

2002

In January, we enjoyed a visit from Jason and his iguana Sarge. Sarge's box was too big to fit into the rig so we kept him outside and plugged in his heat rock. Jason sat outside several times a day holding him and keeping him company. We had a good visit with Jason. We showed him our pyramids and also took him to see the London Bridge at Lake Havasue. On the way home I was following a fifth wheel and had decided not to pass as he was keeping up with the speed limit. All of the sudden, the truck turned hard into the left lane with the 5th wheel trailer violently jerking back and forth. Before we could comment on it, a large pickup was coming right towards us in our lane. The pickup hit the side of the 5th wheel causing all kinds of debris to come flying back towards us. The travel angel was on our shoulders as I was able to miss all of the flying stuff plus the oncoming pickup. We think that the impact of the pickup and the 5th wheel trailer, caused the pickup to veer to our right passing us on the shoulder although none of us actually saw it pass. I now understand the statement, "I don't remember, it all happened so fast". The driver of the 5th wheel was able to maintain control and parked further up the road. I pulled off the road immediately. Roy called 911 and Jason ran back to the pickup that had hit the 5th wheel. A 5th wheel pulled up past us and parked behind the one that had been hit. We later learned that they had been traveling together and were heading to Quartzsite. After regaining my composure I also went back to the pickup, throwing debris out of the traffic lanes as I went. Jason appeared to be talking to the driver of the pickup which was a good sign. It turned out that she had fallen asleep at the wheel and woke up just before the impact. The pickup was packed full of furniture and stuff. She had a dog in the front seat who was so upset and just sat there shaking. "Are my cats ok", she asked. Jason and I looked into the back seat area which was packed full of stuff. She told us they were under all of the stuff in a cage. Jason convinced her that they were probably fine. Realizing that the driver of the 5th wheel would most likely be furious, Jason walked back to meet him as he was walking towards us. He wanted to let him know that the lady who hit him had admitted fault. All in all, everyone was very lucky not to have been injured or killed. During Jason's visit, we hired him to wash Windy. He is having a hard time of it as he had been laid off but was hopeful that they would be calling him back soon.

Dan and Haydee came to visit the day Jason left for home. They only had two days so we crammed a whole bunch into the time we had. They got in about 3:00pm on Friday so we didn't do too much that day. The next day, we took them to the Desert Bar for lunch. They really enjoyed dancing. After that we drove them over the Parker Dam then it was off to our place to change shoes and hike up the our pyramids. After a little rest, it was over to our clubhouse for a steak dinner and more dancing. Whew.....we weren't done yet. After the dance we came back home and played cards. Dan and I talked until 3:00am, well after Roy and Haydee had hit the sack. The next day, my birthday, we drove them over to Quartzsite to show them the biggest swap meet in the country. They enjoyed seeing all the stuff that was for sale. After that, it was back home to get ready to go to the casino and by birthday dinner. After that it was more cards but we all went to be a little earlier as they had to leave the next morning. It was a lot of fun and as usual, we all enjoyed being with each other.

After Dan and Haydee left, we set about getting ready to drive over to Quartzsite. It sure did take us a long time to break camp. We hadn't moved for over two and a half months and we had to concentrate on what needed to be done.

Quartzsite and sitting in the desert was fun except for one day of tremendously high winds. There was so much sand in the air that the mountains couldn't be seen. One day we drove to Mexico to make appointments to have a check up and have our teeth cleaned. We lucked out and were able to have them done that day. We were pleased as this meant we would be able to stay at Emerald Cove an extra week and would not have to drive down to Yuma and dry camp. Also, the wait to get back across the boarder was about an hour and a half so we only had to do that once. While in Quartzsite we also got to see Fred and Leane from our San Diego camping group. Ray and Vicky from the OCS RV'er group were also in town so we got to see them as well. Ray and Marti were staying in Brenda, not far from Quartzsite. They drove over to Quartzsite one day and met us for lunch and the next day we met for dinner. We got back to Emerald Cove on Tuesday, January 29. I got the results of my lab work and my cholesterol is way to high and my Thyroid is way too low. I tried to talk the doctor out of giving me medication for the cholesterol telling him that because Roy's cholesterol is also high, we were going on a low fat diet, but he wouldn't agree. He increased my Synthroid prescription and gave me a prescription to lower my cholesterol.

On Friday, February 1, we drove JC over to Sylmar to see Mama. I took her shopping and then we took her out to dinner at the Outback. She sure did enjoy that blooming onion. We were able to stay in one of the vacant rooms at the Haven. The next day we drove down to San Diego to see Bruce, Teri, Jason and Jess and family. We had a delightful dinner the Jason, Jess and Karin on Saturday night. Even tho a lot of the conversation was about their Dad, everyone was upbeat and we all enjoyed the visit. The next day, after our Costco run we visited Jess, Karin and Eric at their home. Then we all drove over to Bruce and Teri's to watch the Super Bowl. Bruce really seemed to enjoy us being there and even tho it was sad to see him so ill, we enjoyed the visit. I am so proud of Jess. It's been really hard on him but he is making sure that he is there for his Dad. Teri also deserves a great deal of praise. They both have had to make a lot of changes in their lives to insure Bruce is taken care of. We all are hoping that Jason will come around and eventually visit Bruce. They had a terrible falling out over two years ago at which time a lot was said that will be hard to forget.

