



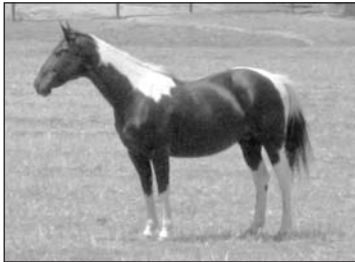
# Morning Star Youth Ranch

## Fall 2007 Newsletter

From the Director By Diane Odell

Fall has arrived with its chilly nights and beautiful colors. Children are back to school and our horses are growing thick winter coats for the rain we hope is coming. We have been busy at the ranch over the summer and praise God for His many blessings poured out to us.

In June our first donated horses came to the ranch, and at first Libby was not too excited about it. Indy arrived first. A beautiful paint mare with an abusive history but coming from a home where much was given to her to repair the damage.



Thank you Cindy and Mary. Indy and Libby soon became the best of friends. A couple of weeks later Hannah arrived. A pretty



little red filly with a nasty looking but healing cut on her hind leg and within three days we also discovered she had dryland distemper. Hannah turned out to be a brave patient

and has healed up nicely. Please check our website for pictures and more information

on these two beauties.

We also had our first open house at the ranch on the 23rd of June. Many friends and visitors were treated to a shoeing demonstration by Mary Renner, our official farrier and teacher extrodiniare.

Dogie Lujan explained and showed us his saddle making and leather crafting skills throughout the day and folks took home some great buys from our used tack sale. Light refreshments were served as we all enjoyed



showing visitors around the ranch, introducing our horses to many new faces, and sharing our vision for Morning Star.

In July we shifted gears a bit and focused in on our mentor training program and our ongoing work with our horses. Hannah needed some minor surgery on her hind leg, which has healed up beautifully. Our mentors are getting some one-on-one training time and building solid relationships with our horses. Indy, Libby, and Hannah are enjoying the time and attention they receive and look forward to spending

time with their people. Fire and Selah, although not at the ranch yet, are very active in teaching future mentors the language of horses.



August brought a time of reflection, refocus and regrouping as we set aside an evening for prayer. What a joy and encouragement it was to walk the ranch with friends and supporters and lay each building and project, horse and future child to come, before our Lord and ask for His guidance, wisdom, direction and blessing. Answers came in the form of peace and direction. Short-range goals began to materialize and we began preparing for the coming months. Hay for the winter has been brought in and stored. Intermediate fencing is in process to keep our horses safe while the permanent fencing project begins to take shape in phases. Siding on our sun shelter to provide winter wind protection for our horses will be added soon. Ongoing grant writing training and non-profit learning experience seminars are attended. A partial roof is put over the renovated blacksmith shop. Plans are being drawn up for barn restoration and a mentor-training manual is taking shape. Please keep these projects in your prayers.

September arrives and opportunities and blessings pour fourth. We are given the sweetest, kindest yearling filly to balance our herd. Read more about her in this newsletter and thanks to San Miguel Flouring Mill and all the tack donations we have received over the last year we have opened a small used tack store. Word is spreading and it is already doing quite well.

(Read more about this in the following pages) Opportunities to speak and share with our community about the value and vision of Morning Star Youth Ranch are beginning to fill our calendar. Thank-you to all who have made this summer so filled with His presence and have worked so hard and blessed us with your support and encouragement.

October finds us preparing for another workday in preparation for the upcoming winter months. Building, painting, demolition, and clean up are all on the agenda. Please continue to uphold us in prayer as we continue to labor to bring forth this ministry by His will and by His might and in His time.

### A Whisper in the Dark

It started with a phone call from Kasia at Rancho San Miguel. "We have this sweet little filly here and I think she would make a good match for your ranch." I was reluctant at first - I just didn't want or need another horse till we had our cross fencing in place. So I told Kasia we would come look but we really didn't have a place for her now. I realize now that it is always a mistake for me to go look and an even bigger mistake to take my horse loving friends with me. Carole and I set off for Rancho San Miguel discussing the fact that we loved visiting the beautiful ranch and seeing all the thoroughbreds but we really had more pressing things to be doing with our time. Kasia met us at the office and led us down to a corral where our eyes fell upon a small shy dark-brown filly awkwardly standing close to her feeder. We already knew about the injury that enlarged her hock and exaggerated the yearling ganglyness most horses go through but she looked so hopeful in spite of her situation. Bred to run with a daddy name Roar and a momma (Shooting the Moon) who had produced other runners, here she was undersized, injured and at the least beautiful phase of her life still looking hopefully to what might be in her future. And she had no name as yet, no unique identification that

