



PALAVER

FOUNDED BY
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THE ORIGINAL RANCH LAKEWOOD, NM

VOLUME XIV NUMBER 5

JULY – AUGUST 2009

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President – Merrilee Mager Jim Ward	Vice-President – Lucile Billings Roxy Colomb Carol Fishel	Secretary – Laura Melvin Doug Hubbard	Treasurer – Bob Abbott Arnie Arnold
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COMMITTEE CONTACTS

Beautification Liaison – Lucy Billings Chair – Charlene Tarvin	Building & Safety Liaison – Arnie Arnold Chair – Dan Newland	Grievance & Dispute Liaison – Merrilee Mager Chair – Dean Minard	Library & Video Liaison – Carol Fishel Chair – Pat Busch
Long Range Planning Liaison – Doug Hubbard Chair – Dean Minard	Lot Transfer Liaison – Merrilee Mager Chair – Bill Good	Nominating Liaison – Laura Melvin Chair – Kasey Jones	Water Liaison – Arnie Arnold Chair – Mike Kerr
Newsletter Liaison – Laura Melvin Editor – Roxy Colomb	Ranch House Hands Liaison – Lucy Billings Chair – Barbara Walthers	Welcome Liaison – Merrilee Mager Chair – Shirley Partch	Wireless System Liaison – Bob Abbott Master – George Brothers

FOR INFORMATION, QUESTIONS, OR SUGGESTIONS: PLEASE CONTACT THE LIASON OR
COMMITTEE CHAIR. USE YOUR LEASEHOLDER LIST FOR CONTACT INFO.

PRESIDENT'S POST

Hello Ranch Hands:

My post for this edition of the Palaver is going to focus on our storage area. You wouldn't think that a topic like that would require much attention, but let me tell you it has taken a tremendous amount of time. So, I thought I would take time to highlight some important details that any of us who use the area need to keep in mind when placing a unit in the area.

- 1) Before placing a unit in storage, you must first check with the office to get a space assignment. Per our policy **“the manager has to go with you to the area”**. If the office is closed, then take the unit to your lot until the office is open. Because we do not hold spaces you will likely be assigned a different space each time you bring your unit to storage. Additionally, the center row is used only for RV units over 30 feet long.
- 2) Upon confirming available space, you will need to fill out a storage agreement (unless you already have one on file) These agreements are important as they provide us with the details of what is stored in what space and who to contact in the event of an emergency. Additionally, the storage agreement provides for your unit to be checked in and out without filling out new forms.
- 3) For those who utilize more than one storage space, effective July 1, 2009 a monthly fee of \$10.00 will be assessed for each additional space. To avoid a late fee, make sure your rental fee is paid by the due date. An FYI, the fees collected will be used to improve the storage area e.g.; additional gravel, expanded spaces, etc.
- 4) You may not be aware that stored RV/vehicles/towables must have a current license tag. Over the next couple of months we will be addressing this issue and notifying members who are not in compliance. Help us out and verify that your units are currently licensed.

Hope this information is helpful; however, if you want all the details for storing a unit, contact the office manager and she will help you with a current copy of our storage policy.

Safe and Happy Travels,
Merrilee Mager

This entire page accidentally got missed in the last issue of the Palaver so I am including it now and hope that everyone will accept that the miss was not done on purpose. The page got mixed in with some other papers on my desk and didn't get found until after the newsletter was printed.

THE BATTLE OF THE BELL

For some years it has been a friendly rivalry between the east end gang and the middle row gang of Coyote Run to see who would bring in the New Year with the wonderful clamor of the Ranch Bell. In the past few years, "Fast Marilyn" just beat out "Lead foot Tenison". Such fun! All of that changed this past New Years Eve. Resourceful Marilyn appeared calm but behind that angelic smile was a wicked brain at work. She bewitched my ex-adopted son, Rob Levin, to turn his loving adoptive father (me) without any thought of how it would break up the family. The adoptive mother, after learning of her ex-adoptive son's treason was in tears. She had several glasses of wine to drown her sorrows. "Fast Marilyn" also somehow influenced the timewatcher, Phil Sharp's countdown, by claiming that being senior in age, she should be getting a head start. The few seconds head start by "Fast Marilyn" and the unlawful bell ringing by the Railey gang, left me utterly confused as to where the real bell was.

