



PALAVER

FOUNDED BY
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For additional information, questions or suggestions please contact the proper committee chairperson or committee board liaison. New chairpersons, as they are set, will be published in a future newsletter. You may also contact the office manager and the message will be given to the proper committee.

To my Ranch Family

Well elections are over and the new Board of Directors is in place. With luck your editor has gotten the names of all the liaisons but if not then whoever takes over this job will add them to the next Palaver.

Yes, that’s it folks. I have resigned as your editor. I have done it for over three years and that is plenty long enough, perhaps too long. Now it is time to start deciding what I will do with my life from here on out. I have gotten all of Tom’s hospital bills paid off and most of the others as well so maybe (big maybe) now I’ll be able to concentrate on getting the rig fixed up or replaced and the shed finished.

I have truly not made any big decisions but have been putting one foot in front of the other to just keep moving and now it is time to start thinking about the future.

Thanks to all of you out there who have sent the articles that have made this newsletter what it has been. My apologies for all and any errors and as I have said before, “I am not a typist and my computer can’t spell”. My thanks also on a personal level for the support I have received and especially to those who have gone out of their way to help me walk the walk.

I will gladly pass on what was given to me for use with this newsletter and maybe their knowledge of computers, which is bound to be better than mine, will put the tools to better use that I could.

Your outgoing Editor

Roxy Colomb

Lot #1 The Big Red Barn

THE GULLIBLE MRS. DULCICH

Cliff and I went to school together from 5th grade through high school in a small town in the Sierra foothills of California. He lived in town and I lived in the country. Before my family moved to Mariposa, I lived on a small farm. Some of my chores were to feed the chickens and turkeys in the morning and at night before I could put them into the coup. Then we moved!

I had to adjust from a one-room school house to a fifth grade with about 15 kids who were my age. I am fast forwarding to High School. In our High School we had kids bussed from all over the county. Cliff and I took band and choir together, but if anything got in the way of sports, then it had to go. He was a “jock” and an “Aggie”. We did not have anything in common.

After we graduated, Cliff went in one direction away from Mariposa and I went in the opposite direction. Our paths crossed from time to time and my husband, kids and I moved to Santa Cruz where we both had good jobs. I found out, through my mother, that Cliff had married a woman who had 5 children. He and his wife (Margaret) would go to high school reunions and picnics when they could. We were both at our 25th high school reunion when Cliff gave me one of his calling cards. I would send him and Margaret e-mails and jokes, but he never answered them. One day he sent me an answer to a e-mail and said it came at just the right time. I learned later that Margaret was very ill, so I told him I would put her on my prayer list and he said he would put me on his support list. Soon after he e-mailed me that Margaret had passed away and he was bringing her out to California to bury her. We exchanged phone numbers and because I had gone through a similar thing with my second husband five years previous, I tried to be helpful to him.

When we talked, he found out that I love to travel and I found out that he loved to drive. He wanted me to travel with him. I asked him, “if I do that, what do I need to take? . His answer was clothes and girl stuff. I asked him, “Do you have pots and pans?”. Cliff said, ”Yes, but I have what-ever you need back at the Ranch”.(“Oh I thought, he has a ranch). The more we talked the closer we became. I said, ”Do you have cattle?” Cliff’s answer was, “There are cattle there”. Then I said, “You and Margaret travel all the time, who takes care of the cattle?” His answer was “we hire managers.” (He has a ranch was what I thought). I can’t live on a ranch again, but Cliff said if I needed anything we would buy it. (My thoughts were, “Maybe we could hire someone to do those chores”).

He said it was very important that we get to the ranch by October such and such because that was round up. WELL, THAT CLINCHED IT, HE HAD A RANCH.

As we got closer to New Mexico, he told me that I would be received very well because these were a “special kind of people.” I thought that was a nice thing to say. He checked to see if I was comfortable with people giving me a hug, I told him that would be fine. When we got closer, Cliff told me that the Ranch was “out in the middle of nowhere”, and I could tell he was right. There were miles and miles of miles and miles. As we entered The Ranch, I saw the sign that read “The Ranch” and what looked like a lot of RV’s parked around. They rang a bell and people came from all around to greet us. Yes, they gave me hugs and welcomed me to “The Ranch”.

The round-up was to start in the next week and to my surprise it was a big party with lots of food and fun. I understand that we have had this party every year for many years. No, we don’t round-up the cattle, because they are not ours. I am saddened by the fact that no-one wanted to take the responsibility to head up round-up this year (2010). It is a big responsibility, but this co-op has the biggest heart of cooperation and compassion of any group of people that I have ever seen. We travel all the time and were not here to organize it, or we would have. Maybe next year someone will head up the “ROUND-UP.

