

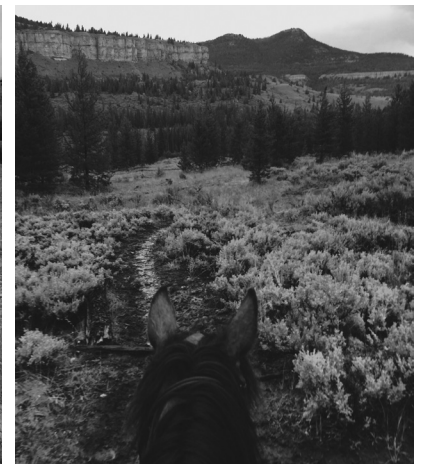
Meanwhile, back at...



...All the news that fits

THE RANCH

SPRING 2016



What Makes the 7D Ranch

BY MEADE DOMINICK

THE 7D RANCH IS A SPECIAL PLACE. I realize that I am preaching to the choir by stating that in this newsletter; however I wanted to reflect on what makes it such an extraordinary destination. Unquestionably, Sunlight Basin is one of the most spectacular places I have experienced. The incredible mountains that surround the ranch are the heart of the North Absaroka mountain range. These peaks are decorated with limestone cliff bands, amazing wildflowers, lush grass, wild forests, and fragrant sage. The clear mountain streams and rivers create their own beauty. The wide open sky displays its vibrant colors during the day and its incredible stars at night. The wildness of the ranch's location is home to grizzly bears, moose, elk, deer, wolves, bighorn sheep, mountain goats and so many other flora and fauna.

Hopefully, I have brought back some memories and images of this beautiful place. Now, I want to talk about what I feel is the most important aspect of the ranch: the people. The ranch has been blessed with so many great people. I have made the following statement many Saturday nights in my time as a ranch manager, "the 7D would not be the 7D and would not be in the Dominick

family if it was not for all of the people who have made that happen and supported the ranch." So again, thank you all.

I want to especially acknowledge one of the most giving individuals I have ever known: my aunt Lynn Dominick. As you may or may not know, Lynn Dominick passed away in January of 2016 after a very courageous battle with cancer. This loss to the world and to all of us who were lucky enough to know her is enormous. My aunt Lynn added love, beauty, and grace to anything she was a part of. She and my uncle John Dominick have played a huge role in the 7D ranch. They never asked for accolades or acknowledgement, they just quietly kept on working and giving a part of themselves. They selflessly have shared so much and it would be impossible to describe the magnitude of what John and Lynn have done for the 7D.

If we are fortunate enough to meet one person in our entire lives as special as Lynn Dominick we have been blessed. With her passing there is great loss, but in her gentle and graceful way her presence continues to be felt. Lynn Dominick will always be a huge part of "what makes the 7D".



one, giddyup

Julia Hunter

Dear Andrea,

This is to thank you and Meade and all the 7D Ranch staff for having all 12 Hunters to stay and for giving us such a fantastic week. It really was very special and very happy - exactly what we had hoped for and a magical way for David and me to celebrate our 50th Wedding Anniversary (18 months early!).

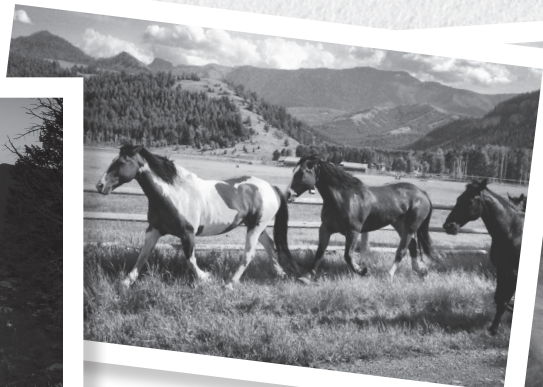
We've had lovely letters from the grandchildren- max says he thinks it was the most fun and enjoyable holiday he has ever had in his life. Tom thanks me for taking him on a holiday of a lifetime - most exciting and interesting holiday ever. He is looking forward to retiring and taking the fourth generation of Hunters to 7D one day!! His very best day was the All Day fishing trip. Hebe loved her riding on "Star" through beautiful landscape - doing different evening activities - the really friendly staff and fantastic food! She didn't want to leave and wants to go back soon. That was just a selection from their letters which I thought you might like to hear.