On Monday, we headed back to Emerald Cove. After one more dinner at our favorite restaurant, a couple visits to the casino and one more hike up into the hills to see our pyramids, we said good-bye to our desert and river and headed towards Tucson.

In Tucson, we met up with Gordon and Maxine, Ray and Vicky, Ray and Marti and Bill and Gail, all RV'ers from the OCS group. One day it was a pot luck, the next day a visit to the Davis Monthan Air Museum followed by dinner at a real neat restaurant, Hidden Valley Inn. They had several displays of mining towns, a circus, farms, etc. all complete with little people, some animated. It was so cute. Outside there were cut outs, one of a cowboy and dance hall girl and one of prisoners in an old jail. We all had to take our turns at inserting our faces in the hole to have our picture taken. The last day, Valentine's day, we all met for brunch at Gordon and Maxine's. She put on a nice feed. That night, Roy and went to dinner at Jim and Sara's, another OCS couple who live in Saddleback, a community outside of Tucson. They have a lovely home on a golf course. Of course they both play a lot of golf.

On February 16, to drove to the Fort Bliss FamCamp in El Paso, TX. I guess due to all of the social engagements we had in Tucson, we didn't feel like doing anything while in El Paso. In

addition, high winds came up the second day we were there. The sky turned very brown and we couldn't even see the mountains. On the 19th we drove to Fort Stockton. The winds were still quite strong. At one point, we both thought there was a tornado traveling across the freeway. Very soon we could see that it was just a huge dust devil. The dirt that it had picked up was slowly moving in the circle. I couldn't believe how so many drivers didn't slow down as they disappeared into the circling dust bowl. It was weird driving into it. We were soon out the other side and able to see clearly again. After we got parked at the KOA east of Fort Stockton, we drove back into town to take me to the hospital. I had developed a bladder infection which was getting very painful. There was no Urgent Care in town so we went to the emergency room. The people were very nice and I was out of there with my prescriptions in about an hour. The medicine really took hold and I was feeling much better that evening.

On the 21st, we continued our trek across Texas, arriving at the Fort Sam Houston Army Base in Sam Antonio. Roy had been having a lot of trouble with my computer and his lap top so replacing both of them was on our list of things to do. After looking at several places, he ended up buying both of them at the PX. I spent some time buying some cloths that will be appropriate for the upcoming Monaco Rally, OCS reunion and our trip to Europe. I found some really good bargains both at the PX and a fantastic Mall. Many items were marked half off and then half off again. One evening, we met with Roy's cousin, Preston and his wife Evelyn. We had a real nice visit with both of them catching up on all the news since our last get-together. I went to the base Urgent Care and got confirmation that the bladder infection was gone. We had planned on taking a tourist day visiting the River Walk and the Alamo downtown but the weather turned to freezing and windy. We did drive down town the last day we were there however it was so cold that our eyes and noses ran continually as we walked on the River Walk. We finally decided that since we had already seen the Alamo twice, we could pass this time. We ended up warming up in the only patio restaurant that had heaters in the ceiling enjoying a drink with tortilla chips and salsa before braving the walk back to JC. The next morning, we hocked up at drove over to the garage where we had previously made reservations to get the Texas safety checks done on Windy and JC. After that, we were off again continuing across Texas, through Houston and into Louisiana. What a trip!! As we were driving through Houston, the rains came down hard. We counted eight accidents ranging from one car spin outs to multiple car pile ups. It took over two hours just to get through Houston. The rest of the trip was extremely hectic due high winds along with the heavy rain. We, and most of the other drivers on the freeway were traveling between 40 and 45 miles an hour with emergency lights blinking. It made for a pretty long day. We stayed at the KOA in Vinton, Louisiana one night and on the 2nd of March we drove to the CB Navy Base in Gulfport, Mississippi. It was a good driving day and we made good time. After getting set up, we drove over to the Commissary for groceries and were back home by 4:00pm.

On Sunday, we woke to cold winds and cold temperatures. In the late morning, we drove to Biloxi for brunch and then back to the Grand Casino in Gulfport to pull a few handles. Monday morning found our water hose frozen due to temperatures dropping to the low 20's during the night.

control and running off the road. The rains and winds didn't let up for the remainder of the day, and we along with the other I10 travelers spent many hours traveling at 40 miles per hour with the emergency blinkers flashing. We were glad to reach the KOA in Vinton, Louisiana. March 2, we drove to the CB Navy Base FamCamp in Gulfport, Mississippi and were very lucky

to get a site with full hook ups. The next day new arrivals had to dry camp in the overflow area. The cold snap was still with us, temperatures dropping to the low 20's at night, freezing our water hose. After a week in Gulfport, enjoying a couple of fantastic seafood buffets, and pulling some handles, we headed to Macon, Georgia, with a stop at the Maxwell AFB FamCamp in Montgomery, AL.

One month after we began our trip east, we arrived at the Monaco Rally in Macon, GA. They really know how to put on a party, serving breakfast every morning and a cocktail hour and dinner every night. In addition there are many seminars during the day that are geared to Monaco owners, and service people available to make repairs to the coaches. Of course there are sales people from many dealers anxious to show off the new 2002 coaches. Even tho we vowed we were not going to buy a new coach for a couple of years, we both fell in love with the 2002 Windsor, triple slide. After a week of give and take from the dealer, Monaco Corp. and us, we all agreed on a price. We'll pick up our new girl in June at the Monaco Coach factory in Wakarusa, Indiana.

