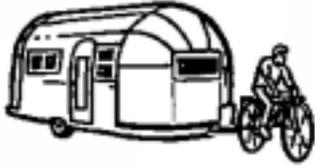


IOWA UNIT WBCCI

May 3, 2011



APRIL & MAY NEWSLETTER



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Nancy Helle

DIRECTORS—1 year

Scott Allen
Don Storjohann

DIRECTORS—2 year

Carolyn Haller
Connie Neese

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Thank you! Thank you! Thank you! The Iowa Unit members did a fantastic job in hosting and performing their assigned duties at the Region 8 Rally in Amana. The weather certainly did not co-operate on Tuesday and Wednesday; the days when most of the units arrived to be parked. With the rain on Tuesday and the cold and wind on Wednesday, I wouldn't have blamed anyone if they had said "Nuts! I'm staying inside." As your president, I couldn't have been more proud of the efforts you all put forth. In order not to miss anyone, I won't list the names of those who helped. However, I would be remiss if I didn't thank the guys and gals who braved the rain, cold and wind to get the rigs welcomed and parked. You know who you

are and I love every-

one of you. Now, it is time to look ahead to the first of our four unit rallies at the Madison County Fairgrounds in Winterset. On page 9, you will find the schedule for the rally. Undoubtedly, there will be times when Doris Jean and I will be asking for help and I know that help will be forthcoming. You guys and gals always respond. Don't forget, it is a "Buddy Rally" so bring along a friend to join us for the weekend. Also, don't forget, it will be followed, immediately, by a Computer Rally, hosted and taught by Gene and Sandy Teggetz. There is an article concerning this later in the newsletter. Finally, thanks again for your help in Amana and see you in Winterset for our "What a Long Winter" Rally.

Chuck

PLAN AHEAD—AUGUST RALLY, LAKE GEODE STATE PARK

The following information was taken from the Iowa DNR website for Lake Geode State Park near Danville, IA. This is the site of our Iowa Unit August rally (August 11-14) to be hosted by Gary and Sharon Urich.

"The campground will be limited to a first come/first serve basis only (no reservations) due to continuing issues with the wastewater system. Restroom and shower facilities will be closed until the wastewater system has been fixed. Water hydrants and electricity will be available but no dump station or other facilities. Weather conditions permitting, work should be accomplished by Memorial Day weekend. For updated information please contact the park office at 319-392-4601. (updated 4/1/11)

There are 168 campsites with enough variety to suit anyone's tastes (87 sites have electricity). There are two modern shower buildings

and a sewage dump station in the campground. Advance campsite reservations can be booked through the park reservation system. Half of the campsites are still available for self-registration on a first-come, first-serve basis. Two camp pads and rest rooms are accessible to the mobility-impaired."

We'll keep our eyes on this situation to see if, and when, reservations will resume being accepted. We might not have too much trouble getting adjacent spaces without reservations, since we would be arriving toward the middle of the week, but with fuel prices skyrocketing, there will probably be more people staying close to home and state parks might get crowded. You can check the situation for yourself by logging on to www.iowadnr.gov/parks/state_park_list/geode.html. If you do, and find that reservations **are being accepted**, let Chuck and Doris Jean know **IMMEDIATELY**, so word can be gotten out to all

(Continued on page 2)

Following the "Soup Supper" on Thursday evening at the Region 8 Rally, there were numerous requests for the recipes for soups and salads that were prepared and served. It was decided to ask all units to include the recipe for their soup and some of the salads in their next unit newsletter. Look for other recipes on the Web.

POTATO SOUP

This soup can be modified by adding more, or less, of about any ingredient.

- | | | |
|--------------------|---------------------------|-----------------|
| 2 lbs. of potatoes | 2 oz. cheddar cheese | 2 tsp. salt |
| ½ medium onion | 2 oz. margarine or butter | 1 Tbsp. parsley |
| 3 oz. of ham | 2 c. milk | |

The potatoes are to be peeled and diced into small cubes. The onion is to be finely chopped. The ham is to be diced into small cubes. The cheese is to be shredded. The milk can be anything from skim to whole. The parsley is to be finely chopped, but can be omitted. Place potatoes, salt and onions into a 3-quart saucepan and barely cover with water. Heat to boiling, reduce heat and simmer until the potatoes are tender. Mash potatoes in their liquid, leaving them as chunky as you like. Add shortening, ham and milk. Reheat to scalding, remove from heat and add parsley, if used. If soup is thinner than desired, put 1 Tbsp. of corn starch into 1/4 cup of cold water, stir well to dissolve lumps and add to soup before reheating. Serve immediately. Makes about 5 servings.

