

1997

January 1, 1997 - MOVING DAY - Jess, Karin, Eric and Jason all came over to help. We wouldn't have been able to do it without them. They all worked so hard. Karin and Eric helped me get all the things into the rig while Jess and Jason helped Roy get all the stuff going to storage into the truck. I thought I was totally prepared and organized but it took much longer than I thought it would. It was a little close getting the last load of stuff over to the storage area. The sun had set and darkness was closing fast. The last loading was getting all of Jason's stuff on the truck. The plan is for him to find a storage area tomorrow so we can get it stored and get the truck back to Escondido in the morning before being docked another day.

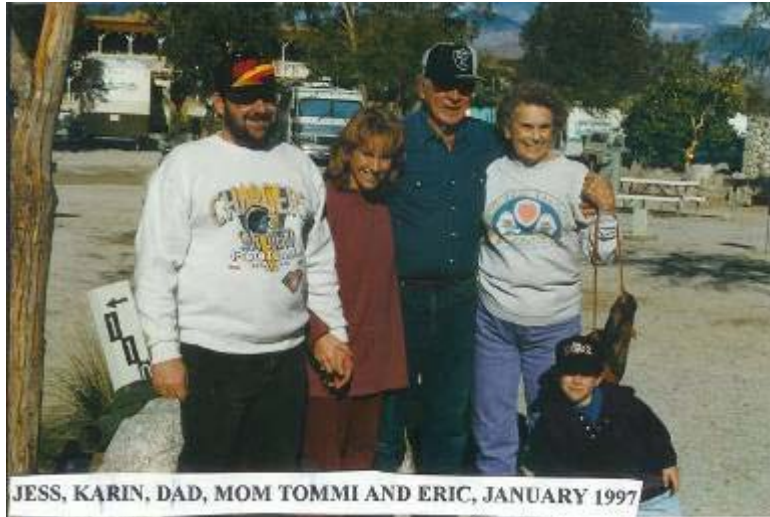
You should have seen the rig. Every available surface was covered with boxes or things that needed to be put away. There had been no time for that today. Roy and I walked into the rig after the kids had left and before collapsing had to find a place to do so. We both looked around wondering where we were going to put it all. I was able to get some put away so we could at least go to bed.

The next morning it was up early and off to get Jason and his furniture to find a storage area. Someone was watching over us as we got lucky, finding one in Poway. The rest of the day was spent returning the truck and cleaning the floors, garage, etc. The vacuum cleaner bellied up so I had to sweep a lot of it. Bruce was a great help by taking the last of the garbage to a dumpster at his place, saving us a trip to the dump. After several trips through the house making sure we hadn't forgotten anything and that it was ready for its new owners, we said our final good-byes and climbed into our new home. As we drove slowly down Botero, a light rain began to fall.

OUR NOMADIC LIFE BEGINS

We were to meet our camping group in El Centro for the weekend. We had to stop at a rest stop on I-10 for a few hours to get the stuff put away so our new home would be presentable. As usual, we enjoyed seeing all of the members and they all were very happy for us.

The next couple of weeks were spent at Yuma. We had some rain that really made the park muddy. I was able to continue my walking and continue working on getting the rig organized. We have way too much stuff however much of it will get used up and I am sure that we will discover that we can get along without much of what we brought. We will work on paring down the load as right now, we are overweight. While here, we visited Mexico, enjoying a very nice lunch with Margaritas, visited the old Yuma prison learning a lot about prison life in the 1800's. Normally there were six men to a cell 6' X 9'. No talking was allowed. If one prisoner in the cell misbehaved, all six of the men were ball and chained together. You can imagine how unpopular the bad prisoner was. We also visited old Yuma and had lunch in an old pool hall with all kinds of interesting items hanging from the walls and ceiling.



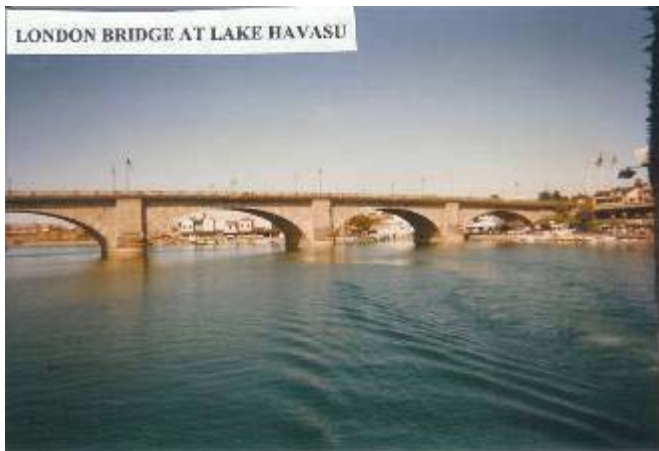
January 17 through the 23rd, we stayed in Borrego Springs where Dad and Mom joined us. They were about six spaces from us. Over the weekend Jess and family and Bruce and Teri joined us. Roy BBQ'ed some great pork ribs for my birthday. While in Borrego Springs, we did some hiking and learned about the desert at the visitor center. One day we drove down to San Diego to run errands and have lunch with Jason. Dad came with us as he wanted to see Jason. Things are not going too

well for Jason right now. He still hasn't found a place to live. I pray he gets a break soon so he can begin moving in a positive direction.

Daddy and Mom left for Nevada and we drove to Earp, CA. and Emerald Cove where we have the membership with CRA. We like Emerald Cove as they have sites with telephone hook ups. We enjoy hiking and there are many burro trails through the hills and valleys. We built a pyramid on top of one of the hills and we can see it from the park with binoculars. The pyramid is about six feet tall and five feet and the base. It took three trips to finally complete it. We celebrated with a cheese, apple and roll lunch. The view of the park



and the Colorado River is very beautiful from



our hill top. One day we drove into Lake Havasu City where we had a pleasant lunch at a pub with a view of the London Bridge. The bridge had been purchased from London in 1968. It stood over the Thames River for about 150 years. All of the stones were marked when the bridge was disassembled in London and reassembled at Lake Havasu City. It was

dedicated on October 10, 1971 and since, the city has grown from a population of 6,000 to over 38,000. After lunch we took a river boat ride on the Dixie Belle, a small paddlewheel.

After two weeks at Emerald Cove, we drove to Quartzsite, AZ. where we dry camped for a week. We enjoyed visiting the RV Show and the biggest swap meet in the country. We received very good news from Jason. He has a room in a house where one of his friends from the band Unwritten Law, lives. We purchased a patio sun screen and rug which match the rig perfectly.

We enjoyed many bike rides while here, one taking us about five miles into the desert. We found that we can go a week, boot docking without having to summon a honey bucket truck or water truck. We were however, being extremely conservative.

February 14, finds us back at Emerald Cove where spend the next two weeks where we did more hiking, bike riding and just enjoying the area. We got hiking boots which really makes me feel a lot safer as we hike in the desert. Went to a steak dinner at the club house and met a few people. We took Bridger Bear up to the pyramid so we can get photos of him to send back to the kids.

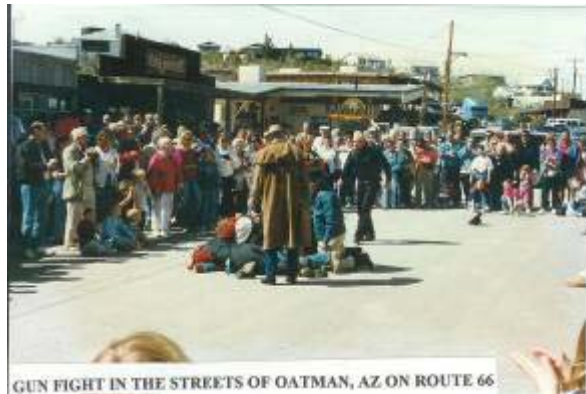


Another two weeks have flown by and now we find ourselves in Bullhead City, across from Laughlin. We lucked out finding a RV park that has phone hook ups. We took a little trip to



Oatman, AZ, located on Route 66 . . . Wild burros roam the streets of Oatman, begging for carrots, which conveniently are sold by many of the merchants. There was a staged gun fight which ended up being so funny. Almost all of the gunfighters had been shot when one of them couldn't get his gun to fire. He went to the pile of the 'pretending to be dead' gunfighters, borrowing two of their guns. Both guns failed to fire. In frustration he

yelled, "Bang Bang," as he pointed to the gunfighter that he was supposed to shoot. Everyone began laughing so hard, even the pile of 'pretending to be dead' gunfighters. Oatman began in 1906 as a tent camp and flourished as a gold mining center. It almost died in 1942 when gold mining was not essential to the war effort. In the 1930's Oatman was the last stop for people migrating from the Midwest before entering the Mojave Desert in Southern California. Roy remembers going through Oatman on his way to Oklahoma for a visit in 1941. While in Bullhead City, we took a few trips across the river to have a nice dinner and do a little gambling. I won a \$70 jackpot on a nickel machine. One day we took a short hike up Grapevine Canyon to see the Indian paintings and carvings on the rocks. It was not known as to who did them or what they represent or mean. They were interesting, however. The desert flowers are beginning to bloom.



On March 7, we are back at Emerald Cove for another two-week stay. The buds are starting on the desert cactus and hopefully they will be in bloom before we leave the area in mid-March. One Sunday, we drove to the Desert Bar, which is about four and a half miles off of Hwy. 95 on a dirt road. There are no advertisements for this bar . . . all people learn from 'word of mouth'. It is only open from noon to dusk on Saturday and Sunday. There is no electricity but they do BBQ hamburgers and hot dogs to go along with the live music and drinks. On the way home, we stopped of at the VFW and Elks, where we listened to some locals sing. We won chicken and fixings for breakfast on the meat raffle. The desert has burst into bloom with hills covered with purple, yellow and white flowers. Cactus are in bloom sprouting blossoms in shades of pink ranging from pale to very dark.

We are seeing many different insects roaming the desert floor along with large lizards. They appear much larger than the ones that we were seeing all winter. We took a drive up the west side of the river where we attempted to hike to the top of a hill that had an arch. The terrain turned steep and rocky as we neared the summit. We decided to shoot a picture from there. A broken leg at our age would not be a good thing. We took the boat across the river to



the Sports Bar in Parker a couple of times. It's very convenient. The restaurant sends a boat over to the park to pick up diners and after dinner, takes them home. We got invited to a corn beef and cabbage dinner for St. Patrick's Day. This group of people gets together socially every night. We happened to be parked next to them. After dinner, everyone joined together in singing old songs like Irish Eyes, etc. Before we left Emerald Cove, Roy painted a rock with:

1*31*97

Roy & Darlene
Leggitt

We took it up to the pyramid and placed it into the structure. Someone had already etched their initials on one of the rocks. With all of our hiking and my walking, our blood pressures have lowered some. We said good bye to Emerald Cove for the season and headed for Pomona, CA.

This is our first Family Motor Coach Association (FMCA) Rally and driving into the fair grounds covered with wall to wall motor coaches was astonishing. They packed the coaches together so close I really didn't care for it. Unfortunately, they have no choice. There were six thousand rigs at the rally. We learned a lot from the seminars about our diesel motor, our transmission, full timing, etc.

On March 23 arrived in Escondido where we were finally able to get my OUCH fixed. It had taken quite a long time to get the cargo door shipped from the factory. They did a nice job and now our Holly looks as good as new. We tried to see the Panda's at the San Diego Zoo but due to Spring break, the zoo was packed with line to the pandas an hour and a half long. We'll catch

them some other time. We had Bruce and Teri over for dinner, also had Jess's family over for dinner, met Dennis and Brigid for dinner, had lunch with Jason, took Derald, Alan and Jason to dinner, met Jess for lunch, went over to Jess's for brunch, went over to Bruce and Teri's for drinks and then out to dinner, Fred and Audrey stopped by for a visit and so did Ray and Lavern. All and all, we had great visits with everyone and it was great to see them all. We both saw the doctor for our high blood pressure and got our prescriptions renewed. The Hail Bopp comet is very visible in the sky now. We got to see it real clear from Bruce's street.

After the whirl wind stay in Escondido, we drove to Del Mar for the Coast to Coast Rally. One of the tours was a dinner cruise on the San Diego Bay. It was quite nice. We ran into some of the Elks camping group from Lake Elsinore. Also on one of our bike rides, saw and talked a bit with Rick who happened to be in front of his house as we rode by. Had dinner at the Poseidon and both agreed that we should stick with the PoJo Burger. We did see a beautiful sun set. We got a message from Sharon and Mike and were able to meet them for dinner. We also, met Bruce and Teri for lunch before heading to Julian for our camping group camp out.

What a great camp out we had. The first night we had very high winds which forced us to bring the slide in for a while. The next day we had a nice hike with Fred, Ed and Norman. Later several of us drove into Julian. The following day a bunch of us drove into the desert and hiked up to Indian paintings. Played cards in the evening and all of the time we were here, the Hail Bopp comet was quite clear. I looked at it with our binoculars which really showed the tail.

Our next stop was Lake Elsinore to see Roy's Mom, Jack and Maxine. What a frustrating time. The plan was that we all would go out to dinner, however we were not able to get hold of Jack and Maxine. We got Mom and waited in the rig, which we had parked in the Elks parking lot. Finally, along came Jack and Maxine who went into the lodge, not even giving us a glance. We went on in and it turns out that since we had not called the day before to confirm that we would be there, they just took off for the day. They had already eaten so we decided to take Mom to dinner after a short visit. It all worked out ok as there had also been an issue between Maxine and James, Mom's friend and Maxine being a little high, would not let the subject drop.

The next day we drove to Long Beach so we could see Vern. We stayed in town and had a nice dinner with him a nice walk from the camp ground. After breakfast with Vern, we visited Universal Studios. What fun!! We took all of the rides and saw most of the shows. Being a week day, it was not crowded so the lines were very short.