After the rally, we drove the short distance to Warner Robins, GA where we stayed at the Robins Air Force Base, FamCamp and would attend the OCS Reunion. The get-together lasted four days and included a welcoming cocktail party, a tour of the Air Force museum, lunch with General Scott, author of 'God is My Co-pilot', a fish fry with all the southern trimmings, a tour of the Andersonville National POA Monument, dinner at the Ramada Inn and finally Sunday brunch at the Officer's Club on the base. In addition, we also got together with the OCS RV'ers at the FamCamp a couple of times. Everyone seemed to have a great time. I know Roy and I sure did.

On March 27, we drove the short distance to Byron, GA. where we would store Windy. On the 28th, we headed to Atlanta where we hoped to get a military hop to Frankfurt, Germany. After parking JC in long term parking at the Fort McPherson Army Post, we walked the short distance to the MARTA train station where we caught the train to the Atlanta airport. We made the cut and were soon on our way to the Rhine Main Air Force Base near Frankfurt, Germany. The flight was a charter DC10 with full service. Other than it being full of young military families, many with crying babies, it was a good flight. You sure can't beat the price, only \$25.00 airport departure tax.

Upon arriving in Germany, the 300 people on the flight began the process of claiming their baggage and going through customs. We were still way back at the end of the line when the fire alarm sounded. Soldiers began shouting that everyone needed to evacuate the airport. People who had already claimed their luggage were ordered to leave everything and get out of the building. We all waited outside in the cold for about a half hour before we were allowed back into the terminal. After clearing customs, we attempted to rent a car. Since we didn't know if we were going to get the hop, we hadn't reserved one. We first were told that they could not let any of the available cars go until everyone who had reserved one had come forward. About an hour later we were able to rent a Ford Ka.

About three hours after we landed we were off to our first destination, Cologne, Germany. What fun it was driving the autobahn. The Ford Ka however would only get up to 150 k/ph. At that point it felt like it would take flight. Of course, the BMW's, Porsche's and Corvette's flew by us like we were standing still. We found a very nice hotel within walking distance of the shopping

area, the Cologne Cathedral (The Dom) and the Rhein River. We enjoyed sitting at one of the riverside cafés watching the people walking the river walk and the barges traveling up and down the river full of cargo.

On Easter Sunday we drove to Soignies, Belgium to visit our friends Peter and Sylvia. Before dinner, they took us to a Belgium pub which was in the country. The locals bring their dogs in with them and the first thing the dogs do is head for the huge bowl of water that the owners of the pub kept full for them. Easter Monday, a European holiday, Sylvia cooked a delightful dinner with leg of lamb and all of the trimmings. Their daughters and families also were there.

Tuesday morning Sylvia cooked us an huge English breakfast including pork-n-beans. After saying our good-by's we left Soignies and headed for Bruges, Belgium. Because of it's canals throughout the city, it is sometimes called the Venice of Belgium. Our hotel was on the corner of one of the plazas and we had a view of one of the canals through the trees. We were in walking distance of the Market Plaza with the Belfry and Halles as its center piece. The Belfry's carillon (47 bells with a total weight of 27 tons) is one of the finest in the world. We took a city tour which was very informative. They used a computer program which gave a description of all the sights in many languages. All we had to do was put on the ear phones and select English. After the city tour we took a canal tour which was a lot of fun. The guide explained each point of interest in English, Dutch and French. I was impressed.

Thursday morning we took our leave of Bruges and headed to Amsterdam. Our hotel was quite a way from the main part of town so we took advantage of the trolley system. We took a city tour which in no way compared to the tour in Bruges. The guide wasn't knowledgeable of many of the sites and we were held captive for about an hour at a diamond cutting establishment where we were given a short lesson in diamond quality and then were shown tray after tray of rings, etc. in hopes we would buy something. After the tour, we found an Internet Café and were able to download our email. While I was answering one from my son Jess, a couple sat down at the computer next to us. They lit up a joint and began surfing the net without a care in the world. Later we walked to the Red Light District. What we had seen on TV was true. The ladies stand in a window. If someone shows interest, she opens the window and they talk price. If he agrees, she invites him in, through the window, closes it and draws the curtains.

On morning of April 6, Roy's 69th birthday, we left The Netherlands and headed back into Germany back through Frankfurt and over to Rothenburg, a walled city on The Romantic Road. We found a beautiful small hotel run by a couple and two huge blond dogs. Our room was large and beautifully furnished. That night we had Roy's birthday dinner at a quaint restaurant within the walled city. Roy's heart was set on Jagersnitzel which was not on the menu. Even tho the chef didn't have mushrooms he made Roy a very special sauce which was as good or better than any Jagersnitzel Roy had ever had.

The next morning we were off to Garmisch near the Bavarian Alps. We stayed at a military hotel which I found a little disappointing. I had been spoiled by the local hotels with their European charm and the European breakfasts which were included. The weather turned very cold. The Zugspitze Sky Lift was closed which was a little disappointing. We made the trip up to the Zugspitze, the tallest mountain in Germany, by cog train. Unfortunately it was so foggy up at the top, we didn't see too much. We did have two great dinners, one at a German restaurant and one

at an Italian restaurant, both within walking distance of our hotel.

