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"TOUGH OLD BROADS"

Four participants of Lander Llama Company have scored a story written by Linda Crouch and published by the outdoor publication "Adventure West". The article, "At A Llama's Pace" appeared in the September/October 1996 issue of the magazine. The women in the article refer to themselves as "Tough Old Broads" or T.O.B's. and it's a very good story of their llama adventures in the high country. Carol Holcomb, Betty Thacker, and Betty Erickson along with the author have been friends for many years, and they lease llamas from L.L.C. every year. Their enthusiasm and spark for life is enjoyed by all!

**WANTED**

Anybody with unique and interesting stories relating to your backcountry travels will be considered for publication in up coming *Llamer* issues. Send your articles, short stories, tid-bids, or poems today!

**WORLD WIDE WEB**

L.L.C. has been keeping pace with technology. L.L.C. has anything you would need to know about our services at [www.wyoming.com/~LLC](http://www.wyoming.com/~LLC) It has many new pages which include updated guided trip schedules, weather report, The Bunk House, recommended clothing lists, and many hot links to our beautiful state of Wyoming!

**PINGORA FOR SALE**

No not the mountain...but a beautiful light brown female llama that is a very fine looking lady! She is tall and is bred to Lander Llama Company's Starburst and should have her first cria by late October 1997. Pingora comes from a long line of performance animals. She is blood typed and registered with the International Llama Registry. She also comes with a guarantee from Lander Llama Company. Pingora will make anybody proud to own!

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## *Tough Hikers, Young and Old....*

The summer of 1996 was a very inspiring year for myself. Besides meeting people from all over the U.S. and Europe and spending a few days in our precious backcountry, I had the opportunity and privilege to hike with some very encouraging people. Ben Jones, I call him Benny, from Wisconsin was just 4 years old. Benny's father Dave, a very tolerant and wonderful father, drove out to Wyoming with Benny and his brothers and sisters; all 6 of them in a 30 foot mobile home! Yep..that's right 6 kids, aged 4, 6, 8, 10, 12, 14. Dave is a surgeon, and his life is hectic, to say the least. Dave really has 7 kids, but he thought his 2 year old daughter could not make the trip! Well of course, I was skeptical about the 4 year old Benny's abilities, much less the 2 year old! Conversations prior to their 3 day trip with Dave, assured me his kids were "farm kids" and would be able to hike and handle most anything for three days in the wilderness. I agreed and planned a route that was fairly simple, but not without a shadow of doubt. When they arrived, and I had the opportunity to get a feel for them, I knew things were going to be alright. I have never seen a tougher bunch of kids than this, especially Benny. Benny knows what he wants, and he does it. Benny, to my amazement, without any assistance from any adult, hiked the whole trip by himself and refused any help. Besides this, he hiked to the top of Cony Mountain (11,000 ft.) from Upper Silas Lake (9,800 ft) on our layover day! It was a great sunny, but windy, lunch-day looking over the southern Wind River Range and out into the Oregon Trail/South Pass parts of Wyoming. I expect Benny will be a very avid hiker and outdoor person in his life, and hope to hear of his accomplishments over the years!

Towards the beginning of the packing season we had a wonderful trip into Stough Creek Basin. Dave and Julia Appel, coincidentally also from Wisconsin, joined us for their second year on a 4 day trip. One day on our trip, we had taken a day hike up to the base of Stough Creek Basin, which is a spectacular glacially carved cirque with several lakes. One peak, about 11,500 ft stood protruding straight above us at the lake we were having lunch on. I caught Dave eagerly eyeing the top of this peak. Knowing how much he enjoys bagging day hike peaks from the previous year, I asked him if he would like me to take him up to the top. He smiled and said "That would be great, if you think we can do it!" Arie, one of our young helpers on the trip said she would love to come along also if I wouldn't mind. I agreed, and we planned a route. Right from the start, we had to cross a snow field that was marginally slick, and somewhat steep, and without crampons we had to take it slow. After we crossed the snowfield, it was a straight shot to the top, which was quite vertical, I might add. Arie, being a young 17 year old track star pretty much was in the lead, only occasionally looking behind for my assurance. I was plodding along in 30 yard increments, thinking to myself, "I've got 12 more trips this season, am I going to make it this year?" Dave, kept my pace and nudged me a few times. We lost sight of Arie about 200 yards from the top, and figured she was almost there. About 1 hour and 10 minutes later Dave, Arie and I, topped out to a beautiful view overlooking the basin and the rest of our party 800 feet below. It was a sunny gorgeous day and they looked like ants below. Dave looked at me with a sheepish smile and said "This is a wonderful day" I agreed, and he said "It's my birthday you know" I smiled and said "I'll be damned, how old?" He said "72, 72 today!" We took pictures that I will cherish for many years.

It was a great year hiking with so many people that I really enjoy. The summer of 1996 with Benny and Dave I will always remember, and will make great campfire stories for years to come!

*-Scott Woodruff-*

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### **THERESE'S COOKIES COMING SOON**

The overwhelming requests for Therese's cookies and desserts have prompted us to look into the idea of marketing them. We still have some hoops to jump, but it looks like you will be able to eat them soon!!