The next day, we drove to Northridge and took my Mama to Knott's Berry Farm the next day. Boy did she have fun. She went on several rides that at first she wasn't sure she wanted to attempt. Afterwards, we had a real nice Chinese dinner. The following day, Mama and I went to lunch and shopping while Roy stayed at her home and surfed the net. We picked up Roy and brought Mom home for dinner. Afterwards I drove her home.

On September 19 we headed out of the L.A. area towards Chico where we will be attending the Escapees Rally. I am very glad to be



out of the Los Angeles traffic.

The next day we arrived in Chico for the Escapees Rally. I didn't get too much out of the Coast to Coast seminars, but seem to be getting a little more out of these at the Escapees Rally.



We had a very nice drive from Chico to Carson City, NV. We left Chico early this morning, April 25. Our route took us along the east side of Lake Tahoe. It was so beautiful, many spots along the edge showing emerald green. The lake was very full due to several wet winters. We enjoyed our evening with Dan, Haydee and the kids. We went gambling after dinner. Saturday we all went to Virginia City and enjoyed walking down the streets that Mark Twain walked in the 1800's. Saw a table called the suicide table due to several men killing themselves after losing thousands of dollars gambling at the table. I played some of the old slots and determined they were just as tight as the modern slots. Tonight Dan, Haydee, Roy and I met Dad and Tommi Mom for dinner to celebrate our 10th anniversary. We all enjoyed the meal and the company. Dan and Haydee, Roy and I did some gaming for about an



hour after dinner. Roy got lucky playing 21. We broke even for the weekend! I love it when the entertainment ends up being free!

We saw Dan's land today on the way to Dad's. We enjoyed our visit with Dad and Tommi. We



are however, looking forward to getting on our way to New England. They left on their trip April 30. We were on our way about 15 minutes later.

NOT A HAPPY TRUCKER

We had a little excitement on our way to Salt Lake City. A truck was entering the hwy. so I looked into my mirror and saw another truck in the fast lane. He was back a distance so I signaled and moved into that lane. As we approached the truck coming into the right lane, the truck behind me decided to pass on my right. Unfortunately the truck entering the freeway was already half way into the lane so as the passing truck tried to miss both of us, he clipped our mirror. At the time we didn't know how much damage was done so Roy immediately got on the CB to let the driver know he had clipped us. He did not respond so I stepped on it to try and catch up to him. Roy continued to hail him. I was up more than 75 miles an hour before he finally responded and you can be sure he was not a happy trucker. He yelled that it was our fault. I got on the CB and told him all we wanted to do was check to make sure we did not have damage and to please pull over. He continued yelling into the CB using inappropriate language as I tried to let him know that we just wanted to check for damage. Finally he consented to pull over. We got out, looked at the mirror and checked the rest of that front side. Roy determined that the damage on the mirror could be rubbed out. As far as we could see there was no other damage so there was no need to exchange information. The trucker, looking a little sheepish, got back into his rig and drove off. Shortly he called us on the CB. "Hey RV, sorry about my bad

attitude back there.” “Acknowledged,” Roy replied.

We spent May 1-8 in Salt Lake City. The park was under renovation so we did not have a sewer hook up. It was a challenge but we went the eight days without running over the hold tanks. Roy spent a lot of time at the library while I enjoyed the time to get caught up on letter writing and working on the log. On the 9th, we got the 6-month work done on the rig before heading east.



We made it as far as Rawlins WY. The next week was spent in Hot Springs, SD. We decided to stay at the KOA there as the host's were such a nice couple. The camp was very pretty with lots of pine trees. Using Hot Springs as our base, we saw lots of interesting sites and animals. Custer State Park had a loop that took us by bison herds, wild burro, prairie dog

towns, deer and lots of beautiful scenery. At the Mammoth Site we were able to see many mammoth remains lying where hundreds of the huge creatures met their death in a sink hole millions of years ago. The site is still being excavated. Two months every summer, experts come to work along with volunteers. What they dig up is sent to universities for research. This process uncovers new remains which are left at the dig for all to see until the next summer. The site remains open during the excavation giving summer visitors an additional treat, being able to see a dig in progress. I got in free as it was Mother's Day and all mothers were admitted free. We saw Mount Rushmore which looked exactly like it looks in hundreds of photos that I have seen before, but it was great to see it in person. Crazy Horse was very impressive. It is a likeness of him riding a horse, and is in the process of being carved out of a huge mountain. We were lucky to be there during one the blasts. Roy caught it on tape. This carving is so huge. It may not be finished in our life time. Currently, just the head is close to completion. We toured the Jewel Cave which had tons of quartz. The ranger, Bruce, was very entertaining and the formations in the cave were interesting to see. We also enjoyed a day of relaxation while here.

FOLLOW THE YELLOW POST ROAD

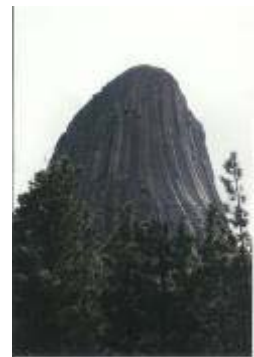


On May 10, we head north to Rapid City where we stay at the famcamp at Ellsworth AFB. They hadn't turned on their water yet but we will only be here one night and have enough water in our tank. Today we toured the Bad Lands. On the way we stopped at Wall Drugs which is known nationwide. There were lots to see there, old photos, lots of history, stuffed

wild life, along with stuff just to bring people into the store. There were things like mechanical bands, chanting mechanical Indians, and a huge mechanical dinosaur that stood up and roared every 15 minutes. The Bad Lands were very interesting. We took a small hike out into them. The trail was marked with yellow metal posts. With the ever-changing terrain due to erosion, the trail needs to be remarked from time to time. While on this hike, it was fun to imagine being a train or bank robber, waiting out the posse that was in the grass lands waiting out the robbers.

CLOSE ENCOUNTERS OF THE THIRD KIND

It rained hard today as we drove to Spearfish. We almost got stuck pulling into the space. The sky cleared a little so we decided to go see Devil's Mountain, about 60 miles away. It rained off and on the way up there, saw more wild life. Three deer crossed the road in front of us at one spot. The mountain was beautiful. Our first site was about 20 miles away. It is the first National Monument in the United States. In driving up to the mountain, we passed a prairie dog town. There were lots of babies. Roy got some good pictures of them. It was very cold so we bundled up and took the hike that went around the whole mountain. It was only about 1 ½ miles around but with the ups and downs, I felt we got some really good exercise. The mountain was quite impressive from all sides and we both enjoyed our encounter very much. On the way home we stopped at a Wal Mart and got me a pair of new shoes.



May 19 and we head north to North Dakota? We don't plan on staying there. We just want to pick up the state for our map. We drove up into ND as far as Bowman, than headed southeast and back down into South Dakota. We spent the night at Aberdeen at a very nice city park. They only charged \$6.00 because they hadn't gotten grass growing or the tables brought into the section we were in yet. On the 20th we stayed in Fairmont at a park on a lake. Our view out of the windows was really pretty with the trees and the lake.

THE LITTLE BROWN CHURCH IN THE VALE

The next day we arrived in Waverly, Iowa at the Cedar Bend County Park. Waverly is the town where Roy met Elaine. They were married in the Little Brown Church in the Vale. He hopes to do some research here on her family. It's going to work out well as we will be here over the Memorial Day holiday and we are set in this spot for the next five days. Don't have to worry about finding a park over the three-day weekend. The park is on the Cedar River.

It's the Wednesday before the holiday and the locals are already bringing in their little tent trailers, to save their spot. We weren't the only people concerned about a camp site this weekend. We saw a fox running in the grass beside the road this morning on our way here.

It's Thursday, and Roy is doing his research in town. I spent the day washing the rig. She was covered with dirt and bugs. It took about four hours but it was worth it. She is such a pretty rig. We are expecting rain this weekend but it shouldn't take long to wipe her down again with the dust and bugs eliminated. Tonight more people are arriving with their tent trailers, travel trailers, 5th wheels and tents. There is only one other Class A in the whole park.

The weather turned cold with some rain the last three days we were in Waverly. I did get a good walk through town while Roy was at the court house and we got a nice walk in on Saturday. The ground was pretty wet so we really got our shoes muddy. On Sunday we drove into town and visited the cemetery. We found Elaine's mother's grave and Vern's grandparents graves. Roy is very pleased with all of the information he was able to get from both the library and the courthouse. Sunday night, we went back into town and had dinner at the "The Other Place Two" My prime rib was excellent and it was a fun place.

SIX INCHES IS NOT ALWAYS A GOOD THING

It's May 26, and we are in Rockford, Illinois at a camp ground on the Kishwaukee River. We were ready to leave our camp site this morning and discovered the right rear jack was stuck in the mud about 6 inches. When I raised the jacks, it wouldn't break free. Roy was able to get it free with a kitchen spatula. We will need to get four flat pieces of wood that we can place under the jacks to keep this from happening when the ground is wet. We took a side trip into Wisconsin on the way here so we will be able to add that state to our map.

May 27, and it was good to finally get to Fort Wayne, Indiana. We turned off on Hwy. 30 sooner than I had planned. We saw lots of interesting scenery, farms, etc. however the road was bad and in many places under construction. It probably took us two hours longer to get here than it would have if we had used the freeways. The camp ground here is a little primitive. We don't have a sewer hook up but do have electric and water. The owner said that if we were careful, we could dump our gray water on the lawn. It was raining some almost every day so they didn't think it would do any harm. That's good as I have a week's worth of washing to do. They don't have a laundromat here in the camp ground. They have had so much rain and the grounds are so wet that the manager suggested we camp on one of the interior driveways. According to the local weather man, we have more rain coming in so we may just be in the drive way the whole week

we are here. That's really ok. There is only one other rig in this whole area and we are not in their way at all. There are only two RV parks in Fort Wayne and the other one does not accept slide outs. Roy will be doing more research in the library while we are here. This is one of the best libraries for genealogy research in the country.

May 3rd and we leave Fort Wayne for Marshall, Michigan. The park is really pretty but is run by an old grouch. Roy made a great find at the court house. He found the names of my great-great-great-grandpa and grandma. They are Dad's, great-great-grandparents on his father's side. We are very happy about that. I spent a day just walking the streets of Marshall, looking at the beautiful old houses and many gift and antique shops. That night we went to dinner at **Schuler's Restaurant & Pub** and enjoyed one of the nicest dinners out since we left San Diego. I tried to get reservations near Niagara Falls for a week, starting this Friday. They were booked for the weekend, but could accommodate us for Monday through Friday morning. We decided to do that and go back to Fort Wayne, Indiana for three days. That way, Roy will be able to fill in more information on the Osborne line, using what he found in Marshall.

A TOW, A TOW, MY KINGDOM FOR A TOW

Today was a stressful one. We got back to the camp we stayed at last time. The owner thought the ground was dried out enough for us to park in a normal spot. Well, you guessed it . . . We got stuck big time. The owners tried to pull us out with a back hoe with no success. We called the tow service who said they would send out a big truck. We decided that Roy could go to the library rather than wait for the tow truck. The owners had told us to go ahead and park on another interior drive way whenever they got us out. We both felt comfortable I should have no problem getting parked and set up. The tow truck was huge so there was no problem pulling us free, even tho we were buried down to the rims. To get to the new spot, I had to back up a little and not having my guide, Roy, I got stuck. Luck was with me and was able to put it in reverse, then drive. After doing this a couple of times, I was able to rock Ole Holly out of the hole. With heart pounding, I drove to our spot, got connected, slid out, and put our home in order and ready for Roy's return.

The three days back in Fort Wayne went very fast for me. I spent my time catching up on letter writing, working on my log, walking and shopping. On Saturday night, I picked Roy up at the library and we went out to a nice dinner in town.

June 8 and we leave Fort Wayne for the second time and continue on our trip east. We traveled almost all the way across Ohio and are camped in Conneaut, Ohio. Conneaut is on the boarder before Pennsylvania. We will only be here the night, leaving for the Niagara Falls area tomorrow. I am looking forward to some site seeing.

FIVE MINUTES FROM FRONT TO BACK?

June 9 and we cross Pennsylvania and enter New York. When we entered New York and their toll road, they gave us two tickets, one for Holly and one for Tilly. As we drove on, Roy looked at the tickets and laughed. "I know we are long but not this long." "What do you mean?" I asked. "Holly's ticket says we came through at 10:20 AM and Tilly's ticket says 10: 25a.m."

TALK RADIO

We enjoy listening to the truckers as we travel. Not only do we get warning about things they see on the road such as upcoming hazards, accidents, back ups, even smoky. Their chatter at times is very comical. They are very crude, but at times what they come up with, makes us laugh. They seem to have no sympathy for their peers but at the same time, when help is needed they offer it with no hesitation. I enjoy trying to identify the truckers that we are hearing.

DID SPRING SPRUNG? HAS SUMMER ARRIVED?

We are in the Niagara Falls area at Niagara's Lazy Lakes RV camp where we will be till Friday. Tonight we cooked the conventional camper's dinner, steak and potatoes on the grill. We cooked and ate outside, while watching the sky change from dark blue to black. We haven't done that in a long time. It hasn't been warm enough to enjoy the outdoors. In fact, this is the first time in a month we have put up the awning and set up our chairs. Everyone here says that there was not a spring this year, the winter just went directly to summer and that happened last week. I'm not complaining, it looks like we will have great weather to enjoy the falls and all the sites in the area.