Tuesday morning we left Garmisch and visited the Linderhof Castle which was quite elaborate with walls and ceiling decoration covered in 18 carat gold leaf. On the grounds "Mad" King Ludwig II had a grotto built which is said to be the largest man made cave in Germany. There was a boat shaped like a swan in the underground lake. The story goes that the king would sit in the boat listening to music while a servant would row him around the lake. After a quick drive into and back out of Austria on the way to Fussen, Germany, we visited the other two Bavarian castles, Neuschwanstein and Hohenschwangau, both within sight of each other. The Neuschwanstein castle is the one Walt Disney used as a model for the castle in Disneyland. We ended up staying at a quaint hotel in the small village between the two castles. Dinner that night was in the garden room of a hotel down the street with a beautiful view of the Neuschwanstein castle. Here I had the best bowl of fresh tomato soup ever. The German people really know how to create exceptional dishes, not only unique but flavorful and pleasing to the eye.

Wednesday, we drove the Romantic Road north to Dinkelsbühl, another walled city. Our hotel was the Goldenes Lamm and was within the walls of the city. We were their only guests that evening. We had dinner in their beautifully decorated dining room and it was interesting listening to them cook our meal in the kitchen. White asparagus, a favorite of the locals was in season. I started with a cup of the white asparagus soup. It was fantastic.

On Thursday, we took the autobahn back to the Rhine Main Air Force Base where we had reservations at the lodge for our last night. The next morning we were up early, driving the short distance to the terminal, hoping to get a hop to Atlanta. The prospect of getting on the flight was beginning to look grim. We were offered space on a hop to Dover, Delaware on a C5. Rather than taking the chance of getting stuck in Germany, we accepted the Dover flight. Before time to board, we were told that due to mechanical problems, the Dover flight would be delayed 10 hours.....however, there had been no-shows for the Atlanta flight so now they had room for us. After the mad scramble of getting us re-booked and retrieving our luggage off the C5, we finally boarded the charter flight to Atlanta.

We got into Atlanta too late to make it back to retrieve our coach from storage so we stayed in a hotel that night. After a few days in Byron and traveling down to Valdosta to visit the Leggitt's family plots at the cemetery we drove to the Stone Mountain Monument Park east of Atlanta, GA. We had a nice stay there, enjoying the cable car up to the top of the mountain, a paddle wheel boat ride on the local lake, a plantation, grist mill, train ride around the stone mountain and a nice stay at the RV park.

Then it was off to South Carolina at the Thousand Trails Carolina Landing Preserve. It probably rained half the time we were here, however this was much needed rain. Not much to see here except lots of green trees. It's really pretty but too boring for me to think about settling here. I had lots of time to catch up on photo albums and Travel Updates.

May 7, we are off to North Carolina. The Thousand Trails Forest Lakes is a nice park with lots of room between sites. We have a view of the lake however it is pretty low. They do need some serious rain in this region. Roy cooked me a real nice Mother's Day brunch. We just watched movies all day, just relaxing and enjoying the day calling our Moms and Daddy and Mom. Both

Jess and Jason called to wish me a happy mother's day. It was great talking to everyone. Jess and family sent me a autographed picture of Dale Jarrett and his #88 race car. I'll wait and hang it when we get the new coach.

While in North Carolina, we took the opportunity to look for a computer table for the new coach. As it turned out we found one and the great thing is we can use it in this coach as well. Roy got everything moved and set up on Saturday so everything was in place for Mother's Day. It is so nice to have all of the computers, and the printer in one spot and I am so pleased to have my dinning room table back for dinning only. We also had lab work done and sent the reports off to our doctors. The doctors wanted to make sure that our prescriptions are the correct strength.

On May 21, we left Forest Lakes and after one stop over, we arrived at Kenissee Lake Thousand Trails about 50 miles from Cleveland, Ohio. One day we drove over to Geneva on the Lake, a quaint river front town. It was over the Memorial Day weekend and the town was full of tourists including bunches of motorcycles. After walking up and down the main street we found a restaurant with lots of outdoor dining where we ended up getting an early dinner. /There was live entertainment and we enjoyed just sitting there with a nice view of Lake Erie and enjoying the afternoon.

The following weekend was Derald and Kim's renewal of their wedding vows. They had married the previous weekend in San Diego. Since all of the activities were on the other side of Cleveland, we opted to spend the weekend at the Marriott near all of the activities. The celebration began meeting Kim's family and a dinner hosted by her parents, Nancy and /David Spera Friday evening. The next day Roy and I spent some time driving along the lake looking at the hundreds of mansions along the shore. That evening we attended the wedding celebration which took place right on the shore of Lake Erie. They married as the sun sat. It was really pretty. After the ceremony, a very nice buffet was served. The next morning David and Nancy hosted a very nice brunch at a restaurant near by. It was a fun weekend.

