased FS stock Friday night and Saturday. Tara and Greg hiked to the Middle Fork Saturday. Bill Hickey came back on Sunday in a Forest Service helicopter with 4 other FS people (including pilot) to build electric fence to keep his stock in. (This was done after what Bill called a "prickly" conversation over the phone with Jim Akenson) A ~~hot~~ helicopter coming up the airstrip was quite exciting. We got out the camcorder for the takeoff. Now Ilse, the baby, and I are the only ranch residents. I'm finishing some research and Ilse is studying and preparing to go.

8/7 This will be my final journal entry. Tara and Greg worked the irrigation for the upper part of the pasture; Ilse and I packed and cleaned. Dan and Jake picked up some supplies today and we received the first 2 loads of materials for the hydro.

While I'm excited to go to a new home in Arizona, I'm sad to leave the Ranch. It has been a wonderful, enlightening summer; I look forward for the chance to come back.

8/11 Last Fri. Ed Krumpe and Jim Peterson arrived from Moscow. They came to build a shed for the hydro unit. It is about one half done and Greg and I will finish it this week. Ed and Jim left today and it was a nice visit. On Saturday Pat Anderson flew in to look at Cabin Creek. He will place a bid on the repair work needed there.