Plans are being made, as you read this, for next year's fiasco.

Age and wisdom will not win out. The younger and ignorant will prevail to be the "Ring-A-Ding".

That's my story and I'm sticking to it.

JUST WAIT UNTIL NEXT YEAR

**John Tenison
Lot # 25**

Our sympathy and love goes out to Lucy Billings and her family on the death of our beloved Dick. He will be sorely missed.

Our wishes for quick and complete recoveries to the many who have been ill, have had surgery, or in other ways have been ill and/or not up to par. There have been so many that I know if I try to list the names I will miss at least one and maybe more. Your Ranch Family is here to help in any way they can. Be well all of you.

HAPPY FOURTH OF JULY
OUR DAY OF INDEPENDENCE

JULY

BIRTHDAYS

Carol Koontz 8
 Christine Giffin 9
 Art Lumb 12
 Noreen Ward 12
 Denny Rundall 15
 Bill Smith 15
 Matt Lucas 19
 Neil Brunton 20
 Carol Cunningham 24
 Barbara Novy 28

ANNIVERSARIES

Art & Sherri Lumb 1
 George & Linda Frey 7
 Roger & Barb Heaver 7
 Dean & Yvonne Minard 30



AUGUST

BIRTHDAYS

Jennifer Roessler 7
 Frank Lieberman 9
 Elizabeth Evelyn 31

ANNIVERSARIES

Tony & Debra Simmonds-Amari 9
 Jim & Carol Cunningham 10
 Carl & Merrilee Mager 17
 Doug & Lola Wood 21
 Larry & Joan Whitworth 21
 Vern & Sheila Miller 23
 Charles & Paula Russell 31



WELCOME TO OUR NEWEST RANCH HANDS
 Larry & Joan Whitworth Lot # 22
 Larry & Karen Andrew Lot # 100

WE BID A FOND BUT VERY SAD
 FAREWELL
 Bill & Bev Heeter Lot #76
 Ken & Donna Good #100

Lots currently available to any
 SKP include
 # 37, # 46, and # 68

Del Posada = from the past



A MARRIAGE WHERE?

Some years ago during a Valentine's Day Dinner, the people present were asked some questions about things pertaining to their past. One of the questions was "Who was married in the most unusual place?"

When Marie was very young, she and a young man were madly in love and wanted to get married. They went to her father and asked for his permission because Marie was underage. He agreed to the marriage and suggested that the three of them go to talk to the preacher so the father could give his consent to the preacher.

This preacher was a part-time minister and had a regular job at a gravel pit. Marie, the young man and Marie's father went there to see him. After hearing the request, the preacher asked the couple how soon they wanted to get married. Of course, they wanted to get married as soon as possible.

The preacher said, "OK let's do it now", and he did, and they were married in the gravel pit.

After a moment Marie said that they spent that night at her new in-law's home, sleeping in the room above their bedroom. The newly weds hoped that the squeaking windmill drowned out the sound of the squeaking bedsprings.

Marilyn Railey

Reporter of the Palaver



DID YOU KNOW ?

"Summertime and the livin' is easy"... goes the familiar song and it does describe summer at The Ranch. Many leaseholders flee the park for cooler climate but those who are at The Ranch in the summer enjoy a quiet, easy-going season. Temperatures may be hot during the day, but once the sun goes down, so does the thermometer. The shade from your awning is very welcome but don't leave that awning down if you leave the park!

SOME THINGS TO DO IN THE SUMMER

Stroll thru the wedge

The wedge is that area between lots 100 and 102. Thanks to the hard work of the beautification committee it is a lovely desert botanical garden. What a lovely place to sit and watch a desert sunset or enjoy the cool of the evening and see the stars come out.

Keep your lot beautiful

When leaseholders are in the park, it is their responsibility to keep weeds on their lot under control. (YES, weeds grow in the desert.) You may put out plants or trees on your lot but be sure they are able to survive desert conditions. The beautification Committee can suggest appropriate plants.

