

The Bell Ranch



Jeffrey Phelps Lane

May 11, 1950 – August 15, 2007

Jeff's life was taken suddenly when his single-engine airplane crashed on The Bell Ranch, Wednesday, August 15. He is survived by his wife, Janet and their three children, Travis (Kari), Sarah and Brandon. Jeff was a proud grandfather to Torin, age 3, Macie, age 1 and Mason, age 1.

Jeff was born in Lake Forest, Illinois. He grew up in Libertyville, IL until he was age 8, and from the age of 8 to 13 he resided in Lake Forest. At the age of 13 he attended Kents Hill School located in Kents Hills, Maine and graduated in 1969. Jeff attended Colorado State University in Ft. Collins, CO, where he majored in Ag business. He graduated from Colorado State in 1974 and began working full-time at the Bell Ranch, where he has been employed since. Initially involved in the Bell's registered herd, Jeff became involved in strategic issues impacting the ranch. As President of the Bell Ranch, Jeff led the ranch's efforts to develop a new breed of cattle and encouraged a much greater focus on wildlife and water management.

Jeff was first and foremost a family man with a deep devotion to his wife, Janet of 33 years and their three children. Jeff had a passion for the west and a love for the Bell Ranch where he had lived for over 30 years. He raised all of his three children on the Bell Ranch and was very active in the ranching community in New Mexico. Jeff personified the cowboy way of life and encouraged his children to actively participate in rodeo and ranch activities.

Besides his significant focus on Bell Ranch activities, Jeff was active in both Lane Family and other businesses. He was a director of several banks owned by the Lane Family as well as a bank in New Mexico. Jeff also sat on the boards of GBC, a public company and of Lane Industries. Jeff was an active contributor who challenged conventional thinking and encouraged a long-term view of value creation for owners.

Jeff hosted the annual Trail Ride at the Bell Ranch which was a celebration of the cowboy life and was attended by both real and aspiring cowboys. Jeff was a sportsman, with a passion for outdoor activities, a skilled skier and avid tennis player. He was an accomplished pilot and greatly enjoyed flying and airplanes.

Last, but not least, Jeff was a people person who enjoyed being with people of all types; whether they were successful business executives, celebrities, politicians or a factory, hotel or ranch employee. Jeff showed a deep and sincere interest in everyone he met and especially those who worked for the Lane Family

businesses. As a director he was always questioning the impact of decisions on employees. He cared deeply about people and had a deep and genuine concern for their problems and issues.

In lieu of flowers the family has requested that donations be made in memory of Jeffrey Lane to the New Mexico Boys and Girls Ranches. Further information regarding donations can be found at www.theranches.org/ or by contacting:

The Ranches
6209 Hendrix Road NE, 2 FL
Albuquerque, NM 87110

1-800-660-0289

For more information, please contact Bert Ancell, Manager - (575)868-2207 - ancell@plateautel.net - HCR 67 Box 21, Bell Ranch, NM 88431

NTSB releases cause of fatal plane crash

ALBUQUERQUE (AP) - An airspeed indicator had incorrect markings in a single-engine airplane that crashed in northeastern New Mexico, killing the pilot and his passenger.

That's according to a report by the National Transportation Safety Board.

The pilot and co-owner of the Bell Ranch, 57-year-old Jeffrey Lane, and his passenger, 34-year-old Ryan Hartley of Roy, were killed last August 15th.

They were in a 2005 Zlin Aviation Savage that stalled and crashed three miles northwest of Mosquero.

The NTSB investigation found discrepancies between the airplane's airspeed indicator and the airspeed guidance provided in the aircraft's flight manual.

The NTSB says conflicting airspeed information provided by the airplane's manufacturer and the incorrect airspeed indicator markings contributed to the crash.

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