E-MAIL ADDRESS CHANGES

A number of you have recently changed your e-mail address or been changed by your telephone provider. Consequently, we are unable to get newsletters and other correspondence to you. On the back page of your 2011 directory there are instructions showing you how to delete an old address from the Iowa Yahoo Group and how to enter in the new one. Just follow the easy steps. If you have problems, you can call Doris Jean Cabalka at 480-216-8096.

CORNY SALAD MOLD (by Martha Jirus) My Iowa roots originally drew me to this recipe. It seems to be a unique addition to all salad buffets

- | | |
|---------------------------------|---|
| 2 C. water | ½ C. green onions, chopped |
| ¼ C. cider vinegar | 1 15 ¼ oz. can whole kernel corn, drained |
| 2 Tbsp. Dijon mustard | Vegetable cooking spray |
| 2 3 oz. pkg. lemon gelatin | Lettuce leaves, (optional) |
| ½ C. red bell pepper, chopped | |
| ½ C. green bell pepper, chopped | |

Combine first three ingredients in a small sauce pan. Stir well. Sprinkle the gelatin over the vinegar mixture and let stand one minute. Cook over low heat until the gelatin is completely dissolved. Pour mixture into a bowl. Cover and chill 1 ½ hours or until the consistency of unbeaten egg white. Fold in bell peppers, green onions and corn. Spray an 8 inch square pan with vegetable spray. Spoon in the gelatin mixture. Cover and chill until firm. This salad looks pretty on lettuce lined plates. Serves 9.

DUTIES ASSIGNED FOR 2012 REGION 8 RALLY

Region 8 President-Elect Fred Steurer announced that the 2012 Region 8 Rally will be at the Ozark Empire Fairgrounds in Springfield, MO. The rally is entitled the "Route 66 Rally" and will be held from April 25-29. It promises to be a great rally, with plenty to see and do off-site. The duties assigned to the Iowa Unit are (1) Stage Management, (2) Stage Decorations and (3) serving ice cream on one evening. All duties will be indoors and, after enduring the rain, wind and cold this year, that workplace will be a pleasure. So, mark the dates on a calendar (or scratch them on your kitchen wall) and plan to attend. Your 2012 president will be expecting the usual co-operation from the Iowa Unit members in fulfilling the duties.

(Continued from page 1)

Iowa Unit members. Thanks for your help. The problems weren't there when Geode was checked last summer and maybe we can make reservations again around Memorial Day.

DEALER SPOTLIGHT:

Shorewood RV Center South
4975 Hubbell Avenue
Des Moines, IA 50317
515-262-8450
515-418-5786
www.shorewoodrv.com

Bill Thomas Camper Sales, Inc.
101 Thomas R.V. Way
Wentzville, MO 63385
1-800-367-5767
www.btcamper.com

Camping World RV Sales, LLC
2802 S. 21st St
Council Bluffs, IA 51502
Phone: 712-535-1624
www.campingworldofomaha.com

Fogdall RV (not a dealer)
(warranty, parts and service only)
7805 Ace Place
Cedar Falls, IA 50613
Phone: 319-277-2641
FAX: 319-277-3790
www.fogdallrv.com

R. V. Revive (not a dealer)
(parts and service only.)
3926 W. Airline Hwy
Waterloo, IA 50703
Phone: 319-235-1115
http://www.rvrevive.com

US Adventure RV
5120 N. Brady Street
Davenport, IA 52806
Phone: 563-468-4678
FAX 563-468-5191
www.usadventurerv.com

Here is this month's cryptogram for those who enjoy this sort of brain exercise. As usual, each letter in the phrase stands for another and no letter stands for itself. The solution is shown later in this newsletter. The clue for this puzzle is **O equals D**.