NIAGARA RAIN

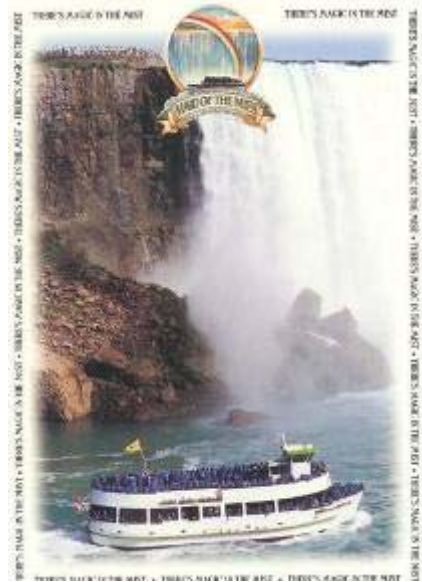
June 10 and we spent it seeing the falls from several directions. After an egg scramble, we drove into Niagara stopping first at Whirlpool and taking a little hike along the river. There was a spot there where the water seemed to go into a never-ending whirlpool. There was a tram on the Canadian side that went across the lake where the pool existed. Then, into Niagara, through the



road construction, (what else is new) and onto Goat Island. This is where we parked and were able to walk and see all. First we walked onto the Three Sisters, three islands before the Canadian Falls. Further on we came to the Canadian Falls, which are also called the Horseshoe Falls. We could see part of them and now I understand why I have heard, you can see more from the Canadian side. After taking our pictures, we continued our walk till we saw the building for the Cave of the Winds. What a delightful experience this was. After you have turned in your shoes for canvas looking slippers, collected a bright yellow slicker, they take you down an elevator equal to 17 ½ stories you continue out through a very damp tunnel, finally out to a location below Bridal and the American Falls. Insuring you are totally covered by the slicker, you are guided to a series of wooden stairs which bring you up to the hurricane deck. This is where you feel the thunder of the falls as the water falls on you,

something like having buckets of water thrown in your face. This coupled with the horrendous sounds of the water, is a rush you will never forget . . . Or at least, I will not. I enjoyed it so much, that I asked the guide if I could go through again. He nodded with a sly smile on his face, probably knowing the excitement I felt. Roy took some movies as I revisited the deck. I hope

they capture the strength of the water. After this adventure we continued our walk to the top of the Bridal and American falls. At that point we decided that we would continue our walk across the river into Canada. We got our hands slapped for not having our passports, but she let us in anyway. Our next stop was the Maid of the Mist boat cruise. This was also quite an experience. The boat took us directly into the horseshoe of the Canadian falls where the falls are on three sides . . . The water falls on us from all three directions, making it hard to see, but the need to see overcomes and you continue to wipe the Niagara rain from your eyes so that you do not miss a moment of the experience. After that we walked through the city, which was full of all kinds of entertainment attractions. Haunted House, Believe it or Not, Frankenstein Castle, amusement parks, even a casino is directly across the border in Canada. They were right. The view of the falls is much more spectacular from the Canadian side.



ERIE CANAL

While we were in the area, we took a drive to Lockport where locks 34 and 35 are located on the Erie Canal. It was interesting but missed seeing a boat pass through. The lift from one lock to the next one was more than 40 feet. We were impressed!

Roy had been experiencing some problems with his computer, not being able to get a battery, screen problems, etc. We were in the computer store where he had asked if they could work on it. They could not, so I suggested we see what they had to offer. They had one Roy liked so he got it. He is very happy so far and is engulfed in the process of moving files from the old computer to the new one.

June 13 and we are in Le Roy, about 20 miles out of Rochester. We lucked out here as one of their seasonal sites was available. The renters were out for a week or so. We will be here four nights so I plan to catch up on the wash, housecleaning, etc. We have a deck, a sewer hook up and a clear shot to the satellite. The last place, we were too deep in the trees and couldn't get a connection. We could get local TV, but we are so spoiled. So many of the parks back here are older and do not have sewer hookups. That's not a problem for a one night stay, as we can both shower and I can even do a load of washing, without filling up the gray water tanks. Of course, they all have a dump station, so we dump on the way out. It's just so much nicer when I don't have to worry about water use.

June 18 finds us in Weedsport, NY at a pleasant camp ground. We left Le Roy yesterday. It was only an hour and a half drive. Roy had time to go into Skaneateles and then into Syracuse after we got here. After putting our home in order, I was able to get my walk in. It was humid. However, there was a nice breeze which helped keep me from over heating. We had a nice supper tonight and before we went to bed, sat outside and watched the moon and fire flies.

Today on my walk, I saw a little fawn in the trees. Roy is in Syracuse at the library and courthouse.

June 19th was our last night in Weedsport. Roy wanted to show me Skaneateles so he came home a little earlier. The rain, which has been falling on and off for the last two days, has finally stopped. The sun is shining and it is beautiful. I was very impressed with Skaneateles. It was very quaint and the lake was so clear. After walking the town a little, we settled on dinner at a place called Under the Rock. There used to be a restaurant called the Old Rock Mill, however it was not open. This little restaurant, Under the Rock, was under the Old Rock Mill. It was very nice and I had one of the best pasta dishes that I remember.

VERMONT, NOT USER FRIENDLY FOR BIG RIGS

June 20 finds us on our way to Maine. We will get there tomorrow. We missed a turn and got ourselves into a dead end. There was a very small cul-de-sac at the end. Unfortunately, it was not big enough for us to turn around in. Oh how I tried! We had to disconnect Tilly, get Holly turned around and reconnect Tilly. We are spending tonight in Brattboro, Vermont, just before the border into New Hampshire. I didn't enjoy driving through Vermont. The roads are very narrow and I had to concentrate so hard on keeping Holly between the lines with very little space to spare. Vermont has a rule about wide body rigs and we are wider than the limit legally permits.

SHAKY BEGINNING

June 21 and we are finally in Maine. Roy decided to take Hwy. 1, the coastal route up to Wells, where we will stay for the next two months. We won't do that again. The traffic was so bad that we crawled through the little towns at a snail's pace. We finally reached Wells and began searching for the Riverside Campground. Got distracted with construction coming up and missed the camp ground. We are off again looking for a place to turn around. Luckily, we found one about a mile down the road.

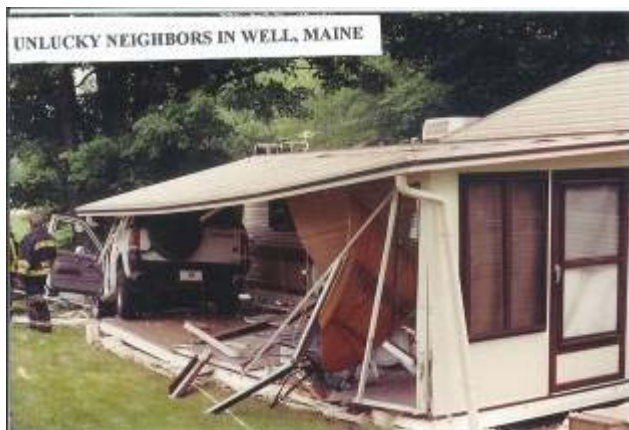
We had quite a time getting camp set up when we got here. After picking out our spot and agreeing to the rates with the owner Frank, we get parked and begin connecting up, etc. Roy had put wood under the jacks and I lowered them. There was a sink hole where the right back jack settled so it buried the wood and lodged the jack to the side. We couldn't get the jack to raise, so Roy had to dig the wood and the jack out of the hole. We then repositioned the rig and I lowered the jacks again. There was a big bang. The foot of the jack had slipped off of its post. Poor Roy spent the next hour and a half, under the rig getting the foot, which is held in place by two strong springs, back under the post. The next thing was to get the satellite up. We couldn't get it to lock. This really wasn't a surprise. The further we have driven North, the harder it has been to get a lock. Up here, the satellite is only 22 degrees up from the horizon and this area has so many trees it is difficult to find a spot with a clear shot. Roy decided rather than hassle it, we would go ahead and order cable for \$50. Got the cable hooked up and it wouldn't work. It was getting late so Roy put off working on it till the next morning. We had decided on French toast

for breakfast so went to get the electric skillet which we keep on top of the washer/dryer. As we pulled it out, we heard a sound and both knew what it was. The electric plug-in for the skillet had worked its way to the back and as we pulled the skillet forward, the plug took a dive behind the washer/dryer. It didn't get stuck on any of the multiple pipes, hoses or wires. Instead, fell directly to the floor. After we took out the shelf, I was able to climb on top of the dryer. Using the awning hook, I snagged the cord and brought it up. And yes, the French toast was great.

After breakfast, Roy went back to the problem of the TV cable, which has turned into a trouble shooting challenge. He changed out some wiring connectors and was able to fix the problem. At last we are leveled, connected, have cable TV, rug and awnings are down, and the front window shades are on . . . we are home.

Wednesday, the 25th, and the final piece is in place. The phone is connected. The first thing Roy did was to subscribe to the local Internet provider. Can you guess what the second thing he did was?

SHE FLEW THROUGH THE AIR WITH THE GREATEST OF EASE



We had a bit of excitement this morning. I had just returned from my walk and was relaxing on the sofa when we heard a loud crash. You know that sound, when cars hit each other. Our space is relatively close to the entrance of the park. I looked toward the road and a Trouper came flying from the road, across the driveway and into the enclosed patio of one of the rigs across from us. It was like watching a movie with a crash scene. Roy and I both rushed out along with the rest of the camp. The lady

was shook up but not hurt. The first thing she said was, "Was there anyone in the patio?" Luckily the owners of the rig stay here only on the weekends and were not home. Even tho the Trouper did not hit the rig, it was knocked off the blocks. All of the patio furniture, BBQ and three walls of the patio are in pieces. A car driven by an older man was making an illegal U turn and hit the side of the Trouper as it passed. This caused her to lose control of the vehicle.

LOBSTER AT LORDS, FIT FOR A KING

June 28 and we have just returned from a bike ride and walk to the beach. We had a nice lobster dinner at Lords this week. It was different watching the ocean during the sunset and not seeing the sun. We have two little chipmunks that play around the rig and Tilly. Of course we have named them Chip and Dale, really original, huh? We have driven around the area getting familiar with what's where. Yesterday Bob, one of our neighbors came over and asked if he could show us around. He took us on an hour drive showing us the good places to eat, where to get groceries, the post office, the library, etc. That was so nice of him. We got our first phone call this morning. It was from Bruce and Teri. It was nice hearing from them.

MAINTENANCE

July 2 . . . We have made appointments for our eyes, teeth, Tilly's 60,000 mile check up and Roy's annual check up. It's great that we got all of our appointments within a two-week time frame. Try that in San Diego.

I am enjoying my hour walk in the morning. We are a little less than a mile from The Rachel Carson Wildlife Refuge. The refuge has a mile trail that takes me through a forest. As it winds its way, I have several views of marsh area and beyond the marsh in two spots, I can see the ocean. Most of the time, I see squirrels, chipmunks and birds. One day, I startled a little chipmunk. In trying to escape, he almost ran into a tree. In his confusion, he ran back toward me. After turning a somersault, he made his escape into the woods. The walk to the refuge, taking the mile trail twice, and walking home, takes about one hour. I carry a two-pound weight in each hand lifting them as I go. I really feel I am getting a good upper body work out along with the walking work out. I enjoy this kind of exercise the best. Riding our bikes however comes in a close second.

THROW AWAY BIKES

On the subject of bikes, we just bought two new ones. We purchased them at Wal Mart for \$99.00 each. Our bikes had really taken a beating being in the weather all of the time. We had taken a ride a couple of days ago and the gears and brakes were locked up. Roy put on the WD-40 and it helped some. I, however, felt it was time for new ones. We had spent \$50 each in December to get them tuned up, which only lasted six months. I think as long as our bikes are exposed to the elements, when they rust, we'll just throw them away. It took two years for our last ones to self destruct.

We took a drive to Hampton, New Hampshire to see the Founders Stones. In the 1927, the people of Hampton put stones up in a park area with the names of the founders and settlers of Hampton who lived there before 1700. We found Hussey, Perkins and Batchelder, Roy's ancestors. In trying to find the park, somehow I got onto a two-lane one way road, going the wrong way. All of the sudden cars were coming our way honking their horns. We were lucky as there was a wide place to get off the road and get turned around going the correct direction.

We did our eye examinations and have ordered new glasses. They will be ready for us in one to two weeks.

We had a fantastic lobster dinner tonight at a very casual restaurant called Fisherman's Catch. This



place was just west of Lords where we had dinner last week. There was quite a difference. This was totally casual . . . plastic, paper, bib, and a beautiful lobster, ready to be cracked. Above each table was a paper towel holder in the shape of a lobster. Our waitress, Becky, demonstrated the technique in cracking and extracting the meat from the red beast. Roy and I really enjoyed the challenge. And yes, that role of paper towels hanging above our table was put to good use. Can you believe, my one pound lobster, coleslaw, and dinner role, was only \$9.99? I really do love this place.

To make sure we don't need to be rolled out of Maine, we have decided to totally diet at least three days a week, usually Monday, Tuesday and Thursday. This is working really well. In fact, we are losing a little.

ANY EXCUSE FOR A PARTY

The 4th of July weekend was quite nice. The campground was almost full. Most of the campers were in tents, tent trailers, travel trailers and class 'C' RV's. Thursday night, July 3, a thunder storm rolled through. One of the lightening bolts struck very near here, making a tremendous loud bang. We heard the next morning, that the strike had all of the people in tents, diving out of them. The majority ended up spending the next couple of hours in the restroom. According to the story teller, they had a hell of a party, waiting for the storm to pass. The rest of the holiday had fantastic weather, not too hot or too cold. We enjoyed bike rides and walks all three of the days.

July 7, and I have just returned from having my teeth cleaned. Since my dentures have broken three times in the last 15 months, I have decided to go ahead and get new ones made while we are stationary here in Maine. The downside of this is, next Saturday and Sunday, beginning 48 hours before he makes the final cast, I am not to wear my uppers. Roy and I decided that this would be an excellent time to do a two day Slim Fast diet.