On June 4, we headed to Wakarusa, IN. and were very lucky to get a spot in the lot for people getting repairs on their RV's at the Monaco plant or in our case, picking up their new coach. The next day we took a plant tour and saw exactly how our coach had been built. That afternoon, we met with Maryann who had coordinated the coach being built and ready for us on the date we had been promised. The next morning we were back at the plant to see our new girl and go through the walk through and shake down drive. They were very thorough with showing us everything, how things worked, etc. There was only one problem found and that was the inability of being able to adjust the idle. After meeting with Maryann again to complete the paperwork, they brought the new girl over to the lot where be began moving our stuff into the new coach. Since we got such a late start, we decided that no way could we complete the move that day, so we put away what we could as they were coming over early the next day to see if they could get the idle problem corrected. At noon, the hadn't been able to correct the problem. Roy told them to go ahead and bring here back. We would have it taken care of at the plant in Oregon. We were able to get everything moved into our new girl before closing time so they were able to come over and drive our old girl away. No way was everything put away so we spent the next day in the Monaco lot putting things away.

On June 9, we began our trip across the country making stops in Iowa, Nebraska, and Wyoming.

We arrived at Salk Lake City where Roy was able to spend time at Mormon Library. On the 18th, we left Salt Lake City and spent that night in Winnemucca, Nevada. We stayed in town at one of the Casinos. The next day we drove into Yerington for a quick visit with Daddy, Kathleen, Vic and Jessica. Mom was in Reno for tests. Unfortunately, Daddy was not well. They had taken him to the hospital the previous night with a kidney infection. They had him on heavy duty drugs to fight the infection. We then drove over to Dan and Haydee's to help them prepare for the reunion that weekend.

Other than both Daddy and Mom not feeling well and only being able to spend a short time at the reunion, we had great visits with all the family. There was Dan and Haydee, Kathleen, Vic and Jessica, Jess, Karin and Eric, Jeff, Kelly and Amanda, Uncle Roy and Aunt Jean, Wayne and Diana, Daddy and Mom, Gary and Susy, and of course Roy and myself. It seemed we had lots of time visiting and just enjoying each other's company. Everyone said it was one of the best reunions yet. On Sunday we celebrated Daddy's 83rd birthday. He really seemed to enjoy all of the attention.

On the 18th, it was off to Soledad where we would have the mini reunion for Mama. Kathleen rented a trailer for Mama and one for themselves. Kathleen, Vic and Jessica drove down on Thursday, Dan and Haydee drove their trailer down on Friday and Jess, Karin and Eric drove up on Saturday. We kept Mama that night so that the kids could stay in her trailer. Bruce and Teri also drove over on Saturday for a while and visited again on Sunday before heading back to Escondido. Mama really enjoyed having her kids all together with her. Dan and Haydee and Kess, Karin and Eric had to leave on Sunday afternoon but Vic, Kathleen and Vic didn't leave till July 2. It was sad to see the party end but we all have great memories. After driving Mama home, Roy and I drove down to Wilderness Lakes. It's real sad to see all of the trees cut down at that preserve. It was necessary due to all of the trees being infected.

On July 6, we drove the new coach over to Roy's Mom's place for the Smith Family picnic. Everyone seemed to be impressed with our new coach. It was nice to see many of his family members however there were so many people there we didn't know. On Sunday, we drove over the Capistrano to meet Vern for dinner. He has the aids virus and looks thin and weak. We really enjoyed talking with him and pray that new medication will hold the aids at bay.

On Monday we drove down to Admiral Baker Field in San Diego. As usual it was non stop visiting family and friends. July 10, we had Ted and Connie over for dinner and the next day we had Dennis and Brigid over for dinner. Friday, Roy met with Ted at the Instant Replay while I shopped for silk flowers and candles for the ledge at our dining room table. We met Marion at the Elephant Bar and then a late lunch with Bruce and Teri at Applebee's. We had picked up a surround sound system for Teri. After lunch we were back to the Elephant Bar to see the old Real Estate gang and Charmain. Since we hadn't had much time to visit Marion, we invited her to come back so she did. We met Mike Stelman's wife for the first time. She seems to be a real nice lady and he seems to be so very happy. Our best man, Kenny still misses his Cathy. It is so sad but he has lots of friends and seemed to be enjoying visiting everyone. On Sunday we had the kids over for a BBQ. We had a good time until I asked Jason if he thought he would be getting together with his Dad before April of next year. We are planning a 70th birthday party for Roy on April 6. Jason became very angry stating that he never wanted to see his Dad again. Then he directed his anger towards Jess and myself, stating that we too had deserted him. Trying to

change the subject didn't work and he just became more angry. He ended up leaving. Roy's sister Marge had a heart attack but was released from the hospital so Roy and I drove over to visit her on the 17th. After that we met Derald and Kim for dinner near his work. After that I made a decision that I will forever wish I hadn't. We drove to the Casino and played until after 3:00am. The horror of looking into the rear view mirror and seeing the flashing lights. Yes, I was pulled over in El Cajon. Because we were polite, the CHP officers gave us a break and didn't take us to central booking. They called Jess who came and got us. The next morning we took a cab into El Cajon to retrieve JC from the storage garage. What a terrible day we spent. A pot luck had been scheduled with our Del Pacifico group and we had invited whoever who wanted to drop over before to see the new coach. Several came over and then we all drove over to Virginia's for the pot luck. I have never been so miserable at the social event in all my life. The next day we met with Jess, Karin, Bruce and Teri for dinner in Escondido. We were celebrating Bruce's 62nd birthday. We had seating on the patio where we could watch all of the activity of the Cruise Grand event. Lot's and Lot's of beautifully restored old cars as well as customized newer cars. It was a real fun evening. Bruce shared good news.....Tests show tremendous positives and the outlook appears good. He has lost over 100 pounds and is looking real good. We were all so happy to hear the news.