Refresh yourself

If you need something cool. The refrigerator in the sun room at The Ranch House is stocked with ice cream, soda and candy; prices are posted on the door.

And remember

The speed limit in the park is 10 mph (for cars, bikes and all vehicles).

Always break down all boxes before putting them in the dumpster.

Shirley Partch

Chairman

Welcome Committee



AROUND THE RANCH

Summertime and the Livin' is easy? Well not for everyone! There has been a flurry of activity going on here and the building and safety and lot transfer committees have been very busy as a result! Here are the highlights!

Starting on Lago Vista; Tom and Roxy's big red barn has a new RED metal roof. Wow, now that is a sharp looking barn!

On Lot # 26, Greg and Mary Ann Obst are creating some shade with a new veranda! After pouring a 10 X 24 cement pad Greg went to work adding a metal roof for shade. Good job Greg!

Moving up the road on Coyote Run, the Hasse's have completed their enclosed breezeway with some expertly built cabinets and countertop by Chuck. Looks like some serious entertaining is in their future.

Moving on to Windmill Vista the flurry continues. On Lot # 80, Mary Jordan received a very special Mother's Day gift, a screened in porch. Joe Cherry, Karl Komatz and Carl Mager completed the enclosure in 2 days, yep framing, screening and two screen doors. Mary was thrilled to say the least! And Joe just completed installing new hardwood floors in their trailer

New and returning leaseholders Gunther & Elaine Kechstadt on Lot # 102, immediately got to work and installed a new window, facing the street, in their casita. And they have also built a beautiful deck and stairs access to their rig. No dust collecting under their feet.

And right next door the Mager's on Lot # 103 have completed enclosing their patio into a screened-in porch and built a patio cover for the BBQ. Your president was spotted installing the metal roofing in the hot sun with no liquid beverage in sight, and rumor has it the first dude, Carl, was in deep trouble! All is well however, the project complete and the new Tuscan screen porch is getting plenty of use!

For all you Bull Dog fans in the park, Dean Cryar, Lot 111 has completed the exterior of his project and he painted it white, with black and orange accents! Go Bulldogs!

We all enjoyed the beautiful desert blooms this year; the Ocotillo with brilliant red and orange blossoms, the desert willow with their purple, burgundy and white flowers, the Arizona willow out in the wedge showered us with lovely yellow blooms. Can't forget the pretty purple verbena, And the New Mexico Agave which were just gorgeous.

With our mower back in working order, the entrance to the park is looking nice and neat with a recent mowing.

We would be remiss in not mentioning the great job done by Joe Cherry, Arnie Arnold, and Greg Obst who installed a new door to the laundry room. This was no easy feat as the settling that has taken place in the laundry room created a big challenge in fitting that pre-hung door (yep they used the door that's been sitting in the workshop for two plus years). However, after 6 hours and lots of sweat, joking and water, the job was completed. With a pretty new door and trim paint, Carl Mager could see that the rest of the trim could sure use a touch-up, so armed first with a caulking gun and paint brush, all the windows and doors and the front of the building got a new caulk and fresh paint. Thanks guys, you did a GREAT job!

Some of our Ranch Hands have returned. Sumi Metcalf arrived home from a 2 month vacation in Virginia and Japan. Jake accompanied her to Virginia and Maryland staying stateside while Sumi was in Japan where she visited with siblings and other family.

Ron and Phyllis Frey arrived home a few weeks ago and now have their three adorable granddaughters here visiting. Lucky for us Phyllis will be with sticking around for a month or so before returning to her FEMA job.

And the Striblings also returned home, many of you know that Sally has also joined the FEMA work force. Nice to have her, Dave and Kiska back in the park for a bit.

And now we wait for monsoon season (although many in the park state that it has come early this year). The cannons in the adjacent orchard have been heard, clearly preparing for potential hail. The cannons are thought to break up hail and turn it into mush, sparing the orchards and other damage to vehicles etc.

So that's the scoop around the park. Till next time!

Charlene Tarvin

Lucy Billings

Merrilee Mager

REMINDER FROM KASEY

Board nominations must be in the office in 68 days.

Come on Ranchhands, it's time to start contacting your friends and neighbors about finding folks to run for the 5 empty seats on the Board of Directors.

