



**Partners in Palo Duro Canyon Foundation**



## ***On the Edge!***



**Logo by Jack Sorenson, Owned Exclusively  
by Partners in Palo Duro Canyon Foundation**



**View from Canoncita Ranch  
Photo by Editor**





**Photo by Editor**

### **A Visit to Canoncita**

If you leave the gate of Palo Duro Canyon State Park and drive twenty-two miles—mostly south—over splashes of caliche and mostly dirt (mud after a rain), you come to the entrance to the Canoncita Ranch and the Gilvin Educational Center. If you took a short cut (nine miles) from the paved road of the State Park, you would struggle through miles of very difficult terrain. Your short cut by foot would probably take nine hours. Best to stay on the road.

Canoncita was formerly the Pete Gilvin Ranch. It was given to the Amarillo Area Foundation after his death. Texas Parks & Wildlife Department purchased the property from the Amarillo Area Foundation with the proceeds from the sale being placed into a trust. The trust has been used to care for and improve the property.

The Amarillo Area Foundation, the Texas Parks & Wildlife Foundation, and Texas Parks & Wildlife Department have worked together to renovate existing facilities, and all remain committed to the property's stewardship.

At the invitation of Shannon Blalock, Park Superintendent, the October meeting of the Board of Advisors for Partners in Palo

Duro Canyon Foundation was held at Canoncita. The ranch headquarters, the former ranch house of the Gilvins, has been transformed into a state-of-the-art educational facility which is used for many other activities as well.

The Board of Advisors, of which I am a member, first visited Canoncita in 2003 for a cook out of elk burgers provided by Dr. Fred W. Rathjen and cooked by Hi Newby, the Park Superintendent at that time. Included with this column are pictures of the interior of the Pete Gilvin ranch house then and now. The change is quite impressive.



**The Original Kitchen Area**  
**Photo by Editor**



**The Original Living Room Area**  
**Photo by Editor**





**Partners Board Members at Canoncita Ranch  
Art Schneider and Don Max Vars in Foreground**



**Partners Board Members Lynda Barksdale and Don Max Vars  
Canyon View from Canoncita Ranch  
Photos by Editor**



Merry Christmas



**Park Staff: David Fisher and Laramy Estel at Canoncita**

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