Roy had his first visit with the doctor. He has already had some blood work and will do the tread mill next Tuesday. After that, he has a follow-up with the doctor where they will decide if any additional test will be needed. After he returned from the doctor, we decided to take a bike ride into Kennebunk to check out the library. When we got there, we discovered the library didn't open for another hour so we continued our bike ride seeing some of the country around Kennebunk. Just as the library opened, we noticed some very anonymous clouds forming to the west. About an hour later it started to pore. By the time Roy and I were ready to leave, rain had stopped. We began our five-mile ride home. After traveling about one mile, it began raining again. We found shelter under a tree and after a while realized that rain does fall through the leaves. After about fifteen minutes the shower slowed so we decided to make a dash for home. No problem, we were already soaked. We did get home before the sky opened up and it began raining so hard that the water poring off of the awnings, looked like a water fall. Within a half hour, there was six inches of water in our patio. In the meantime, there were five close lightening hits that got our attention. We decided to postpone going out to dinner to another night as the campground rowboat was unavailable.

WE LEARN ABOUT THE DO'S AND DON'TS OF LOBSTER

We went to the Bull and Claw for dinner and the lobster was a disappointment. We have noticed that some places advertise fresh picked lobster. This means they come directly out of the ocean and are not held for days in tanks. Then there are the restaurants that hold them in tanks until ordered. Finally there are restaurants that order them already dead. Who knows for how long? The freshness really does make a difference in the taste and texture of the meat. The lobster from the Bull and Claw fell into the last category. It's too bad as the Bull and Claw is a short walk from the campground and it would have been very convenient to be able to walk to dinner on occasion.

It's Sunday morning, July 13, and our first day of Slim Fast went OK. I spent the day working on my cross stitching and playing on the computer. Clara called yesterday and Roy had a nice talk with her.

Well, here it is Monday, and we made it through the weekend on Slim Fast and oatmeal. The dentist took the final imprint so the worst is over. Roy and I had a nice bike ride and walk through the Wells National Estuarine Research Reserve at Laudholm Farm. We learned that Estuaries is where the salty waters of the sea meet the fresh waters of the land. They have several trails through the marsh area, forest and to the beach. It is very warm and humid today.

WE CAN READ AGAIN

We woke to rain this morning. It had rained most of the night and our patio is flooded again. We drove into York for Roy's stress test at the hospital. I'm pleased that they found no problem. After, we drove on into Portsmouth to pick up our glasses. I'm pretty happy with mine. I got one pair for reading and one for distance. As far as I can tell, they did a great job with both pair. Roy got bifocals and is also pleased with the results. We had an early supper at an oriental restaurant. The food was very flavorful.

July, 17, I had a good walk. After a short rest, I decided to do some cleaning and purging in the rig. My goal is to eliminate what is not needed. Today it was spices that we brought, most of which we have not used. I ended up throwing out only eight bottles, but that was enough. All of our spices are now above the sink, with the coffee, where they should be. We had a delightful lobster dinner at Billy's Chowder House. It was very humid and warm today but sitting and talking in our patio was very pleasant this evening. I found it very interesting that we were not bothered by the bugs that usually are present.

I took a drive into Kennebunk today and bought three plants for our patio. I hung two of them from the awning and the third looks very nice on the picnic table. The humidity is low making it very pleasant.

THE BLUE ANGLES ARE IN MAINE?

Saturday, July 19, we drove to Brunswick to see the air show. It was much cooler than expected and I ended up having to wear a towel around my shoulders to keep warm. Silly me didn't think to bring a sweater. The show was great featuring the Blue Angels. As usual, they excited the on lookers with their close formations, precision flying and of course, appearing out of no where screaming across the sky so very close and so very loud. The downside, as always, was getting out of the parking lot

Sunday we took a nice bike ride and walk. We came upon a deer which was standing so still that both of us thought she could be a cardboard cutout. We stood watching her at least a minute before she moved her mouth. We probably had interrupted her lunch. We moved toward her slowly while she just stood there watching and chewing. Upon reaching her "that's far enough point," she let out a sound that was somewhere between a bark and a snort and jumped several feet away. She made this sound again as she jumped a few more feet. After getting home, we enjoyed the rest of the afternoon in our patio, I surfing the TV and Roy surfing the Internet. We have our small TV set up in one of the compartments so we can watch it from outside. Roy can also connect the computer to a phone line that also is in the compartment.

July 21 and I have had my 4th appointment with the dentist. He is really spending a lot of time on my dentures. I really do hope it is going to be worth it. Laura's parents, Betty and Bill Bushman paid us a visit this evening. They were on their way back to Long Island after visiting a daughter in North Maine. They decided to spend the night at our campground in their Bouncer.

WHEN A TREE FALLS IN THE FOREST, DOES IT MAKE A SOUND?

On my walk this morning, as I approached a photographer on the trail, we heard a tree fall in the forest. He said, "That has solved a question that has been haunting me for years. They do make a noise when they fall." I should have replied, "Yes, but would there have been a sound if we had not been here to hear it?"

WE ENJOY A B&B WITH OLGA



We spent the weekend in Boothbay Harbor at the 1879 Seafarer Inn Bed and Breakfast. Olga, the innkeeper, was a very talkative lady who bought the place about 10 year ago. The home had originally belonged to Captain George Murray and is located at the head of the harbor. We had a nice view of the harbor from our bedroom windows and also there was a beautiful porch where we sat in old rocking chairs enjoying the view of the harbor as well. We enjoyed a three-hour cruise which took us by several islands, some privately owned, and by the East side of Southport Island. After a short sail in the ocean, we headed up the Kennebec River, by the iron works in Bath, down the Sasanoa River through Upper and Lower Hell Gates, across the Sheepscoot River, and west of Southport Island and finally back to Boothbay Harbor.

We saw seven lighthouses on this trip, some of them on Islands and some on the banks of the Kennebec River.

BOWLING WITH LITTLE BALLS AND SKINNY PINS

Olga served a very nice breakfast which included fresh fruit, cereal, fresh baked muffins and bread. We enjoyed two great suppers, one at the Black Orchid and one at the Rocktide. One night after dinner, we bowled a game at the local entertainment center. The balls were small, like lawn bowling balls and the pins were skinny. You had three tries to get as many down as possible. It was quite different than regular bowling.

The Seafarer was just a short walk to everything in the town so Tilly remained in the driveway during our stay. On Sunday, before heading home, we drove to Pemaquid Point where we viewed a lighthouse which sat on the cliff overlooking very interesting rocks that reached out to the sea. These rocks looked like huge tree trunks that had fallen on top of each other and had petrified.

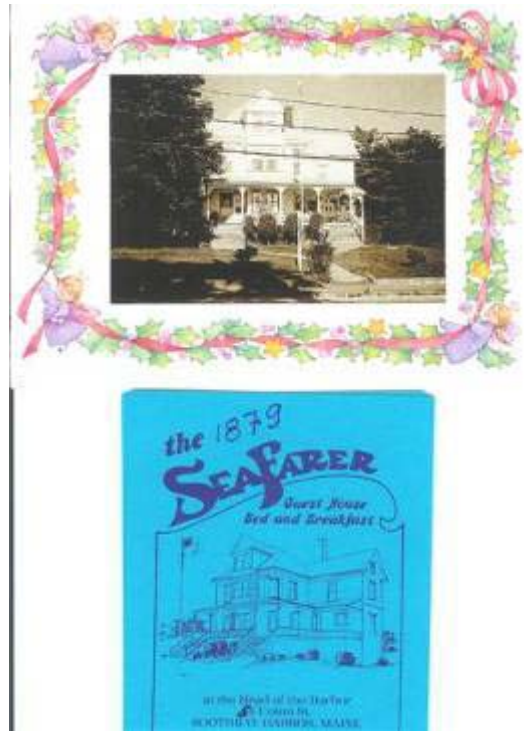
DOCTOR!!!! WHAT HAVE YOU DONE TO ME?

This morning, July 28, Roy and I went to the dentist for the final fitting of my dentures. It was terrible. He had really made a mistake in measuring the distance under my nose to mid chin, causing me to look like a chip monk. The teeth were set in wax so he will be able to redo them.

I am a little concerned and hope this isn't going to turn into one of those horror stories you hear about.

Today, July 29, we drove to Salem and spent a couple of hours there. Roy visited the library and I walked, enjoying the old buildings and houses. Then we drove to Boston to find the Genealogical Society. We found the building and set out to park the car. We drove into the driveway of a parking lot and immediately backed out. They wanted \$6.00 an hour and if you stayed all day you got a bargain . . . Just \$26.00. We lucked out and found a coveted parking space on the street. There you only pay \$1.00 an hour. The downside is there is a two-hour limit. After talking to the people at the society, Roy decided to join. We will be going back several times so we will look into catching a subway.

I spent about two hours with the dentist this morning working on my dentures. Even tho they are just set in wax, he suggested I wear them home just to get used to the different look. Roy and I are both pleased with them even tho they do give my smile a different look. We had dinner at



Leachfields, just down the street from us. We both enjoyed the atmosphere and the meal.

After dropping my dentures off with the dentist, we headed for Boston. This time we headed for North Station and took the subway. Parking was \$9.00 for the six hours we were in the city. After visiting New York's, Paris's, London's and San Francisco's subways, I have to say Boston's is the most user-**unfriendly**. I also have to add that Boston has the most unorganized streets and lack of direction I have ever experienced. I pity the foreigner trying to find his way in this city. We plan to go in two more times and are planning our strategy. We plan on trying the end of the line station, which will get us further out of town and hopefully in a less confusing environment. While Roy does his research, I am walking the streets, seeing all that I can take in. I walked into a Sac's Fifth Avenue store and was totally out of my comfort zone. To spend \$150 on a top is beyond me. I did walk into one store that was having a 50% off sale and found a real cute top that would go well with jeans for \$30. I didn't buy it but if it is there next week, I may. There is a three-mile walk that will take me to about nine historical sites which I plan to do.

Being here in Maine and seeing buildings, some built in the 1600's is quite an experience. Today we took a bike ride through the country side just looking at homes and enjoying the never-ending green that this country is made of. In California seeing something built in 1800 is considered old. Here, so many buildings were built so much earlier. We have visited several cemeteries and have seen headstones with 1600's, 1700, and 1800's, dates and all still standing and telling a story. Many of them give the exact age of death, e.g., 55 years, 10 months, 5 days. I was surprised however, to read so many ages of those who had made it to the 70's and 80's. It's amazing when you think about what the people had to go through to make it that far way back then.

OUR MINI CRUISE TO YARMOUTH, NOVA SCOTIA WHAT'S A BLUE NOSE?

On August 4 we drove to Portland where we caught our ship to Yarmouth, Nova Scotia. We had dinner at an Indian restaurant before boarding at 8:00 PM. After we got out to sea, it was just too cold and windy to stay outside . . . casino, here I come. Roy is not a gambler so he went back to the room to read and work on the computer. He was a little disappointed as there were no plugs in the room so after the battery on the computer ran down he was unable to work on it. I joined him after I gambled a bit.

We awoke the next morning to the ship emerged in fog, her horn periodically announcing our presence. Later her song was joined by the Yarmouth lighthouse horn and occasional bells from nearby buoys in the channel. As the captain guided our ship to the pier, the fog turned to rain. We got through customs with no problem . . . we had remembered to bring our passports. The ship loaded up and sailed back to Portland. She will return tomorrow morning. We boarded the shuttle and were driven to our hotel in the rain. Our room was very nice and had a view of the harbor. Roy was happy as he could plug in and work on the computer.

We took advantage of a little tour the hotel ran, which took us by several old captains homes, fish processing plants and finally to the lighthouse and the harbor head. It continued to rain the rest of the day so I was pleased we went on the tour. At least we learned a little about Yarmouth

and Nova Scotia. Our tour guide had many stories to share about their little country. One story told why the people of Nova Scotia are known as “blue noses.” It is very cold and damp during a good portion of the days here. The wives would knit their husbands wool mittens to keep their hands warm as they worked on the boats. They dyed the mittens navy blue so they would not show the dirt. Well, with damp cold days, the husband’s noses would run. The men would wipe their runny nose with their blue dyed mittens. Now, can you guess why they were called blue noses? We noticed that the little houses in the fishing village were so colorful. The guide explained that after the fishermen would paint their boats bright colors and then paint their houses with the left over paint. Due to the continued rain, we ended up having dinner in the hotel pub and playing a game of pool.

The next morning we returned to the ship for our trip home. I spent most of the day feeding the quarter machines. We saw the movie *Saint* in the main lounge. The people at the desk were nice enough to keep Roy’s computer charged for him so he could work on it during the day. After a nice supper in the ships restaurant, we arrived back in Portland at 8:00 PM, just 48 hours from when we had left on our little mini cruise.

BOSTON, WE BID YOU ADIEU

Thursday, August 7 we drove into Boston. This time we tried the Leachfield station. The station’s garage was full with three cars waiting at the entrance for someone to leave. We were able to find a parking garage about four blocks away. I spent the day walking the freedom trail which took me by 14 historical sites such as the State House, Park Street Church, The Old South Meeting House, The Old State House, Faneuil Hall, The Old North Church, and The USS Constitution. She was the highlight and looked beautiful in her newly restored glory. I got back to Copley Square about one and a half hours before I was to meet Roy. My legs were a little tired from walking all day so I just sat on a park bench and watched the people. Before I knew it, it was time to meet Roy. Between you and me, I was happy when he announced that he felt he had gleamed as much as he needed and that unless I wanted to, there would be no need to return to Boston. I had no desire to drive back into this city, but I am glad to have seen it.