Get together and come up with a slate of members who you feel can work together and have talents and or expertise that would benefit The Ranch. We need all kinds of people on the Board but the one qualification every member must have is the desire to keep The Ranch running smoothly! We need members who will continue to ensure we have the very best co-op in the SKP system.

It seems we are forever hearing folks criticizing the actions, or lack thereof, of one or more of the board members; yet when it comes time to nominate people to serve on the board it is like pulling teeth.

You might already be talking to folks about serving on the board and no doubt find they are being hesitant. Being a member of the Board is a major responsibility and will take a good deal of time. Board members deal with "people" so there will be negatives. However, looking beyond the negatives, being a Ranch Board member is also an extremely rewarding job.

Come on. Get out there. Do something! Here's an idea---Put your own name on the ballot!

Remember: all you need to do is contact the person you want to nominate and ask him/her to run. Then he/she must send the Nomination Form to the office allowing his/her name to be placed on the ballot. August 28, 2009 is the deadline for these forms to be received in the office.

Kasey Jones

Chair Nominating Committee

BEAUTIFICATION REPORT

We have grass on the berm! So what if you have to be up close to see those tiny green blades.

Tee Gor is turning green and sending down shoots.

We have, hopefully, saved 4 out of 5 dying pines out by storage.

Goat head project going great and our Manager, Gene kills all that start to grow. Thank you Gene.

Thanks to Robert Handel for cleaning up the pine cones in the common areas.

Eight new "free Arizona Ash" trees are doing well except they look more like Cottonwoods and are now looking like something else; maybe Hackberry.

Your Chair

Charlene Thayer

TO OUR RANCH HANDS

Thanks for the very nice card that many of you signed when I had my total knee replacement. It was certainly appreciated. Everything went extremely well with the operation and subsequent rehab and therapy. Just about the time I was getting to feel frisky, I went thru a series of events that led to a stress test, which led to a stress test, which led to an angiogram which led to a 4 way bypass operation on June 2. It is now 2 weeks after the heart surgery and I am doing fine (a little slow but moving around). We are at the Westminster, CO Elk's club and we had a visit this morning from Milo and Betty Marquardt plus Soren and Barbara Walthers. What was originally planned to be a 2 month visit with the family in CO will now be extended thru the end of the summer, but that will probably mean several games of hand & foot.

Oh, well!!!

Jerry & Margaret Krebill

Lot # 16

(One thing follows another and hope you are both well and stay that way)

FROM PAST LEASEHOLDERS

We want to say how much we enjoyed our short time of being at "The Ranch". Thanks to Roxy for talking us into buying a lot at The Ranch, and to Robert for his work and presentation of upcoming events in Artesia and area. A double thank you to Thayer for his wonderful music and for making the singing so good.

We hope to come back for at least a visit and who knows what the future will hold.

If anyone comes our way over the summer please stop by and see us. You can reach us at tocjip@aol.com.

Thanks again for a wonderful time.

Connie & Tom Mitro

Lot # 37

GREETINGS FROM RENO

In between that nasty 4 letter word W-O-R-K, we're continuing to explore the "biggest Little City in the World" and enjoying our time here so far. May brought us a 4 day visit from my friend in Oregon in her new RV and we spent some time downtown watching events at the Kayak park, enjoying a buffet dinner and "Menopause the Musical" at one of the casinos (what a hoot, the lyrics were hysterical!) and a trip all around Lake Tahoe for a picnic lunch, hiking to a waterfall, and dinner at Harrah's.

Unfortunately, just as we started to head for home, our car died on the side of the road and refused to restart. A passing tow truck eventually brought us back to Harrah's (while I got my first ride in a squad car, which was almost worth the look on people's faces as I got dropped off at the front door). The 3 of us ended up catching the last shuttle bus from Lake Tahoe back to Reno Airport and the CG assistant manager came and picked us up at midnight, way above and beyond the call of duty. The car was towed back on Sunday and repairs were almost \$1000.00 so it turned out to be an expensive outing, boo hoo.