AXC PNBW HLP A OPO W RPLC GNJ XNKAPLM AXC

DCMPNL DWNNS. AXWLT SNH RND WNN AXC XCNV.

REGION 8 "SPRING TIME IN AMANA, 'MAIFEST' " RALLY



Eighty-seven rigs and 3 off-site members made the Region 8 Rally at Amana a success. The weather did not co-operate, being rainy all day long on Tuesday, April 26th, and very cold and windy on Wednesday, the 27th. Parking of the attendee's rigs was a challenge, with several of the parking sites partly flooded after receiving 1 1/2" of rain. But, with the plentiful and excellent co-operation of the Iowa Unit members, we got everyone parked. Thursday was better, but was still pretty cool. FINALLY, on Friday, the sun shown most of the day and the temperature got up into the 60's. The appearance of the sun raised everyone's spirits.

The various seminars were well attended by Iowa Unit members, with



Chuck Kiple and Scott Allen being the presenters at two of them. Thanks, guys. One of the biggest thrills (or was it a surprise) was the winning effort by the Iowa Beanbag Baseball team.



For the first time that anyone could remember, the team won their first round game. Then, they won their second game to get into the finals. And, would you believe it? They then

proceeded to win the championship in 7 innings. The traveling trophy will be engraved and on display at the Winterset rally. The team's next appearance will be in the Beanbag World Series in Du Quoin. Come and cheer



them on. The team members were players Norm Beu, Don Storjohann, Gary and Sharon Urich, Gene Haller, Scott and Kathy Allen, Dale Lafrenz, and Chuck Helle, while Joan Lafrenz and Chuck Kiple served as umpires and Nancy Helle was scorekeeper.

Following the Friday noon buffet,



attended by all members, the Region 8 board and business meetings were ably conducted by our own June Ryan, President of Region 8.

On Talent Night (Friday) three of our members presented a skit as the Iowa Unit's contribution to the evening program. The skit, entitled "**ALL WHO ENTER,**" was based on conversations between a university registrar and a



brother and sister who happened in. Thank's to Don Kucharo, Linda Beu and Lavonne Sandersfeld for playing the epic, never to be repeated, roles.

When awards were given out for contributions to the Community Service projects, the Iowa Unit was awarded the second place ribbon for pull tabs, with 22 lbs. contributed. The winning unit had 40 lbs. so we weren't too far behind. Over \$1,500 was collected within Region 8 for Common Sense and this will be turned in at Du Quoin. More than 700 knit and crocheted hats were collected for distribution to those needing them. The totals collected for stuffed animals, blankets and pull tabs were not announced.



Finally, on Saturday morning, three Airstream trailers were in the Maifest Parade in Main Amana. One of the units in the parade was our own Scott Allen, while another was owned and towed by Scott Jensen, a member of the North Iowa Unit and the son of Don and Verval Jensen of Fort Dodge (Iowa Unit members prior to the forming of the North Iowa Unit). Two other caravaners walked the parade route, handing out printed flyers inviting people to come to the open house in the campground on Saturday afternoon. This was a resounding success, with over 100 people visiting the 10 units that were open for viewing.

CARES & CONCERNS ABOUT MEMBERS AND FORMER MEMBERS

Many of you have already received messages via e-mail or telephone calls concerning Iowa Unit members and past members who are suffering from various sorts of mishaps. For those who haven't gotten the word, we'll try to bring you up to date.

Jeanette Guernsey was reported to have taken a tumble down her basement stairs, but, fortunately, did not break any bones. She did suffer bruises and a gash on her head. She was in the hospital for several days and is now undergoing healing and therapy. Her address, if you want to send a card is: Manorcare Health Services, 201 W. Ridgeway Ave, Waterloo, IA 50701 Jeanette was Iowa First Lady in 1993.

The Cedar Rapids Gazette reported **Audrey Chong** died on April 11, 2011. No services are planned at this time. She had two daughters and one son. Audrey & Dr. Arnold Chong were long-time members of the Illiamo and Iowa Units. They are from Iowa City. Dr. Chong survives his wife. Online condolences may be sent to www.lensingfuneral.com. This information was supplied by Donella Watkinson who thought there might be a few people who remember Audrey.