I LIKE THE NEW LOOK

It’s Friday and I spent the morning cleaning our home. The dentist called to let me know my teeth would be ready at 4:30. They are different than my old ones, but the fit is perfect and even tho the feel and look are different, I like them. We drove to Kennebunkport to for dinner, however the restaurant had no empty parking spaces which probably meant we would have a long wait. We decided to try the China Friends restaurant not far from the campground. I was not impressed. Roy enjoyed it so that’s good.

PEPPER SPRAY TO THE RESCUE

I had quite a scare on my walk this morning. I enjoy this route I take as it gives me such a variety of sites from the forest and fields and finally the ocean. It was very warn and humid so I was not making good time. It took me 40 minutes, rather than my usual 35, to get to the beach. On my return, as I rounded a corner I glanced at the path behind me and saw a man, black shorts

in hand, naked except for a ball cap, walking toward me. I continued walking and reached into my pocket to pull out my pepper spray. When I had gotten the safety off, I turned making sure he saw it. He did not continue around the corner but just stood there. I continued on the path, at a much quicker pace than I had been going, and very shortly came upon an older gentlemen walking towards me. I told him what I had seen and that I was really glad he was there and I felt better knowing that I was not alone on the trail. Shortly I met a couple on the trail which gave me a safer feeling. The upside, I made up for lost time on the way home, picking up the five minutes I had lost on the trip down. After I reached home, I wondered if maybe he was just airing out his balls.

Roy shared a bit of information with me that he learned about my ninth great-grandfather, John Millard. This would be through the Barton's line. His cousin, Thomas Millard owned the land where the current State House of Massachusetts stands in Boston. In 1669, he died without a will but had voiced his wish through friends, that this land, called the land at Centre Hill, fronting the Common, along with another parcel of land in Boston, be given to my great-grandfather, John. Unfortunately, John had the property only three years. Alice (Millard) Swift showed up with a proper will, so John had to relinquish his claim to Alice. I wish I would have been aware of this when I walked through the Boston Common's and saw the State House while visiting Boston on Friday.

I awoke to a sore throat on Saturday and it still persists today, August 11. This morning, I saw the dentist so he could see how my dentures were doing. Everything looked pretty good but he did make one small adjustment.

August 12, and I woke up feeling terrible. I spent most of the day on the sofa, taking a morning and an afternoon nap. My sore throat had turned into a full-blown wet, achy, cold. The next morning I was feeling much better and by Thursday, there was no sign that I had even been sick. Thursday night, we went out to dinner at Leitchfield's, however it wasn't as good as the meal we had on our first visit. Roy has been spending a great amount of time working on genealogy and visiting the Internet. We will be leaving here on the August 21 and he is getting his on line fix taken care of big time. It has been nice for him to have the phone these last two months.

It's August 15 and I walked to the dentist for my last visit. He made the final adjustment and we said our good-byes. I hope I continue to be happy with my dentures as both Roy and I really liked Lee. He spent a lot of time making sure that everything was perfect.

We made a Wal Mart run on Saturday, picking up toilet paper and tank deodorant. When we get on the road again, we are not sure where the next Wal Mart will be and their prices for RV supplies are way lower than RV supply stores. I spent the remainder of the day writing letters.

A SUNDAY PICNIC AT THE BEACH

After walking my letters to the post office, I was able to break Roy away from the computer for a couple of hours on Sunday. We packed a couple of sandwiches, some wine, and went to the beach. It was extremely warm due to the humidity. The ocean water however, was just too cold for us. We walked to where the water hit just below our knees. Roy's legs and mine ached

from the cold. Suddenly, these two little boys came running out with their belly boards and jumped into the water without any hesitation. I'm not sure what the message is but suddenly, I felt a little older and for an instant, disliked those two little boys. Before we started our hike back to the bikes, a breeze had come up and our return trip was quite pleasant. We noticed along the trail, many of the trees had what looked like spider webs spun around a branch. Upon closer inspection, we found many little worms crawling inside the web. A wasp landed on the web and worked his way inside. I was surprised that he did not get caught. It appeared that he picked a fight with one of the worms which ended as quickly as it had begun. There did not seem to be a winner or loser. The wasp continued through the web and finally found an exit at which time he flew away. Shortly, he returned and began working his way back into the web again. We never did figure out what was taking place. We returned home and I wrote a few more letters.

GETTING READY TO LEAVE MAINE

August 18 and boy was I busy today. I started with a four-mile walk. After I returned, I colored my hair, cleaned and defrosted the refrigerator and rearranged the pantry and the storage compartment where we keep kitchen and bathroom supplies. After that, I walked the two-mile round trip to the post office to mail the letters I wrote yesterday. The weather was just beautiful, much cooler than yesterday. They are not expecting hot humid days for the rest of the week.

We leave Well's tomorrow, August 21, and head for Twin Mountain, in the White Mountains of New Hampshire. We enjoyed our stay here very much. Our neighbors were nice people, Bob, and of course the mayor, Jimmy. Due to the mayor getting a new park model, which was white and had little pillar's in the front, he has been promoted to the president. Frank, the park manager came over yesterday and offered us four more days at no charge, saying that we were very good campers, meaning, we didn't give him any trouble. We appreciated his gesture, thanked him, but explained we already had made reservations at Twin Mountain. Rain is expected tonight and tomorrow so we got the rig pretty much ready to leave today. I have to admit, I am ready to hit the road. There is just so much to see. We enjoyed our last Maine lobster dinner tonight at Billy's Chowder House. It was very enjoyable.

WE SAY GOOD-BY TO MAINE

We awoke to rain this morning, as was predicted by the weather person. Our drive to Twin Mountain was not too bad, we only took one wrong turn which Roy was able to correct by finding a road that got us back on the right track. In the country, sometimes you could travel many miles before finding a place to turn around. We saw a moose crossing the road, which was pretty exciting. They have signs that state, "Brake for Moose, it could save your life."

TILLY TAKES TO THE SUMMIT OF MOUNT WASHINGTON



blown over in the high winds that frequent the mountain top. The highest wind monitored on top of the summit was 231 miles an hour.

The second day at the White Mountains, the rain came and went so we stayed close to home only taking an hour hike to the river and up a snow mobile trail and back to the rig. On our last day, we drove south and found the Lost River, an interesting walk

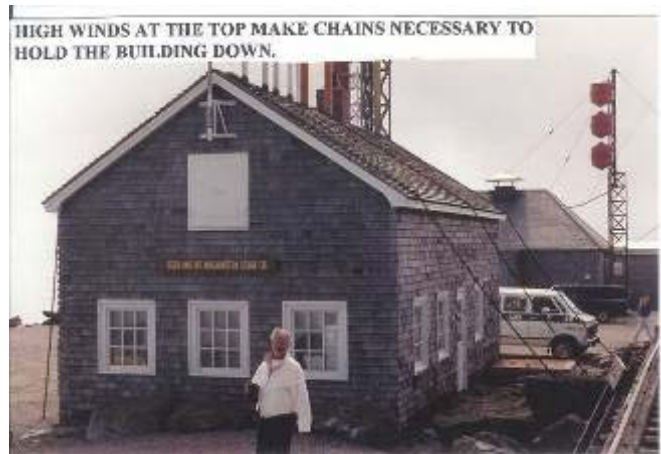


over boulders, wooden paths and through caves, following a river that went in and out of the mountain. After that, we drove down beautiful road that took us along a river and beautiful mountains. Our last stop before home was "The Old Man of The Mountain," which is the symbol of New Hampshire. It consists of granite likeness of a man, which protrudes out from the side of a shear granite cliff.

ROY RESEARCHES AND I SHOP

August 25, and we head south to Foxboro, Mass. We are within three miles from the Patriots stadium and the message being broadcasted is beat the Chargers. They are playing this Sunday. This is one of the nicest camp grounds we have stayed in. It is so clean and neat, four swimming pools, two spas and very friendly employees. We enjoyed a couple of hours at the pool, reading and watching the world go by. We drove into Providence, Rhode Island our first full day. Roy spent time at the genealogical society. I walked around and found Brown University and the shops that surrounded it. I met Roy for lunch and after dropping him back at the society, I originally was going to go back home, but found a shopping area where I spent the next three hours going from shop to shop just looking and trying on clothes. I only spent \$9.00 on a tee shirt. Pretty cheep entertainment and I can wear it. The next day we drove to the airport where Roy could download messages. After that we drove to Warren, Rhode Island. I have bunches of

While in the White Mountains, we drove to the top of Mount Washington with Tilly. We were in 1st gear most of the way up and down. The top was way above the tree line and the road was pretty narrow with no guard rails. It was an interesting drive. It was very cold at the summit with the fog blowing across where we stood. We watched the buildings come into view and then disappearing in a matter of seconds. There was a smaller building that was actually chained down to keep it from being



old relatives there. After lunch, Roy went to the library and I walked the town. It's interesting to be where you know your ancestors walked over 200 years prior. The library was a beautiful, which many of them have been. Old, well maintained, and maintained by sweet ladies or polite gentlemen and full of so much history.

MARTINI ANYONE?

August 28, the day I have been dreading. This is only because I am not looking forward to driving into Jersey City. Our trip out of Massachusetts through Rhode Island, Connecticut and into New Jersey went fine until we got into Jersey City. Somehow, we missed our turnoff (believe me, this is not a hard thing to do in these eastern cities) and in trying to get to our street, we got into a portion of town with very narrow streets. If that wasn't enough, cars were parked on both sides. Understandably, these streets were built way before 106 inch wide RV's came into the scene so I should not be too harsh. What does tick me off is that the east does not have good direction signs that we are so accustomed to in the west. We are spoiled being from the west where extremely good direction signs are part of being there. To make a long story short, we ended up blocking one of these streets while a police officer guided traffic and we worked to maneuver a very tight turn. We made it after trying to unhook Tilly unsuccessfully (we were cramped so tight we couldn't get the tow bar to come off the ball). After realizing we couldn't get her undone, Roy got in front of the rig and was able to guide me through the eye of the needle. There was nary a scratch on the cars or Holly. Surprisingly, neither the police officer nor the street workers were upset with us interrupting their normal duties. In fact one of the workers walked beside Roy as he was guiding me, asking all kinds of questions about Holly. How long is it? , How wide is it? How many bedrooms does it have? Shortly after that, we found the street to the camp ground where we were very happy to get settled. Martini anyone? The answer was yes!

GREAT VIEW - QUESTIONABLE AREA

This camp ground is also a marina with lots of boats. We can see the Statue of Liberty, Ellis Island, and the Trade Center from the park. Unfortunately, we are not in a very good part of town. The road leading into the park is lined with deserted warehouses with the windows broken out and garbage strewn about. We will not walk out of the park at night.

A VISIT WITH THE GRAND KIDS ON LONG ISLAND

We take the PATH train to Manhattan. We are about six blocks from the station. For \$1.00 each, we can go to the Trade Center or near the Empire State Building on 33rd. The first full day here, we took the train in and while Roy visited the library, I walked down 5th Avenue going in and out of stores along the way. Saturday, we drove out on Long Island to see the grand kids, Sarah and Alan. It had been three years since we had been there last. They have grown up quite a bit and seem to be really nice kids. Laura



seemed really happy to see us, which makes me feel good. Her parents were also there and we all had a nice visit which included a nice walk to the ocean. We got an E-mail from Kathleen today, telling us that Dad was doing real bad. I called him and he is much better. No one seems to know yet what has caused the infection that brought on the fever of over 102 degrees and caused him so much pain in his bones. To make it worse, he had not been able to get any sleep. In desperation, he got out of

bed and sat in his chair, where he was able to get a good nights sleep. In that position, his hips and shoulders did not give him a lot of pain and allowed him to sleep. He has also been taking antibiotics since Thursday which have brought his fever back to normal. He sounded real good when I spoke to him tonight.

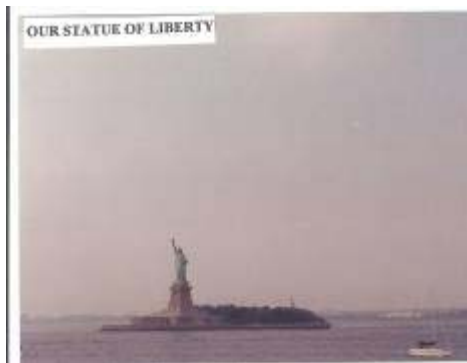
DINNER AT TAVERN ON THE GREEN

Today, Sunday, we took the train into Manhattan, getting off on 23rd street to see what was billed as the biggest flea market on the island. After seeing that, we walked to Central Park, found Tavern on the Green and made dinner reservations for 5:30 PM. We walked to the American Natural History Museum, past 77th street, where we viewed the dinosaur skeletons. They were in the process of being remounted the last time we were here. Study had proven that they had originally been mounted incorrectly. With all of the new knowledge that has come to light it is now known that they walked much differently than originally thought. We had a very pleasant dinner at the Tavern on the Green and took a taxi back to the Path station on 33rd street. Since it was dark when we got to Jersey City, we opted to take a taxi the six blocks back to the RV Park as well.

WALKING THE STREETS AND ENJOYING THE SIGHTS OF MANHATTAN

It's Labor Day and after our ride on the PATH into lower Manhattan, we walked to the Staten Island Ferry, where we rode across and back again. Being a holiday, there were many families on the ferry, enjoying the free ride. We walked through Wall Street and Soho, ending up in Greenwich Village at a street fair. Lots of interesting items were being sold. One man was selling animals that had been made from old instruments. For example, there was an elephant with the legs being the horn part of saxophones, each ear fashioned from half of a cymbal, etc. There was lot's of modern art, pottery, statues and food also being sold from little stands which lined Greenwich Street. We caught PATH home and cooked one of our favorite pasta dishes made with raw fresh tomatoes, onions and basil.