(Continued on page 7)

HI ALL

Well, we have had a busy spring and summer so far. It is June 11 as I write this. We left "The Ranch" in a rush when I was able to get a fast appointment with the International Pain Center in Lubbock. We got here at noon and my appointment was at 3:00pm that day. Since then I had two other procedures before we left Lubbock.

We went to the Elk BOF pre-rally, where we had a nice time, then on to the Escapade where we were on the row for the Elk BOF. I'm finally convinced that the "row game" does bring folks around. We had pretty constant traffic right up to the last day.

We spent a few days in Kansas City with Soren's nephew where he hooked me up with Skype. We goofed though and ended up calling his mother in Denmark in the middle of the night. I just gotta watch where I push a button.

From there we went to a Coast to Coast park near Hutchinson, KS and toured the Salt Mine Museum. It is 650 feet underground. Many years ago I did temp work for an oil/gas company where I had to trace the ownership of the oil wells in TX, OK, and KS. It was a tedious job that took 1 1/2 years. Anytime I had to order up new information, this salt mine is where it came from. It was interesting to see it. Many unique items are stored there. The public is not able to go into the actual storage areas but displays show how things are handled.

We arrived back at Lubbock in time for my next procedure on the 10th of June. It was NO fun! The next one is in September and if it hurts as much as this one, I'm not sure I'll be able to get thru it. It really hit the scales at a "10".

Dave and Sally arrived yesterday in time for us to greet them before we went to the clinic. Of course we had to go out to dinner at a buffet. They went to a Winnebago dealer today so we will go to dinner again tonight, then they are leaving for The Ranch. If I get feeling more like a "human being" we plan to leave here on Saturday and head toward the Denver area where grandson # 2 will be married on June 20th. I finally found a dress to wear to a late afternoon wedding. Soren will wear his western suit. After that we hope to go to the Ratznest then work our way west visiting my brother along the way and then visit friends in the Bay area of CA. We are losing those "old folks" and this may be our last chance to see many of them.

Hope everyone's summer goes well. We have to be back here in Lubbock for my next procedure, then back to The Ranch for a short visit before going to the Chili Chapter Rally.
Barbara and Soren Walthers
Lot # 10

THE MT . HOME INVASION

We arrived at Mt. Home, Idaho in the morning of June 3rd. The campground hosts, Don and Betty were not at home so we set up just across the street. It was a good choice as they turned out to be very social and we got together every day for lunch and later for Happy Hour!

Our first Happy Hour was great fun but perhaps a bit too long! That might be why they said nothing about last week's invasion. It was still light at 9PM when we finally persuaded Frick, the cat, to come in. He had been begging to go in and out all evening!

The next morning we woke to "wild cat" running back and forth from on end of the rig to another. He was jumping high into the air as he ran! He was chasing a moth! Out went the moth and the cat. During the morning I removed as many as 10 moths from the rig!

That evening after Happy Hour, I caught Frick chasing another moth. During the night he woke us again as he was after 3 moths circling the stove light!

In the morning Spike checked all the screens and made sure the slides were secure. He even looked up the stove vent, just in case. All was secure! While he was doing that Frick and I were inside catching moths!

I mentioned the moths to Betty as we all drove to lunch. Oh how they laughed! They found Frick's high jinx very entertaining. Over lunch they told us about "the invasion" that had "ended" a week ago!

EVERY MID-MAY TO MID-JUNE MOUNTAIN HOME AFB IS INVADED!

The enemy arrives by the thousands, no, by the millions and millions! They fly in from the south; some arrive during the day but most show themselves only at night! They hide during the day unless disturbed. Then they leave their "hangers" and attack! Their prime target is the neatest light bulb.

IT'S MILLER TIME

We pulled out of Mt. Home six days ago and I have tossed no less than 100 miller moths out the door. I found two more in the fridge today! Every time I pull down the shades moths fly into the room! These invaders have no class found one in the toilet this morning (don't ask).

So in the future when planning your northern escape by-pass Mt Home in May and June. You don't want any part of Miller Time.

Spike & Kasey
Lot #117

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

From Reno (continued from page 6)

We also drove out to Fallon for a day's visit with Ede and Bob Trockels, hiked some petroglyphs, went to lunch at a great little café and to a quilt show and museum, and had a tasty dinner back at their place. The day went by too quickly but it was fun while it lasted.

