

Kaye Peterson, Co-Founder of the Escapees RV Club with her daughter and grandson.



(Testimonials)

“We're so saddened to hear that [Kay M Peterson](#) passed away. She and Joe were the very first SKPs that we met. They stopped to give us neophytes a hand setting up our Airstream at Rainbows End. I believe they were living in an Avion at that time and we've received a Xmas card from her every year since 1986,”

Cathie Carr wrote:

“We are heartbroken to report the passing of co-founder, Kay Peterson. She and her late husband, Joe Peterson, founded the club in 1978, and continued to serve Escapees members until 1990 when leadership of the club was passed to their daughter, Cathie Carr, and her husband Bud.”

From writing and publishing the club's early newsletters, in the 1970s and 80s, to advising the current board of directors in her later years, Kay maintained a strong connection to the club and its members.

Her grandson, and Escapees RV Club president, Travis Carr, described Kay perfectly. “While this news is deeply saddening, we must all remember that

Kay lived one of the fullest lives any ninety-year-old could ever hope for. She accomplished every goal she set for herself, and her every dream has been realized.”

In addition to her work with Escapees RV Club, Kay was an accomplished writer, producing reference books and pamphlets for RVers. She also wrote several novels loosely based on her experiences traveling around the world. Her book Chasing Rainbows, an anthology of short stories inspired by people she met while traveling, is a favorite among RVers thanks to her wry sense of humor and candid way of writing.

Joe and Kay were inducted into the MH/RV Hall of Fame in 2001, in recognition of their support of the RVing community. They were honored again in 2010, when RV Business magazine included them in the 100 most influential people in the RV industry for their work in RV advocacy, support services and fostering a sense of community among RVers.

Their work has touched the lives of thousands of RVers. As long-time Escapees member Karen Cannon shared, “Many people’s lives have changed because of what she and Joe started. We will always be grateful for them both!”

The family asked for privacy at the time. Cards and other sentiments may be sent to the Carr family via Escapees headquarters at 100 Rainbow Drive, Livingston, TX 77351. Memorial service arrangements were announced at a later date.

Kay is pictured here with her beloved daughter Cathie and her grandson, Travis and his wife, Melanie. Kay loved being able to attend these events, which gave her an opportunity to see old friends and make new ones. You could often find her sitting in the hospitality area with a table full of smiling members, entertaining them with her stories.

Those Leaseholders We Loved
At The Ranch

Allison "Cowboy" Smith, SKP # 53624, was born December 18, 1919, and died December 13, 2016, age 97.

Cowboy and Ginny Smith first settled on Lot # 21 on August 10, 1999. Cowboy loved cooking breakfasts. The men usually had pancake breakfasts once a month. He would be standing there flipping pancakes with the rest of them.

On their way to Alaska, Ginny died suddenly on May 16, 2003. Cowboy came back to the Ranch. He decided to move from Lot #21 where Ginny's "Doll House" reminded him of his loss. Cowboy moved to Lot # 39 on November 14, 2003.

Cowboy's love of Western Swing dancing took him to many places. He would drive to a dance, dance day and night for 3 or 4 days, and come home with tired feet and a happy heart.

Cowboy moved to Lot #23 on August 20, 2008. He married again to Joyce and alternated his time between the Ranch and her home in Pampa, Texas. Joyce died several years later and Cowboy came back to the Ranch to stay. He continued "waltzing his way across Texas".

In 2016 he had several illnesses and eventually moved to Comfort, Texas to be with his daughter. where he died.

If you hear a Bob Wills song playing, stop and lift your hat to that dancer, Cowboy.

Tim Shaffstall, SKP # 102038, was born January 21, 1951 and died March 11, 2017, age 66.

Tim and Cheri Shaffstall came to the Ranch and moved to Lot #111 on March 28, 2012. Tim was here a short time and returned to Indianapolis, Indiana where he had his business. Cheri stayed at the Ranch for several months before joining Tim.

Tim loved snow skiing, traveling and adventures. He was actively involved with his church, St. Monica Catholic Church, in Indianapolis and supported it's outreach program to St. James the Apostle Church in Lepaterique, Honduras.

He was planning a 6th trip there when he suddenly died in Indianapolis, passing away too young.

Russell Loomis, SKP #2536, was born September 2, 1921 and died March 18, 2017, age 95.

Russ and Connie Loomis were associated with the Ranch long before they became leaseholders. They were very active in the Chili Chapter, and also stayed at the Ranch several times.

Russ and Connie got their first lot, #70, on June 7, 1995. Connie died June 2, 1997 and Russ stayed at the Ranch. He moved to Lot #20 on March 2, 1998 so he could be nearer the Ranch House and activities. He was active until his disabilities forced him to stay close to his trailer. (Russ had been severely wounded in World War II and had spent 2 1/2 years in the hospital recuperating from his leg wound.)

In November, 2016 he moved to the New Mexico Veteran's Home in Truth or Consequences, New Mexico where he could receive the care he needed for his leg. Russ enjoyed his new home and was there when he died.

These tributes were read at the Semi-Annual Meeting, April 5, 2017 by Marilyn Railey.

Semi-Annual Meeting
November 1, 2017
Memorials Presentation

No man is an island, entire of itself; every man is a piece of the continent.

Any man's death diminishes me, because I am involved in Mankind; And therefore never send to know for whom the bell tolls; it tolls for thee.

—John Donne.

Let us take a moment of silence in memory of the following leaseholders:

E-2 (Elizabeth Evelyn), Trudie Tenison, and John Frank White.

Memorials:

Elizabeth Evelyn (Born in 1931 - 18 August 2017)

SKP No. 4788

E-2, as Miss Evelyn preferred to be called, was a longtime LH here at The SKP Ranch. Her two favorite things were Music and her cat, Clyde. E-2 was also our SKP Ranch keyboard organist for many of those years. (Her cat, Clyde, was adopted by one of the Home Health Care aides who last cared for E-2.)

Trudie Tenison, wife of John Tenison, of Lot 35 (7 April 1943 - 5 May 2017)

SKP No. 67553, She was a SKP member for 17 years (living on Lot 43 first, then on to Lot 25 and lived at the Ranch for 16 years. Trudie had a career as a Purchasing Agent in the RVing industry.

John Frank White (28 October 1942- 1 August 2017)

SKP No. 87079, shared Lot 49 with Beverley Hughes for the past twelve years. He is survived by one daughter and her family as well.

These tributes were read by Donna Gates-Smeall at the November 2017 Semi-Annual Meeting held on 1 November 2017.

(No photos were added as some of the deceased individuals' family members chose not to include them with the available information on their loved one. So no disrespect is intended in not including photos of all these leaseholders. Rather a respect for all is intended here to give equal attention to each person's lives and history. Finally, a note to those who might have passed since the release of the last Palaver issue for 2017, those persons will be included in the 2018 Memorials.)

Submitted Respectfully,
Donna Gates-Smeall
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