

Herd of BOOMER TIMES?

BOOMER TIMES, more than a magnificent monthly magazine, is also the first born beautiful bouncing baby boy alpaca whose worth experts judge to likely be greater than \$100,000 at **Alpaca Angels of The Highlands, LLC**. That's not merely spinning a yarn! He's a snowy white "huacaya." (The other kind of alpaca is called a "suri." The main difference of the two alpaca breeds is in the precious 10 pounds or so of soft, warm, luxurious fiber that each animal produces annually.)

Herd of alpaca yet? Related to the camel, lama and goat, the alpacas are among the best fiber bearing livestock in the world. Traditionally mountain animals of Peru, Bolivia and Chili, alpacas in Florida have dramatically increased from being on 4 or 5 farms to over 100 farms in six years. "Why?" you wonder. Uncle Sam wants about

a million of the cute critters breeding in these United States of America and gives *tax write-offs to working alpaca breeders that may amount to more than \$100,000 per year for each year through 2009*. (See Tax Code Section 179.) Alpacas are called "the huggable investments" by big city "Baby Boomers" moving into Florida, who want to retire to an at-home profit-making "countrified" business on a few acres of land. Some say they can raise 6-to-10 grass grazing alpaca per acre with supplemental hay or pellet feed.

BOOMER TIMES was named by "The Prairie Princess," better known as Ms. Lorraine Loperfido of Lorida, Florida (south of Sebring along Route 98). Lorraine partnered with hypnotherapist Chuck Domm (see his *Changing Your Mind for Good* articles monthly in this magazine) to form The Alpaca Angels of The Highlands, LLC—for Joey's sake.

Joey Loperfido is Lorraine's now 25-year-old son whose (March, 2000) car crash at Broward Mall left him in a coma in which doctors expected him to die. Chuck volunteered to use his creative therapies to emerge Joey from the coma and to recover despite severe brain damage. Lorraine and Chuck thought that buying a home with a pool for water therapy would further stimulate Joey's recovery, which it did. Then they purchased a home in the country with nearly six acres hoping

to rent it for income to help get Joey better care, but that home was hit hard by hurricane Jeanne three days after settlement, and could not be rented. So, Chuck's home improvement skills came in handy to repair and rebuild that house—with Chuck designing and building an addition that would be conducive to Joey's recovery efforts. The room has a handicap ramp and is glassed all around, all for Joey's ease and viewing, where he could look outside and see the stimulating wildlife activity.

Chuck and Lorraine decided to take advantage of the government's alpaca breeding program in efforts to raise money to get Joey stem cell treatments. So the former city folk built what they nicknamed "The Ghetto Ranch"—and bought several pregnant alpacas to start a herd. Now they have 17 high quality alpacas, carefully breeding their



dams (females) to national champion herdsires, with BOOMER being the first born on the ranch.

When it comes to purchasing some fine alpaca yarn to spin or knit, you might want to call and go see the "paca people," Lorraine and Chuck (and Joey too). They offer quality alpacas for sale and to help you get started while tax write-offs are so great. They even offer "half shares" for those wanting to invest 10, 20, 30 thousand dollars and get proportional tax breaks. The alpacas are fully insured annually. Alpaca dams may produce annual offspring for 16 or more years and owning a half share in one can be enormously rewarding. Last year, **\$750,000 was paid as a half-share** for the leading national herdsire. You don't have to own a ranch to get the tax write-offs, many alpaca owners live on the beach or in cities but board their herds at places they can visit like the nearby Alpaca Angels of The Highlands.

"Y'all come visit and we'll take photos of you with BOOMER TIMES, give a tractor ride 'round the ranch—and give you some complimentary "alpaca angel eggs" to take back home," says The Prairie Princess and The Ghetto Rancher also respectively known as Lorraine and Chuck. (Chuck is developing a national television series and weekly Ipod broadcasts about breeding alpaca and is looking for sponsors.) Call **863-655-3255** for directions.