On July 22, we left San Diego and headed for Yosemite, spending one night near Bakersfield.. One portion of the road on the way up was extremely steep and narrow. Windy did quite well going up the grade. Coming around one corner we saw there had been an accident. It looked like someone going to fast had lost control and hit the side of the cliff head on. He or she was laying on the ground covered with a sheet. Something you just don't want to see. We got to the Thousand Trails preserve and found a nice end site. The next day we drove the five miles to the entrance and the additional 25 miles to Yosemite Valley. We drove into Yosemite five of the seven days we were there. I was really proud of us. We made it to the top of Vernal Falls and then some. There was a fire burning near Half Dome so we spent some time watching the helicopters drop buckets of water on unburned trees in the path of the fire. When we drove over to see the Giant Sequoia's the parking lot was full. We could have driven back to catch a shuttle but we were running out of time and we still wanted to drive to Glacier Point. Later that week we visited Merced Grove which was a four mile round trip hike. Merced Grove had several groups of the Giant Sequoia's. One day we drove to the Hetch Hetchy Reservoir, another part of Yosemite I hadn't seen. The Hetch Hetchy Reservoir supplies San Francisco with 85% if their drinking water. We were able to visit my cousin Diana and her husband Wayne at their new home in Tuolumne on the Sunday before we headed back to Nevada. We enjoyed our afternoon with them. We decided to take Highway 20 out of Yosemite through Tuolumne Meadows and Tioga Pass. Actually the road wasn't bad at all until the last eight miles of very steep road. It was a challenge keeping the speed down. I was very glad to reach the bottom and Lee Vining. Momo Lake was a welcome sight.

We spent the night at the rest stop at the entrance of Wilson Canyon. We had a river front spot and it was so very peaceful there. The next morning we drove over to Daddy and Mom's place where we were able to get a site in the RV section. We had a very nice visit with them. They both were feeling much better than they were during the reunion. Friday night Dan and Haydee and Uncle Roy and Aunt Jean came over to Daddy's to help Dan celebrate his 60th birthday. The next day we drove over to Dan's to help he and Haydee get ready for the big party that evening. He had invited several people from work along with Jeff and Kelly. It was a fun party and

everyone seemed to have a good time. Sunday was a kick back day. Daddy and Mom drove over after church to say good-bye. After they left we changed clothes and headed to Mendon to have dinner at CVI and pull a few handles. Luckily Roy won what I lost so we broke even.

On August 5, we headed for Snow Flower in the mountains. Dan and Haydee and Jeff, Kelly and Amanda will be joining us on Friday and we were lucky to find a remote area with no one else camped. Luckily the area stayed empty and when everyone arrived we were able to be together. It was a great weekend just camping. They taught us a domino game called Mexican Train and we all enjoyed it very much. There is a lake on the preserve called Kelly Lake so we had to drive down there as Kelly's last name as a child was Lake. Jeff and Kelly's dogs, Bear and Rainer had so much fun swimming in the lake chasing a tennis ball we would throw in for them. In hot pursuit of the ball, Bear would continually bark in a high pitch. If Bear got to the ball first, Rainer would catch a ride on his back all the way back to shore. It was quite a sight. I hope that we will be able to camp with my brother and nephew again some day.

On August 14th, we drove the short distance to the Lake of the Springs Preserve. HOT, HOT, HOT. Over 100 degrees so I did not get out to walk very often. Our second day, I looked out the livingroom window and there not more than eight feet from our patio stood two fawns, still sporting their spots. They were so cute. I was a little concerned about them as their Mother was no where in sight. She could have been watching from behind shrubs. That evening as we were sitting on the patio enjoying the view of mountains, a doe came up, munching as she walked. It was hard to see her as she kept behind the brush, but with binoculars, we could see her quite clearly. She was so pretty with those big brown eyes. We ended up seeing so many deer during our stay that we quit counting. The main group consisted of two doe, two young bucks sporting their tiny felt antlers and the two fawns.

There was not a water issue so I was able to wash the coach. Unfortunately the water was very hard so it left water marks. Well, at least I got rid of the dust.

On August 23rd, we left Lake of the Springs and headed for Gold Hill, Oregon where we met with Roy's sisters, Lucile and Meryle. Saturday we spent the day at Lucile's just visiting. Roy and Lucile did a lot of looking at photos and scanning them. After dinner, Lucile taught us a new domino game called Chicken Foot. It was a lot of fun. We are definitely going to have to buy a set of dominos. The next day we had Lucile, Meryle and her husband over for a BBQ at the KOA camp ground. It was a nice visit with all of them.