Mike Donahue is recovering from a broken foot. Although it has slowed him down, he is still mobile enough that he was able to drive his large Airstream motorhome to the Region 8 Rally.

Dennis Sandersfeld has been going through a rather rough time for some unknown reason. According to Lavonne, he feels extremely weak and just hasn't any pep. He is to undergo a ct-scan on Wednesday, May 4th. We all hope they can determine what the problem is, that it's something relatively minor and we can see him back in our midst soon. We're pulling for you, Dennis.

Don Storjohann underwent surgery on his right elbow for a nerve problem on Monday, May 2nd. We were told it was like carpal tunnel, except it was in the elbow instead of the wrist. A nerve will be moved, hoping that will solve the problem. We all wish a fast and complete recovery for Don and hope to see him and Sue at Winterset.

CARAVAN TO INTERNATIONAL?

When the Iowa Unit members gathered following Region 8 rally opening ceremonies and ice cream on the evening of Wednesday, April 27th, the idea of a unit caravan to the International Rally in Du Quoin was presented. Although there are a goodly number of members who indicated that they plan to attend, there seemed to be no interest in a caravan. Consequently, there will be no organized caravan to International this year. Do remember, however, it only takes two, or more, units and Board approval to qualify as a caravan. So, if any two, or more, of you are planning to drive to Du Quoin together, let your president know as soon as possible. Your trip will then be approved as a caravan at the May rally and the unit can claim points toward the merit contest. Also, you are then protected under the WBCCI blanket insurance policy for any damage you may cause while on the caravan.

LUNCHEONS, HERE & THERE

When the time rolled around for the **Iowa-Region 8 Luncheon in Mesa, AZ** on April 7th, a great many of the normal attendees had already left for colder climates. As a result, only Paul and June Ryan and Chuck and Doris Jean Cabalka from the Iowa Unit were in attendance. Two other couples were also there; Wendell and Shirley Sisk from the Kansas City Unit and Ron and Audrey Ault from the Mohican Valley Ohio Unit (she's the unit president). Apparently, when April rolls around, the winter "snowbirds" in Arizona feel it is time to head north for the nesting season.

Kathy Allen reported they had 14 members attend the luncheon which Chuck and Nancy Helle hosted at the **Pizza Ranch in Vinton** on April 9th. That was great, particularly because the Iowa Girls State Volleyball Tournament was in full swing and other Iowa

INTERNATIONAL RALLY INFO

Vice President Pat Dellamuth has located a restaurant for our **Iowa Unit Luncheon at Du Quoin**. The luncheon will be at noon on Monday, June 27th at the Family Café just off the NW corner of the fairgrounds where the rally is to be held. Meals will be ordered from the regular menu, so you won't have to eat what someone else decided you should eat. The restaurant owner is the cook and Pat stated the food was excellent when she and Larry ate there on their way home from Florida. She needs to know if you plan to attend the luncheon, so she can let the café know how many to prepare to seat. If you haven't already signed up, give her a call or drop her an email at the numbers or address on the left margin on the first page of this newsletter.

WBCCI International President Norm Beu informed members at the Region 8 Rally that there were only **490 units registered for the International Rally**. This is unbelievable, since there are some state or special event rallies that have nearly this many in attendance. Granted, fuel prices are high and the rally fee might be somewhat higher than you are used to, but everyone of you know of some things you do or buy that are more frivolous than supporting your national club. **PLEASE** give some real serious thought to attending. After all, we should all be supporting a member of our own unit (Norm Beu) as he tries to provide a good time for everyone and we should all be there when another of our own, June Ryan, is elected International Treasurer. There aren't many units as small as ours that could claim they had an International officer two years in a row. So, get up and go.



Unit members were still making their way home from wintering in the south. Those in attendance were Scott & Kathy Allen, Marilyn Mulbrook, hosts Chuck & Nancy Helle, Gene Haller, Sharon & Gary Urich, Dennis & Lavonne Sandersfeld and Dick & Donella Watkinson. Joining them were new owners of an Airstream trailer - potential members Ed & Eileen Pauley from Jesup, IA.