SEEING THE CITY FROM THE DOUBLE DECKER BUS



The next day, we stopped by the library, where Roy was able to get a piece of information that he needed. Then we spent the rest of the day riding a Double Decker tour bus, one taking us to all the sites in upper Manhattan and one taking us to all the sites in lower Manhattan. This gave us a great overview of the city, learning many tidbits about the city and the people who live and work there. People have actually built houses on top of buildings. Two of them were pointed out to us. Also pointed out were sweat shops in the Chinese section. We also learned

where countless entertainers, actors and famous people live. Most of the buildings did not seem impressive to me from the outside, however according to the tour guide, were very impressive behind the front doors. Many had doormen standing out front making sure only those person's allowed could enter. We even saw a young man apprehended by the NYPD. He must have been seen committing a crime. He was running down the street and the policeman grabbed him slamming his head into one of the huge planters along the street.

IF YOU HAVE TO ASK, YOU CAN'T AFFORD IT

Roy spent most of our last day in the city, at the Genealogical Society while I saw more of the City. I walked up Madison Avenue past exclusive shops. Most of them had buzzers at the front door which you had to push to gain access. I chose not to go into any of these, just enjoying their window fronts. I saw a set of sheets and pillow cases that had been marked down to \$600 from \$900. I do have to add they were very unique, but really. Most of the shops, however, did not show prices. I guess if you had to ask, you couldn't afford to buy anyway. Later, I walked to the Manhattan Mall on 7th Avenue and 34th Street. This mall goes up seven stories, the only place anything can go in this city. I walked back to the Society to meet Roy. We caught the subway to the Trade Center where we took the tour to the observation deck. With the help of a telescope, we were able to see Holly and Tilly across the river in Jersey City. It was very clear and it seemed we could see a hundred miles. We boarded PATH for the last time on this trip and headed back home. We had planned on going to dinner at the restaurant at the marina, however when we walked in, it was not what we had in mind. People were lined up at the counter to

order their dinner either to take out or eat at old beat up tables. We decided to pass on this and went back home where Roy cooked us a nice pizza.

WE LOVE NEW YORK

September 4, and we leave Jersey City behind. I must say, most of the people in New York were very friendly. A few times, as we were poring over the city map, we were approached by a local, asking if we needed any help. We had noticed that when we were in New York three years ago also.

BAG WORMS

Since we need to pick up West Virginia, we headed west from Baltimore. We found a very nice, quite camp ground here in Woodbine, Maryland where we plan to spend the next four days. I will be able to catch up on the wash and get Holly cleaned up a bit. We noticed more of those trees with branches wrapped in webs. Roy asked a local who said they were called bag worms.

We are enjoying our quite stay here in Woodbine. I have caught up on the wash and getting Holly cleaned up inside. I've started working on the outside but don't want to spend too much energy, as will need to do it all over again after our drive to Virginia on Monday.

September 8 and we leave our quiet camp ground in Woodbine. Roy planed the route that took us just inside West Virginia where we were able to turn around with no difficulty. The drive to Stafford, Virginia was good and we were settled in the campground by mid afternoon. They are predicting rain for the next three days, so I will not spend time washing the outside of Holly.

GETTING READY FOR MAMA

I spent some time today getting Mama's cabin ready for her arrival tonight, September 9. She got in at 11:00 PM at the beginning of the rain storm.

Due to the weather, we spent the first day of Mama's visit just taking a drive into Washington, D.C. just to get a lay of the land. The second day, she and I spent about two and a half hours at Wal Mart, taking our time going from department to department seeing what was available. We both enjoyed it.



WE SHOW MAMA WASHINGTON DC

The storm was over by Friday so we drove into the city. We took a tour which included a tour of the White House, The Lincoln Memorial, both the Vietnam and Korean Memorials and Arlington Cemetery. We felt a little rushed on the tour so

have decided that we will see the rest of the memorials, museums and the Capitol on our own. They are all located in one area so it should be fine.

The White blue and and dining and given a before so on many were very questions. that only cool.



House tour was great. We saw the green, red rooms along with the formal reception rooms. They are very beautifully furnished decorated. President and Mrs. Clinton had party for the secret service people the night there were beautiful flower arrangements of the tables. The secret service people friendly and were eager to answer I saw one talk into his watch. I thought happened in the movies. It was just too



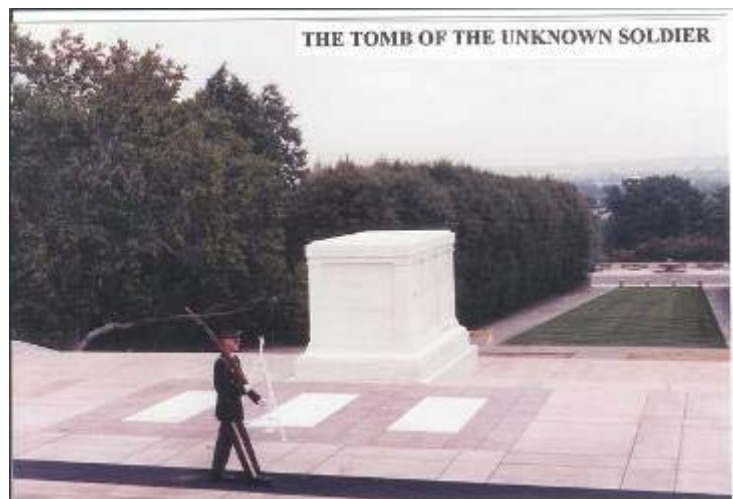
The Lincoln Memorial building itself was much larger structure than I had thought it would be. I did not know that there are 36 pillars around the building each one representing one of the states in the Union at that time when he was President. Standing in the building looking up at President Lincoln was a pleasant experience.

the notes left by visitors who had actually lost a loved one or friend.

The Vietnam Memorial was very simple in design. Walking past the thousands of names on the wall was sad, especially seeing some of

The Korean Memorial was extremely impressive and consists of individual statues of a group of soldiers on the move. Each statue was unique in its depiction of a particular soldier. Great detail was given to their uniforms, weapons, facial expressions, body language and equipment. It was as if their photo had been shot on patrol and saved to be recreated in bronze more than 40 years later.

At the Arlington cemetery, we were able to see where President Kennedy and Jacquelyn are buried. We also saw the changing of the guard at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. That was an extremely impressive ceremony which appeared to be flawless in the presentation. After the intense inspection the replacing guard had to endure I couldn't help but wonder what the officer would



have done if he found a problem. Roy jokingly said, "He would send him back to the barracks causing the present guard do a double shift."

A VISIT TO THE BATTLEFIELDS

The next day we drove to Manassas, where we walked around the battlefield of the first battle and drove around most sites of the second battle. They have done a beautiful job of telling the story. We can understand why Derald fell in love with the area.

Sunday, we drove to Fredricksburg. After learning about that battle, we walked up and down the streets of the city. There were a lot of antique shops and of course, very old buildings.

A VISIT TO THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES AND THE SENATE

Monday, it was back to Washington, D.C. to see the Capitol. The highlight of this day was being able to sit in on the House of Representatives and Senate sessions. We had to get tickets from our Congressman to attend, so while Mama and I looked at all the statues on display in the Capitol, Roy took the little subway that goes from the Capitol to the representative's offices.

Security is pretty tight. After going through the x-ray machines, they still required Mama and I to check our purses before allowing us to enter the chambers. Both the House and the Senate look so much larger on television. The House was not formally in session, however there were a few congressmen in attendance and the representative from Arkansas was giving a speech, requesting fairer distribution of money for the arts, stating that many other states get a much larger portion of funds than Arkansas does. He was giving his speech with as much enthusiasm as if he were talking to a full house. The Senate was officially in session, but it also had few people in attendance and again, a Senator was giving his speech just as if he had the undivided attention the full Senate. We also were able to see both the original House of Representatives chamber and the original Supreme Court.

A VISIT TO THE SMITHSONIAN MUSEUMS

Tuesday, we spent the day seeing the Smithsonian Museums. Or should I say, we saw as many as we could before our legs wore out. My favorite was the Air and Space Museum. We finally got caught by the parking cop. One negative in D.C. is there is a lack of parking places. Therefore, you park on the street, if you can find one. The problem is most of these spots have a two-hour limit. We are not complaining about the ticket. We were over time each day and only got tagged once. \$15.00 was the fine, which is a bargain. Actually, D.C. is a bargain. Most of the monuments and museums are free as was the White House and Capitol buildings.

Mama goes home tomorrow, so we just did a kick back day, with a little shopping so she could pick up a few things for the folks back home. We took her to dinner tonight at Fat Tuesday's. I'm so glad we were able to show Mama Washington DC. She sure did enjoy herself as we enjoyed having her.

After getting Mama on the plane, we went back into Washington, D.C. so Roy could visit the

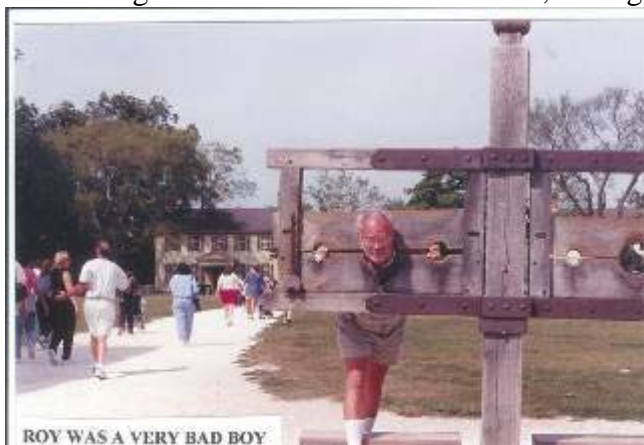
Library of Congress. I spent the day taking movies of the monuments, etc. that we had previously seen. I really got a good walk in, retracing our steps from the last few days. The next three days, we stayed home. I caught up on letter writing the wash and getting Holly cleaned up and Roy worked on his on line genealogy projects. It was nice to relax.

NEXT STOP WILLIAMSBURG

September 22, and we are just outside of Williamsburg. We plan on being here three nights. We originally had planned to go for a ride after we got settled, but both of us were not in the mood. We have found that driving our home takes mental energy and after we get parked and get our home back in order, we are happy to just relax.

IN WILLIAMSBURG, WE LIVE IN THE PAST

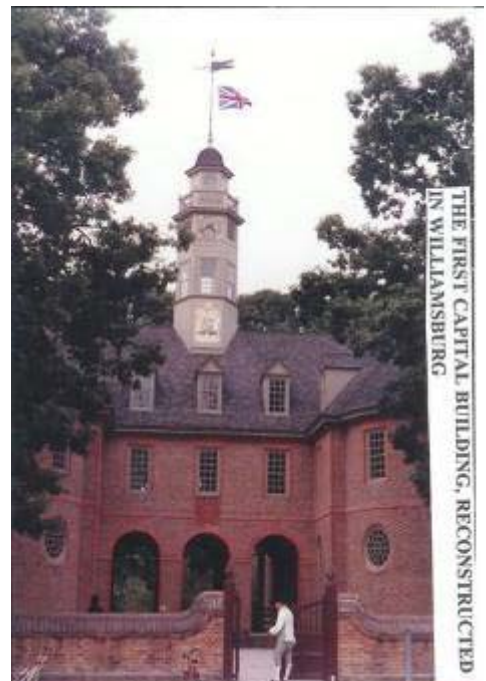
We visited Colonial Williamsburg on the 23rd and found it to be well worth the time. The town has been restored, and reconstructed. Costumed townspeople are seen in shops, homes, farms, working as they would have in the 1700's. In one home, we sat in the parlor, where Mr. Hunter, a Loyalist and newspaper publisher, spoke about the unrest of the colonists due to taxation without representation, etc. He did not feel that living under the British rule was bad, stating that



the Boston Massacre had actually been brought on by the unruly crowd, causing the militia to fire out of fear of their own lives. He felt that the taxes were not bad and if you did not want to pay them, buy your tea elsewhere. We, in the parlor were

free to join in the discussion, of course keeping the conversation in the period.

We also sat in on three trials, held in the courthouse. Members of the audience were chosen as defendants and accusers and judges. When the judges were selected out of the audience, the criteria are the same as it would have been. They had to be male, white, at least 21 years of age, Protestant, and own real estate. The governor, sheriff, and clerks ran the show. Again, everything was done as if we were back then. It was interesting to see how everyone got into the performance, each



playing their role quite well.

After we toured the Capitol, learning about the government structure from a very knowledgeable town's lady, we came upon Thomas Jefferson, in the courtyard. He was fascinatingly quite eloquent, as he spoke about the upcoming war and what he felt it would mean. The on lookers really got into it asking questions about how he felt about various other people during that time, and how he related with them. After listening and watching him for a while, I found myself totally immersed in the period, listening to the very well educated poised and influential Mr. Jefferson. Colonial Williamsburg was very entertaining as well as educational. We left a lot more to see the next time we are in Virginia.

JAMESTOWN

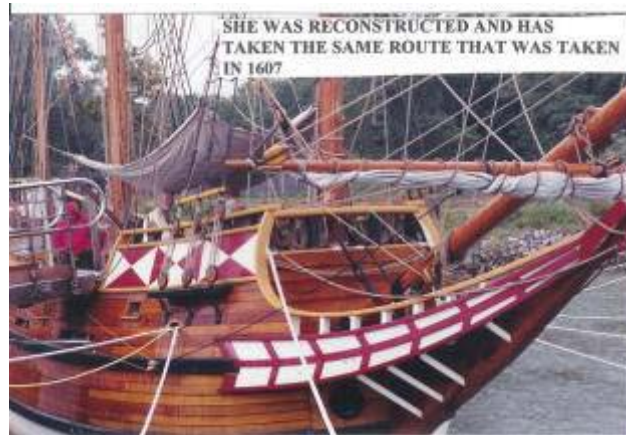


even come close to the Disney version. Out of 144 men and boys, only 44 survived the horrendous hardships, starvation, disease, and of course the Indian arrow, the first year. Even tho it was raining, we were able to see all of the sites here, including hearing the story of the musket, and seeing it loaded and shot by a rugged looking old timer.