The next morning, Ray and Vicki came over for a visit. We had originally planned on seeing them on our way to getting the coach fixed but the RV park where they were staying in Grants Pass didn't have any room for us to park while visiting them. After they left, we packed her in and headed north. Rather than staying in Harrisburg that night, we parked at the Seven Feathers Casino looking forward to a special dinner at their restaurant. DENIED—It was closed on Monday so we ended up eating at a little local Mexican restaurant not far from the Casino. It was pretty good. The next morning we were up early to make the final trip to the Harrisburg Monaco repair facility. After our service writer took down all the information, they took Windy into the repair building. They accomplished quite a bit the first day. Unfortunately there was no room in the RV sites so we had to dry camp in the parking lot. The next day, they picked her up at 7:00am and we decided to kill some time site seeing. We drove to the Silver Falls State Park and spent some time seeing what we could of the falls. They had had mud slides so much of the trails were

washed out. What falls we did see were quite pretty and the trip was well worth the drive. They brought Windy back about 4:30pm and we now had a site with water and electricity. The next morning they took her again and we spent a little time in the lounge before attending a seminar on window tenting. We decided to hire the guy to do ours after we got her back that afternoon. Monaco put on a nice BBQ for us for lunch that day. They finished our girl up around 3:00 and we had arranged to start the window tinting procedure. To save \$50.00, I did the cleaning, which was quite a process. First the windows had to be sprayed, scraped with a large razor blade scraper, sprayed again, then they had to be scrubbed, wiped down and sprayed again and finally squeegeed. It took me almost two hours to do them all. He didn't finish that evening and came back early on Friday and finished.

We were on our way by mid morning and were settled into Roamer's Rest in Tualatin early afternoon. It's a nice park but not enough room between sites for my liking. Roy however is happy as he has his land line and will have a month to catch up on all of his computer stuff. He is web master for several genealogy groups as well as Yahoo groups.

Over Labor Day we drove down to Eugene to see the State Fair. It was pretty interesting especially since it has been a long time since we have been to a large fair. The Future Farmers of America had a large presence and other than the normal cows, pigs and goats, there were a lot of lamas. They are such pretty animals and I had never seen one so close. Of course there were all of the different fattening foods, games, rides and commercial as well as local exhibits. After the fair we drove over to the Spirit Mountain Casino about 50 miles from our campground. On our last Sunday, we drove into Lincoln City to visit their casino which is on the beach. We had a nice early supper overlooking the ocean....quite nice.

We had Jeremy and Kristi over for dinner one night. It was nice to see them both. We had planned on having Ted and Sharon over also, however Ted had fallen and wasn't feeling too well. At least Roy got to talk to him and I to Sharon. Maybe next time.

September 30, it was time to leave Roamer's Rest. Unfortunately, we got a late start as we were waiting for the mail. We were expecting the court orders which had been sent by my attorney. For some reason the mail was late so we finally left our forwarding address with the people in the office and headed out for the Seven Feather's Casino to spend the night in their parking lot. We arrived after 7:00pm and really lucked out getting the last spot available which would allow us not to have to unhook the jeep. Being Monday night, the gourmet restaurant was closed so we caught the shuttle to the Mexican Restaurant we had ate at on our way up.

The next day we left Oregon behind and spent that night at the Mc Cloud Dance Country RV Park. It was a nice park with a view of Mount Shasta through the trees. No clouds so Roy got some real nice pictures of the mountain. It was a pleasant drive to Mendon, NV. where we had reservations at the Carson Valley Inn RV Park. Dan and Haydee met us that night after work and we enjoyed dinner at Katy's at CVI. The next night, Roy and I tried out Michael's, a very nice restaurant at CVI. The food and service was absolutely wonderful.

We had originally planned on camping with Dan and Haydee over the weekend, however the weather was looking a little iffy, so we decided to drive over to their place and spend the weekend there. On Saturday, we all drove over to Genoa. One of my distant relatives, Luther Olds owned

a livery stable there in mid 1800's. The lady ranger at the museum knew of him and showed us a copy of a county record with his name. Although his stable's were not still standing, we stood where they had been. We enjoyed a late lunch back at CVI before heading back to Dan's place. That night, we played Chicken Foot. Sunday was kick back with Dan and Haydee getting their camper, trailer and house ready for winter.

On Monday, we drove over to Dad's. We had them over for dinner that night. The next day we drove over to see Uncle Roy and Aunt Jean. They treated us all to dinner that night.

After saying our good-by's, it was off to Death Valley. We were able to get a real nice camp site at the Furnace Creek camp ground. One day we drove to Rhyolite where my Grandma Dini had been when she was about 16. We found out that her place of employment, the phone/telegraph building actually stood behind the bank, not beside it which we had been told previously. There is nothing left of her building, however the banks walls still stand. In walking the ground where she had been, we saw lots of parts, which used to be the batteries used by the telephones. Grandma worked as a telephone operator.

On our way back to Death Valley, we took the dirt road traveling about 40 miles an hour across the desert, creeping up and over the mountains, at a much slower pace I might add, and finally driving through the Titus Canyon. As we came around a corner I saw an animal which at first I thought was a deer. From behind the rocks, out strolled a Big Horn sporting his huge circular horns and immediately following him were two females. What a site, one beautiful male Big Horn Sheep and his three ladies. According to the Death Valley information sheet, such a siting is rare. And we also got pictures!!!! While taking pictures of Scotty's Castle, we saw a Coyote who appeared to be tame and more interested in stalking blackbirds than us.