Life in London is rather dire - looking at continual rain yesterday - but I managed to console myself thinking of "Sunlight Valley" - the smell of sage, and the ride we went on with Meade to the Memorial - all rides were excellent but that one was extra special. I have a rather sweet photo of Lash - he was being entertained by Tom and Mark (I think) while his parents enjoyed the "Happy Hour" next door!! You have two enchanting, and incredibly well behaved children. It's a wonderful and magical place for them to grow up. I will email a copy to you.

Isla was so lucky to have Jacqueline to look after her - she was so good with her - it was special to see her looking so happy and having such a good time. It was great that there were other children there as well. It was like one large house party with all the other guests being there and entertaining - and I really appreciated not being the senior Granny!! She and I had a great evening line dancing together - giggling at our inability to follow instructions!

With very best wishes to you all from David and me - and all the rest of our family - our week with you was perfection.

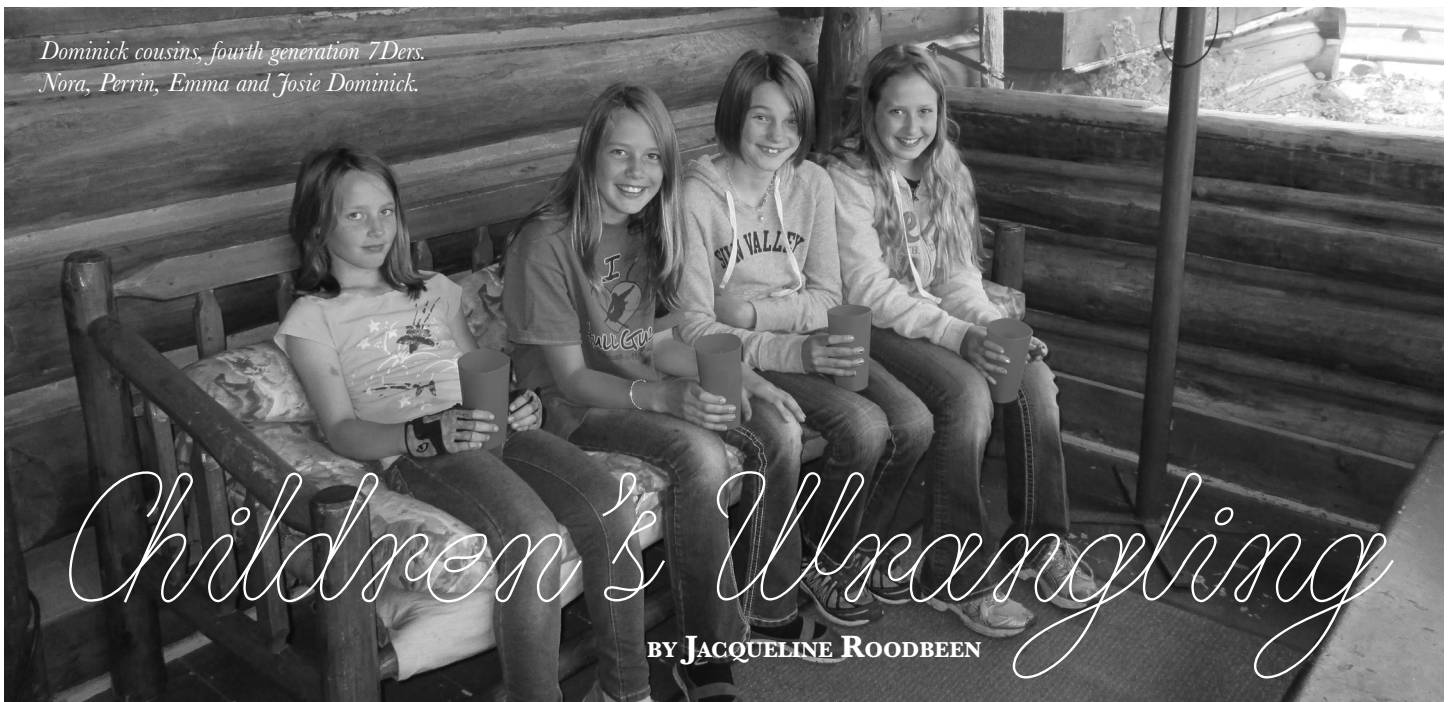
Julia



7D

Two, giddyup

*Dominick cousins, fourth generation 7Ders.
Nora, Perrin, Emma and Josie Dominick.*