In June we went to Carson City Rendezvous and enjoyed everything from Civil War camps and battle re-enactments, a stagecoach and Pony Express riders, mountain men encampments, Native American dancers, arts and crafts vendors and tasty food. And all day and into the night concert entertainment.

Pat & Bill
Lot #106

(There was more to this but it seems to have gotten lost in cyberspace as the editor did not receive it before the

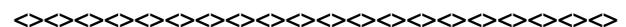
Palaver went to print)

SUNDAY 14 JUNE

We left Texas April 7th after I (Gale) was cleared to go, after my scare with a density in my breast. I went and had a sonogram in San Antonio and they said they did not see anything to worry about, but I just need to keep an eye on it and to come back in six months for another check-up, so off we head to the east coast. We had a nice trip east and after a few overnight stays we arrived in Summerdale. Alabama and stayed at the SKP park for a week. There we met up with our friends' winter neighbors from Donna TX, Bob and Joan Small We traveled together from there to Florida. There we stayed at Bob and Joan's friends in Edgewater Fl. It was really beautiful there, we were right on the Inland Waterway. We watched the dolphins, Craig even caught some shrimp right off their dock. From there we headed north to St Augustine to visit Gale's sister. Stayed at The Elks there for a few days and even got some National Parks cancellations to add to my collection. Up to Georgia and a very pleasant stay at Skidway State Park. Next stop was in Loris, South Carolina at more friends. Here we met up with another couple from Long Island. Craig got to golf here over at Myrtle Beach. He said the greens were smoother than our living room rug. Left there and traveled north to Fairfax, VA. The others needed to get back to Long Island so we separated there. In Fairfax we stayed at an Elk's lodge just a few minutes from Washington D.C. I got lots of National Parks cancellations there. D.C. was very interesting and we could have spent a month there and still not have seen everything! Now we are getting eager to see Long Island, so off we go. I wanted to go to Philadelphia to see the Liberty Bell so before we left we called to see if we could park the motor home somewhere so we could tour Philly. We were told." oh Yes" and instructed where to park. Off we go, as we were arriving in Philly, I had to use the bathroom so I told Craig which way to go. Well, apparently I held the map up-side-down or something. So when Craig made the left turn I told him it brought us him in the wrong direction down a one way street. So I come out and YIKES! Traffic is heading toward us. Craig pulls off behind truck making deliveries, and some construction guys then yell at us, "Hey you are going the wrong way" DUH, no kidding, so I watched the traffic pattern and told Craig "when I tell you to go, GO". Well we did make it out, without getting a ticket or an accident mind you. Off we go looking for the parking lot. We finally got to the parking lot we were supposed to be able to park in, and there was no way we could

get in there. There was fence all around it and in the middle of the entrance there was this shack where you had to pay to park. We could never make the swing to get in there so we said decided to go on. So we headed down the road and the road was getting very narrow, plus there were cars parked on both sides of the road. Couldn't turn right or left so onward we traveled in what seemed to be forever. Finally we got to a wide boulevard and were able to turn. We headed for I-95 heading north. We got to New Jersey and were on I-295 and exiting on I-95 when we encountered a rather large metal plate in the middle of the road. Could not go right or left of it so we took it down the center of the RV. Well, everything went fine until it hit the mud flap and the rear of the RV. The plate caught the iron angle bar on the bottom of our mud flap, then tore off and bent. It then hit into the jeep and took out the bumper, wiring for the tow and left side fender. Then it punctured the left tire. Craig was busy removing the iron angle bar and didn't notice the damage to the jeep. He was putting away his tools thinking his job was done. Then I told him to look at the Jeep. As we were looking at the damage, along comes this truck from NJEDOT. A man gets out of the truck and walks up to us. I'm thinking he is going to tell us we couldn't park there, but instead he was asking how he could help us. He noticed the flat tire and got out his jack and changed the tire for us. It was just like the Green Angels down in Mexico. He got us back on the road in no time. Wouldn't even accept a tip. Said it was just a part of his job. So all patched up we started back on the road again. For those who haven't been to Long Island, the tolls are outrageous. The George Washington Bridge was \$32.00 and then the Throggs Neck Bridge was \$10.00. The whole trip from Florida to Long Island cost over \$85.00. But we did make it here and are enjoying the sun when we do see it. Should be in Pennsylvania the early part of September and then Massachusetts for Craig's class reunion. Everyone enjoy your summer and hopefully we will be back at the Ranch sometime in November.