made her special. Kasia had told us that she had a friend who communicates with horses and that this filly had whispered that she had no desire to race for her life's work but just wanted to be with children. Carole and I fell in love with her kind eye and quiet curious disposition as soon as we entered her corral. She was calm and gentle as we introduced ourselves to her, ever respectful of our space as we moved around her and picked up her feet. We were smitten and left praying again for



fencing. After nearly a month we hooked up our trailer and headed to Rancho San Miguel to bring our little filly

home. We had a plan and a whisper from our Lord that, fencing or not, she needed to be at Morning Star. With little persuasion she hopped in the trailer and quietly completed her first trailer ride. As we arrived at her new home, Indy and Hannah were the first to greet her, and as she jumped from the trailer into our little arena Indy waited patiently at the fence until our little newcomer wandered over to check her out. Indy then spent the better part of the next hour gently whispering to our new little girl all the secrets of her new home and audibly nickering that she would take special care of her till she was comfortable in her new surroundings. On the other hand, Libby didn't want or need a newcomer to the herd and spent several hours with ears pinned charging the fence and making known her displeasure of the new arrival. Since Libby was the only one not enjoying our new yearling we kept her in the arena by herself and allowed the two youngsters to spend the night with Indy. By the next day Libby had a change of heart and our little herd adjusted. Libby had Hannah to mother and Indy claimed

our newbie as her own and both youngsters became friends, even eating together. Now what she needed was a name, a name that would reflect who she was now and the promising future which lay ahead of her, not the loud speedy boldness she was bred for, but a new life of spending time with the children that would come to the ranch and share their hurts and dreams with her. She would be a listening ear and hear the whispers in the young hearts that she would meet and she could whisper back of the hope she knows. From unfilled dreams that others had for her, from pain and injury, from rejection to acceptance and friendship, always from the darkness to the light, our little one had already experienced much in her short life. Hope is rekindled as we hear the whispers in the darkness and we move toward the light. And oh, her name, you guessed it Whisper in the Dark or Whisper for short.



### Morning Star

Used Tack Shop.....Now Open  
Over the course of the last eighteen months as we have labored to open the gates of Morning Star Youth Ranch, many have come forward to offer gifts in the way of tack and equipment that still have years of service left to give. Out of this abundance we have chosen that which we know will be used by our horses and kids at the ranch. The rest we had stored with the hope of selling at our next open house or other fund-raisers, but with our storage

facilities bursting it became obvious we needed a plan B. In August at our prayer meeting we began to pray for a solution to our bulging tack room and through the generosity of Mike Van Horn and Leslie Parker at the San Miguel Flouring Mill space was made available to open a small used tack shop.

In September Jani, Carole, Jeannette, Sandi and I, our vehicles filled with tack



and equipment, headed for the Flouring Mill at the corner of N and 14th streets. With hammer and supplies, Lou had transformed one wall into a backdrop for all the tack we would need to display. Within several hours the five of us had turned an area 13' x 6' which once housed sacks of feed into a cute little used tack shop complete with saddles, bridles, halters, blankets, saddle pads and much more. We have Western, English, Dressage and Trail equipment and are open from 8-5 Monday thru Friday and Saturday 8-noon.

Thank-you Mike and Leslie. Thank-you to all who have made this little shop a reality- those who check-in and keep the displays orderly, those who have donated their gear and those who have purchased it.

If you would like to support us through your tack donations please call our office at (805) 226-2859. Also, for a special treat come in and check out the Flouring Mill that has been in operation since 1903. This historical mill manufactures livestock

feeds, offers seed cleaning and seed sales, along with dog and cat food sales. A very interesting place to see.