BIRTHDAYS

APRIL

6-James Macumber
4-Linda Allen
4-Jan Bowman
18-Sharon Urich
20-Don Storjohann

MAY

1-Paul Ryan
4-Nancy Nelson
9-Karen Kvidera
11-Nora Newman
14-Max Joseph
20-Cheryl Burrows
26-Barry Norgaard

ANNIVERSARIES

APRIL

1-Steve & Rita Cochran
28-Jeff & Wanda Paine

MAY

5-Don & Sue Storjohann
14-Ivan & Jo Curtis
28-Harold & Nora Newman

Answer for the Cryptogram

The Iowa Unit did a fine job hosting the region rally. Thank you for all the help.

YOU'RE INVITED - COMPUTER RALLY MAY 15-20

We would encourage Iowa Unit members to strongly consider staying over after our May rally in Winterset to participate in the Computer Rally hosted and taught by Gene and Sandy Teggetz. The following is taken from the Iowa Wild Rose Chapter Escapees newsletter which Sandy publishes.

“It’s not too late to register for the 11th annual IWR Computer Rally to be held at the Madison County Fairgrounds in Winterset, Iowa from Sunday, May 15 to Friday, May 20. The registration fee does not need to be paid in advance—but **the hosts, Gene and Sandy Teggetz, request you notify them of your plans to attend.** (They want to have adequate printed materials.) Contact them, preferably by email, sjteggatz@gmail.com—or by cell phone at 605-366-6654.

The Computer Rally is guaranteed to provide lots of learning for ALL attendees — those with limited experience as well as those with more experience. The hosts have surveyed the participants to determine their topic needs and interests—and then put together a *tentative* schedule, which is available at the Iowa Wild Roses web site - <http://www.iowaskp.co.cc/>

The rally presentations will begin with computer basics—file management, maintenance and security, and tips for using Vista and Windows 7. Since many people have questions about photos, this will be one of the major topics—editing, organizing, resizing, emailing, and putting them together into a slide show.

The schedule also includes several topics related to preparing Christmas letters (or other mass mailings)—formatting letters, inserting photos, creating an address list, and making address labels. Topics related to the Internet will include using free Firefox browser, creating a blog, using Facebook, and selling on eBay. Additional items will be backing up files, Linux operating system, new gadgets such as e-readers, and lots of miscellaneous mini-topics.

At the rally, participants will be urged to pick and choose from the presentations — and not attempt to attend all of them! There will also be time for individuals to practice their new skills and get their questions answered. Attendees really share their knowledge at this rally!

Arrival time for the rally is planned for Sunday afternoon. The first planned group activity will be a potluck salad and sandwich supper Sunday evening, followed by an organizational meeting. The presentation sessions and work sessions will be held from Monday through Thursday. Pizza will be provided for the Tuesday evening dinner. A closing dinner (Dutch treat) at a local restaurant is planned for Thursday evening. No other meals will be provided as part of the Computer Rally activities. (Participants depart the rally site on Friday morning.)

The registration fee for the Computer Rally will be \$30 per RV (\$15 for singles). The parking fee is \$15 per night (or \$98 per week) for minimal electricity. Full hookups are \$17 per night (or \$105 per week). Parking fees are subject to change. (Fees are payable at the beginning of the rally.)”

CIVIL WAR CARAVAN

Contributed by Sue Storjohann

Don and I gathered with 25 other Airstream units and 49 caravaners in Dover, TN on March 8th for the “**American Civil War, Part 1 Caravan**”. The leaders were Ed and Beth Jones. The first gathering was a pizza supper at Ma Ma Mea’s, where pictures were also taken. Each couple was asked to give a brief get-acquainted talk about themselves. As we traveled, we found Ft. Donelson to be quite impressive and easy to remember, as it was the first battlefield the caravan visited.

We camped in eight different sites in 31 days. We never drove more than 200 miles on any day. The most awesome battlefield was Shiloh, where both sides combined, lost 25,000 men in less than two days. Over the entire war (which the Southerners refer to the war as the Great Unpleasantness), both sides combined lost over 600,000 men.



At one stop, we saw an unexploded cannon ball imbedded in an inside wall in an inside

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room of a house. The missile passed through two open doors before impacting in the wall. We also saw another unexploded cannon ball that entered a house through an open window, penetrated through the floor at an angle and imbedded itself in a stringer under the floor. A thick glass plate allows visitors to see the ball, still in place.