Travel safe
Gale, Craig and Samson too
Lot #78



HELLO FROM THE SHARPS

Friday evening in Denver Josh walked across the stage in a traditional cap and gown, and Sunday at noon in Kansas City Steve graduated in a tuxedo. Each graduation was very enjoyable and, of course, we were delighted to be there. We only had Saturday to drive from Denver to Kansas City, but the trip was an easy one. Our daughter, Sharon, flew from Oklahoma City to Denver to go to the graduation and helped us drive to Kansas City. Monday the three of us drove Kansas City to Oklahoma where our rig was parked at Sharon's on the farm where she lives.

We drove to Chanute KS to take our rig for some maintenance work. After the Hitchhiker plant did the repairs we headed north. We stopped for a couple of days at Amana Colonies, Iowa. This is a wonderful old village where the Amana appliances first were made. We took in the museum and walked thru the interesting village.

We had some medical check-ups at Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota. We were given good reports and so we were off traveling again. We traveled the Great River Road along the upper Mississippi River which was most interesting. We transversed the Mississippi seeing vantage points from Minnesota, Wisconsin, Iowa and Illinois. We used the magazine "Big River" as our guide for things to see and do as we traveled this route. We watched barges and river cruise boats go through the locks. One of the Corps of Engineer campgrounds along the Mississippi where we stayed in Thompson, IL was a perfect place to watch activities on the river, such as pelicans, barge and fishing boats .

Sitting along a farm to market road we watched a spectacular air show at Davenport, Iowa. The U.S. Marine Corps' Harrier jet came directly over us – my that's a loud plane! The U.S. Army Golden Knights parachutes team performed. We watched a mid-air stuntman transfer from a helicopter to a biplane and then reverse back to the helicopter. The Blue Angels were the highlight of the show. The show was billed as a five hour event but we did not go early enough to see the entire performance. We saw a lot of motorcyclists along the river road on our drive to

Davenport because the Sturgis Mississippi River Motorcycle Rally was being held at Davenport.

One weekend we drove to Napeville IL to visit the Klicks. Sunday evening we were treated to a wonderful cookout at their son's home. Klick's have a lovely daughter-in-law and two beautiful granddaughters.

We are now at Hannibal MO on Mark Twain Lane west of Hannibal. Klicks will join soon and we will tour Hannibal and the Mark Twain sites and then to Springfield, IL to take in the Lincoln points of interest. We do not have a definite travel schedule, but we will be in Hereford, TX in August for our 55th High School class reunion.

We wish safe and happy travels to all and a fun time if you are staying put this summer. Hugs
Phil & Gene
Lot # 98

TALE OF A \$300 GREEN CHILI CHEESEBURGER

As we traveled toward Carrizoso NM, Bob asked me (Marilyn) if I wanted to stop at Outpost for one of their wonderful Green Chili Cheeseburgers. I wasn't very hungry so said "no, let's just eat a nutritional bar and call it lunch". Bob decided to pull off the road while we ate the bar. About that time we apparently ran over a drywall screw which imbedded itself in the sidewall of a truck tire.

A change of tire, a visit to a store in Santa Fe, and the sad news that the tire couldn't be repaired. The new tire was purchased. Let this be a warning to everyone. When someone offers you a delicious lunch, say yes. It will cost a lot less in the long run.

When you read this we will be on a trip to Santa Fe with grandkids. We are taking Zoe and August to Fossil Rim Wildlife Center at Glen Rose TX and then on to Odessa to be with their cousins, Delaney and Henley. We have enjoyed 2 weeks at Heron Lake State Park, NM and stays at Cochiti Lake COE Park. Rusty & Mary Irons and Art & Sandie Singley all send hellos

Bob & Marilyn Railey
Lot # 30

Lakewood, N.M. 88254

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