Other interesting sites was Bad Water, the lowest point in the valley, the Devils Golf Course which consists of mounds of salt, Artists Drive which took us through beautifully colored rocks and hills, and Natural Bridge which required a hike back through a river bed to the rock formation resembling a bridge. It had been cut out by thousands of years of flash floods poring down from the higher hills, The Ubehebe Crater, and of course the Borax works. We also took in some sites which we had missed on our previous trip to the valley. These include the Keane Mine, Golden Canyon which required quite a hike and having to crawl through and up rocks which had fallen from the cliffs above, and Mosac Canyon, a gentler hike with climbing through beautiful marble canyons and over marble rocks. The temperature wasn't too bad, only getting into the 100's the first full day we were there. We really enjoyed this stay in Death Valley.

On Sunday, October 13th, we headed for Acton and the Thousand Trails Soledad Canyon Preserve. Monday we drove to Mama's where Roy surfed the net all day while I took her shopping. I got her a new jacket, slippers and dark glasses. The next day we took her to the Getty Center. Due to a truck accident, we were late getting there, but what we were able to see was wonderful. We had lunch at their fine dining restaurant which was a little pricey but very nice. On Mama's birthday, we took her to the Odyssey, a very nice restaurant we have taken her to for pervious birthday dinners. The waiters treat her like a queen. We brought her home with us as the next day it was down to San Diego.

On Thursday, after getting settled and the Escondido RV Park, we drove her over to Jess and Karin's where she would spend the next three days. Poor Jess, he had run into multiple problems

with the upstairs bathroom remodeling so there was no toilet or sink available the first night. Even tho they were in a mess, they didn't want to give up Mama's visit so we left her there.

Friday, we drove over the attorney's office to pick up a copy of the court order. We still hadn't received it and found out that it had been returned to him and not forwarded to us as promised. You can be assured, we were a little concerned about meeting due dates, but he assured us that there should be no problem. After picking up the copy, we met Derald and Kim for lunch at TGI Fridays. We had a nice visit.



On Saturday, we did our Costco shopping and ordered Mama's and Teri's birthday cake. That night we had Bruce and Teri over for Roy's fantastic pork burritos and taught them how to play Chicken Foot. It was fun.

On Sunday, Jess, Karin, Eric, Mama, Bruce, and Teri came over and we celebrated Mama and Teri's birthdays.

The weather was nice enough that we were able to spend most of the time on the patio.

On Monday, we drove the short distance to Wilderness Lakes. That night, Mama, Roy and I met Roy's family at a little Chinese buffet in Temecula. Tuesday morning, we got an early start as we needed to drive to San Bernardino, park the coach and drive Mama home. We had no problem parking her as we found a Camper World right off the freeway. Traffic was relatively light and we were able to use the car pool lane. We got into Quartzsite before 5:00 so we were able to get the mail. To our horror, the court order was not in the package. We both were really starting to get nervous. The next day, however, Roy called the Escapees and found out that the letter we have been expecting was there and would be placed in the next package to us.

After two nights enjoying the desert, we arrived back to our beloved Emerald Cove. As we drove up to registrations, Roy looked at the cell phone and discovered we had five bars. So, for the first time, we got a river site. It is great being able to walk out the door and see the river slowly flow by. The first weekend there were still a lot of fast boats running up and down the river. The river rats haven't left yet and the snow birds are slowly coming in. It's interesting to watch the park slowly turn from a young family oriented park with all of their water toys, to one full of us old codgers hiking in the hills, riding bikes and enjoying the Saturday night dinner-dance.

We left Emerald Cove on November 7 to meet the Del Pacifico camping group in the mountains above Palm Springs. The weather was nice on Thursday when we got there and on Sunday when we left, but in between it rained continuously. He did enjoy seeing everyone and I made good use of the time getting my Travel Update written. After we left the group we spent the next four days at the Thousand Trails Palm Springs Preserve.

During the first week we arrived from Palm Springs, we were awakened by the lady next door screaming "MY TRAILER IS ON FIRE, PLEASE HELP ME." Roy and I were like the keystone cops, running around putting on robes, getting the fire extinguisher and trying to call 911. Luckily several people also came to her aid and the fire had been put out for the most part by the time the fire department arrived. Some friends of theirs had an extra trailer in storage so the people were not left homeless. Even tho the fire didn't really get going, there was so much smoke damage that the insurance company totaled the trailer and before the end of the winter, they had purchased a brand new 5th wheel.

The letters from the court arrived and we were able to make pay the fine on time. We also arranged for me to attend the 1st Step Counseling school which hopefully will satisfy the schooling portion of the court order. I also put in my 24 hours of public service at the Parker Senior Center. I continued helping there after my 24 hours commitment was up. For the most part, I enjoy the work and it gives me a nice feeling to be able to help some. Unfortunately, a couple of the helpers a little bossy so we'll see how it goes. The beauty is I'm just a volunteer so I can do what ever suits me.

Thanksgiving day was very pleasant. As usual, we did the turkey with dressing, mashed potatoes, baked yam with a fruit salad.

The week before Christmas, we drove to Laughlin for three nights. They gave us the Gold card but unfortunately the lady to made our arrangements was in error for doing so. She went along and gave us one for the last two nights, but as we found out, we don't bet enough to qualify so this was out last time to receive the gold card. If we go back, they will probably give us the silver card which does not include the fine dining restaurant. Oh well, it was nice while it lasted.

Both of our doctor appointments went well and other then having to increase my Zocor everything seems fine.