In the Grand Gulf Military Park, we saw a dog-trot house with beautiful azaleas in bloom. We also saw numerous beautiful and lovely trees, shrubs and gardens in bloom.

A favorite drive was on the Natchez Trace, where we had 60 miles of beautiful trees, a 2-lane blacktop highway and a speed limit of 50 mph. It was like driving through a 60-mile long park.



We met 49 strangers at Dover and a month later said goodbye in Biloxi, MS to 49 people who had become family. Ed and Beth did an excellent job preparing for the caravan and helping us learn first-hand about the Civil War along the western front.

OUR FLORIDA FANTASY CARAVAN

Contributed by Marcia Woolley

How can a caravan be a fantasy? Well according to Webster's Dictionary a fantasy is an act of forming images from direct perceptions or in memory. Our leaders, Al and Gracie Buchanan, led us for fifty days all over Florida. We have images and memories to last for years.

The caravan had ten stops: Tallahassee, Alachua, Sarasota, Seffner, Titusville, St Augustine, Umatilla, Stuart, Florida City, and Big Pine Key. We liked the pace, as we stayed three or four days, or more, at each site.

Twenty-five units met February 8th in Tallahassee at the Big Oak RV Resort located just off I-10. Gams (get acquainted meetings) and other get-togethers were to be held under the huge old oak in the center of the park, but most were canceled because of the cold. We toured the original capital, visited Wal-Mart one last time, washed another load of clothes, had our introductory banquet at the nearby country club, and were ready to begin!

Who would want to stop at Travelers Campground in Alachua? Never heard of it? You would be pleased with the stop. The campground had an unusual parking plan – long straight rows of units – and, yes, you were able to get your rig out without waiting for all units ahead of you to leave. When you arrived you are escorted to your spot and hooked to electricity, water, and sewer as you watch. Nice! Near Alachua we toured the historic Dudley Farm and then drove to Micanopy for lunch. It seemed like all the buildings on Main Street of Micanopy were on the Historic Register.



The next stop was the Sarasota State Rally. The evening entertainment was top notch and every morning started with coffee and Crispy Cremes. We were surprised to see so many Iowa people and got together for fish at a restaurant located right on the water. There was a large population of Mennonites and Amish and the most beautiful white sugar-sand beaches. But my favorite part was line dancing every morning.

By the time we moved to Seffner (just east of Tampa) I was getting impatient for the cruise, but we did have a good boat tour of the bay and a great day at Busch Gardens. We took an optional tour and got up close to hand-feed the giraffes.



Finally, we moved to Titusville for thirteen days. Ben and I went in a day early to see the shuttle launch. The shuttle was still a long ways away, but we heard it and saw it until it disappeared into the clouds. And then, it was finally time for the week-long cruise with Royal Caribbean and nearly 4000 others. The trailers were left at the campground, Fala got to go to a place called Doggie Villa, and Al and Gracie arranged for a bus to take all of us and a lot of luggage to the dock.

The ***Freedom of the Seas*** was elegant and included a Royal Promenade with shops—correction--boutiques. In exchange for your credit card number, you were issued a ship credit card so you could shop those boutiques, take extra land tours, and pay for your bar tab. Tips could conveniently be added to the card.

The ship had a total of 1,817 staterooms with 1,400 crew members and a total capacity of 5,728 people. It was built in Finland with an approximate cost of \$800,000,000. It produced its own fresh water with evaporators and reverse osmosis units and generated its own electricity with six large diesel generators. Waste water was returned to the ocean in as

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good a quality as water you use to fill your pool It really was a floating city complete with an ice skating rink.

We sailed at night and enjoyed three islands during the cruise. The first, Coco Cay, was owned by Royal Caribbean. Lunch was brought in from the ship as the only building on the island was a dorm for the employees. There were little souvenir booths and you could sip on the specialty drink of the island, a Coco Loco. It was a bit pricey at about twenty dollars for two by the time you tipped the waiter, but you got to keep the glass! We sat out in the sun and looked out at the bluest water and listened to the breeze in the palm trees. The ship sailed at 4:00 and as the captain said; he hoped you had your camera (if you weren't back on time) so you could get a unique shot of the boat pulling out without you.