Children's Wrangling

BY JACQUELINE ROODBEEN

WHEN I WAS FIRST ASKED TO WORK AS A KIDS' WRANGLER AT THE 7D, I EXPERIENCED MIXED EMOTIONS. I know how much fun kids can be, but having three younger siblings, I am also very aware that children can be challenging and unpredictable at times. Not to mention that being a kids' wrangler at the 7D involves horseback riding with children in the wilderness.

My first priority was to keep all of the children safe, which overwhelmed me at first. After spending a few weeks with the kids, my confidence grew as I realized the ranch is well-equipped to deal with challenges that might arise. I was no longer intimidated about things that might happen, but more focused on the transformation that I noticed in each of the kids over the course of the week.

At the start, they were usually timid, unsure about all the new kids and leaving electronics and parents behind. However, after the first ride on Monday morning they couldn't wait to get back in the saddle after lunch. I could see the delight in their faces as the icy creek water rushed past their legs and the genuine pride they felt when they spent all day building a log fort. I saw smiles spread wide across their faces as their horses trotted for the first time. I heard their laughter as s'mores were passed around the campfire.

The ranch has this special way of stripping away the unnecessary, of creating an environment of timelessness; where children chase each other through the creek, where we all sit down and share a meal, where you get to see the rawness of humanity that is still at the core of each and every one of us. The children showed me, taught me, and reminded me how incredibly beautiful, raw, and authentic childhood is, and how much we can learn from them and their simple gratitude. I am so thankful and very much looking forward to the opportunity to learn even more lessons from children at the 7D this summer.

Wonder what goes on during the Winter?

BY PETER TALPEY

WHILE THINGS CERTAINLY SLOW DOWN DURING THE OFF SEASON FOR THE 7D, THINGS CONTINUE TO HUM ALONG IN THE BACKGROUND. We take many of our reservations, send out guest information, hire our summer staff, send out a newsletter, work on ranch renovations, and take care of our horses.

Currently the ranch is at about 90% occupancy. That is great considering that we have an extra week this summer, fifteen instead of our standard fourteen. We thank all of you for our continued success at such high bookings for the ranch.

Luckily, we do not have any major projects going on during this winter off season. We are taking a break from doing a major cabin renovation, like the ones in Fireplace (2014) and the manager's cabin (2015). David Rawlings is working to add a second bathroom in Racquet Club cabin. We think anyone staying there this summer will be very excited about this change. Other major projects will include changing our water system from the spring to a well in order to comply with changing EPA standards and re-roofing several cabins. Thus continuing Meade's metal roof revolution.



continued 'round the corner...

Three, giddyup

We have about fourteen staff members returning to the ranch for the summer. That is very exciting, and also means that we will have around ten new faces as well. We look forward to getting to know our new staff and having them join our team.

Our horses are doing well on their Cody pastures this winter. Due to the warmer weather we have only had to feed minimal hay and the horses have had excellent water. We are hoping to add a few horses to the herd this spring, and we will be excited to introduce you to them this summer.



*Zuzu (3/17/15)
and big brother
Lash Dominick
(age 3).*



Tripadvisor...help us stay on top. If you haven't done so please fill out a review for your 7D Ranch stay.



Hurry...we still have some cabins available for this next summer. Give us a call today at 307-587-9885 or email **ranch7d@wyoming.com**



Our mailing list has been growing significantly every year and we want to make sure it is up to date. If your address or contact information has changed, **please email us at ranch7d@wyoming.com.** We would be happy to update it for you, so that you continue to receive our newsletter and Christmas card!



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