There were other people dressed in costume, as well. Some of the people were manning the ships, some were playing Indians, and some were working in the fort,

etc. We drove to the original site of Jamestown on Jamestown Island, which is a National Historic Park. Here we saw where excavation of the original town is still taking place. Much of what is being excavated is on display in the museum. The only thing still standing from the original buildings is what is left of the church tower. They have reconstructed the main building of the church, but have left the tower as is. Very interesting! We were able to drive around the island, stopping at signs telling the story of Jamestown, which had served as the capitol of Virginia from 1607 - 1699. It was a very moving experience, standing on the ground where the foundations of our laws, customs and language began 390 years ago.

Jamestown was a totally different experience, but equally as enjoyable. There was a very beautifully done museum which was at the entrance of the reconstructed Powhatan Indian village, the Jamestown fort and the three ships that brought the original Jamestown colonists to the Americas in 1607. One of the ships, God Speed, has actually taken the same route that was taken on the original voyage. We learned the real story about Pocahontas, John Smith and John Rolfe. It doesn't



MYRTLE BEACH AND A VISIT WITH COUSIN SHIRLEY AND AUNT ARLONE

September 25, and we had a long drive to Myrtle Beach. It rained most of the day, but not real hard. We have a spot about 4th in from the beach and can see the ocean from our front windows. We have a phone so Roy is back on the Internet.

Well, it Sunday and we have had rain since we have been here. This afternoon, it cleared for a while so we were able to take our chairs to the beach. I read and Roy did go in for a short while. He said it was warmer than the Pacific at San Diego. We had a nice brunch this morning and stopped in at a flea market on the way home. Tonight, we had quite a thunder storm, which knocked out the power for while. It rained so hard, we also lost the satellite connection for a short period. The weather man is saying we will be dry for several days now.

We had a real nice visit with Aunt Arlone and Shirley on Tuesday. We drove up to North Carolina about 70 miles from where we are staying and took them to lunch. Aunt Arlone was so glad to see me and meet Roy. She wanted to stay by me and hold my hand. It was so sweet.



The weather warmed up and I was able to get some long walks on the beach in while we were here. On October 2, we waved goodbye to the Atlantic Ocean and began our trip west.

SHARING THE ROAD WITH HUNDREDS OF COLLAGE FOOTBALL FANS

Our first stop was in Manning, SC where Roy did some research in Sumter. As we traveled through South Carolina on Saturday, we shared the freeway with hundreds of cars on the way to the South Carolina football game. They were all decked out with flags, wind socks and pom-poms. We got into Knoxville, TN just before the Tennessee Vols game let out. We did share the freeway on Sunday morning with those folks who had spent Saturday night in Knoxville celebrating their win, and were now heading home towards Nashville. Those college fans do take their football seriously. Again the cars were all decked out with the flags, wind socks and pom-poms.



GOOD FOOD AND ENTERTAINMENT IN NASHVILLE

We stayed in Nashville, TN. Sunday through Wednesday nights. Most of the shows were shut down as we didn't get in until Sunday afternoon and they only run on the weekends. We did enjoy seeing the city where Roy was able to do some research in their archives. We had a very interesting dinner one night at a place called the Cock of the Walk. If you didn't eat chicken or catfish, you were out of luck as that was all they served as a meat. The meal was served family style and the plates we ate out of were pie pans.

The knives, forks and spoons were on the table in a tin pail. We drank wine out of canning jars. The beans were served in an old black pot. It was fun and the meal was great. We had been hungry for Mexican and were pleased to see there was a Mexican restaurant not far from the park. Even tho the food was tasty, it just wasn't good California Mexican food. They didn't even have chimichanga on the menu, which is my favorite. I'm just a spoiled California girl. One afternoon, we took the General Jackson Showboat for a two-hour cruise on the Cumberland River. It took us from Music Valley where our park was located to Nashville and back. There was live entertainment being performed on the decks and in a couple of the lounges. We enjoyed going from deck to deck listening and enjoying the music and jokes. They had a roving hostess, dressed in the period, making sure everyone was enjoying themselves. They put on a show in the theater, however we both enjoyed the lounge and deck shows a little more.

BEEN TO ALL 48

After an overnight stay in Brinkley AR, we arrived at Kathleen and Vic's home in Huntsville on Friday, October 10. We have now RV'ed in the 48 connecting states.

A GOOD VISIT WITH MY SIS AND VIC

We really enjoyed our visit with Kathleen and Vic. We got to see Jessica play soccer. Her Daddy, Toby, is the coach. On Saturday, we drove to a little town in Missouri for dinner. It was to celebrate Linda's birthday. The restaurant was owned by friends they had met in Branson who had opened in May of this year. It was a Mexican restaurant and yes, I got my chimichanga. We did a little fishing in their pond, and I do mean little. Vic had the only catch. It was about two inches long. I wonder what that little fish thought it was going to do with that night crawler which was twice as long as it was.

CATOOSA, OKLAHOMA

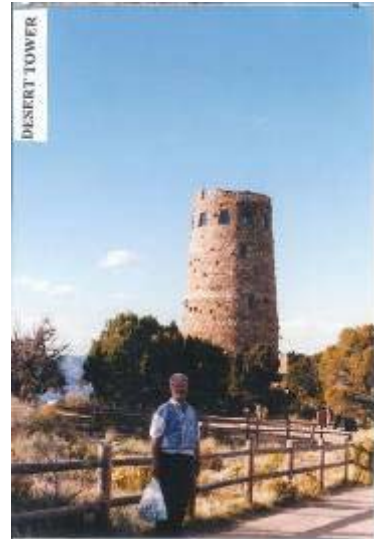
Our next stop is Catoosa, Oklahoma where we have an appointment to get some warrantee work done on Holly the next day. While waiting for that to be done, we drove into Tulsa and walked around the city for a while. They were not quite done when we returned so we took advantage of the extra time to get Tilly's oil changed. They had us on our way early enough so we were able to get just past Oklahoma City for our next stop. We will have to see Oklahoma City another time.

A SHORT VISIT WITH AUNT KATE AND UNCLE JACK IN CRAWFORD, OK.

October 16 finds us at Aunt Kate and Uncle Jacks in Crawford, OK. We had a nice visit with both of them. Uncle Jack was not feeling too well. He will be operated on next week in an attempt to get the blood running in his legs. His vanes are so clogged, he can barely walk. Not by choice, we drove through the middle of Amarillo, TX. We missed the turnoff to Interstate 40 so in order to connect, we saw the city. Our next stop was Santa Rosa, NM. We are getting pretty good diesel mileage . . . running nine to eleven miles to the gallon. The weather is turning colder, especially at night. We have had some rain but not enough to make driving uncomfortable.

THE MAJESTIC GRAND CANYON

After a night in Holbrook, AZ, we reached the south rim of the Grand Canyon. We are staying at a campground in the park. The first morning, a buck, three does and three young deer walked through the camp ground, eating as they went. Later that day a doe walked through and at dusk, a buck walked through. The morning we left, we saw three bucks and several does eating their way through the park. While at the park, we were able to take the West rim ride one day and the South rim ride the second day. At each overlook, the canyon changes with a different angle, different rock formations. We stopped at almost every turnout to take a look. The park has done a wonderful job with pictures of what you are seeing at most of the lookouts. Names of the mountains, rock formations, and other points of interest, etc., are on the pictures so we were able to identify what we are looking at. The desert overlook and tower was worth the 26-mile drive. The third day, I made egg salad sandwiches, and we hiked about 1000 feet down into the canyon on the Kaibab trail, to a rest stop one and a half ½ miles from the rim. It took us 49 minutes to make it down and an hour and a half to climb back out. Hiking down was real easy but coming back up, we had to stop to rest



many times. It would be nice if we could hike all the way to the bottom, stay the night at the Phantom Ranch and hike back the next day. I would not be concerned about the hike down, however, the hike back, over seven miles, may be a little much. While here, we have had some beautiful sunsets. The RV Park was very nice, full hook ups and plenty of room between rigs.

OUR SIX MONTH TRIP COMES TO AN END

On October 22, we left the Grand Canyon and drove to Needles, AZ, where we stayed at the Colorado River Adventure Camp ground. We are back in California, six months after leaving in April. We had a nice view of the river from our spot.

MAMA CELEBRATES HER BIRTHDAY WITH A VIBRATOR

Tonight we are in Valencia. I picked up Mom and brought her back to the rig and after a good visit, we took her out to dinner at the Outback for her Birthday. They gave us a pager to hold that would vibrate when our table was ready. Mom was so cute sitting in the



bar drinking her Sprite and holding the pager waiting for it to vibrate. Her eyes lit up when it finally did its thing.

The food was good but there was so much, we all took more than we ate, home in doggie bags.

A NICE DINNER WITH VERN

It's October 24 and I picked up Mom and we went shopping and to lunch. She found two pairs of shoes, both marked half off, so she ended up getting two for the price of one. She was real happy about that. We took her home and headed for Westwood to meet Vern for dinner. His directions were not quite correct and we ended up having to buy a map to find the way to the intersection we were to meet. Finally we arrived, got parked and found him. He had been held up in traffic so even tho we were about 15 minutes late, so was he. We had a delightful visit with him along with an enjoyable Italian dinner in the village. After dinner we walked all around Westwood taking in all of the activity of the college community on a Friday night. It was fun.

A NICE VISIT WITH ROY'S FAMILY

Saturday, we drove to the Elks Lodge at Lake Elsinore. After getting settled, Roy drove to Perris to get his Mom and bring her back. We enjoyed catching up on the family. We took her to dinner at a real good Mexican restaurant. Wow . . . finally a real California chimichanga. I'm a happy camper. There was a fancy dinner dance going on at the lodge but Uncle Jack came knocking at our door at about 10:00 PM inviting us in for a night cap. Reluctantly, we agreed to

go over and stayed for a quick drink. It was nice to see both Jack and Maxine.



Sunday, the family got together for a picnic at the park in Lake Elsinore. The weather was absolutely great. It was so good to see everyone. Roy's brother, sisters, uncle, grand kids, son, along with nephews, and various other relatives and friends were there. The downside was that the city had run out of money and had locked up the restrooms. The upside was seeing everyone and enjoying all of the great food that was brought.

BACK IN SAN DIEGO AND NON-STOP VISITS WITH FAMILY AND FRIENDS

Monday morning we met Uncle Jack, Maxine and Mom for breakfast at the Elk's before heading south to Escondido. Our spot was not the easiest to get into. This is a beautiful camp ground. Its problem is size. We stay here because we can get a phone which is so nice. Roy took Tilly to get washed while I stayed home and worked on getting things organized. Low and behold, I look out the window and see Bruce cruising the camp ground looking for us. Teri walked over and we enjoyed catching up on all the news. She brought a beautiful bouquet of flowers and a real neat table that folds up into a roll and has its own carrying case. It's perfect for the rig. Roy had made a table, however it is pretty heavy and every pound counts. This evening, we all met Jason for *Monday Night Football*. It was so good to see him. He is just as funny as ever, keeping us in stitches.

We had Bruce and Teri over for dinner Wednesday. We BBQ'ed steaks which everyone seemed to enjoy. As usual, we enjoyed our visit with them. We planned our trip back down when we will be packing up our **stuff** and taking it to Dan's. We are hoping to be able to rent a trailer and tow it with Holly. Bruce and Teri volunteered to keep Tilly for us.

Thursday, and are we on the run. I started with getting my hair colored and cut with Karin. I was a little early so had time to run into Wal Mart and get a pair of light brown jeans, which I had been wanting. I had a great visit with Karin while she did my hair. I then tore back to Escondido to pick up Roy and then drove to Mira Mesa so he could get his Internet acoustical coupler adjusted. Hopefully this will correct the problem we have been having by not getting connected when we need to use a phone booth to download our E-Mail. After that it was to the base for an appointment with Doc for Roy's arthritis. We both got our flu shots. After that we drove over to the package store and then back to pick up the coupler. It looks like they corrected the problem as Roy was able to dial in and download our stocks. Finally, a stop at Trader Joe's on the way home. Tonight Ted and Connie had us over for dinner. She sure did make a beautiful and tasty meal. She said it was fun to cook for someone who appreciated it. I guess the boys just like to eat and don't appreciate the special touches of a meal well prepared and presented. We enjoyed our visit with them.



It's Friday, Halloween, and after driving Roy to the IR to meet Ted, I drove to Dalton's in San Marcus to meet Jess for lunch. It was so good to see him . . . I had to fight back a tear or two. It's strange, I really don't seem to miss the kid's but seeing them after a while I get a little emotional. Oh well, it's a Mom thing. We had a good visit. After lunch it was back to IR in RB to pick up Roy. At 5:00 PM it was back to RB to the Elephant Bar to meet Ted and Connie. We were able to see Ken Costa, Mike Stelman and Charmaine. Everyone looked real good and it was nice to have a short visit with them all.

Saturday we met Dennis and Brigid for a drink at their home and after, we went to dinner at Bubba's. Before we left for dinner, we were able to visit a little with Dawn and Dennis, their kids. Dawn is teaching in the LA area where she and Bronco live. She seems to enjoy teaching but did say the kids can be a real challenge. Dennis still attends college and lives with Dennis and Brigid.

Sunday, Jess and Karin had us over for dinner. The house looks great with the new paint job and garage door. Karin cooked a real nice dinner. We gave Karin a shell lobster refrigerator magnet, Jess an Ernie Ervin hot wheel car and Eric little animal masks. Everyone was happy with their little gifts. Today is Jason's birthday. We will all celebrate it tomorrow at the Claim Jumper.