The ship stopped at St. Thomas and St. Martin. On St Thomas we took a tram ride around the island and got some good pictures of the docked ships and all that beautiful blue water. On St Martin, Ben and I broke down and went shopping, doing our best to keep the shops in business.

Two days of sailing back to Port Canaveral and the cruise was over, along with the wonderful service, the cute folded towels on the bed each night, breakfasts delivered to the room, and sitting out on the balcony. Everyone seemed a little down about returning to real life!

The following days didn't prove to be too much of a downer, however, as we headed for the Kennedy Space Center and enjoyed Epcot. There was a flower show going on at Epcot, so it was decorated with all sorts of flower tubs, hanging baskets, and floating flowers in the lagoons. One of our caravaners works at Disney World during the winter. He escorts the Disney characters who are never left alone, and helps answer questions. The most asked, of course, "Where are the restrooms?"

The next stops were interesting, but we were so looking forward to the Keys. The Fort at St. Augustine was very impressive and I hope you noticed we are looking a little younger these days after drinking the water (it tasted strongly of sulfur.) at the Fountain of Youth. Other highlights were a walk through the Barley Barber Swamp, the Lakeside Inn at Mt. Dora, an airboat ride, the tram ride through the Everglades, and stopping at *Robert is Here* for key lime shakes.

You do have to be careful in those historic buildings. We had gotten off the trolley to go into the Lakeside Inn for lunch when one of our gals tripped on the top step. As she fell, she dropped everything in her hands and her camera went flying toward the trolley. As luck would have it, gal number two was coming down the trolley steps and the camera hit her squarely in the forehead. Blood. Head wounds really bleed. As ladies three and four were helping, one began to get faint. She had to go lay down. Band aids, a trip to the emergency room, and a little time and most of us were ready for lunch. I do hate to remember this caravan by all the accidents, sickness, and truck and motor home trouble we had, but most of us by this time wondered if we would make it to the Keys.

Well, we did get to the Keys. It was as beautiful as we had hoped with a lot of commercialization thrown in, too. You can see for miles driving over the Seven Mile Bridge. Key West is really a party town and we all got our pictures taken at the southern-most point of the United States.

There were nineteen units represented at our final banquet and I'm sure Al and Gracie Buchanan had never wished so hard for a caravan to end. This was the Buchanan's last time leading the Florida Fantasy Caravan. It has run every other winter in the past. The Buchanan's have someone in mind that may continue their work and for all those that want to experience Florida; I hope it will go on for many years.



CABALKA'S TRIP HOME FROM ARIZONA

On Cabalka's trip back to Iowa from wintering in Arizona, they took a route thru SE Arizona and across New Mexico, thru the panhandle of Texas, northern Oklahoma and north thru west central Missouri. Along the way, there were several very interesting places to visit and explore. Among them was the White Sands Missile Range Museum, between Las Cruces and Alamogordo, NM. There were numerous displays in the museum, as well as lots of missiles erected in the outdoor "rocket park".



If any of you happen to be at the WSMR on the first Saturday in either April or October, you can go out to the Trinity Site, where the first atomic bomb was tested. Don't be concerned about the radioactivity. You get one-fourth of the radiation that you would get in a coast-to-coast airplane flight. Incidentally, if you have occasion to spend a night in Tatum, NM, they have FREE camping in a city park, with paved sites and full hookups.

Windy weather resulted in two days being spent in Lubbock, TX, where Chuck and Doris Jean visited three museums. One was the National Ranching Heritage Center, where more than 40 old buildings had been moved in from various locations in the Texas Panhandle. These ranged from an old bunkhouse, to a two-story stone house with one door, no windows and firing holes in all four walls to aid in warding off Indians, to a huge three-story home that was built to be a hotel but the railroad never came. On Day 2 in Lubbock, they visited the American Wind Power Center, where there are more than 200 windmills of all sorts, both indoors and out. It was quite a display! In the afternoon,



they visited the Silent Wings Museum, which is dedicated to the glider pilots and crews that fought in World War II.