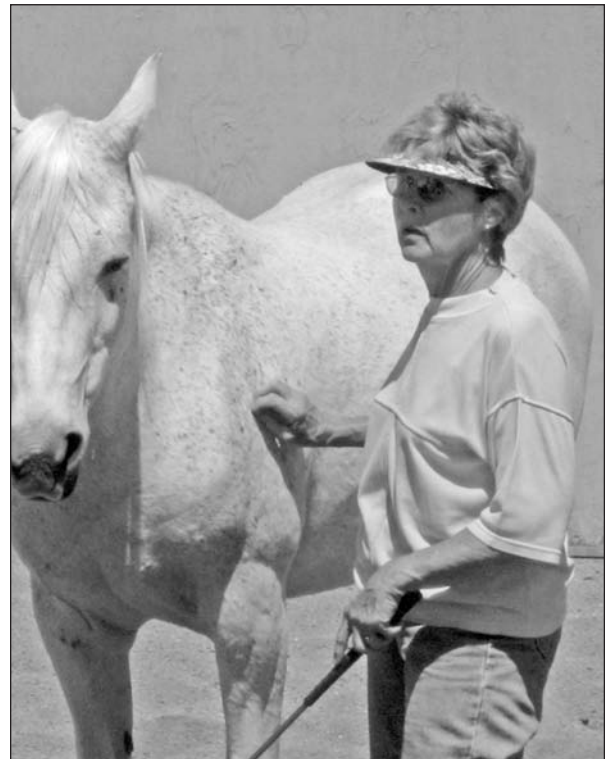
## Meet our Board

*(We will highlight one member of our board in each Newsletter)*

How Carole Hansen

our secretary and all around right arm jumped into Morning Star.

Several years ago I was given the book Hope Rising for my birthday. I was amazed and touched by the stories of what was happening at this small ranch in central Oregon, so I jumped at the chance to visit there with some of my friends. During a three-day clinic, we gained much knowledge and insight into what it would take to begin



a similar program back in Paso Robles. Inspired by Diane's vision and encouraged by God's timing and provision, we began to see a dream turn from possibility into reality. I realize how fortunate I was to have had horses in my life when I was growing up and I know how valuable a program like this could be to so many children. There truly

is a special bond between horses and children---one that can have such a positive impact on their lives. So I am motivated to do what I can to help Morning Star Youth Ranch thrive and flourish! It has been so awesome to watch how God has been putting all the pieces of the puzzle together in every area of this venture. It will be even more awesome to see what he does in the future in the lives of everyone involved and how He will use this ministry for His glory. It's exciting to be hanging on for the ride!

### Opportunities for you!

•Volunteering is a great way to get to know us and experience MSYR and the tremendous value it will have for our youth. Volunteers choose their own hours and fields of interest. Why not fill out a volunteer application from our website and mail it to our office and join us.

•Here's another way you can help. One of our biggest needs right now is cross fencing. This will enable us to keep our horses safe in several pastures and bring our other horses to the ranch. Then we will also be able to have children to the ranch on a lim-

ited basis. Cross-fencing estimates have come in at 11 to 12 dollars per foot and we need approximately 1400 ft for three safe horse pastures. How about buying a few feet of fencing? Checks made out to MSYR are tax deductible! Be sure to write FENCING on your check.

•Do you know a group or service organization that would like to hear more about Morning Star Youth Ranch? We have a power point presentation that shares our vision of one child, one horse, one mentor and the empowering possibilities we see for the future. Give us a call. We'd love to come and share with your group or organization.

•Do you know someone with grant writing and research experience that would like to donate some of their expertise to help us find and apply for available grants? Please call our office; we would certainly like to talk with you.

•Please check out our web site for pictures and updates of all the happenings at the ranch. [www.morningstaryouthranch.org](http://www.morningstaryouthranch.org)

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Yes, I would like to help Morning Star Youth Ranch reach their goal of being operational by the end of 2007.

Please use my donation for:

- Where it is needed the most
- Specific project \_\_\_\_\_
- For the children
- For the horses
- Ranch equipment
- Volunteer program

My check made payable to Morning Star Youth Ranch for \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
(Donations are tax deductible)

Please send donations to:  
Morning Star Youth Ranch,  
862 Exline Rd.  
Paso Robles, CA 93446

Our current wish list is also available on our website: [www.morningstaryouthranch.org](http://www.morningstaryouthranch.org)

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_  
State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
E-mail (please) \_\_\_\_\_

My Gift is \_\_\_\_\_in honor of \_\_\_\_\_

My Gift is \_\_\_\_\_in memory of \_\_\_\_\_

Please send acknowledgement to:

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
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City \_\_\_\_\_  
State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
E-mail (please) \_\_\_\_\_

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**Sharing the love of Christ  
by building bridges to hope, healing  
and trust in a ranch setting.**