Monday, November 3, Bruce and Teri had us over for a drink before we all headed to the Claim Jumper. The plan was for them to follow us to the Claim Jumper, I would drop off Roy and go pick up Jason. Just as we were nearing Rancho Bernardo, I see Teri blink her lights and leave the lane. We thought maybe they had forgotten something, maybe



balloons. It was too crowded to see where they went. We continued on and I dropped Roy off and picked up Jason. When we returned to the Claim Jumper, Roy had heard from Bruce. They had run out of gas. AAA had been called and was on the way. Luckily, they have a phone in the truck. Poor Bruce took quite a ribbing when they arrived. Actually they were not really late, as we had started out from their place with time to spare.

We all had such a great visit with everyone. Jason really seemed to have enjoyed himself.

We met Bruce and Teri for lunch on Tuesday at the Fish House on restaurant row in San Marcos. They have the most unusual fish, even a small shark in one of their tanks. The bar has a built in fish tank. Wednesday, I met Jason for lunch. We had a nice visit. He thanked us again for his birthday dinner. He said he really had a great time. Roy called the doctor to get results from the blood test. The doctor told him that he has type II diabetes. He feels that pills will keep it under control so Roy will have to see him tomorrow to get a prescription. We met Bruce and Teri for Happy Hour at the

Brigantine. I feel like we have been eating and drinking nonstop for two weeks. Hey, we have. Maybe it's a good thing we leave for Fiddler's Cove tomorrow. What am I saying? We got up early and pulled out of the RV Park before 8:00 AM. We needed to bring Holly by U-Haul so that they can verify that our hitch is bolted and not welded. They would not allow us to pull a trailer that big if it was welded. She passed. We made the reservations for the trailer for November 25, when we will load our stuff up and head for Brother Dan's. After that we drove to Clairmont to take Holly in for her 16,000 mile maintenance check. Our mail hadn't gotten into Escondido so we had to drive back to the post office to pick it up. It was there. After a quick stop for breakfast we drove to the base where Roy dropped me off at the commissary while he went to see the Doctor. Then it was back to Clairmont to get Holly and finally to Fiddler's Cove to join our camping group. It was great to see everyone. Unfortunately, they hadn't gotten the word that we were going to be there. We were lucky as the park wasn't full and they were able to get an extra spot for us. That night we met Derald, Alan and Beckie at Planet Hollywood. After dinner she invited us to the Gas Lamp Plaza Hotel where she and Derald had a room. We enjoyed a bottle of wine and had a real nice visit. The view of San Diego from their room was beautiful.

The rest of the weekend with the camping group was nice. Roy and I took bikes rides every day. We took two trips into Coronado and once into Imperial Beach. The bike trails are great. As usual, we enjoyed the group, visiting, eating and the campfires. Everyone left on Sunday and Roy and I had a day alone for the first time in over three weeks. After a bike ride, we enjoyed a nice supper and just relaxed. I'm getting anxious to head back to Emerald Cove tomorrow. It's hard to believe it has been eight months, a great eight months I might add, since we left.

BACK ON THE RIVER

November 10 and we are back in Emerald Cove. Roy looked at our pyramid through the binoculars and said it did not appear as big as it was when we left it. We'll hike up tomorrow and take a look.

Well, our pyramid is smaller. As we walked up the mountain, we could see that its size had definitely decreased. On the way up to our mountain, we passed a desert tortoise on a steep part of the trail. Upon reaching the top of our mountain, it was apparent that our pyramid had suffered a partial collapse. Roy blamed himself for using too many smaller rocks. We both didn't want to believe that someone would knock it down on purpose. We decided to return later this week to rebuild it. The tortoise was still on the steep trail as we headed down. We considered picking him up and carrying him to the top but decided not to. He knew what he was doing and where he was. I didn't want to get him all confused and disoriented.

THE PYRAMID HAS FALLEN AND NEEDS HELP GETTING BACK UP

The next day we returned to the mountain with gloves, water and a small snack. There was no sign of the tortoise on the trail. Guess he got to where he was going. I sat out

finding and bringing bigger rocks to the construction site while Roy worked on rebuilding our pyramid. After our job was complete, we walked back down the mountain, stopping periodically to look back and admire our work.

A VISIT FROM BRUCE AND TERI

Bruce and Teri came to visit this weekend and we sure had a lot of fun. We took the boat over to the Sports Bar on the Arizona side. What a place. The boys were their usual mischievous selves, teasing the waitress trying to get her flustered. I wish I had a camera when she brought our order out. Both Teri and I were given a beautiful plate with a large piece of prime rib (their small cut is a pretty good size), a huge baked potato and a nice serving of veggies. Next came the boy's meal. On their plates was a little bitty backed potato, about a two inch square piece of meat and a tiny serving of the veggies. They both looked down at their plate, looked over to our plates, then back to their plate and up to the waitress, who was looking back at them with a big smile on her face. Before they could open their mouths to say anything, another waitress appeared with two more plates holding their proper orders. By this time Teri and I were laughing so hard we could hardly catch our breath. Roy and Bruce joined in the laughter after they got over their shock. The boat captain gave us a tour of some of the channels on our way home. There are some real beautiful homes along the river and some of them are only weekend getaways.

The following day, they picked us up and we drove to Lake Havasu City. After a great lunch, we took the little paddle wheel boat tour under London Bridge are around the island. The evening ended at our home with a grilled chicken dinner.

Sunday, we joined them in Laughlin where we met Teri's daughter. I lost about \$80.00 on the machines but held my own playing 21. It was fun, especially when all four of us were at the same table. They headed back to Escondido on Monday and we headed back to Emerald Cove. It was a real fun weekend.

GETTING READY TO MOVE OUR STUFF TO DANNY'S

Well, it is Thursday, and I have completed the purge of the rig. I have gone through all of the drawers, cupboards and storage areas to see what we really don't need. I set a couple of bags out by the dumpster of items that we didn't need or would never need that maybe someone could use. I also had several bags that were not worth anything so they went into the dumpster. We ended up with three boxes of items to store. This was a good thing to do. Not only have we made the rig lighter, but she is organized.

November 24 and we head to Escondido to pick up our stuff and take it to Nevada. Our drive went well and we arrived in Escondido in early afternoon. Bruce and Teri came by to see if we had gotten in. Later they came back so Bruce could take the bikes to their place. The U-Haul people that thought it would be best to not have them on the ladder while we towed the trailer. That evening, we joined Bruce, Teri and Jason for *Monday Night Football*. We all had a nice visit.

MOVING DAY FOR OUR STUFF

We were up early, ready for the big moving day. We drove the rig and car to U-Haul and picked up the trailer. We left Tilly with Earl Schibe for her paint job. Bruce will pick her up when she is done. We met Bruce and Teri at the storage unit where we all concluded that we would be unable to get Holly out of the area pulling the trailer. She was just too big to negotiate the tight corners. We ended up having to disconnect, turn the trailer around by human power, mostly Bruce, and connecting the trailer to Bruce's truck. Holly had to be backed out of the area, taking the same route as we took coming in, minus the trailer. After finding a place to park Holly, the loading of the trailer began. The whole operation took less than two hours. The trailer was reconnected to Holly and after a quick visit back to U-Haul to have the lighting wire reconnected, we were on our way to Nevada with pleasant thoughts about our great friends, Bruce and Teri. I don't believe we would have been able to do it without the help of both of them and the truck.

We got to Lone Pine after dark and have learned that a major storm is on the way. The wind is unreal and heavy rain continued during the night. We awoke to a very black sky in the west. There was a break in the east allowing the sun to come through causing a full rainbow against the black sky. Roy checked the office this morning and learned that the pass will probably require chains. We may we have to go the long way around to Wellington, which will add about 70 miles.

CHAINS REQUIRED

When we arrived in Bishop, it was confirmed. The sign blinked, Hwy. 395 CHAINS REQUIRED, USE 6. We fueled up in Bishop and began our journey on route 6. As many times as I have driven to Nevada, this is the first time it had been necessary to take the long way. In listening to the truckers, I began to be a little concerned, as we were hearing that the pass on Hwy. 6 was a little iffy. They were experiencing heavy snow there as well.

UP AND OVER FOLLOWING THE WHEEL TRACKS OF AN 18-WHEELER

As we approached the pass, the drops of rain began to get fat. They had some ice in them. As we began the climb, we watched the drops turn from fat rain to snow. It was beautiful, however, I was more concerned with how deep it would be on the pass. An 18-wheeler was ahead of us and I maintained our tracks within his. We crawled up the mountain with a trail of cars following. The road was white with snow, however, Holly seemed to be having no trouble with traction or the climb. At the summit my heart fell as the truck turned into the truck stop.

This meant I no longer had his tracks to follow. I signaled the following cars by and began the decent. The exhaust break worked great. We maintained our speed at about 25 miles per hour down the mountain and watched the snow turn back to fat rain.

SURPRISE...SURPRISE

What a delightful surprise when we reached Dan's. Jess, Karin and Eric were there.



They had driven up the day before. I told Jess that was quite a son to drive almost 500 miles to help unload our stuff. Later, Dad and Tommi arrived and after us finishing getting everything unloaded and



securely stuffed into Dan's new garage, we had a nice visit.

Thanksgiving was great. With help from everyone dinner was a snap. The best part of all, it was really good. It was good to see Jeff, Kelly and kids along with Uncle Roy and Aunt Jean.

SNOWBALL FIGHT AND OUR AGE SHOWS

Friday, we drove up to the snow to cut down Dan's Christmas tree. It was so beautiful. The ground was covered with two feet of beautiful white powder snow. After a short hunt the perfect tree was found and cut with a great number of "timber" being shouted every time we thought it was about to fall. Jess and Dan carried the tree back up to the road where a virgin field of snow awaited. **SNOWBALL FIGHT!!!!** We old folks learned that this is a sport for the young, but we sure did have fun. Of course, it wouldn't be a complete outing in the snow, without building a snowman. With Karin's expertise, in between dodging Dan's snowballs, he was created. I hope this day will remain in Eric's memory for a long time.



Saturday, Jess and family headed back to Poway and we headed to Dad's. Sunday, we got them a Satellite system for Christmas. Roy was able to get it set up temporarily for them before we had them over for dinner. Dan will install it permanently in a week or two. They were very pleased and I am sure this will give them a lot of pleasure.

BACK TO CALIFORNIA

We headed back to Escondido, stopping two nights in Lone Pine to just kick back and enjoy the beautiful view of the mountains from our windows.

We got back to Escondido on Wednesday and took Bruce and Teri to dinner to try and thank them for all of their help. Tilly looked great except they didn't get the scratches

totally rubbed out on the hood. They have agreed to redo the hood when we get back into Escondido.

Our weekend with the camping group was fine except the weather was cold and damp. El Nino strikes again. Because this was not conducive to standing around outside visiting, we really didn't spend a lot of time with the group other than the organized dinners,

We spent a night in Quartzsite on the way back to Emerald Cove. It was great sitting out on our chairs with a glass of wine, watching the sun set and later gazing at the stars. It was a beautiful time, just the two of us enjoying the desert.

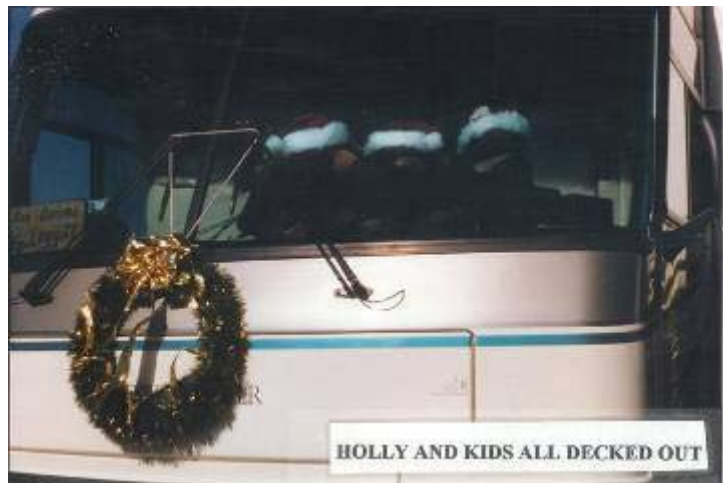
BACK ON THE RIVER TO STAY PUT FOR A WHILE

We are back in Emerald Cove and I am looking forward to staying put for the next five weeks and enjoying our first Christmas in the desert.

December 17, and Holly got her Christmas present. We had her washed and waxed by Bill's Mobile Cleaning service. They did a pretty good job for \$65.00. We had learned a few days ago that there is going to be a Christmas gathering at Roy's Mom's place this coming Saturday. Roy tried to beg out of going but his Mom wasn't buying. So he agreed to drive over for the day. Roy put together a book on the Dinkins for his Mom, uncle, brother and sisters. I drove into Parker to run errands and get something for his step sister Clara. Two coyotes crossed the road in front of me on the way in. After taking care of business, I treated myself to an hour at the Casino. I was surprised at how crowded it was at 2:00 in the afternoon. I had fun and didn't lose too much.

Well, we made it through the holidays. The day driving to Perris and back was not too bad. It took us about four hours and fifteen minutes driving time each way. We even took a couple of hours on the way down to do a little Christmas shopping. It was nice to see all of Roy's siblings and Mom.

On Christmas day, I did a traditional Christmas dinner with turkey (we found a tiny tom, about 8 pounds), dressing, mashed potatoes and gravy, even yams. Yes, it was very quiet compared to Christmas's past. I got Roy a CB for the car and he got me the binoculars I have been wanting.



The park put on a New Years dinner dance which was quite nice. We shared the table with two nice couples and enjoyed just chatting with them. We even had one of the

couples over the next day to share our traditional New Years day dinner of black-eyed peas and corn bread.