

Tomorrow continued from page 1

they are in business. This involves policies and expectations, and succession planning.

Land use and stewardship involves short and long-term strategies and responsibilities regarding real estate sales, resource use and conservation science.

Agriculture and business diversity underscores the commitment and routine of day-to-day business while emphasizing the need for exploring other land uses such as gravel extraction, gas and oil leases or the development of alternative sources of energy.

Article I Philosophy and Multiple Bottom Line Section 1.

Through our efforts of learning and understanding, we are better able to join, share and be a part of the Babbitt Ranches' organizational, ecological, economical and community decisions.

Industry employment explores the challenges of attracting skilled employees who seek the ranching lifestyle and share a passion for working on the land.

Infrastructure involves wells, pipelines, dirt tanks, fences and roads. It includes assessing their condition and having a plan for re-development.

Agriculture policy development requires the complex integration of local, state and national mandates, missions and plans that influence Babbitt Ranches.



Rodgers continued from page 6

always popular. When the meat was done she added a little flour to the drippings and made gravy.

Some of the men became so spoiled they couldn't eat potatoes, not even French fries, without Betty's gravy. And her reward was their many thanks.

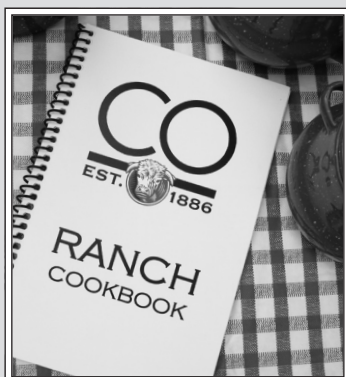
"For her, that was enough. Some of the cowboys are still in contact with her," said Lori.

Betty is retired now and living in Elk City, Okla., but her cowboy life legacy continues on. Her grandchildren and great grandchildren live at the ranch while her recipes are still working and pleasing cowboys.

Documented in the *CO Bar Ranch Cookbook*, Betty's meatloaf and biscuit recipes remain camp favorites.

CO BAR RANCH MEAT LOAF

- 3 or 4 lbs ground beef
- 4 eggs
- ½ tsp seasoned salt
- 2 tsp pepper
- 40 crackers (crushed)
- 1 chopped onion



- 2 cans stewed tomatoes
- 1 tsp garlic salt
- 1 cup ketchup
- Mix well and cook at 375°

BABBITT RANCH BISCUITS

- 2 cups sifted flour
- ½ tsp salt
- 2 Tbsp baking powder (Sift together)
- ⅓ cup Crisco – cut into flour mixture
- 1 cup milk

Stir together; knead a little on floured board. Roll out and cut. Makes 10 to 11 biscuits. Cook at 450°

(130 calories each made with non-fat milk)



Jim Babbitt continued from page 1

of hobos on the train and people used to say our house had a mark on it because they would stop in for a free meal. We weren't worried about strangers. Nobody thought any differently of anyone and everybody was your friend."

The town was small then, maybe 5,000 people. As an eighth grader in 1938, Babbitt had all girls for classmates. "I made jokes about being the smartest boy in the class."

In those days, the centerpiece of downtown was the Babbitt Brothers Trading Company Thriftway Department Store. "We don't have a place like that today where you've got everything—groceries, shoes, ammunition—and a drugstore across the street."

Jim's father, Ray Babbitt, was involved in the mercantile branch of the family company. Jim was a clerk in the grocery store as a teenager. Later he spent his weeks traveling from Babbitt trading post to trading post all over northern Arizona getting orders for supplies.

Travel weary, Jim was ready for a new job when his uncle, E.D. Babbitt, who owned Babbitt Motor Company, asked if he'd want to get into the automobile business. His response was a resounding "Yes!"

Jim had horses as a boy, was interested in the branding and sale of Babbitt Ranches horses and cattle, and had great admiration for the ranch leaders. "Frank Banks, ranch foreman, was the most knowledgeable rancher in the West. John Babbitt, president of Babbitt Ranches, commanded the greatest respect of any individual I can recall."

Jim remembers when he heard the news of John's brother's death. "James E. Babbitt was a very popular state senator. He died from a bad cold while on a hunting expedition. This was in 1944. I was in Germany."

During the war, Jim saw the destruction and impact the war had on life in other countries. In his P-47 single engine plane, Babbitt moved across Europe as Patton's 3rd Army moved. He wore a headset and throat microphone to communicate with troops on the ground close to the front lines.

"It was scary flying and firing with anti-aircraft fire bursting all around, shaking the planes while you are strafing or dive-bombing the enemy."

Once he had a dead-stick landing on his way back to the allied air strip. This means the engine quits and the plane has to make a forced landing.

He calls General Patton a great leader. "He really led the troops across Europe and moved so fast, he outran his supply line and had to wait for them to catch up because he had run out of gas."

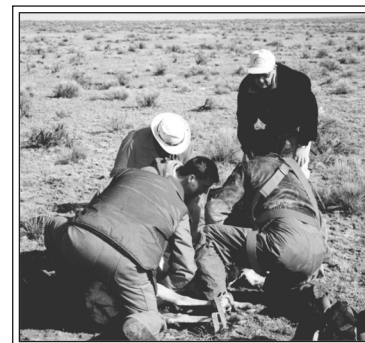
When the atomic bomb was dropped in Japan, Jim was on a 30-day leave. He was outside the Monte Vista Hotel on San Francisco Street

in Flagstaff when he got the news. "We had never even heard of the atomic bomb."

The war in Europe was over and he was discharged before the age of 21.

Back at the ranch, Jim recalls how Frank Banks hand-picked and raised the horses. "We needed good, strong horses. Frank selectively purchased the kind of studs that he wanted to make up the herd."

This set up the opportunity for Babbitt Ranches and future ranch managers to produce tremendous colts in the years to come. When the horses eventually were certified by the American Quarter Horse Association, the reputation of Babbitt Ranches' quality colts spread. Today they are purchased by people



Jim Babbitt, shown here with a pronghorn collaring crew, loves being involved with the ranches.

from all over the country.

Jim bought the Babbitt Motor Company in 1965, after E.D. Babbitt died. It was later renamed Jim Babbitt Ford. He continues to operate the business with co-owner Alan Chan.

In the '90s, he and his wife, Marge, used to visit "the girls." These were six buffalo that Babbitt Ranches brought to Spider Web Camp.

"It seemed like a wonderful thing to have a herd of buffalo, but you couldn't control them. They jumped over fences, crossed Highway 89 and wandered around on the San Francisco Peaks."

As a member of the Babbitt Ranches' Board of Directors for many decades, Jim has witnessed the ranches grow from a cattle operation to what it has become today.

"We were raising cattle and shipping them off. It's a totally different operation today, managing cattle, land and the natural resources, and public recreation. There was no such thing back then."

Through it all, Jim has a great deal of pride in the Babbitt legacy. "I am very humbled that there were some really bright, brilliant, wonderful men in the family and the older generation that started it all. They were tremendous, respectful people who were extremely generous within the communities they served. And I've had an exceptionally good life. I've been so fortunate to have so many wonderful family and friends.

Jim and Marge live in Sun City and spend their summers in Flagstaff.