Needra Dulcich

Lot # 59

(I’m with you Needra but then this was the year when everyone seemed to be traveling most of the time. It happens in our life style.)

Busters travels Geo-Bon

Leaving North Carolina we visited with my sister Irene in Dublin, VA and on to the Elks BoF Rally and Escapade in Indiana. Before the Rally Buster stopped in Napanee and a new computer desk, with drawers and cabinets was installed where we had removed the couch. During the rally I was elected Vice President of the Elk BoF. What a nice time to meet and have fun with other Escapees. We met lease-holders Jim & Mary Gallivan for the first time. There were seven Lease-holders there at Escapade and we all had dinner together one night. After Escapade, on to Iowa and a visit with the HWH leveling jack maker for new springs and face plate for the control panel. Three jacks needed nipples to prevent the pad from slipping off the piston. Great place at a reasonable price for that service. Then on to Minnesota and the King Dome saga, that black dome on Buster. Well the tuner box we needed (we never had one) did not activate the dish inside the dome, and they do not work on installed systems. We needed to go in another direction, to be continued. On to northwestern Minnesota and Bonnie's aunts (2), and cousins (2), and their families. We had a nice visit. Then south for an appointment with the Demco tow bar people in northwest Iowa, great service. Plans came together for a meet in Oklahoma City west with a satellite dish TV installer. Great service removing the King Dome and installing the Winegard Traveler Dish 1000 by good Escapees. We left The Ranch on May 2 and got back October 4 and Buster is resting until December.

George, Bonnie & Buster
Lot #85

HAPPY
HOLIDAYS

OUT OF THE PAST

Dear Ranch Hands

I cannot thank you enough for, or tell you how much, your cards, letters, and phone calls have meant to me. How helpful they were, coming just when I needed them.

I have been back in Ohio for a month+, after going to Maine for the month of August. I returned because I had a kitchen pipe come undone and flood the kitchen, the dining room and living rooms in my house. The house now has new sub floors with new vapor wrap barrier and insulation underneath. Just this week I have been looking at floor plans for the kitchen cabinets and deciding what I will put in it. I'll get those ordered and then next week go look at finished floor options and make a decision on that. My insurance company hasn't yet come up with a settlement figure, but I am willing to wait. Have learned about insurance claim process and have a plan of action if I am not satisfied with their decision.

Maine was bitter sweet as I guess you would expect. At first it was very painful to be there without Bill, but by the time I had to leave I found that painful too. When I got back to Ohio I was overwhelmed with all that had to be done. I found myself crashing so I got a referral to a counselor and have been seeing her regularly. I am now doing very well. The floor situation has been a godsend. It not only has kept me distracted, but in learning each part of it, I have come to realize how strong and capable I am. As one friend said, "You have been paying attention all these years." I meet daily with my friends here in the program, talk daily to my sponsor, walk Wilson with the neighbors most days, keep in close touch with the kids, and write a letter to Bill most nights.

I am staying in the trailer until I get the kitchen done. I have found I can lift the # 30 propane tanks and had someone show me how to connect the maserator to the battery to empty the tanks. Not only has having the trailer to stay in been a blessing, but I also feel closer to Bill in it. It's cozy and a nice transition for now.

Thank you all again. If your travels lead you to Ohio or Maine please come visit. I have room in both places to park you. I am not sure what I will do in the future about RVing. Right now I am catching up on things that have boiled up and plan to stay in Ohio this winter. I must admit I wish I could just "beam" over to The Ranch. Happy Trails and Hugs to you all.

Mary Smith
(Formerly Lot #114)

PEACE & JOY

SIGHTSEEING

This year has been a year of more sightseeing than we have done in a long time. We went to Catalina Spa RV & Desert Resort in Desert Springs CA from January to April and then we started east over I-70. That's not a route we would take every year but this year we wanted to stop at some of the sites. We stopped at Zion National Park and from there drove to Bryce Canyon 90 miles away. Then we went to Moab and parked at the Elks Club to tour The Arches. The Arches are wonderful. If you go there, go to the end of the drive before doing any hiking because there's a great 2 mile trail at the end, but by that time we were too tired to hike it. You see lots of beautiful sites on the drive but most of the arches you have to hike to.

Next stop was our cousin in Fruita CO. The night we stopped there it snowed on I-70 between there and Denver so the next day we drove through slush. Never have seen our rig so dirty! Made another stop in Colorado Springs to see a cousin who had adopted two children from Haiti (a girl and a boy). Great kids.