Within an hour of leaving Lubbock on April 15th, the wind started to increase and finally got to blowing very hard. After dropping the trailer at the entrance into Palo Duro Canyon State Park, about 25 miles SE of Amarillo, they drove the paved road down into the canyon, stopping at the visitor center on the rim, just before descending.



Palo Duro Canyon is unbelievable. It is 600 to 800 feet deep, 120 miles long, has beautiful red sandstone walls and is the second largest canyon in the US.

There is a 16-mile long, paved loop drive in the canyon bottom, with four campgrounds, two with 30-amp electricity and water, if you can stand the 10% grade into and out of the canyon. After leaving Palo Duro, the day's drive concluded at a city campground in Pampa, TX, (about 60 miles NE of Amarillo) after fighting NW winds of 40 mph, with gusts to 60. Those crosswinds were nasty!



A 3-hour stop in Enid, OK provided an opportunity to visit the Cherokee Strip Heritage Center. The museum, which had only been open for about one month, had displays and pictures telling of the 1893 land rush into the Cherokee Strip as it was opened up for settlement. There were also displays about the oil industry, now defunct Phillips College, the early sodbusters and four old restored buildings, including the only US Land Office remaining from the land rush. Thank goodness, from there home, the weather behaved itself and they arrived back in Newton about 6:30 PM on Monday, the 18th. Just in time for cold weather and rain to arrive. Nuts!!

THE **"WHAT A LONG WINTER!!!"** RALLY

The May Rally will be held at the Madison County Fairgrounds in Winterset, Iowa from Thursday, May 12th to Sunday, May 15th. The fairgrounds are reached by driving to the intersection of Hwys. 92 and 169 at the **WEST** edge of Winterset. Turn east for a short one-half mile, then right into the fairgrounds. Watch for the WBCCI signs. Camping fees are \$17.00 per night with full-hookups and \$15.00 per night with 20-amp electricity. There is a dump station on the grounds. Our building will be heated, with kitchen facilities and restrooms, and there are restrooms with heated showers in an adjacent building. Remember, this is a "Buddy Rally", so bring a buddy!

RALLY SCHEDULE:

Thursday:

Arrive whenever you want. You can even come on Wednesday if you desire.

6:00: Supper: Bring your own sandwiches and salad or dessert to share

Evening: Visiting and games of your choice

Friday:

7:30-8:15 Breakfast of French toast, sausages, juice and coffee or tea

9:00 Line up for tour. Carpooling and sharing of gas costs recommended

9:10 Leave for morning tour of hot air balloon business and a visit to 3 of Madison county's 6 covered bridges.

Noon: Lunch on your own

Afternoon: Free time; Possibilities include shopping in downtown Winterset (there is a quilt shop) or visits to the remaining 3 covered bridges, Pammel State Park SW of Winterset, John Wayne's Birthplace in Winterset, the Indianola Hot Air Balloon Museum in Indianola, Jordan Creek Mall in W. Des Moines or Living History Farm in Clive.

5:30 Fire up grills. Please bring a grill if you have one you'll share. Cook meat which you have brought with you and bring a covered dish to share with others.

6:00 Potluck supper in building

7:30: Movie in building

Saturday:

7:30-8:30 Breakfast of fried eggs, ham, hash browns, juice, toast, coffee or tea

9:20 Line up to drive to Madison County Historical Complex.

9:30 Tour complex museum, 12 old restored buildings and an 1856 mansion. Group rate is \$4.00 per person.

Noon: Lunch on your own.

1:30 Board Meeting in building

2:30 Unit Business Meeting, including discussion and decisions concerning proposed new constitution for WBCCI. Bring your copies of proposed document.

5:45 Line up to drive to North Side Restaurant in Winterset for Dutch-treat supper

6:00 Order from menu and enjoy. Dinners range from \$5.45 to \$9.95.

7:30 Program about Madison County, followed by games of your choice

Sunday:

8:00 Breakfast in building - Pastries, juice, coffee or tea

9:00 Short devotional service.

9:30 Cleanup and head for home unless you are staying for Gene and Sandy Teggetz's Computer Rally. If you leave, have a safe trip. If you plan to stay for the computer rally, be prepared for a very informative and educational 4 days.

NOTE: For all meals on-site, bring your own service, cutlery and cups