We spent a month in Amana IA and then on to Fort Atkinson WI for our family reunion. Then to Illinois and Indiana and then Michigan where we enjoyed meeting our new great granddaughter, Mila: went to the Chapter 6 Rally and then to a church conference in Midland MI. We are both ordained through Mark Barclay Ministries. Dr. Mark T Barclay is also pastor of Living Word Church in Midland MI so we enjoy hanging around this church as often as we can. After the conference we drove across Canada from Port Huron to Niagara Falls NY. The Elks Club in Niagara Falls is only \$75.00 /wk or \$15.00/day and it's right next to the Outlet Mall. We had a great time in Niagara Falls seeing both the Canadian and American sides of the falls. Brad and Jan Barnes had complementary tickets to the dinner theater, Oh Canada, Eh and invited us to go with them. It was a wonderful show and it was great seeing Brad and Jan again. Had never been to a dinner theater and we thoroughly enjoyed it.

Next stop was Cooperstown NY and the Baseball Hall of Fame. After paying \$33.00 on the NY Thruway to get to Cooperstown, we decided to stick to state highways the rest of the way. Next stop was the Elks Club in Fairfield CT to visit our son in Milford CT. During this stop we were treated to a sailboat ride up the Connecticut River

from Essex. Another new experience. Here we learned about parkways which are for cars only, no big rigs or RV's—you'd get hung up on low overpasses! We took the parkway everyday from Fairfield to Milford to see our son and fully understood why the fifth wheel would not fit.

Next stop was Gettysburg PA. Because we elected to take state roads instead of toll roads, it took us nine hours to go 300 miles. Average speed most of the way was 45 because of the curvy roads. Leaving Gettysburg was similar. It took another nine hours to go 350 miles to Ohio. The trip through the Poconos and Appalachians with *% grades was a white knuckler for Orv because he discovered the trailer brakes were gone! We stopped overnight in a Flying J and then called a repair shop in Hamilton Ohio and made an appointment for Monday morning to get our brakes fixed. They gave us the phone # of the Crouse Mobile Home Park nearby which had 5 RV sites. The price was great so we paid \$95/wk and stayed there Friday through the following Wednesday. It was close to a church we wanted to attend as well as to a friend's house. We also went from there to the Creation Museum in Parkersburg KY (42 miles away). The Creation Museum is outstanding! We recommend it. If you don't believe in the Biblical account of creation, you just might after seeing the evidence.

We just finished a visit with our son and his family in Floyds Knobs, IN staying at the Jeffersonville Elks Club. We're now at Whispering Pines RV Park in Jackson TN. We got out of Indiana the day before the extreme weather they just had. We don't recommend this park, it's a dump but it has 50 amp power and free wifi which strangely enough works all the time but we can only access part of the Internet. We can get our e-mail but Marge cannot upload to websites she manages or get to some websites.

We're headed for Livingston to vote. Then three more stops and we'll get to The Ranch on November 16. Looking forward to seeing you all. Marge has just published a children's book, "Creation Story Reader". You can read all about it at www.teachingbabiesthebible.com . She'll have copies with her when we get to The Ranch.

Orv & Marge Schinke
Lot #83

DOWN TO THE WIRE

The above was what was said when Roxy received this correspondence.

Well, we're back in Reno working again after 2 months and almost 5000 miles on the road. When I left off last time, we were in Minnesota and getting ready to continue to South Dakota. When we arrived at the Walmart in Mitchell on 8/30 to boondock for the night, we were greeted with ominous black skies and the sound of tornado sirens going off, and all the customers were herded into the back of the store to wait for the all clear, fun, fun... We spent the next morning at the Corn Palace before heading to the Badlands, where we spent 5 days enjoying hikes, ranger talks, wildlife watching and just chillin' out for a few days. After Pat had taken pictures of what seemed like nearly every billboard sign along the Interstate advertising Wall Drug, we spent the only cold and extremely windy day that week there enjoying this famous tourist trap (and getting our free drink of ice water!) while doing our bit to help out the local economy, and also stopped at the Museum of Wounded Knee.

It was while we were driving around the Badlands that our car began acting up so we decided to spend a few days in Portland trying to get it fixed before continuing the trip. Coming in through Washington, our first stop in Oregon was actually at the visitor's center and, wouldn't you know, the rig wouldn't start when we were ready to leave. We'd been having some trouble annoying problems part of the trip (little things like the jacks and inverter not working) and Bill was waiting until we got back to civilization as he suspected—correctly as it turned out—a battery problem. He ended up trouble shooting and cannibalizing part of the battery system right in the parking lot and fortunately got us back on the road again. Eventually he replaced 3 of the coach batteries in Portland to solve all our recent problems there, but the car dealer couldn't reproduce the symptoms after a full day and multiple test drives, so we decided to continue on our way.

Our friend Karey from Eugene had driven over to Portland in her RV and we all headed over to the coast together. For the next 16 days we slowly made our way southward, either staying in the state parks or introducing Karey to the art of boondocking. Although the September weather wasn't quite as beautiful as it was supposed to be at that time of the year, we didn't let some rain dampen our sprits too much. We enjoyed forts, museums, the Tillamuck Cheese factory tour and the Naval Air Station Museum, wine tasting, the aquarium in Newport, walking the beaches, and visiting all the lighthouses and climbing all those circular staircases to the top. (We had already climbed the 164 steps to the top of the Astoria Column just to psych ourselves up in preparation for the lighthouses!) We also made sure to sample a different seafood restaurant every day and Bill made it his goal to find the best clam chowder (the winner was Dooger's, way back where we started in Astoria and nobody could beat them). In the meantime, the car had continued acting up on all our side trips so we found a little garage in Newport who promptly diagnosed the problem, ordered parts and got us back on the road the next day.... hooray!

Our final stop in Oregon was Bandon, an area I especially loved, although there are many places we want to go back to and check out in the future. Then it was time for Karey to head back home while Bill and I headed into California to spend a few days at Redwoods National and State Parks, and we even went and did the obligatory drive-through tree seeing this was our first time there. Boy, there's nothing to make you feel small and insignificant, and their massive size certainly makes it difficult to get a decent picture! The weather was perfect so we did a lot of hiking and spent time watching the elk herd, made more interesting by the fact that it was rutting season and the big bulls were definitely putting on a show with their bugling and digging up the grass with their antlers. The ranger had warned 3 cars had been damaged the previous week when they got too close and the big bull took exception, so we were careful to keep a respectful distance. The only time this didn't work too well was when we took a hike into Fern Canyon and on our way back to the parking lot a single bull was grazing right along the edge of the trail. A group of people had already backed up on the trail, trying to decide how to get over to the cars, and after waiting a while Bill led us way out and around into the brush to bypass him. When we finally pulled out of the parking lot, that big boy was still right there munching away, so glad we didn't try to wait him out.

As we continued our way through CA over to Reno, we quickly encountered warmer temperatures (106 at Redding at 7:30 in the evening). And even our first few days back in Reno were record-setting highs in the 90's as we got settled into a new CG. We then had basically a week of rain and unseasonably cold weather (probably because we had just washed our coach from head-to-toe to get rid of the all the road dirt, Ha!) before settling into more normal temperatures. We've both gotten back into the work routine for now, although we really don't know how long Boll's contract will last this time seeing as rumors about project and funding cuts resurfaced right after he got back... so we're just hangin' loose and waitin' to see what happens.

Not sure when we'll be back at The Ranch next. If his contract only lasts until the end of the year, we may come back after the Rose Bowl HOP, but who knows. In the meantime, Happy Halloween, Happy Thanksgiving and Merry Christmas to everyone...

**ESCAPADE 2010
SEPTEMBER
GOSHEN, IN.**

John and I were happy to represent The Ranch at Escapade this year. The past two Escapades, the ROW was set inside. This year it was back outside at our rigs. There are benefits to both. There were several Ranch Hands attending and working. Bob and Jean Stuvell, Lot # 47, represented Chili Chapter. Soren and Barbara Walther, Lot # 10, represented the Elk BOF. George and Bonnie Keefe, Lot 85, Dan and Judy Todd, Lot #66, Jim and Mary Galivan, Lot #24, and Mark and Karen Ireland, Lot # 14 also attended. We all got together one evening and went to Ponderosa.

Escapade this year was run by Bud and Cathy Carr. They are getting away from some of the social and going more to seminars. We have always had the Parade of Banners at opening ceremonies in the past. This year it was held in the middle of the week at 1:00 in the afternoon in a little park in the middle of the fairgrounds. We missed the old way!!

We had a good time. Met lots new folks and plenty of old friends. Next year the Escapade will be back in Gillette, WY at the Camp-plex. If anyone would like to represent The Ranch, talk to the Board of Directors. If you have never done it and have questions, please feel free to talk to us. We have worked several Escapades and have always enjoyed it.

Trudie & John Tenison
#67553
Lot # 25

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A very grateful thank you to our outgoing Board of Director members for doing a job you never knew you would be called upon to do and for doing your very best. A warm welcome to the newest members of the Board and a thank you to those returning for their second year, you show courage. Regardless of how or when we disagree with what is happening at any given time, we lease holders thank you all for your willingness to stand above the crowd and probably get hit with rotten tomatoes. We love and appreciate your efforts.

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Apologies to Dan and Judy Todd I somehow erased your short sharing or lost my printed copy of it so it was not in this newsletter. It may have been short but it was welcome. Also my apologies to those birthdays and anniversaries I missed. Lost my list.
Luvya Roxy

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